

FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE (FPI)

FPI is a capitated child welfare partnership between Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper MI., Inc. and 15 counties. It serves youth and their families through a philosophy of unconditional care, focusing on their strengths, and involving them as equal participants in the decision making process. We are committed to creating and supporting partnerships between families and their natural supports, county staff, schools and other community stakeholders to facilitate positive change and stability for the youth we serve. From our beginning in 1997 we have demonstrated through our outcomes that this model is a successful tool in improved school performance, positive behavioral change and non-residential permanence in youth who are at the deep-end of the Human Services system.

The leadership consortium (made up of the county partners and LSS) creates a venue for open dialogue and brainstorming about current challenges, gaps in resources, and new opportunities to serve the ever-changing population. They are committed to maintaining an environment where the creative evolution of this program is not restricted by administrative barriers. With their help, we continue to evolve and adapt the model structure to current and future needs, while staying within the mission and values of FPI's stated philosophy.

THE PHILOSOPHY AND VALUES OF THE FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

Lutheran Social Services believes that home or its most natural substitute is where children should grow up and thrive. We are committed to providing an integrated array of services that afford families individualized and comprehensive assistance towards remaining intact and improving their functioning. These services must be community based utilizing existing as well as newly developed resources from a variety of internal as well as external sources. Collaboration with other vendors is critical to successfully implement the array.

UNDERLYING VALUES THAT DRIVE OUR PHILOSOPHY AND STANDARD OF SERVICE

Families are full partners with providers in caring for their children. We are dependent on the involvement of parents in all phases of service delivery as key resources that should be listened to and treated with respect. They must be included as equal members of the planning team and included in the development, implementation, monitoring and modifying of service plan.

Services that are provided to children and their families must be culturally competent. Our services and those provided by our network will be sensitive and responsive to the uniqueness of our customers. The diversity of the families we will serve goes beyond ethnic differences. It relates to cultural differences between rural and city life, single parent families and two parent households. We will be sensitive and respectful of these issues when assessing the family's strengths and needs, and in the development of the service plan.

The concept that children can best learn to become competent and productive adults if they live in, and learn from, a normalized environment. This goes beyond the concept of placement in the least restrictive environment. It is a belief in keeping children in their own family and cultural setting. When that is not possible due to safety or supervision issues, then supporting family-like settings and normative lifestyles in communities is a reasonable response.

Unconditional care extends the rights of parental care to children regardless of the severity of their behavior, emotional or mental uniqueness, handicap, age, sex, race, or ethnicity. It is the commitment to do whatever it takes, to never give up. Services are provided to the children regardless of the presenting problem. Challenging behaviors or difficult service needs are not considered justification for discharge. Services are individualized and developed to fit the child/family, as opposed to the child/family needing to fit the services. This is contingent on our agency's ability to flexibly provide for a broad spectrum of needs through an array of services and living environments, utilizing internal as well as network resources. To meet this challenge we must be able to provide services to support families that can deflect the placement of children in substitute care, help families incorporate a child who has been in substitute care back into family life, assess and then address with resources the issues that put the family at risk. This is a commitment to provide care for youth with challenging behaviors that have had numerous failed placements; families who are at high risk for, or have been disrupted by, the placement of children.

Families have strengths that can provide a base to build on for future independence. We must emphasize the assets and coping skills of the child and family as the service plan is developed. They have unique talents, skills and life histories that must be included in the planning of the service delivery.

Individualized services must be child centered and family focused. The needs of the children and their families must dictate the types and mix of service provided. We must be committed to adapting the services and their delivery system to families, not expecting them to conform to a categorical program configuration. This will require flexibility and creative coordination to create opportunities for involvement and self-determination.

ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS

- * No single resource or entity can work alone to resolve difficult, systemic and often complex challenges facing families.
- * Collaborations with other providers which incorporate as broad an array of innovative services as possible will be mobilized to serve families.
- * We are committed to working in partnership with referral sources, schools, other vendors and families.
- * Individual differences are strengths on which to build positive change within the family.
- * Those serving the family must be committed to working through challenging situations.
- * Family treatment planning and delivery must be customer driven and cannot be bound by one model or philosophical approach.

* Non-traditional risks must, at times, be taken when more traditional approaches are ineffective. Creativity in providing services is restricted only by law and concerns of health and safety.

* Services will have measurable outcomes ensuring the resources are used responsibly.

* Ensure through case management that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and effective manner in accordance with each child's and family's changing needs.

* We are committed to the health, safety and well being of the children and families we serve.

* The basic needs of the family; food, clothing, shelter must be considered a high priority and dealt with from day one.



Overview of Services

Each year, nearly 2,500 Lutheran Social Services (LSS) staff members work together to help meet the needs of over 100,000 individuals and families of all faiths. Driven by a shared passion to serve LSS offers a variety of community and residential services — providing a healing and helping hand or a place to call home. To meet the diverse needs of our clients, LSS consistently adds new programs and services. Today, our community services include:

Addictions and Corrections Services

LSS offers addiction assessments, intensive outpatient treatment services, primary inpatient treatment, transitional residential (halfway house) treatment, treatment for gambling, sober living facilities, education, and support groups for people dealing with addictions. In partnership with most Wisconsin counties, the Department of Health and Family Services, and state and federal corrections departments, LSS also provides an array of services specifically designed to help people with addictions in their recovery journey and to move individuals out of the correctional system.

