

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Family Resource Centers

Purpose:	Family Resource Centers are placed within schools to coordinate services according to the goals developed and shared by the family, community, school and other agencies involved. These centers serve as a “one stop shop” for family services located within or near a neighborhood school. As of February 2009, 68 Family Resource Centers are operating statewide. In addition, six new sites are in development.
Long Term Goals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a user-friendly service delivery model for families in need of state and local human services.• Increase efficiency of state and local services through pooling resources.• Promote family stability through collaborative service provision.
Services Provided:	All DHS services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash assistance, food, clothing and shelter assistance & prevention services, Medicaid eligibility, etc.• Emergency Assistance for utility shut off, rental eviction & other housing issues, funeral expenses, etc.• Access for to mental health services, therapy and other services in agreement with local partners.• School-based parent involvement programs.
Expected Outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase Academic Performance.• Increased Parental Participation.• Decreased Absenteeism and Truancy.• Decreased Student School Behavior Problems.
Financial Cost:	The Department of Human Services has made these centers a priority because early intervention and prevention services will result in budgetary savings in the future, and increased efficiency can be obtained through collaborative service provision. Preliminary cost analysis has indicated that the bulk of the expense is related to infrastructure start-up costs. FRC sites are funded through partnerships with local intermediate school districts and other local funding sources, such as private foundations. Local DHS offices with FRC sites have been successful working with their community partners to bring in additional external (private and federal) funding because of the potential efficiencies of the FRC collaborative model.
Feedback:	Priority schools with Family Resource Centers have been shown to be significantly more likely to meet AYP enough years in a row to move completely off the priority schools list (40% of FRC-linked schools compared to 10% of non-FRC linked schools). In addition, partner agencies who locate services within FRCs have reported significantly improved outcomes for children and families due to the increased accessibility of services. Local evaluations of FRC impact indicate that the impact of FRC involvement is positive across expected outcomes. A full evaluation of the FRC initiative is planned for 2009.
Expansion:	Governor Granholm initiated Family Resource Centers with 20 sites in 2003. She is quoted as saying: “This is not a pilot; it is a movement.” Currently, expansion sites are identified by: density of DHS clients within a school, degree of local district support, and strength of collaborative leadership within a community. The goal is that FRC development will be cost neutral to the department.
Contact Information:	For more information on Family Resource Centers, contact: Linda Schmidt, Poverty Policy Specialist at 517-241-5718