



Keeping Families Together

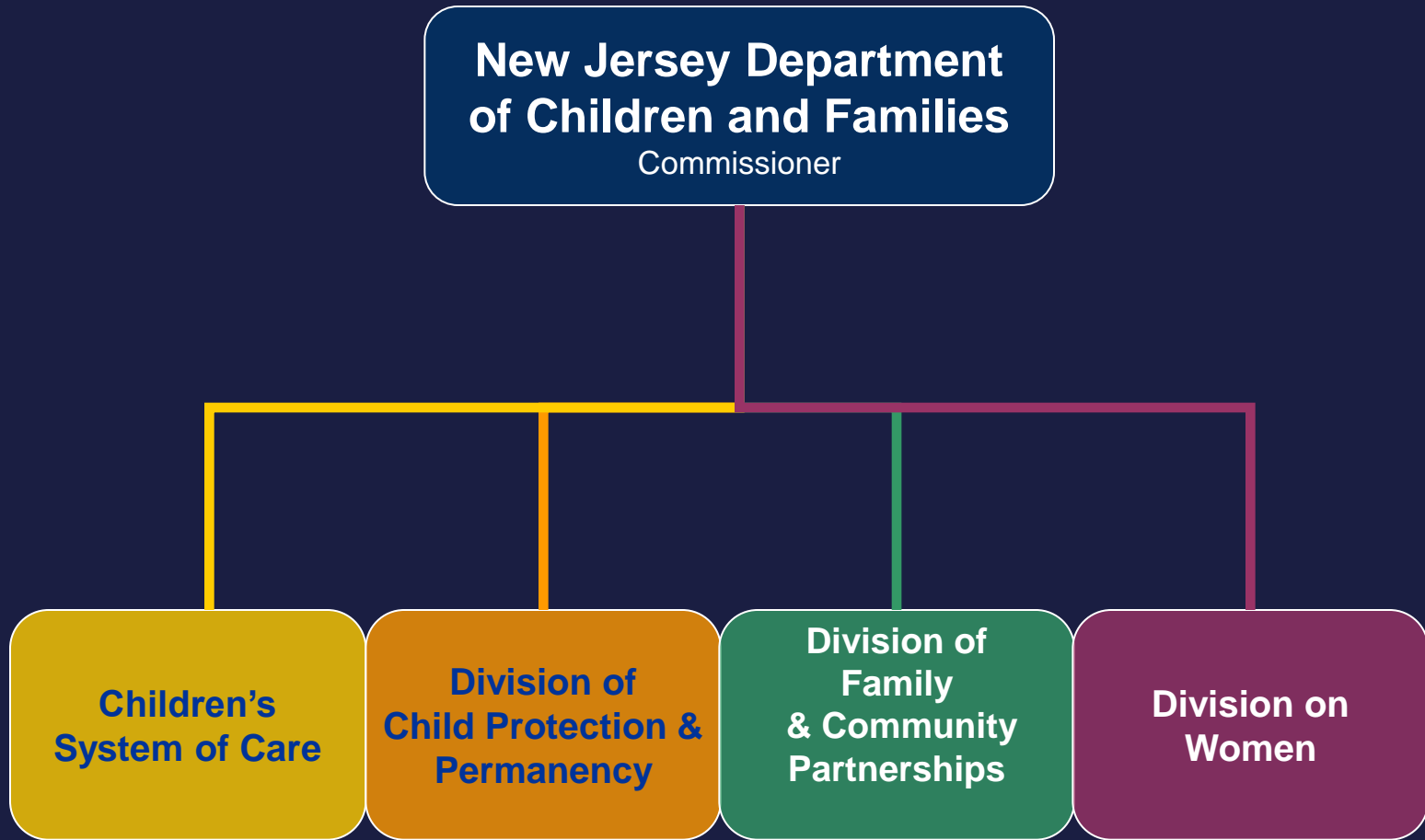
Bidders Conference

October 2, 2017

Department of Children and Families

- Created in July 2006
- First Cabinet-level Department devoted exclusively to serving and safeguarding children and families
- Mission: Ensure the safety, well-being and success of NJ's children, youth and families.

