



GEORGIA  
**family connection**

**Dawson County Family Connection, Inc.**

**FY25 Annual Plan**

**July 01, 2024 - June 30, 2025**

**Year 1 of FY25-27 Planning and Implementation Cycle**

**Governance Type:** Private nonprofit body (even if not serving as your own fiscal agent) (Subtype: Not applicable)

**Collaborative Functional Type:** Partner Engagement

**Collaborative Description and Activities to Strengthen Effectiveness:** Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) has consolidated its FY24 strategies of Family Stability and Mental Wellness into one singular strategy for FY25: Mental Wellness. DCFC will engage partners & provide/promote resources & activities that support the five-stage model known as Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (MHON) to improve the mental wellness of Dawson County families. MHON is arranged in a hierarchy with physiological (survival) needs at the bottom & more self-actualization needs at the top. It is argued that each tier must be satisfied before an individual (or family) can satisfy higher needs. Therefore; in FY25, DCFC will focus on activities/programs/services that support the three lower tiers of MHON; to improve the mental wellness of Dawson County families & children & build a foundation for their realization of the higher two tiers of MHON.

- Self-actualization needs: the realization of a person's potential, self-fulfillment, & peak experiences
- Esteem needs: the realization of self-worth, accomplishment, & respect
- Love and belonging needs: human emotional need for interpersonal relationships, affiliations, connectedness, & being part of a group
- Safety needs: emotional & financial security
- Physiological needs: food, shelter, clothing, warmth, etc.

Two key additions have been made to the DCFC FY25 plan to better serve the mental wellness needs of the community:

- Historically, DCFC has received tremendous support from its local school system, government, & resource agencies in its efforts to serve the community. In FY25, DCFC is excited to fill a missing seat at the table by initiating a Church Collaborative; created to provide the faith-based community an opportunity to work together to efficiently reach shared goals.
- Many local mental wellness facilitators are currently at capacity & therefore extending a critical gap of time, the gap of time between realizing professional help is needed & receiving professional help, for families in Dawson County. The FY25 annual plan addresses this issue by coordinating group counseling sessions for families & children as an expedient, no-cost, mental wellness opportunity for children & families in need of such services.

**Strategy Name: Improved Mental Wellness**

**Phase of Strategy Implementation: Partial Implementation**

**Desired Outcome: Improved Mental Wellness**

**Strategy Statement:** Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) will engage partners in providing/promoting resources and activities to children and families that support the five-stage model known as "Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs" to improve their mental wellness.

**Child and Family Indicators:**

Indicator	Result Area	Data Source	Notes
Children with a substantiated incident of neglect (per 1,000) [SF3b]	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	KIDS COUNT Website	2022: 4.9%/Ga 2.9%
Children leaving foster care who are reunified with their families or placed with a relative within 12 months of entering foster care [SF5]	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	KIDS COUNT Website	2022: 25%/Ga 25.4%
Other [LD10] Number of mental health days	Thriving Communities	BRFSS	2021: 4.9/ Ga 4.8%
Other [LD10] How often do you feel stressed?	Healthy Children	Georgia Health Survey	2022-2023: 33.2% 6-12th=Always
Other [LD10] In the past 30 days, on how many days have you felt depressed, sad, or withdrawn?	Healthy Children	Georgia Health Survey	2022-2023: 37.9% 6-12th=Any # of days
Other [LD10] Number of approved foster families in Dawson County who can accept children placed in care	Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families	Dawson County DFCS	01/2024=4 Dawson County Foster Families

**Activities:**

Type	Name	Description	Population of Focus	Code
Collaborative Development	Church Collaborative	Initiate & establish a collaborative comprised of local faith-based organizations that meets regularly to help meet the needs of the Dawson County community.	Faith-based community	[CA6d]
Collaborative Development	Community Collaborative	Provide a monthly opportunity for community resource agencies to meet & work together; sharing information & services to help build a strong, vibrant, healthy community.	Community resource agencies who serve Dawson County	[CA14]
Sustainability	Celebrity Waiter Breakfast	Yearly fundraising activity to financially support current DCFC strategies. To be held at the Dawsonville Longhorns with notable members of the community serving breakfast to participants.	Community-at-large	[ST14]
Sustainability	Reverse Advent Calendar	Annual collection event requesting donations of warm weather items collected by DCFC (via collection bins & online registries) in December & distributed to families in need or to partner agencies that serve such families.	Community-at-large	[ST14]

Sustainability	Stuff the Bus	Annual collection event requesting donations of school supplies collected by DCFC (via collection bins & online registries) in June & distributed to families in need or to partner agencies that serve such families.	Community-at-large	[ST14]
Communications	Foster Care Month Campaign	Initiate & lead a campaign in May to distribute information to the community regarding the DIRE need for foster families in our area, to acknowledge/support established foster families & encourage new foster families. This would include social media, email, newsletter, billboards, & a community activity.	Community-at-large	[CS3]

