

FaDSS: Strengthening Iowa's Families. Strengthening Iowa's Economy.

FaDSS is a holistic, strength based, in-home family program that focuses **on preventive services**, and facilitates **long-term family change** to families receiving Family Investment Program (FIP) benefits.

- **FaDSS provides services to:**

- The most fragile families with multiple barriers
- Families with young children. (3470 families, with approximately 6,600 children, of which half were between the ages 0-5 during FY 2003)
- Families of an ethnic minority group. (27% of the families enrolled in FY 2003 were of an ethnic minority group)

BARRIERS

Barriers Faced by Families	FaDSS Snapshot (1)
Mental health issues	56%
Substance abuse	56%
Housing issues	26% (2)
2 or more barriers	76%

1. *FY 2003 Snapshot of Issues Faced by FaDSS Families*
2. *Homeless or near homeless during FY 2003*

- FaDSS is provided in **all of Iowa's 99 counties** through a network of eighteen agencies (community action agencies, faith-based organizations, and other public and private non-profits) with Certified Family Development Specialists who are mandatory child abuse reporters.

FaDSS provides:

- Goal setting and goal attainment skills
 - Parenting skill development
 - Protection for children
 - Families with links to informal and formal connections within their community
 - Thorough assessment of strengths
 - Budgeting skills
 - Role modeling of healthy behaviors
 - Self-advocacy skills
 - Assistance to communities throughout Iowa to respond to low income families facing multiple issues in a strength based manner
- Goals for the FaDSS Program support the Governor's Leadership Agenda by promoting **Self-Sufficient Families, Protecting Children** and by facilitating change that will produce **Stable and Thriving Families**.

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FaDSS PROGRAM RESULTS

Protecting Children

(Source: FY 2003 FaDSS Annual Report)

- 1 out of 4 families have a child in the home that is a survivor of child abuse.
- FaDSS workers make child protection a top priority, which last year resulted in 333 children placed out of home.
- FaDSS services allowed 94 of these children to return to their families.
- In FY 2001, the Iowa Legislature designated FaDSS workers as mandatory child abuse reporters.

Education Goals Achieved

(Source: FY 2003 FaDSS Annual Report)

235 GED/HS Diploma
129 Certification Program
82 Associate Degree
17 Bachelor Degree

Accountable Government

(Source: FY 2003 FaDSS Annual Report)

Every dollar invested in FaDSS results in annual return of \$1.33 in wages earned and FIP savings.

Mental Health Treatment

(Source: FY 2003 FaDSS Annual Report)

1277 or 80% of households that had an individual with identified mental health issues **received treatment** while participating in FaDSS in FY 2003.

Upon Leaving FaDSS...

(Source: FaDSS database through 06/30/03. Based on 1682 exits)

Employment - For fiscal year 2003 the average hourly wage of head of households in FaDSS upon leaving welfare was \$7.54. The state target for FIP in FY 2003 is \$7.00.

Education - 1000 adult family members indicated that education was a goal. Of those, 646 or 65% made progress toward their educational goals by the time they exited FaDSS.

Housing - 986 families who have exited FaDSS had improved housing as a goal. 689 or 70% of these families improved their housing.

* Includes FaDSS Participants

FaDSS Self-Sufficiency Rates

The FaDSS program has a unique transition component that continues to provide FaDSS services for up to 90 days after a family leaves welfare. Families are at their most vulnerable for cycling back on welfare during this time. **More than 75% families who received a transition were still off welfare a year later.**