

**To learn more about the
Family Advocate Program
or to make a referral contact:**

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Funded by the State of Michigan



Family & Children Services is a private, nonprofit, nonsectarian, human service organization begun in 1903. Its mission has remained constant "...To support, strengthen and preserve the safety, well being and dignity of children, individuals and families".

The Agency receives funding through contracts with Community Mental Health programs and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, insurance reimbursements, fees for service based on a sliding scale and contributions. We are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children. The Agency is licensed by the State of Michigan as a Child Placing Agency, Child Caring Institution (Children's Therapeutic Group Home), and Substance Abuse Program.

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Family Advocate Program

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- *Family & Children Services' facilities are barrier-free.*



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Family Advocate



Family Advocate

Family Advocate serves families in Calhoun County that have been identified by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Children's Protective Services as needing support. The families are offered a Family Advocate who meets with them in their home within seven days of referral. A range of services are provided to the families for up to six months.

What can families expect?

Families can expect a strength-based approach using the Bavolek evidence-based parenting education model. The Family Advocate worker will use the family's strengths to assist them in solving the challenges they are facing. Service areas include:

- Parenting Skills Education
- Life/Home Management Skills
- Connection with community resources
- Communication and conflict resolution
- Building positive relationships
- Assistance with counseling referrals
- Family, individual, and/or marital support
- Support for transportation needs
- Joint development of goals with parents



The Family Advocate Program:

- Works with families in their own home
- Learns about the challenges each family is facing and links families with direct services
- Provides service to the family for up to six (6) months
- Works with families during evenings or weekends when necessary
- Works with families for a minimum of one (1) hour and up to 16 hours per month
- Provides a monthly summary of services to the MDHHS worker
- Administers the Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory to determine parenting beliefs and attitudes toward child rearing

Who is eligible?

Parent or primary caregiver in Calhoun County who is responsible for the care and supervision of minor child(ren):

- Who has an open MDHHS Category I, II, III, IV, Foster Care or Delinquency case
- Who has a CPS investigation within the past 18 months and has been substantiated
- Who has completed Families First services or Families Together Building Solutions services and needs additional services

Who can refer?

Calhoun County Department of Health and Human Services Children's Protective Services' specialists and supervisors.

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