

About Center For Family Connections

At a fundamental level, Center For Family Connections' (CFFC) mission is to help children feel safe, seen, and valued, and to help them adjust to the challenges of being, or having been, moved from one family to another. Many of the children CFFC serves have spent years in countless foster homes, orphanages, residential centers, or hospitals. CFFC constructs families, reconstructs families, refurbishes and restores families. The experienced clinicians understand the interactions and needs of complex families and provide the skills, tools and talent required to build stronger and healthier family units.

CFFC believes that the need to honor connections is an essential part of family life.

CFFC is an educational and clinical resource center that addresses the developmental, structural, and systemic issues related to adoption, foster care, kinship care, divorce and other complex blended families. CFFC serves individuals and families affected by adoption and foster care, as well as the people with whom they are connected, by offering training, education, advocacy, and clinical treatment.

CFFC serves a broad and diverse constituency nationally and internationally as well as in Greater Boston. From its founding, the staff has grown from 2 to 15, enabling CFFC clinicians to help more individuals and families. In the past year, CFFC served about 1,500 people on-site, and about 5,000 parents and professionals in national and international trainings and seminars. About 30% of CFFC's clients were low income; 30% were African American, 10% Latino, 15% Asian, and 45% Caucasian. CFFC's pro bono services to low-income clients are valued at approximately \$100,000 annually. Many of CFFC's clients reside in areas in DSS's Greater Boston and Metro regions.

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Center For Family Connections
presents

a Family Network Service

for

The Department of Social Services

Project Prepare

*A Program for Older Children
and Youth About to Age Out*



About Project Prepare

The Project is aimed at increasing permanency, finding family connections, reducing the incidence of disrupted placements for older children (age 9 and older), and improving life outcomes such as wellbeing and safety for young adults who, at 18, are “aging out” of the foster care system without ever having been permanently placed with a family.

We believe that the participation of prospective adopters, as well as fostering parents and recently adoptive parents along with providers in the model intervention will increase the number of successful permanent placements.

Project Prepare: Program

There are three major components to Project Prepare:

1. Family Group Conferencing

2. Bi-weekly Expressive Therapy groups for Youth

Zine-making and Art Studio

Play with Reality

3. Adult Caregiver Component

Monthly trainings,

*Monthly discussion/support
group,*

*Monthly expressive adult group
concurrent with expressive youth
groups, or*

Joint youth and adult groups

Project Prepare: Outcomes

- Develops a support network to serve as the extended family for youth aging out.
- Enhances youth’s self-confidence in their abilities and daily living skills.
- Gives older children a sense of involvement in their own permanency planning.
- Strengthens adults’ sense of the child’s strengths and the challenges.
- Encourages connections.
- Gives the adults tools with which to help the children to maintain relationships.
- Enhances wellbeing and increased self-awareness and identity development.
- Increases ability to share feelings and concerns with parents, professionals, and peers.
- Enhances capacity to develop and maintain trusting peer and adult relationships.
- Increases knowledge and understanding of participating parents, adults, and mentors of the birth, foster, and adoptive attachment issues faced by their children and youth.
- Provides caregivers with tools to manage challenges with their children/youth.
- Offers caregivers insight into the experiences and identity development of their children/youth and themselves.