

COVID-19

Preserving Connections Preventing Maltreatment Building Resilience During COVID-19

Deputy Commissioner Katherine Stoehr



NJ DCF is a family serving agency

New Jersey's Department of Children and Families is the state's designated family serving agency focused on and committed to assisting and empowering residents to be safe, healthy and connected through an array of programs and services that incorporate racial equity, family voice and a protective factors framework.



Each month, DCF serves approximately:

- **40,000** children involved with DCPP served **in home**
- **37,000** children and their families through **CSOC**
- **15,000** families receiving subsidized **adoption/KLG**
- **10,900** children and youth in school-based youth services
- **5,600** constituents receiving **rape prevention programming**
- **5,000** children and youth in **foster care placements**
- **3,700** families receiving evidence-based **home visiting**
- **2,600** families served at **Family Success Centers**
- **1,200** constituents receiving **DV services**
- **670** constituents receiving **displaced homemaker** services



During this emergency, we hear about...

Communities banding together

- Food distribution
- Distribution of phones and other equipment
- Increased collaboration

Increases to family and parental stress

- Financial, food and housing insecurity
- Pressures in home schooling
- Challenges with sudden change to service delivery



Family Success Centers (FSC)

57 family focused organizations statewide that serve all members of the family.

- Encourages and uplifts parent and community voice.
- A community hub, ensuring families are referred to the most effective programs.
- Increase social connections within communities.
- 50,000 served annually.

**Find the Family Success Center
Nearest You by Googling: [NJDCF
Family Success Centers](#)**



Peer Support: Parents helping parents

Parents Anonymous/Parents Inc

- Parent help line 1-800-THE-KIDS
- Online parent support groups; Parent leadership training
- www.paofnj.org

Family Support Organizations (FSO)

- Advocacy and support for families of children with behavioral health system involvement
- Call **1-877-652-7624** to find the nearest FSO

FAMILY HELPLINE

The Family Helpline allows parents facing difficulties to reach out for support to prevent a crisis before it occurs.



Trained counselors will listen and connect you to supports and resources that are available in your own community.

OPEN 24/7

1 (800) 843-5437

1 (800) THE-KIDS



Home Visiting For Families with Young Children

- Improves the physical and emotional well-being of infants, children and their families by providing community-based education and in-home support to parents.
- Programs can begin working with families during pregnancy or in early childhood and continue until the child is age two or three.
- Home visitors provide new parents with health information, parenting education, and linkages to other resources that support child and family well-being.
- All programs are providing virtual home visits until it is safe to resume in-person visits.

Dial 211 to get connected



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New Jersey



Kinship Navigators

- help caregivers navigate government assistance
- determine if the caregiver's family is eligible for Kinship Navigator Program benefits such as help with short-term expenses for the relative child (e.g., furniture, moving expenses and clothing)
- provide support through the process of Kinship Legal Guardianship if the caregiver wishes to make a legal commitment to the child.



Dial 211 to get connected



New Jersey



Child Care for Essential Workers

NJ has launched Emergency Child Care Assistance Program (ECCAP) to support child care costs when a parent or guardian is an essential employee, regardless of your income.

NJ Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development administers the program.

<https://www.childcarenj.gov/>



COVID-19

Services for Children and Youth with Behavioral Health Disorders, Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities

- Evaluation
- Home Based Treatment
- Care Management
- Family Support
- Out of Home Treatment
- Mobile Crisis Services

1-877-652-7624



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Preventing Injury & Maltreatment



Domestic Violence May Be Hidden

In the first week of March, statewide, 469 arrests were reported for domestic violence — up from 429 the previous year — but in the month of April, those arrests plummeted, according to data compiled by the Office of the Attorney General and the State Police.

[Source NJ Herald 4/22/20](#)

**If someone you know is
being abused,
break the cycle.**

Call the Domestic Violence Hotline

1 800 572 7233

1 800 572 SAFE



NJ DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Child Maltreatment May Be Hidden

In March 2019,
there were 7,501
calls to report child
maltreatment.

In March 2020,
there were 5,234
calls: a **30%
reduction**

Notice the signs. Children who are abused or neglected may:

- be withdrawn – hard to engage
- have visible, (poorly) unexplained/untreated injuries
- flinch at the sound of caregiver/s talking/walking
- have consistently bad hygiene
- frequently miss (online) school or appointments
- appear hungry or malnourished
- be sexually aware and active at a very young age
- talk about and make plans to run away from home

1-877 NJ  ABUSE

MAKE THE CALL, HELP A CHILD



Mental Distress May Be Deepening, For Youth and Adults

NJ Mental Health Cares: talk to trained counselor about how to get help for mental health distress

Crisis Text Line: text a trained counselor, 24/7

2nd Floor: 24/7 support for youth

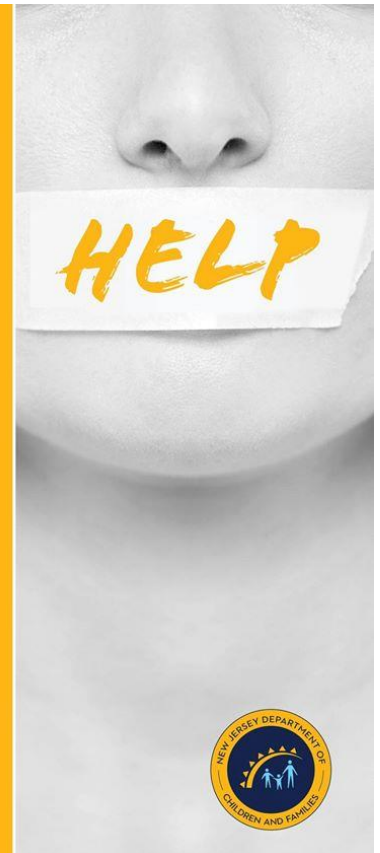
**SOCIAL DISTANCING
SHOULDN'T MEAN
SOCIAL ISOLATION.**

If you or someone you know is suffering, call for help.

NJ Mental Health Cares
1-866-202-4357

Crisis Text Line
Text NJ to 741741

2nd Floor Support for Youth
1-888-222-2228



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NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Healing & Resilience

what **you** can do



Know What Helps Families Stay Strong

- Parental Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Social and Emotional Competence of Children

When families and communities build these capacities, children are best positioned to be safe.



COVID-19

#Bridge the Gap: Social Distance Shouldn't Mean Social Isolation

Call and stay in touch with families you know:

- with infants and young children
- that have children with special needs
- with a history of substance abuse
- who are under extreme stress due to unemployment, food insecurity or housing instability
- with a history of violence
- with a history of mental illness

Now is the time to be the best neighbor.



Share Resources for Families and Youth

- Family resources: information on mortgage/utility relief, free health care, diabetes hotline, links to job boards, access to public assistance
- Data plans and connectivity for families
- Resources for former foster youth
- Managing Anxiety and Stress
- Parents: planning ahead in case you become ill



**Families can connect
to important**

**CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)
INFORMATION**

at www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus.html

