PSSF

Promoting Safe & Stable Families NETWORK

Region 10

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program, authorized by Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act, provides federal funding, training and technical assistance to help build state and community capacity to meet the needs of families at risk for child welfare intervention and families in crisis. Reauthorized in 1997, 2001 and 2006 under the Family Service Improvement Act, PSSF offers Georgia the opportunity to:

- Develop and enhance the community-based support and service system for children and families
- Emphasize collaborative approaches to early identification of risk and intervention services that build on the strengths of families
- Help prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and stabilizing Georgia families

PSSF is administered in Georgia by the Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). PSSF targets four types of families touched by the child welfare system:

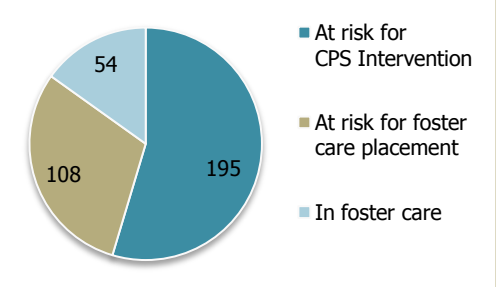
- Families at risk and in need of support
- Families in crisis where efforts are being made to preserve the family
- Families with a child in foster care and whose best interest is to be reunified
- Families in need of adoption or post permanency services

Our Families…

357

Families received a wide array of community-based services

Family involvement with their local child welfare agency at referral:



318 of these families were headed by a biological or adoptive parent, or a relative caregiver

28% two-parent households
72% single-parent households

85% high school education or less

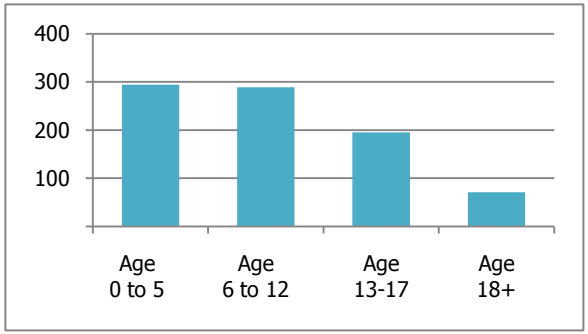
43% employed full- and/or part-time
82% income less than $20,000

Our Children…

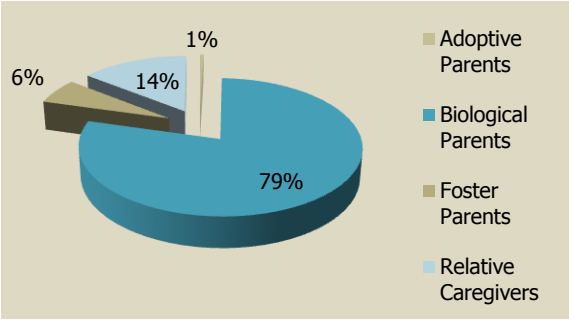
849

Children resided in all households

Number of Children by Age



Children being cared for by:



Producing Results…

For the **184** families who completed services in FFY2010:

80%	Children remained safely in their homes
9%	Children remained in foster or relative care
4%	Children were reunified with their families
3%	Children achieved permanency through adoption or legal guardianship
2%	Youth emancipated from Foster Care
1%	Children were referred to DFCS for investigation

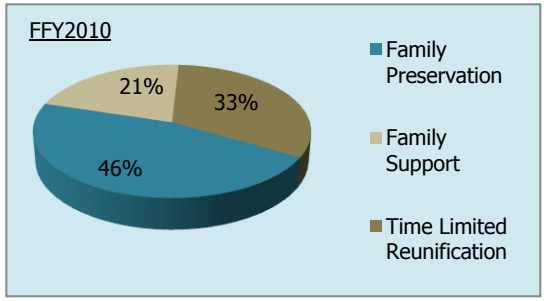
Georgia's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program has steadily built a network of community-based organizations reflecting the state's commitment to ensuring that families have access to the highest quality services and resources needed to help children and youth grow into healthy, contributing members of our society. PSSF is one of the few sources of federal funds directed toward the *prevention* of issues that bring families into the child welfare system.

