



CHILDREN'S AID  
AND FAMILY SERVICES



## Agency Overview

Children's Aid and Family Services is one of northern New Jersey's leading nonprofit providers of services that support vulnerable children, adults and families. Throughout our history, the agency has evolved and expanded to meet ever-changing social needs.

### History

Founded in 1899 with a focus on child protection and adoption, for over 120 years Children's Aid and Family Services has been a recognized leader in its work with children and families. Because of our expertise in helping the vulnerable, we have been able to expand our services to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Today, the agency is recognized as a leader in providing disability support services, programs for children and families, and alcohol and drug misuse prevention and recovery support programs.

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[cfsnj.org](http://cfsnj.org)

### Disability Support Services

It can be overwhelming for families to support their loved ones with special needs that range from behavioral challenges to personal care and life skills. Our professional staff helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live fuller, richer lives with an emphasis on community engagement and skill building through specialized community-based support services, day programming, and safe and supportive community residences.

#### Community-based Supports for Children and Adults

These services include Intensive In-Home Behavioral Services (in-home ABA services), which focus on reducing and managing challenging behaviors, and Individual Support Services, which assist with teaching daily living skills and developing independence.

#### STRIVE Day Habilitation Program

This program, for adults ages 21 and older, fosters independence, helps develop social/life skills and strengthens community inclusion by honoring personal development and choice.

#### Community Residences

Our community residences support adults ages 21 and older and are located in safe residential neighborhoods in northern New Jersey. Our highly trained staff work closely with our residents to ensure they live as independently as possible. Residents become active members of their community and participate in a variety of activities.

# Children and Family Services

## Adoptive Family Recruitment

We seek families open to adopting older children. We work closely with adoptive parents, helping them to develop their unique parenting skills and their understanding of the sometimes complex needs of adoptive children.

## Treatment Foster Care Family Recruitment

We are specialty providers of treatment foster care services for children with a history of trauma. We seek loving, compatible foster families for children. Families are identified for children who have faced difficult life experiences, especially older children and children with special needs. Extensive training is offered to foster families to help them learn how to care for these children in their homes. Information sessions on adoption or foster care are offered virtually and at our Fair Lawn and South Orange locations.

## Support for Teenagers That Have Aged Out of Foster Care

We provide vital services for young adults as they leave foster care and transition to independent living, including mentoring, financial assistance for college or vocational school and emergency funding.

## Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

This innovative program provides mentors, known as navigators, to work with young people ages 14-21 who are aging out of foster care and need support in making the transition to adulthood. The navigators have "lived experience" in foster care and work with the youth to share experiences and build trust. They also serve as allies and advocates, and help the young people identify education and employment goals, assist them with navigating complex systems such as state agencies, and increase their network of supports, helping them to become self-reliant and achieve independence.

## New Jersey Adoption Resources Clearing House (NJ ARCH)

NJ's one-stop resource for those touched by adoption, families interested in adoption, and professionals and others interested in adoption. Visit [www.njarch.org](http://www.njarch.org) or call **877-427-2465**.

## The New Jersey Kinship Legal Guardianship Resource Clearing House (KinKonnnect)

KinKonnnect is an information center providing information, education and resources to those involved with Kinship Care. Visit [www.kinkonnnect.org](http://www.kinkonnnect.org) or call **877-554-5463**.

## Wrap-Around Intensive Services for Families (WISE)

WISE Families is an outpatient counseling program that treats young people, ages 7 – 17, with problematic sexual behaviors. Developed at Oklahoma University's Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, WISE provides assessment, education, treatment and prevention to both parents and children. Children's Aid and Family Services is one of only 17 agencies in the country certified by the National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth to provide PSB-CBT (Problematic Sexual Behaviors–Cognitive Behavior Therapy), and the only such agency in New Jersey.



## Community Services

### The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources (TCADR)

The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources in Fair Lawn is a resource for information, support, and solutions about addiction and prevention for children, families, adults and older adults. The three major areas of service include school-based and family services, community engagement and coalition development, and recovery support services for individuals and families. Visit [www.tcadr.org](http://www.tcadr.org) for more information.

### Baby Basics

Baby Basics provides diapers, formula and infant essentials to low-income families with children ages two and younger who live or work in Bergen, Passaic and Essex Counties. The program also includes a parent-child educational component to promote healthy brain development in babies and a safety net of emotional support, counseling, and referrals.



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