

How long will my family participate in the CCS Program?

It all depends on you! Your family's needs, strengths, progress and risks will be continuously evaluated to determine the length of time a referral needs to be open. Referrals are kept open an average of 30 days but can remain open for up to 60 days. You may voluntarily withdraw from the program at any time.

Why should my family participate?

- To make connections to ongoing services.
- To work on building self-reliance and family strengths.
- To create lasting, positive change.



DCFS.Illinois.gov

NOTICE

Any person who knowingly transmits a false report to the department commits the offense of disorderly conduct under subsection (a)(7) of Section 26-1 of the Criminal Code of 2012. A violation of this subsection is a Class 4 felony. (Source: P.A. 97-189, eff. 7-22-11; 97-1150, eff. 1-25-13.)

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Community Connection Services Program



What is the Community Connection Services (CCS) Program?

Many families struggle with domestic violence, substance abuse and mental health issues that, if left untreated, can place children at risk of harm. The Community Connection Services Program, formerly known as the Child Welfare Services Program, is designed to connect referred families with children to community service providers and supports so they can get the help they need to strengthen their families and keep their children safely at home.

The goals of the CCS Program are:

- To connect families with services in their community.
- To equip families to use their own strengths and resources to address challenges and meet their own needs.

How can my family access the Community Connection Services Program?

If you have children living in your home, you, a member of your family or a child in your home may make a self-referral by calling the DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (800-252-2873) or by using the online reporting system (<https://childabuse.illinois.gov>). A mandated reporter, like a teacher, counselor or doctor who knows your family may also make a referral by phone or online.

How does the Community Connection Services Program work?

The Community Connection Services Program is completely voluntary. If you agree to participate, within three business days of a referral being made, a caseworker from a community-based provider agency (not Illinois DCFS) will come to your home to assess your family's needs using the My Family

Self-Assessment tool. You will work with your caseworker to develop a short-term (less than 60 days), agreed upon plan for services that will help strengthen your family and connect you to the services and resources you need.

While you are participating in the program, your caseworker will come to your home every week to discuss your progress and strategies for overcoming barriers you may be facing.

Your caseworker will also connect you to services that will help you meet your family's needs and goals. Services are based on what is available in your community, and may include:

- Counseling.
- Domestic violence prevention services.
- Substance abuse treatment services.
- Mental health treatment services.
- Housing or transportation assistance.
- Parenting coaching/classes.
- Help obtaining food, clothing or school supplies.