Adoption and Foster Care Services

As the largest not-for-profit licensed child-placing agency in the State of Wisconsin, LSS has been finding forever families for children of all ages, faiths and backgrounds for more than 60 years. Since the 1960's, LSS has been involved in international adoption programs. LSS' Adoption & Foster Care services include:

- Services to birth parents regarding accessing resources and parenting options
- Temporary foster care in conjunction with counties or the state of WI
- Adoption services for infants, children and children with special needs
- Step-parent and relative adoptions
- International adoption programs
- Treatment Foster Care for children needing specialized out of home care
- And more!

Behavioral Health Services

LSS' Behavioral Health Services provides quality outpatient mental health and substance abuse services for people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. LSS psychotherapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists help our clients build resilience, facilitate recovery, and grow, helping them live fuller, more productive lives. In addition to clinical services, we educate and advocate for change to improve the behavioral health system in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.

Children, Youth, and Family Services

LSS offers a wide variety of services for children, youth and families throughout Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. Our services include:

- Child development services and support for families of children with special needs
- Child Care Services
- Guidance, supervision, support and resources to youth in their community
- Mental health services
- Family strengthening and enrichment services for couples preparing for marriage and families encountering difficult transitions
- Family-based treatment for troubled children and their families including in-home counseling, mentoring, family aid, W-2 workforce assistance, intensive supervision, student advocacy, and custody mediation
- Multi-county child welfare program

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Main Offices:

Milwaukee

647 W. Virginia Street, Ste. 300
Milwaukee, WI 53204 (800) 488-5181
(toll-free in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan)

Appleton

3003-A N. Richmond Street
Appleton, WI 54911 (920) 730-1326

Eau Claire

1320 W. Clairemont Avenue, Ste. 200
Eau Claire, WI 54701 (877) 967-5577

Waukesha

2000 Bluemound Road
Waukesha, WI 53186 (800) 216-3437

Hub Offices:

Beaver Dam

809 Park Avenue
Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (920) 887-3172

Homme - Wittenberg

W18105 Hemlock Road
Wittenberg, WI 54499 (715) 253-2116

Homme - Neillsville

16 Boon Boulevard
Neillsville, WI 54456 (715) 743-8050

Janesville

612 North Randall Avenue
Janesville, WI 53545 (608) 752-7660

La Crosse

2307 South Avenue
La Crosse, WI 54601 (608) 788-5090

Madison

6314 Odana Road
Madison, WI 53719 (608) 277-0610

Marquette, MI

1029 N. Third Street
Marquette, MI 49855 (877) 994-8344

Superior

2231 Catlin Avenue
Superior, WI 54880 (715) 394-4173

Wausau

516 McClellan Street
Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-5577

Our Mission: Motivated by the compassion of Christ, we help people improve the quality of their lives.

Our Vision: Change the world — one grace-filled life at a time.

Children, Youth, and Family Services *(continued)*

- Family support program that strengthens parent-child relationships
- Homme, a nationally known treatment program for children and adolescents dealing with issues of sexual perpetration, delinquency, victimization, alcohol and drug abuse, cognitive behavioral issues or dual diagnosis, and independent support.
- Runaway programs
- SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect)
- Sexual Assault Services
- And more!

Housing Services

In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, LSS operates multiple subsidized housing apartment buildings for older adults, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with chronic mental illness, and persons with physical disabilities. Rent for eligible tenants is 30 percent of their adjusted gross income.

Older Adult Services

At LSS, we believe the concepts of “aging in place” and “continuum of care,” are key in effective delivery of services to older adults. These two concepts drive our efforts to both provide as many services as possible to persons in their own residences, and recognize and prepare for a seamless transition in services when the need arises.

LSS’ older adult programming includes:

- Adult day services
- Home health
- In-home support services
- Early memory loss
- Respite services and support for caregivers
- Information and referral
- Geriatric care management
- Transportation
- Service coordination in subsidized housing and senior centers
- Mental health counseling — including alcohol and other drug addictions
- And much more!

Persons with Disabilities Services

LSS serves more than 4,000 persons with disabilities, ranging from “round-the-clock” residential support to supervision within more independent living situations. Developmental disabilities are defined by a person’s cognitive ability, seizures, Cerebral Palsy, autism and those who have sustained head injuries. Those struggling with persistent mental illness also are served.

LSS’ persons with disabilities services include:

- Over 200 Residential facilities
- Community skills
- Supported living arrangements
- Day services
- Guardianship
- Representative Payee
- Case management
- Self-directed supports
- Crisis stabilization
- And much more!

Prison Ministries Services

Prison Ministries focuses on the relationships between families and incarcerated individuals to help connect them in difficult situations. LSS believes that maintaining the connection with families enables incarcerated individuals to have a successful return to a responsible and accountable environment where families are supportive and a new future can be realized. LSS sees a tremendous need to begin working with individuals who are incarcerated long before the re-entry time is realized. Prison Ministries is the articulation of restorative justice to heal victims, families, communities and offenders.

Urban Ministries Services

Urban Ministries is dedicated to alleviating the conditions associated with poverty, homelessness and disaster by providing individuals with their most basic needs of shelter, food, clothing and hope and connection, with the ultimate goal to alleviate the conditions associated with poverty, homelessness, disaster and isolation.

Urban Ministries works to build strong church partnerships and alliances with communities, corporations, local businesses, and individuals to organize for change that will bring needed resources to communities and populations.

LSS’ Urban Ministries services include:

- Refugee and Immigrant Services
- Drop-in centers for people with serious and persistent mental illness. Emotional support, vocational and recreational opportunities, and structuring of individual schedules are available.
- Clothing Distribution Center
- Voices For Youth, a program designed to meet the basic needs of homeless youth while at the same time offering support services that allow youth to be reunited with their family or make a successful transition to independence
- Disaster Response
- Community Organizing Efforts