PSSF Program Areas

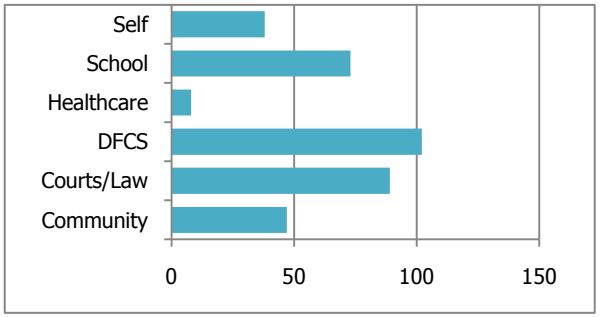
PSSF funds provide services to at-risk families in the areas of:

- **Family Support** to prevent child abuse and neglect among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services
- **Family Preservation** to assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been abused or neglected when the family's needs can be addressed effectively
- **Time-Limited Reunification** to address the needs of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and timely manner
- **Adoption Promotion/Post-Permanency Support** to provide foster and adoptive families support services so that they can make a lifelong commitment to their children

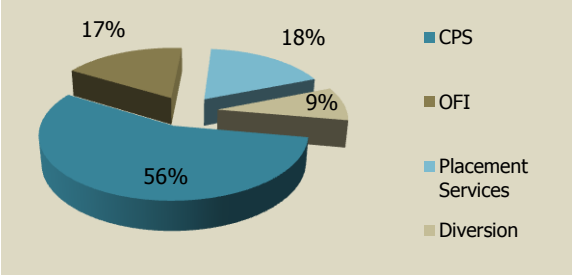
Allocation of Funding



Source of Community Referrals



DFCS referrals:



Serving Your Community

PSSF supports easy access and coordinated service delivery that is child- and family-focused. In FFY2010, the following **7** network providers in Region **10** served **313** families*.

Dougherty Family Literacy Council
Early County DFCS
Liberty House of Albany, Inc.
Lily Pad SANE Center, Inc.
Morningstar Children and Family Services, Inc. (Albany)
Mount Olive Community Outreach Center, Inc.
Thomas County CASA, Inc.

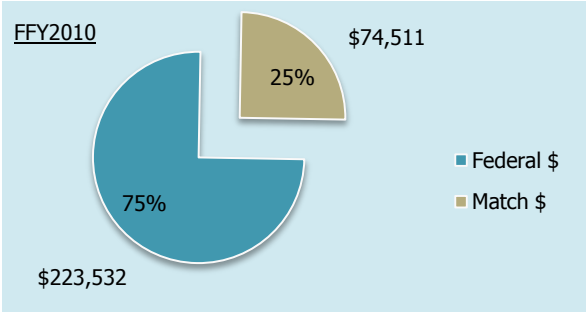
*3% of families served resided outside of Region 10.

Shared Responsibility

PSSF resources have been strategically invested to enhance the capacity of DFCS to identify and meet the needs of families and to expand the array of supportive services available through community-based family service agencies.

Federal allocations are leveraged with the support of matching funds contributed at the local level.

Investment



Service Array

PSSF supports a variety of services for families with children. In addition to case management, the following services were made available to families through network providers in Region **10**:

- Center-based Parent Education
- Center-based Support Group
- Child/Family Assessment
- Crisis Intervention
- Effective Discipline/Behavior Management
- Follow-up Services
- Home-based Parent Education
- Information and Referral Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Mentoring and Tutoring
- Parent/Child Activities
- Stress/Anger Management
- Substance Abuse Recovery Support
- Supervised Visitation
- Therapeutic Counseling
- Transportation