

Keeping Families Together



**family
connections**

WHERE HOPE MEETS POSSIBILITY

What We Do

Keeping Families Together is a program that partners with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to provide supportive housing for families. Through this partnership, Keeping Families Together is able to combine housing assistance with comprehensive, evidence-based, trauma-informed therapeutic and concrete supports.

The program includes:

- A safe place to live
- Weekly clinical support
- Ongoing case management
- Career education
- Employment case management
- Peer group support
- A furniture voucher to help furnish your new home
- Utility startup funding
- Support gaining food security
- Transportation and childcare assistance
- Ongoing housing support services such as financial literacy and understanding of tenants' rights and responsibilities



Who We Are

Family Connections' Keeping Families Together program provides supportive housing, counseling and care management for families in which parents have a history of child welfare involvement, homelessness, and other stressors.

Program Values:

- A participant's vision of their success is unique to them
- Clients are treated with respect and compassion
- Clients are the experts on their own goals and needs

The goal of Keeping Families Together is to have families safely, healthfully, and permanently reunified in their own homes.



Results

Families in the Keeping Families Together Program experience:

- Safe and affordable housing
- Parent and child show improved mental health and wellness
- Families have a decrease or eliminate future child welfare recurrences
- Majority of families remain housed past 12 months
- Have improved parental functioning and wellness, and improved child well being



To apply or refer someone to Keeping Families Together, please contact:

Rosemary Richiez, LSW

Senior Manager of Direct Services

Email: rrichiez@familyconnectionsny.org

We Serve

Participants in Keeping Families Together must:

- Be referred by the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP)
- Be involved with the child welfare system with one or more children out of home or at risk of out of home placement. The case plan goal must be reunification.
- Be currently experiencing homelessness or inability to find appropriate housing and is the only barrier to reunification.
- Meet two risk factors which may include having a history of mental health and/or substance use, domestic violence, or having a chronic medical condition.

Housing Requirements:

- Families identify desired housing within assigned county.
- Families will hold the leases in their own name.
- All rental subsidies will not be greater than the Fair Market Rent.
- All rental subsidies will be approved by DCF/DCA. All subsidies will require tenants to contribute a portion of their adjusted gross income towards the rent. The remaining portion will be paid directly by the appropriate sponsor.
- All tenants must be compliant with DCA rules and regulations as well as programmatic guidelines.

Keeping Families Together is offered in Essex, Union, Hudson, Passaic and Bergen counties.

Family Connections is a leading New Jersey non-profit with over 30 different programs to support children, adults, and families. Far too many people in our communities face serious challenges—from trauma and mental illness to addiction, domestic violence, and child abuse. Family Connections is here to make sure no one has to face these challenges alone. Across Northern New Jersey, we deliver counseling, social and emotional skills-building, prevention and training initiatives, programs to strengthen family bonding and reunify families, and more. **Since 1879**, Family Connections has proven that communities thrive when everyone is invested in each other's wellbeing.

Our vision: We see a world where no one faces life's challenges alone—where we all have the opportunities, connections, and resources we need to thrive.

Our mission: Growth happens here every day. With our counseling, skills-building, training and prevention services, people take control of their own healing and foster connections that make our entire community stronger, safer, and healthier.

Our Core Values: We strive every day to be:
Inclusive | Strengths-based | Relationship-driven
Outcome-oriented | Collaborative

For more information about Family Connections' programs, please visit our website at **familyconnectionsny.org**.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Family Connections at **973-675-3817** or **hope@familyconnectionsny.org**.



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