



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance



NRFC State Profile: New Hampshire July 2015

This profile describes state and federally funded programs and policies that aim to strengthen families. These programs and policies support parenting and father involvement, promote strong family relationships, enhance fathers' economic stability, and provide support during incarceration and reentry. The profile lists phone numbers and websites for the programs. This information was correct when the profile was written (in 2015) but may change over time.

Programs to Support Responsible Fatherhood and Strengthen Families

Responsible fatherhood programs focus on issues such as enhancing parenting and relationship skills, keeping fathers involved with their children, improving their economic stability, helping them pay child support, and generally helping to strengthen families.

The following state and federally funded programs are available in the state:

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
Child and Family Services of New Hampshire	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	Child and Family Services provides various programs to strengthen family life, including <i>Parenting Plus</i> , <i>The Parent Aide</i> , and <i>Families Connecting</i> . Participants in <i>Families Connecting</i> receive guidance and support to build up resilience and adopt stress avoidance techniques. Counselors visit families in their homes and give advice on effective parenting skills, setting family rules, setting expectations, accessing community resources, and learning about creating budgets. The organization also offers support groups for parents, home-based therapeutic services, and family resource centers.	Serves many counties in New Hampshire and a portion of Vermont. Website (603) 518-4000
Community Action Partnership of Strafford County	Fatherhood/Parenting	Community Action Partnership of Strafford County is a federally funded organization that offers several programs for families, including employment assistance, housing assistance, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and a <i>Healthy Family Home Visiting</i> program. The Home Visiting program provides parenting	Serves Strafford County. Main website (603) 435-2500 ext. 8108

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Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		education, medical and health education, child development support, family mentoring, and literacy support and education.	Healthy Family Home Visiting website
Coos County Family Health Services-RESPONSE to Sexual and Domestic Violence	Domestic Violence	Coos County Family Health Services is a federally funded organization that offers <i>RESPONSE to Sexual Domestic Violence</i> , which provides parenting classes and sponsors a men’s education group about sexual and domestic violence.	Serves Berlin, Gorham, and Groveton. Website (603) 752-2040 RESPONSE Hot Line: (866) 662-4330
Families First	Fatherhood/Parenting	Families First is a state and federally funded organization that offers many classes for parents. Parenting classes include <i>Preventing Child Sexual Abuse</i> , <i>Keeping Your Cool: Anger Help for Everyday Parenting</i> , and <i>Stepfamilies: Ideas That Work Well</i> .	Serves the Seacoast region of New Hampshire. Website (603) 422-8208
The Family Resource Center	Fatherhood/Parenting Economic Stability	The Family Resource Center is a state-funded organization offering various services for parents and families. Home visitors use <i>Parents As Teachers</i> and <i>Positive Parenting Program</i> curricula to cover parenting skills, budgeting skills, and information on child development. The <i>Children in the Middle</i> program helps separated and divorced parents with their co-parenting skills.	Serves North Country. Website (603) 466-5190
Good Beginnings of Sullivan County	Fatherhood/Parenting	Good Beginnings of Sullivan County is a state-funded organization. Their <i>Comprehensive Family Support</i> program focuses on strengthening, supporting, and building healthy families. The program includes home visiting, medical and health education, early childhood programs, child development education, literacy education and support, family mentoring and advocacy, and life skills training.	Serves Sullivan and lower Grafton counties. Website (603) 542-1848
Lake Region Community Services	Fatherhood/Parenting	Lake Region Community Services is a state and federally funded organization that offers many parenting classes	Serves Belknap and Southern Grafton counties.

