



FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Respect the family's culture, individuality, and humanity
- Focus and build plans of care based on individual strengths, needs and goals
- Ensure active and equitable family participation
- Understand and support the emotional, behavioral, intellectual and physical development of children and youth
- Help children and youth to:
 - Replace behaviors requiring residential placement with pro-social alternatives
 - Develop and sustain positive connections, and remain with their families, schools and communities

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:



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This San Francisco County Residential-Based Reform Pilot Program is a partnership between San Francisco County, Edgewood, Seneca, and St. Vincent's.



Family Connections Program

The Family Connections Program actively involves and supports families in the residential treatment of a child, and provides ongoing support and aftercare once a child returns home. Promoting safety, permanency, and well-being to at-risk youth and their families, the program provides a flexible continuum of services ranging from residential treatment to work at home, school and the community. This family-centered, team-driven approach provides a consistent support team throughout the stages of treatment. The ultimate goals of the program are permanency and connectedness.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM works to ensure that all children and youth who receive services are ultimately able to connect or reconnect with family, school and community following placement. To help achieve this goal, the program provides for active family involvement, behavioral stabilization, intensive treatment, parallel community services, and follow-up support.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Youth who:

- Are court dependents or wards of San Francisco County
- Are ages 6 or older
- Are eligible for short-term placement in St. Vincent's, Seneca's or Edgewood's residential treatment programs
- Have family or other caregivers available to work with the program to help them achieve permanency, safety, and well-being

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM FOR UP TO TWO YEARS. SERVICES AND SUPPORT INCLUDE:

Family Connections Center

A welcoming place at the residential treatment facility where families can spend time with their children.

Family Finding and Engagement

Identification and engagement of family and community members committed to helping the child or youth have a better life.

Family Support Team

- Focus on voice and choice for the child and family.
- Informal, "natural" supports include: family members, friends, community members.
- Consistent team support both during placement in the residential center and upon returning to a family home or community. Formal supports include:
 - **Clinical Care Coordinator** who helps the family design and implement an outcome-driven plan of care;
 - **Family Specialist** who helps the family implement the behavioral health goals of the plan;
 - **Family Partner** who helps the family insure they have access, voice, and ownership in the process.

WHAT ARE THE COMPONENTS OF CARE?

Residential Care where families can rebuild or develop their relationship, and where short-term intensive intervention is available if needed.

Community Care when children and youth return to a family home, anchored by youth and family support staff, care coordinators and family partners.

Clinical Care anchored by youth and family clinicians and mental health rehabilitation specialists who work with the children, youth and families to address mental health and behavioral issues.

