



Who we are: Children's Services, Essex County Department of Social Services provides families with the support and trauma informed services to reduce/ eliminate the need for out of home placement for at risk Essex County youth.

What we do: Essex County Department of Social Services Children's Services provides support and assistance to empower families with children who are at risk of out of home placement due to family and/or social challenges. Services are intended to prevent and reduce incidents of child maltreatment, and to help strengthen the family unit.

What services we provide: **Preventive Services** is a voluntary program that offers case management services, Parent Aide/Homemaker support, Preventive Respite, Youth Advocate Program, and assistance with coordination of transportation needs.

Foster Care Services has the goal to achieve permanency for a child. By law the first goal is to reunite children with their families by addressing the reasons the children entered care. ECDSS provides youth placed outside of their home with a safe and supportive resources. Foster Care works with the family, child, and foster parent to provide the child with permanency.

Daycare subsidy Services provides subsidized daycare for children in Essex County. The current income guidelines are 300% above poverty level. Ex. Family of 4 can earn up to \$99,000 per year.

Child Protective Services investigate reports of child abuse and maltreatment initiated from the State Central Registry. During the investigation imminent safety of the child is determined and addressed. CPS caseworkers provide support, coordinate with providers involved with the family, refer families to needed resources, and make a determination of the case within 60 days.

PINS Diversion Program (Person in Need of Supervision) The program works with youth prior to being involved in the Family Court system who are exhibiting behaviors such as school truancy, running away, breaking curfews, or severe disobedience at home or in the community. The goal of the Diversion program is to provide the youth and family with access to comprehensive services, enhance relationships between youth and authority figures, and obtain greater information regarding the youth, his/her needs, behaviors, and strengths to reduce the need for Family Court involvement.

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**Child abuse or maltreatment,
Mandated Reporter Hotline:
1-800-635-1522**