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		including <i>Nurturing Fathers</i> , <i>Active Parenting of Teens</i> , <i>Nurturing Skills for Families</i> , <i>Cooperative Co-Parenting</i> , and <i>Parenting Journey</i> .	Website (603) 524-8811
Monadnock Family Services	Fatherhood/Parenting	Monadnock Family Services is a state-funded organization that offers a home visiting program and visitation center. The home visiting program, <i>FamilyTime</i> , includes home visits to help families become stronger, learn to communicate more effectively, guide their children's healthy development, and find the community resources they need. <i>Child Impact</i> is a 4-hour program to help divorcing parents reduce the impact of divorce on their children. The visitation center, <i>All R Kids Supervised Visitation Center</i> , is a neutral, safe place where non-residential parents can visit their children.	Serves Cheshire and western Hillsborough counties. Website (603) 357-4400
New Hampshire Children's Trust	Fatherhood/Parenting	New Hampshire Children's Trust is the state designated agency leading the drive to eliminate child abuse and neglect. They work with programs around the state to encourage implementation of the Strengthening Families Approach and offer a program called <i>Period of PURPLE Crying</i> , which educates fathers and mothers on the developmental phases of increased infant crying, ways to cope with frustration that inconsolable crying can cause, and the dangers of reacting to this frustration by shaking or hurting an infant.	Serves many counties in the state. Website (603) 224-1279
New Hampshire Department of Corrections - Family Connections Center	Incarceration/Reentry Parenting/Fatherhood Healthy Relationships	Operating in the Berlin and Concord prisons, the Family Connections Center is a state-funded entity that provides parenting and healthy relationship classes, support groups, referrals to social services, and planning for re-entry. Prisoners are provided with opportunities for structured interaction with their children through video chats and use audio recorders to read to their children. Participants must complete an	Services are provided in Berlin and Concord prisons. Website (603) 271-2255

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
		18-hour parenting course. The Family Connections Center is operated in partnership with the UNH Cooperative Extension and the UNH Family Studies Department.	
Office of Workforce Opportunity- NH Works	Economic Stability	<i>NH Works</i> is a state-funded program operated by the New Hampshire Office of Workforce Opportunity to help unemployed New Hampshire residents find employment and access training opportunities to increase their skills. <i>NH Works</i> centers offer technical assistance in job search activities, employment counseling, aptitude and skills testing, and provide resources for finding a job.	NH Work centers are located throughout the state. Website (603) 271-7275
The River Center	Fathering/Parenting Economic Stability	The River Center is a state-funded organization that offers a parenting class covering developmental stages, managing sibling rivalry, and family conflict. They also offer services through their Employment Resource Center, including individual coaching and group workshops in job search techniques, interviewing skills, resume preparation, and completing job applications.	Serves the Eastern Monadnock Region. Website (603) 924-6800
Starting Point	Domestic Violence	Starting Point is a federal and state-funded organization that provides domestic violence prevention education in schools, professional and community education, support groups, advocates for victims of domestic violence, and a shelter.	Provides services in Carol County. Website 24-hour Crisis Hotline: (800) 336-3795 Conway/Main office: (603) 447-2494 Wolfeboro/Satellite office: (603) 452-8014
Turning Points Network	Domestic Violence	The Turning Points Network is a state-funded organization that offers a variety of services including support groups, peer support counseling, victim advocacy, and referrals at its two offices in Claremont and Newport.	Serves Sullivan County. Website Claremont: (603) 543-0155

Organization	Services Provided	Description	Service Area and Contact Information
			Newport: (603) 863-4053
The Upper Room	Fatherhood/Parenting	The Upper Room is a state-funded organization that offers services to families and parents. Their parenting classes include <i>Parent Portal</i> , <i>Parent Recharge</i> , <i>Got Teens? Get Answers</i> , <i>Active Parenting of Teens</i> , <i>Active Parenting of 5-12 Year Olds</i> , <i>Active Parenting 1,2,3,4! Workshop</i> , <i>1-2-3 Magic: Easy-To-Learn and Effective Parenting Solutions</i> , <i>Co-Parenting Classes - Crossroads of Parenting and Divorce</i> , and parenting support groups. They also offer <i>Greater Derry Family Outreach</i> , which includes short-term in-home family support, education and counseling, groups and workshops (some with free childcare provided), and connections to community services.	The Upper Room's main office is in Derry. Its programs are open to all NH residents. Website (603) 437-8477

Policies to Promote Responsible Fatherhood

Paternity Establishment

Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of marriage the same legal rights and privileges as a child born to married parents. Children gain access to family medical history and rights to inheritance, fathers' medical and life insurance benefits, social security and veterans' benefits, and child support. In addition, Native American children gain tribal enrollment rights.

