



HOME-BASED PROGRAM

Whittington's Home-Based Program takes services into the homes of families in crisis to provide them with the assistance and opportunity to forge strong families and functional relationships.

Family-Centered Casework Service assists families where an incident of abuse or neglect has occurred.

Services include ongoing assessment and monitoring family/parental progress and focus on the strengths of the family. Services provided to these families include:

- Parenting education/training
- Family communication
- Child development education
- Domestic violence education
- Budgeting/money management
- Conflict mediation
- Emergency/crisis services
- Advocacy (assistance in public interaction)

Intensive Family Preservation Service engages family, takes action to prevent removal of children, increases safety, and improves family functioning.

This service is designed to offer short-term crisis intervention and intense family-centered educational services within a continuum of care. It is a cognitive behavioral approach to motivate families to change and improve child well-being. Personalized services are catered to the individual needs of each family.

Whittington receives referrals and provides services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and Intensive Family Preservation Services are limited to 4-6 weeks.

Intensive Family Reunification Service helps families in the reunification process. It is a short-term, intensive crisis intervention after removed children have been returned to their homes. Services build upon the strengths of each family and provide counseling, education and support.

Caseload size is 2-3 families at one time per Direct Case Worker. Intensive services are limited to 4-6 weeks from the initial face-to-face intake session, or can end sooner if the imminent risk of disruption has ended.

Face-to-face must occur no later than the end of the day following the referral. However, there is a 72 hour timeframe from the day of the referral for the agency to refuse services, or end the intervention if it has been discovered within that timeframe that intensive services are not possible. This could be due to: no family member willing and/or capable of engaging in service; safety of the worker; children cannot be reasonably assured; or it is determined through discussion between provider and DCS that intensive services are not appropriate. Documentation of the reason and date of termination of intake must be provided to DCS within 24 hours. The provider is paid a per diem for the days the agency provided services within the 72 hour timeframe.

For more information on the Whittington Homes & Services Home-Based Program, please contact Program Director Karen Matitu at (260) 745-9431 x127, or via e-mail at kmatitu@whittington.org.