

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Tool 4.G: Community Resources and Prevention Services Reference: 4.26 Determining Service Levels and Transitioning to Permanency Services	
	Effective Date: April 1, 2024	Version: 1

The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) will connect the child and family to appropriate community resources and prevention services based on any challenges and needs identified by the family.

Community resources may be accessed through the local DCS office or by contacting Indiana 2-1-1 by going to the [Indiana 211](#) website or dialing 2-1-1 anytime a child and family identify a need that may benefit from additional resources and/or services. [Indiana 211](#) is a free and confidential service that provides information about local community resources 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Community resources may include, but are not limited to:

1. Local DCS offices;
2. Hospitals;
3. Faith-based organizations;
4. Schools;
5. First Steps;
6. Head Start/Early Head Start;
7. Healthy Families Indiana (HFI); and
8. Family resource centers.

Connecting a child and family to community resources may include:

1. Calling the community resource during a home visit with the child and family;
2. Providing a list of specific resources to the parent, guardian, or custodian at a child family team (CFT) meeting;
3. Ensuring the child and family have transportation to access the community resource; and
4. Engaging the child and family after the community resource is accessed to monitor the outcome and address any concerns.

Below is a list of statewide community resources:

Child Care Finder

[Child Care Finder](#) is a webpage that searches for childcare providers currently licensed or registered with the State of Indiana. Filtered searches can be done to look for providers who accept certain age groups, days/times of the week, licensed or unlicensed centers, CCDF or On My Way Pre-K acceptance, and Paths to Quality rating. Visit the [Child Care Finder](#) webpage for more information.

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

[CCDF](#) is a federal program that provides assistance to low-income families to obtain childcare so they may work, attend training, or continue their education.

On My Way Pre-K

[On My Way Pre-K](#) is a voucher program that awards grants to 4-year-olds from low-income families so that they may have access to a high-quality pre-K program before they begin kindergarten.

Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)

Indiana has 24 CMHCs certified by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction. These agencies provide an array of behavioral health and addiction services for adults, adolescents, and children. Visit the [Family and Social Services Administration \(FSSA\)](#) webpage for more information on locating a local service provider.

Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS)

[Community Partners for Child Safety \(CPCS\)](#) is a voluntary Indiana prevention program which supplies primary, secondary, and tertiary child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) prevention services in every region of the state. This service collaborates with other community resources within each region to build a collaborative prevention network.

DCS staff may refer a family through KidTraks. Families may also access CPCS services through self-referral or a referral from another community agency. Contact the local CPCS for more information.

Family Resource Centers (FRC)

Family Resource Centers allow family members to access formal and informal supports to promote their health and well-being. FRC's are family centered and strength-based providing support at no or low cost for families. FRC's provide multiple services and resources, increase protective factors, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. FRC's are located in areas with a local Community Partners agency. Visit the [Strengthening Indiana Families](#) webpage for more information.

Help Me Grow Indiana

Help Me Grow Indiana is designed to help communities leverage existing resources to ensure families are empowered to support their children's healthy development by linking them to community-based services. Help Me Grow Indiana offers one-on-one interaction with qualified care coordinators, free developmental questionnaires, community resources and referrals for children birth to age eight (8), information on general child development, parent topics, and fun developmental activities. Contact 1-844-624-6667 option 3 or HMGIndiana@isdh.in.gov for more information.

My Healthy Baby

[My Healthy Baby](#) is a collaboration with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), the Indiana FSSA, and the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS). This initiative connects pregnant women to family support providers in their own communities. The My Healthy Baby Provider Referral Form can be accessed [here](#). A family support provider offers free, personalized guidance and support to the woman during her pregnancy for at least the first 12 months after her baby's birth. For more information, the [MOMS Helpline](#) can be contacted at 1-844-MCH-MOMS (1-844-624-6667) or download the Liv app to your mobile device. Liv is also available online at askliv.com.

My Healthy Baby encompasses Home-Based Early Headstart, Healthy Families Indiana, Nurse Family Partnership, and/or other local home visiting programs.

Head Start/Early Head Start

[Head Start](#) is a federal program that promotes school readiness for children under the age of five from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. The Head Start program emphasizes the role parents assume in their child's growth and helps to build relationships with families that support family well-being and many other important areas.

Early Head Start is a home-based or center-based program that serves infants, toddlers, and pregnant women and their families who have income levels below the federal poverty level. Early Head Start recognizes that the earliest years matter significantly to a child's growth and development.

First Steps

The [Indiana First Steps](#) program is provided through the FSSA and is accessible to families in every county. This service uses professionals from education, health, and social services to provide coordinated early intervention resources. Families who are eligible to participate in First Steps have children under three (3) years of age who:

1. Are experiencing developmental delays, or
2. Have a diagnosed physical or mental health condition that has a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay.

While most First Step referrals originate from doctor's offices, hospitals, or social service agencies such as DCS, a parent may also initiate a "self-referral". For further information, visit the [Indiana First Steps](#) website.

Healthy Families Indiana (HFI)

Healthy Families Indiana (HFI) is a free, voluntary, evidence-based home visitation program designed to promote healthy families and children through a variety of services including child development, access to health care, and parent education to eligible families during pregnancy and three (3) to five (5) years after a child's birth. This program is administered by the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) and available in every region of the State. HFI targets those who are pregnant or recently given birth who are low income (below 250% federal poverty level) and have risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect. Contact the local [Healthy Families Indiana](#) provider for more information.

Nurse Family Partnership

Nurse Family Partnership has specially educated nurses regularly visit young, first-time moms-to-be, beginning in early pregnancy through the child's second birthday. Through this program, new mothers receive the care and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy, and the confidence and tools needed to provide stability and success for mom and child. Contact the local [Nurse Family Partnership](#) program for more information.

Youth Service Bureau (YSB) and Safe Place

A Youth Service Bureau (YSB) provides a variety of community-based programs aimed at preventing delinquent behavior in teens grounded in four core roles, including Delinquency Prevention, Information and Referral, Advocacy, and Community Education. YSB services may include, but are not limited to, mentoring, tutoring, skill development, shelter, counseling, and parent education. Safe Place provides short-term, crisis-oriented assistance for at-risk or in-crisis youth within the youth's neighborhood 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Contact the local [YSB](#) and [Safe Place](#) provider for more information.

1-800-CHILDREN Service Line

The 1-800-CHILDREN Service Line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and connects families with the Community Partners for Child Safety (CPCS) agency in their region. Callers can ask for resources to help themselves or a family they know with food, housing, utilities, children's behavior, mental health, or other resources. The purpose of the phone line is to prevent families from unnecessary involvement with DCS.

Visit the [DCS Prevention Team SharePoint](#) or [DCS Prevention Team webpage](#) for more information. The [DCS Prevention Team](#) can be contacted via email for any questions.

9-8-8 Indiana

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and connects callers to specialists who are trained in suicide and crisis prevention. 988 provides support to anyone experiencing thoughts of suicide, a mental or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. 988 is also available to those who may be concerned about a loved one who may need crisis support. Visit the [988 Indiana](#) webpage for more information.