In New Hampshire, to establish paternity, a father can voluntarily fill out an Affidavit of Paternity at the hospital where the child is born. Alternatively, a father can obtain the Affidavit of Paternity form at any NH Division of Child Support Services office or his local town clerk's office. If either parent will not consent to a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity, the other parent may contact the NH Division of Child Support Services. This agency may order a genetic test and use the court system to make a legal determination of paternity.ⁱ

Child Custody

If unmarried or divorced parents cannot reach agreement concerning child custody or visitation, a legal order can be made through the court system. Either parent may be granted custody of the child, or both may share equally in physical custody and/or decision-making responsibilities. There is no legal connection between payment or non-payment of child support and rights to visitation.

In New Hampshire, parents are urged to voluntarily develop and agree upon a visitation plan. When parents come to an agreement, the New Hampshire family court can enter it as a legal order. This court can also assist parents in creating a plan at any time, and reserves the right to create a visitation plan for parents who are unable to agree.

When the Family Court creates a visitation plan, its overarching concern is the child's best interest. It may consider such factors as the age and developmental stage of the child, the history of the parents' relationship, any history of substance abuse, work schedules, and the geographic proximity of the parents.ⁱⁱ

Child Support

The Federal Child Support Enforcement Program was established in 1975 as Title IV-D of the Social Security Act to locate noncustodial parents, establish paternity and establish and enforce child support orders. General services available in all states and territories include voluntary in-hospital paternity acknowledgement, genetic testing, explanation of state guidelines for determining child support orders, and review of child support orders at least every three years at the request of either parent. State child support offices are responsible for collection and distribution of child support payments and can modify orders when appropriate. If a parent is behind in their payments, the office may use enforcement tools such as license revocation (including drivers, professional, recreational or occupational licenses), seizure of assets, property liens, passport denial, and federal and state tax refund offsets.ⁱⁱⁱ

In New Hampshire, the NH Division of Child Support helps families develop a child support order in accordance with state guidelines that consider both parents' gross incomes and the number of children receiving child support. The website for the NH Division of Child Support provides information on applying for, estimating the cost of, and paying child support. Visit their [website](#) or call (800) 457-6202 for more information.

The Family and Medical Leave Act

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) protects employees who have worked with the same organization for at least twelve months and worked at least 1,250 hours within the past year. It contains provisions for both fathers and mothers to take time off after the birth or adoption of a child, or during a serious illness, without fear of losing their jobs. Employees in companies with 50 or more employees are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave, over a one-year period, to care for a new child, recuperate from a serious illness, care for a seriously ill family member, or handle issues arising from a family member's call to active military duty. The FMLA also gives employees the right to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a family member who is seriously injured or becomes ill while on active military duty.^{iv}

In addition to the benefits allowed by the federal FMLA, New Hampshire requires employers with more than six employees to grant leave to workers who are unable to work due to conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded school readiness program for young children from low-income families. The program, currently delivered by about 1,700 local organizations – public and private, non-profit and for-profit – provides preschoolers with comprehensive services, such as education and health screenings, with the goal of building their skills across five school readiness domains: language and literacy, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical development and health, and social and emotional development. Head Start encourages the role of parents (both mothers and fathers) as their child's first and most important teachers. Programs build relationships with families that support positive parent-child relationships, family well-being, and connections to peers and community. Early Head Start, also managed by the federal Office of Head Start, is directed toward children up to the age of three and their parents. While the program is federally funded and managed, local agencies make decisions regarding service delivery based on the specific needs of their communities; for example, some may opt to include home-based services for families in their programs. Most states have multiple Head Start programs providing services for fathers.

