Parent Support Outreach Program

Minnesota’s Parent Support Outreach Program is a voluntary supportive, strengths-based, family-driven program that provides support and services to prevent child maltreatment from occurring. Families can refer themselves, or be referred by community or social service agencies.

In 2018, the Parent Support Outreach Program served more than 4,200 families, including more than 9,600 children. After involvement with Parent Support Outreach Program services, 77 percent of families report improvement in their ability to manage household resources, 44 percent report improvement in emotional and behavioral challenges, and 48 percent report improvement in family relationships. Eighty percent of families do not come back to the attention of child protection within 12 months of program services ending, and 70 percent do not come back within two or three years. Ninety percent of children remain with their families within three years of their involvement in Parent Support Outreach Program services.

Eligibility

Participation in the Parent Support Outreach Program is voluntary. To be eligible, families must:

- Have at least one child, age 10 or younger, or be pregnant.
- Be exposed to two or more child maltreatment risk factors, including, but not limited to:
  - Poverty
  - Domestic violence
  - Alcohol and drug problems
  - Mental health concerns
  - History of child protection involvement
  - Homelessness.
- Not currently be involved with child protection services.

Benefits

The Parent Support Outreach Program focuses on a family’s strengths and needs, and helps parents who want to do what is best for their children. Parent Support Outreach Program workers conduct comprehensive assessments of families’ needs and strengths and, together, make decisions about what services or community resources are the best choices for success. Short-term help may be available to families with concerns regarding:

- Basic needs (food, clothing and housing)
- Family health (medical care, mental and chemical health services)
- Parenting
- Transportation
- Child care

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Financial needs (budgeting and financial assistance)

The overarching goals of the Parent Support Outreach Program and all voluntary child welfare services are to maintain or achieve safety for children, enhance the well-being of children and families, and support families so they can meet the needs of their children by themselves and through support systems.

To learn more, contact your county or tribal human services department. You can also send general questions to DHS.CSP.PSOP@state.mn.us.

For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4671, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)