Four Major Operating Divisions



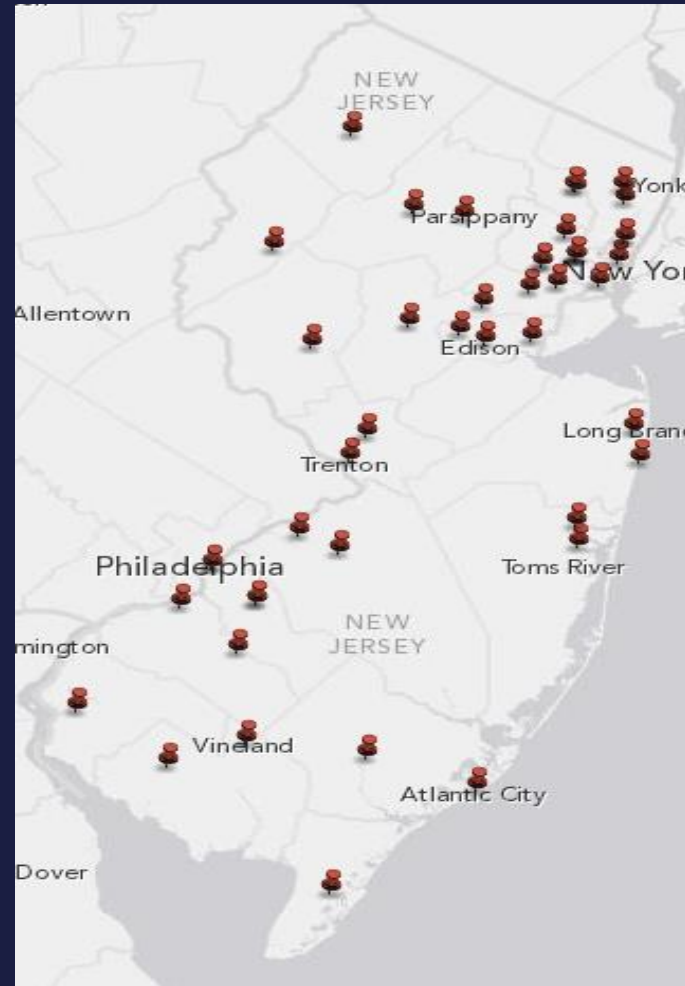
Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P)

- New Jersey's child protection and child welfare agency within the Department of Children and Families
- Investigates allegations of child abuse and neglect and addresses child welfare concerns
- Child Abuse Hotline (State Central Registry) operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P)

46
Local
Offices

9
Area
Offices



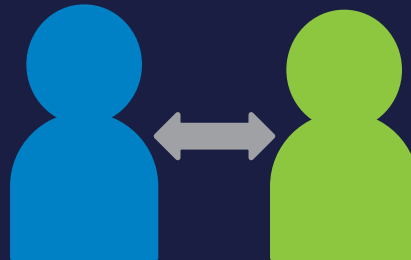
Putting our Resources to Work

NJ is committed to modernizing our service array:

- Realignment and allocation of existing resources and service contracts.
- Integration of trauma-informed, evidence-supported interventions
- DCF Strategic Plan 2016-2018
 - Priority – Continue integrating supportive housing and other best practice housing options into the service array

What is KFT

Keeping Families Together (KFT) is a model of supportive housing designed for a subset of child welfare involved families facing co-occurring challenges.



Housing
Affordable
Non-time-limited
Independent

Support Services
Flexible
Tenant-Centered
Voluntary

- Case Management
- Parenting Coaching/Life Skills
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Mental Health Services
- Primary Health Services
- Employment Services

Keeping Families Together: NYC

- Pilot in New York City from 2007-2010
 - An evaluation of KFT found that with supportive housing and dedicated case management in place:
 - 90% of the families remained housed
 - 61% of the child welfare cases closed in an average of 10 months after move-in
 - 100% of children returned to their families from foster care and stayed with their families
 - Roughly 63% had no further involvement with the child welfare system
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Keeping Families Together: National Demonstration

- In 2012, the Administration for Children, Youth, and Families awarded five-year grants to five demonstration sites across the country to test supportive housing as a child welfare intervention on a wider scale.
- DCF applied but was not awarded a grant.
- Committed to bring the KFT model to NJ and have been able to do so through a number of partnerships

Overview of KFT in New Jersey

- Capacity to serve 173 families
- 9 counties
- 5 provider agencies
- Single-site and scattered-site housing
- Funding
 - Housing vouchers = DCA, DHS, & DCF
 - Supportive services = DCF



Baseline Family Survey Data

- 87% of families had been experiencing homelessness or housing instability for at least 1 year
- 46% of families were doubling up with friends or family prior to KFT
- 48% of families were living on less than \$5,000 a year and half of those families had ZERO household income
- 58% of parents had a mental health diagnosis and 40% had a substance use disorder
 - Also had extensive trauma histories (domestic violence, criminal background, child welfare involvement as a child, etc.)
- 49% of children were under 6 years old and 75% were under 10 years old

KFT RFP: Program Overview

- Funding and KFT Rental Assistance Program (KFT-RAP) vouchers are available to establish supportive housing programs for CP&P-involved families who are confronting homelessness or inadequate housing, and other co-occurring needs such as substance use disorders in the following areas: 1) Bergen; 2) Burlington; 3) Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, and Warren; 4) Monmouth; 5) Ocean; 6) Morris and Sussex; and 7) Union
- Seven awards will be made (one for each area)

KFT RFP: Program Overview

Area	KFT Rental Assistant Program Vouchers Available	Funding Available
Bergen	Up to 20	Up to \$511,000
Burlington	Up to 25	Up to \$638,750
Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, and Warren	Up to 50	Up to \$1,277,500
Monmouth	Up to 35	Up to \$894,250
Ocean	Up to 40	Up to \$1,022,000
Morris and Sussex	Up to 25	Up to \$638,750
Union	Up to 20	Up to \$511,000

