

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

Kinship Program



CFFC's Kinship Program

The basis of this program is 6-12 sessions of preparation for family members who are adopting or fostering within their own extended family.

Currently, there is no preparation available for these families. Roles and responsibilities can be especially confusing in these complex situations. In these sessions, roles are clarified and recommendations for success are made. Additionally, various therapeutic techniques are utilized to build relationships and support healthy boundaries.

In addition to the basic 6-12 sessions for each individual extended family, we offer groups for multiple families to meet with others who are in similar situations. Family group conferencing is a part of this project.

Kinship Program

CFFC's experienced, well-trained clinicians use a strength-based, non-pathologizing, family-systems approach to therapy. Particularly in family therapy, our clinicians usually work in teams to provide the highest level of service to children and families.

In this program for kinship families, CFFC clinicians will meet with the family on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis (depending on which interval is best suited to the needs of the family/families involved).

This program can include a mix of individual and family therapy for all involved family members including the child, guardians and potentially birthparents. This may include birth and kinship family siblings as well as parents.

Additionally, other CFFC services may be used as needed including parent/caregiver support and coaching groups, expressive therapy groups for children and Family Group Conferencing

Kinship Program: Outcomes

- Helps children feel safe and supported by their extended family.
- Gives extended families the information and supports they need as primary caregivers to the child(ren).
- Establishes, for all family members, a clear idea of their own roles and responsibilities in the care and support of the child(ren).
- Provides caregivers with concrete tools to manage challenging children/youth.
- Educates caregivers through the use of psycho-educational resources.
- Fosters' caregivers insight into the experiences and identity development of their children/youth and themselves.
- Expands caregivers' support network to include parents facing similar challenges.
- Strengthens caregivers' ability to meet child's social and emotional needs.
- Enhances caregivers' capacity for strengthening relationships with spouses, other family, neighbors, and friends.
- Helps caregivers develop skills needed to prevent out-of-home placement.
- Identifies and develops the use of community supports.
- Helps reduce the risk of disruption.
- Supports and stabilizes youth in their families of origin.
- Enhances attachments that continue into adulthood.
- Develops long-term supports within the nuclear family.
- Develops an extensive support for kinship care.