To find information on Head Start Programs in New Hampshire, go to:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/headstart/locations.htm>

Policies to Promote Economic Stability

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) works with states to provide support for children and their low-income families. Subsidized child care services are available to eligible families through certificates (vouchers), grants, or contracts with providers. Fathers and mothers may select a child care provider that satisfies applicable state and local requirements, including basic health and safety requirements.^v

The New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship helps with the cost of child care for parents in New Hampshire who are working, looking for work, or in a training program. Gross family income is used to determine eligibility, and to qualify it must not exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Parents may apply for child care assistance through the Division of Family Assistance.^{vi}

Rental Assistance

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides rental assistance to low-income families and individuals through a number of methods. HUD subsidizes privately owned apartments, allowing low-income tenants to rent them at reduced rates. In the Public Housing program, local housing agencies manage rental housing for low-income tenants, while HUD provides professional and technical assistance in their planning, development, and management. The Housing Choice Voucher Program, better known as Section 8, provides eligible families and individuals with vouchers that they can use to pay for all or part of the rent at housing units of their choice. Generally, eligibility for the HUD rental assistance programs is based on annual gross income, assets, family size, and other considerations such as elderly or disabled status. Local housing agencies generally set the fixed eligibility rules for their regions, determine assistance amounts, and manage waiting lists for assistance.^{vii}

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp program, provides low-income individuals (both men and women) and families with funds (delivered in an electronic benefit transfer card, or EBT card) that can be used to purchase food. SNAP is administered within the Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services and is federally funded, but applications, delivery, and outreach are handled at the state or local level. In general, individuals and households are eligible to receive SNAP if they have less than \$2,250 in countable resources and earn less than 130 percent of the poverty line in gross monthly income. However, characteristics of recipients (for example, age or disabled status) can affect eligibility requirements, and states have flexibility in determining eligibility, particularly with regard to what is considered a countable resource. In 2014, the average monthly SNAP benefit per individual was \$125.35.^{viii}

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program grants federal funds to states for developing and implementing their own welfare programs that provide assistance and work opportunities to needy families.

In New Hampshire, temporary cash assistance is provided through the Financial Assistance for Needy Families (FANF) program. The program has four funding streams: the New Hampshire Employment Program (NHEP), Family Assistance Program (FAP), Interim Disabled Parent Program (IDP), and Families with Older Children (FWOC). Families who qualify have a five year lifetime limit (60 months) on receiving benefits. To be eligible, parents must have a child under 18 (or 20, if the child is enrolled in a high school or high school equivalency program). Families must have less than \$1,000 in resources, not counting their house, furniture, and one vehicle for each adult in the home. They must meet income requirements based on the number of individuals in the household. New Hampshire also offers emergency assistance



(EA) to families who qualify for FANF and are experiencing or being threatened by the prospect of homelessness, utility shut-off, or a lack of heat, hot water, or cooking fuel.^{ix}

Other Helpful Resources

The New Hampshire State Library operates the Family Resource Connection, which is a resource center for families in New Hampshire that lends materials on parenting issues, family support services, special education, and family law at no cost. Items can be checked out directly or sent to a local library branch. More information on the Family Resource Connection is available at <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/frc/> and (800) 298-4321.



References

- ⁱ For more information on Paternity Establishment, see <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcscs/index.htm>
- ⁱⁱ For more information on Child Custody in New Hampshire, see <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcscs/documents/ittakestwo.pdf>
- ⁱⁱⁱ For more information on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, see www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse
- ^{iv} For more information on the Family and Medical Leave Act, see <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs28.pdf>
- ^v For more information on the Child Care and Development Fund , see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/about/what-we-do>
- ^{vi} For more information on New Hampshire Child Care Scholarship, see <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcyf/cdb/documents/scholarship.pdf>
- ^{vii} For more information on Rental Assistance, see http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance
- ^{viii} For more information on SNAP and to find services in your state, see <http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/apply>
- ^{ix} For more information on Financial Assistance for Needy Families, see <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/DFA/tanf/index.htm>