Family Identification

- CP&P Local Office, in partnership with service provider and DCF program lead(s)
- Indicators of need:
 - CP&P Involvement: child(ren) at risk of placement OR in out-of-home placement and deemed ready for reunification with housing as the only barrier
 - Long-term or repeat pattern of homelessness and/or housing instability
 - At least 2 persistent co-occurring challenges/high service needs

Housing First Principles

- Consumer-driven and client-centered
- Flexible in response to individual service preferences
- Team-based
- Culturally competent
- Recovery-oriented

Housing Expectations

- The vouchers used to support these programs are tenant-based, which allows for consumer choice.
- Applicants must work with each family to identify their housing goals and preferences and support them in searching for and selecting a housing unit that meets their needs, including but not limited to safety and security as well as proximity to schools, services, transportation, family and informal supports, opportunities for employment, shopping, recreation, etc.

Housing Expectations

- Must have access to or a plan to gain access to appropriate housing units:
 - Must demonstrate experience and/or an ability to secure appropriate housing and assist families with moving into housing quickly
 - Must present a clear plan for engaging landlords and provide a letter(s) of **interest** from property owners and/or landlords who have rental properties in the applicable area to demonstrate an ability to help families identify and secure units

Housing Expectations

- Should be safe and affordable
- Families hold the lease
- Tenure in housing is not contingent upon participation in services
- Consumers must contribute 30% of their adjusted gross income towards rent
- Housing vouchers will be administered by DCA

Housing Intervention

- Assist with housing identification, applications, move-in, and furnishing
- Ensure families maintain stability and maximize tenure in housing through ongoing housing support services such as:
 - Life skills training
 - Financial literacy training
 - Preventing lease violations
 - Active communication and mediation of conflicts with landlord

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Work with families to development and implement a comprehensive, family-based service plan
- Help families connect to, navigate, and coordinate needed health and social services as well as substance use disorder treatment and recovery supports
- Provide opportunities to connect to other families within the program and the community

Case Management and Supportive Services

- Trauma-informed, evidence-supported services must be integral components of the model
- Services should aim at achieving greater family functioning, child wellbeing, community integration, work readiness and employment, peer support, physical/mental health, socialization, access to concrete supports and public benefits/entitlements, and skills and opportunities that foster increased self-sufficiency and personal responsibility for one's life

Staffing

- Interdisciplinary approach – including clinical supervision and case managers
- Role of Team:
 - Build trusting relationships to engage families and be seen as a source of support
 - Build a network of supports within program, tenants, and community
 - Advocate on behalf of families and adopt a “whatever it takes” attitude

Multisystem Collaboration and Service Coordination

- Work collaboratively and communicate regularly with CP&P, DCA, and landlords to ensure the overall success of families
- Demonstrate partnerships and/or develop collaborative relationships with local services systems and provider networks to effectively advocate for and access resources/supports for families

Evaluation

- Interested in understanding the quality and impact of KFT in NJ
- Intermediate and long-term outcomes include:
 - Increased housing stability
 - Improvement in caregiver outcomes
 - Improvement in child wellbeing
 - Improvement in family stability
 - Decreased involvement with the child welfare system

Evaluation

- Must complete baseline family surveys, participate in development of a local logic model with DCF, and submit quarterly program reports using a template provided by DCF
- Must agree to participate in all technical assistance, teaming, and evaluation-related activities for the program and collaborate with DCF and additional third-party evaluators and/or consultants.

Funding Information

DCF will make available up to the following vouchers and annual funding amounts:

Area	Vouchers Available	Funding Available		
		Operational Costs	Specific Assistance to Client	TOTAL Funding
Bergen	20	\$400,000	\$111,000	\$511,000
Burlington	25	\$500,000	\$138,750	\$638,750
Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset, and Warren	50	\$1,000,000	\$277,500	\$1,277,500
Monmouth	35	\$700,000	\$194,250	\$894,250
Ocean	40	\$800,000	\$222,000	\$1,022,000
Morris and Sussex	25	\$500,000	\$138,750	\$638,750
Union	20	\$400,000	\$111,000	\$511,000

Funding Information

- Operational funding –used to support the development and implementation of case management and supportive housing services (i.e., personnel, fringe, consultant/professional fees, G&A, transportation, and other than personnel costs)
- Specific Assistance to Client funding – used to assist each family with leasing and furnishing their unit. Should include the following “per family” formula multiplied by the number of vouchers available: \$3,000 for furnishings; \$300 for utility start-up costs; and a security deposit (typically equal to one or one and a half months’ rent, estimated at \$2,250)
- Operational (one-time) start-up costs – are permitted and must be funded with anticipated contract accruals

RFP Submission

Deadline for receipt of proposals:

Wednesday, November 15, 2017
by 12:00 PM

Thank You