**Programs & Services:**

Type	Name	Description	Population of Focus	Lead Implementing Partner	Collaborative Responsibility	Code	Funding Status	Funding End
Family/Adult Development	Trust Based Relational Intervention Training	Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Training is an attachment-based, trauma-informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. Training is provided to those who work with children from hard places for the purpose of recognizing & meeting children's physiological needs.	75 Kinship, Foster, & Adoptive Families or Individuals Serving/Supporting Children From hard Places	Kelsey Harrison, TBRI Facilitator	Supply venue, facilitator, training materials, meal(s), and childcare, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, & track attendance.	[FD3]	Fully Funded	<1 Year
Family/Adult Development	Kinship Care Meetings	Monthly meetings are held to provide support & resources to kinship caregivers. Meetings are held during the school year for adults caring for children when their	20 Kinship Caregivers	DCFC	Supply venue, facilitator, training materials, meal(s), and childcare, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, & track attendance.	[FD8]	Fully Funded	1-2 Years

		biological parents are unable to do so.						
Mental Health Development	Teen Maze	Teen Maze is a challenge to students to allow a student to experience real-life consequences for a range of choices made in life (including suicide) in a safe controlled environment. At this event, students are provided with local resources about mental wellness & suicide prevention.	350 9th grade students attending Dawson County Junior High (DCJH)	DCFC	Coordinate: time/location, opening scene, & facilitators for tables (20-25). Provide lunch for staff. Provide booklet & bag for each student.	[MH20]	Fully Funded	1-2 Years
Mental Health Development	Group Counseling	Coordinate group counseling sessions to provide: gap services (gap of time between realizing professional help is needed & receiving professional help), an opportunity to consolidate similar cases in a group setting to provide more individual session opportunities, & a no-cost mental wellness opportunity to the community.	10 Dawson County individuals struggling with mental wellness/session	DCFC	Supply venue, counselor and/or therapist, session materials/supplies, promote meetings, & track attendance.	[MH4]	Partially Funded	<1 Year
Mental Health Development	Opioid Awareness Campaign	Coordinate a community-based opioid prevention effort to increase community awareness of opioid use, misuse, & abuse by educating the community through a media campaign, promotion of proper disposal of medications & drug take-back locations, as well as	Community-at-large	DCFC	Creating advertisements, procuring space for advertisement distribution, including opioid awareness messaging in facilitated events.	[MH1]	Fully Funded	<1 Year

		public events such as drug take-back day, the Teen Maze & A Family Fair to reduce opioid deaths.						
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Community Resource Directory	Distribute a Community Resource Directory for the purpose of connecting those in need of resources with those that provide resources locally.	4,000 Community-at-large	DCFC	Updating, printing, & disseminating brochure.	[ID3]	Partially Funded	<1 Year
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Mental Wellness Brochure-Students	Distribute a mental wellness brochure for the purpose of education & resource awareness with students being the target audience that would include: definitions of varying stages of mental unwellness (i.e. anxiety, depression) & mental illness (i.e. clinical depression) & corresponding actions to take/resources available, definitions of counseling, therapy/psychotherapy & local resources for each definition, signs of suicide & local resources available.	3,914 Children who attend Dawson County Schools	DCFC	Updating, printing, & disseminating brochure.	[ID5]	Partially Funded	<1 Year
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Suicide Prevention Month Campaign	Lead a campaign in September for the purpose of raising awareness of resources available for Suicide Prevention. This would include a media campaign with information shared via social media, email, newsletter, &	Community-at-large	DCFC	Creating advertisements, procuring space for advertisement distribution, scheduling/delivering/setting up Suicide Prevention mural/photo op.	[ID7]	Fully Funded	1-2 Years

		billboards as well as a community activity: scheduling the use of the traveling Suicide Prevention mural/photo op to reduce suicides						
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Poverty Simulation	Poverty Simulation is an opportunity to educate participants about the typical day-to-day strategies of a low-income family trying to survive to build empathy for their clients	60 Adults working with low-income families, Dawson County Chamber of Commerce Leadership & Youth Leadership Classes	UGA Extension Office	Supply venue, facilitator, & training materials, identify persons to invite, promote meetings, & track attendance.	[ID3]	Fully Funded	<1 Year
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	Regional Resource Fair	The annual regional resource fair offers a networking opportunity for providers to showcase their resources & programs and connect with each other. This fair is open to the public to provide a one-stop shop for families to gain access to services, thus improving their quality of life.	80 Regional partners and general population	GaFCP, Region 2 Goordinators	Obtain sponsorships, supply venue, identify agencies to invite, promote meetings, & track attendance.	[ID3]	Fully Funded	<1 Year
Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training	A Family Fair	Family-friendly event presented by local resource agencies with field day-type activities. The purpose of this event is to connect families with: each other, the community, and the resources available to this community.	1500 Dawson County residents	DCFC	Coordinate planning, insurance, permits, invitation of agencies, advertising, general oversight of event day of, activity & resource table.	[ID3]	Fully Funded	1-2 Years

**To Document and Monitor Progress:**

<b>What is being measured?</b>	<b>What is the data source?</b>	<b>Who will be responsible?</b>	<b>How often will the data be collected?</b>	<b>How will you communicate these results?</b>
Number of Mental Wellness Brochures-Students distributed	Distribution records	DCFC	Each occurrence	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of participants in Teen Maze event	DCJH attendance records & volunteer sign-in sheets	DCFC	Event completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction and change of knowledge or behavior of Teen Maze participants	Post-event survey of participants and volunteers	DCFC	Event completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Community Resource Directory's distributed	Distribution records	DCFC	Each occurrence	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Trauma Informed Care Training participants	Sign-in sheets	DCFC	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of Trauma Informed Care Training	Post-training satisfaction survey	DCFC	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of Kinship Care meetings held with number of participants	Sign-in sheets	DCFC	Each occurrence	Bi-monthly report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of Kinship Care meetings	Annual satisfaction survey	DCFC	Annually	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Number of participants fully trained in TBRI	Certificates of Completion	DCFC/The Way Home	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report
Satisfaction of participants who complete TBRI Training	Post-training satisfaction survey	DCFC/The Way Home	Training completion	Annual report to Collaborative Board, newsletter, annual report



