

Family Programs Hawai`i FACT SHEET

Children are Hawai`i's most valuable resource. They are our future. Family Programs Hawai`i (FPH) is a unique non-profit agency remaining true to its origins of providing quality care to the children of Hawai`i. FPH's goal is that every child in Hawai`i has the opportunity and resources to reach his or her full potential — especially children who are in or may become involved in — foster care.

Family Programs Hawai`i is building, step-by-step, comprehensive programs serving the needs of these children. Children are best raised in healthy, loving families. FPH seeks to create programs to strengthen families and meet their ever-changing needs.

Voluntary Case Management

The Voluntary Case Management program is a highly successful preventive effort to support youth and families so that they do not become involved in the Child Welfare System. The goal of this program is to create a safe and healthy home for children by preserving family strengths and decreasing family stress. This program uses a Family Centered Practice approach based upon the belief that families know best what works to keep their children safe. Family Programs Hawaii's VCM services are available in Leeward Oahu.

Long Term Foster Care

Family Programs Hawai`i offers quality long-term foster care through its offices in Honolulu and Hilo. FPH teams with foster parents to assist youth in developing knowledge and skills needed for self-sufficiency, while maintaining a sense of connectedness and belonging in a family environment.

Resource Family Support Services

As a partner in Hui Ho`omalua, FPH provides a variety of services to support and retain resource families, statewide. These services include a Warm Line, monthly support groups, quarterly training, an annual training conference, Parent to Parent Mentoring, Care to Share, and Respite.

Enhancements

Family Programs Hawai`i provides enhancements to foster children through grants received from the Victoria S. & Bradley L. Geist Foundation and the

Teresa F. Hughes Trust Estate. Activities and items funded can include tutors; summer school tuition; self esteem programs such as sports, dance, scouting, martial arts and music; special events such as proms, graduation, travel to the mainland or neighbor islands; and special projects such as back-to-school items.

Events

Family Programs Hawai`i hosts two annual events for foster children and their families. The Summer Picnic and Holiday Party honor children in care and serve as a thank you to families who welcome foster children into their homes.

At the Summer Picnic, more than 1,000 foster children and their families enjoy a day of fun in the sun. Almost 2000 foster children and their families attend the Holiday Party held in December. They are treated to a festive holiday meal, non-stop entertainment, activities for youth and a visit with Santa Claus. Each child attending receives a personalized gift. Together, these events are staffed by 600+ volunteers who give support to ensure that foster children and their families have fun-filled days.

Project Visitation

Project Visitation was created to maintain relationships between brothers and sisters living in separate foster homes by coordinating visits that give siblings a chance to strengthen their bonds and connect to one another. Project Visitation is supported by volunteers who bring siblings together for monthly visits and joint activities sponsored by community businesses and organizations.

Ho`omalū O Na Kamali`i

Ho`omalū O Na Kamali`i provides temporary shelter to children who have been removed from their homes because of alleged abuse and neglect on the Leeward Coast. The home-like atmosphere is designed to help lessen the trauma associated with a child's removal from home. Children are cared for in the ten bedroom home for up to 30 days while child welfare professionals and the families work together to return the children to their families or other appropriate care givers. Siblings are able to remain together and children are able to attend their home schools and maintain ties to their community.

eXcel

eXcel guides high school seniors in foster care to successfully prepare for and enter post-secondary education or vocational training. eXcel concentrates on

career and interest exploration, establishing goals, and learning basic independent skills. Support will be provided in the application process and completing financial aid and scholarship applications.

Respite Program

The Respite Program provides resource families opportunities to rejuvenate from the ongoing responsibilities and challenges of parenting children in out of home care. Services focus on coordinating quality respite care that helps strengthen families, build awareness and access to resources in the community and retain stability of placement.

Ho`ololi Mua No Ke Ola Senior Program

Ho`ololi Mua No Ke Ola Senior Program guides high school seniors in foster care in East Hawai`i (Hilo) to successfully prepare for and enter post secondary education or vocational training. Services include career and interest exploration, goal setting, assistance in applying for financial aid and scholarships, educational advising and independent living skills.