



Dawson County Family Connection, Inc.
FY26 Annual Plan
July 01, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Year 2 of FY25-27 Planning and Implementation Cycle

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

Governance Subtype: Not applicable

Collaborative Functional Type: Partner Engagement

Plan Focus:

Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) has chosen **Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (MHON)** as a framework to improve the mental wellness of Dawson County families. MHON is structured in a hierarchy, with physiological (survival) needs at the base & self-actualization needs at the top. This model was chosen based on the understanding that families must first fulfill their fundamental needs before they can focus on self-care & personal growth.

In **FY26**, DCFC will engage partners to provide & promote resources & activities that support the foundational levels of MHON, helping families achieve security, connection, & empowerment (survival tiers). Strengthening these core needs will allow families to progress toward self-fulfillment & success (self-actualization tiers). By addressing familial needs within the MHON framework, DCFC aims to reduce child abuse & neglect & build healthier, more resilient families by breaking the cycle, which typically follows this pattern:

1. Children are abused or neglected.
2. Abused children struggle to develop coping skills.
3. Children with poor coping skills often face mental health issues, substance abuse, & suicidal thoughts.
4. Adults with these issues are more likely to abuse or neglect their own children
5. (REPEAT)

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 & activities to children & 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 |
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| Children with a substantiated incident of abuse (per 1,000) [SF3a] | Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families | KIDS COUNT Website | 2023: 3.9%/GA 1.5% |
| Children with a substantiated incident of neglect (per 1,000) [SF3b] | Stable, Self-Sufficient and Productive Families | KIDS COUNT Website | 2023: 5.2%/GA 3.2% |
| 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-Open Records | 03/2025: 1 private/6 DFCS/7 total beds |

Activities:

| Type | Name | Description | Population of Focus | Code |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Systems Change | Community Resource Center | Initiate round table discussion(s) with local community stakeholders to allow for collaboration, brainstorming, & a shared understanding of the need & feasibility of a Community Resource Center in Dawson County. | Community resource agencies, local government, local school system | [SA5] |
| Collaborative Development | Community Collaborative | Provide a monthly meeting where social service providers, non-profits, school personnel, business, government, & faith representatives, civic organizations, clubs, etc., can share information & coordinate services to strengthen our families & children. | Community resource agencies who serve Dawson County | [CA14] |
| Collaborative Development | Church Collaborative | Provide a monthly collaborative that unites local faith-based organizations to collectively address the diverse needs of our community. This group | Faith-based community | [CA6d] |

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| | | will meet regularly to share resources, plan outreach initiatives, & coordinate service projects to support & uplift the most vulnerable populations in Dawson County. | | |
| 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 | Stuff the Bus | Annual collection event aims to collect school supplies & donations to ensure that every student in the community has the tools necessary for a successful academic year. School supplies are collected by DCFC (via collection bins & online registries) & delivered to partner agencies for distribution. | Community-at-large | [ST14] |
| Sustainability | Childcare Volunteer Network | Identify or investigate a reliable childcare volunteer base that can be called upon by local resource agencies when offering opportunities or events to families, particularly when the target audience includes caregivers with young children. This will ensure that parents & guardians can fully participate in community programs, workshops, or services without worrying about childcare. | Community resource agencies, childcare agencies, faith-based agencies, leadership programs | [ST16] |
| Sustainability | Basic Needs Funding | Research opportunities to procure funding to directly financially assist requests from families with children for basic needs assistance (i.e., housing, transportation, childcare, etc.). | Grantmakers & other funding sources (federal, state, & local) | [ST5] |
| Communications | Foster Care Awareness Campaign | Present a year-round awareness campaign with a focus each month on a specific aspect of fostering to raise awareness about the urgent need for foster families in the area, recognize & support the efforts of current foster families, & encourage new families to consider fostering. This campaign could include the use of social media, email, newsletters, billboards, & community activities. | Community-at-large | [CS3] |

Programs & Services:

| Type | Name | Description | Population of Focus | Number to be Served | Lead Implementing Partner | Collaborative Responsibility | Code | Resource Status | Resources End |
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| Youth Development | Teen Maze | Teen Maze is an interactive experience that helps students understand the consequences of their choices, particularly as they pertain to mental wellness & suicide prevention. Teen Maze raises awareness, fosters empathy, & provides students with valuable resources to support their mental health. | 9th grade students attending Dawson County Junior High (DCJH) | 300+ | DCFC | Coordinate: set up/breakdown, opening scene, & volunteers (approx 80-90). Provide lunch for volunteers. Provide booklet & bag for each student. | [YD11] | Partially Resourced | 1-2 Years |
| Family/Adult Development | Trust Based Relational | Trust Based Relational | Kinship, foster, & adoptive families, | 75 | Kelsey Harrison, | Supply venue, facilitator, training materials, meal(s), | [FD3] | Partially Resourced | <1 Year |

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| | Intervention Training | Intervention (TBRI) Training is an evidence-based training designed to equip professionals & caregivers with the skills & knowledge necessary to work effectively with children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, or other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Training is provided free of charge to those who work with or care for children from hard places. | & individuals serving/supporting children from hard places | | TBRI Facilitator | & childcare; identify persons to invite; promote meetings; & track attendance | | | |
| Family/Adult Development | Kinship/Foster Care Support Meetings | Monthly meetings are held to | Kinship/Foster Caregivers | 20 | DCFC/The Way Home | Provide support to The Way Home's facilitation of meetings, including | [FD8] | Fully Resourced | 1-2 Years |

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| | | provide support to kinship & foster caregivers. Meetings are held during the school year for adults caring for children when their biological parents are unable to do so. | | | | financial & volunteer support needs as identified by The Way Home and DCFC. | | | |
| Mental Health Development | Group Counseling | Coordinating group counseling sessions to address the gap in services (time between realizing professional help is needed & receiving professional help), provide a no-cost mental wellness opportunity to the | Dawson County 9th-12th grade students referred by Dawson County School System | 10 students per each 6 week session, cycled continuously throughout school year | DCFC | Supply venue, counselor/therapist, session materials/supplies, promote meetings, & track attendance. | [MH4] | Partially Resourced | <1 Year |

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| | | community, & allow greater opportunity for providers to focus on one-on-one counseling by consolidating similar cases in a group setting. | | | | | | | |
| 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. | Community-at-large | 4,000 | DCFC | Updating, printing, & distribution. | [ID3] | Partially Resourced | <1 Year |
| Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training | Regional Resource Fair | Annual regional resource fair offers a networking opportunity for providers to showcase their resources & programs & connect with | Regional partners, Community-at-large | 80 Regional partners, 100 Community Members | Region 2 Family Connection Peer to Peer Group | Secure funding, PR, invite vendors, invitation to the public, print the directory, & set up/breakdown. | [ID3] | Fully Resourced | 1-2 Years |

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| | | 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. | | | | | | | |
| Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training | A Family Fair | Family-friendly event presented by local resource agencies, each providing resources for adults & a field day-type activity for the children. The purpose of this event is to connect families with each other, the community, & local | Community-at-large | 500 | DCFC | Coordinate planning, insurance, permits, invitation of agencies, advertising, general oversight of event day of, activity & resource table. | [ID3] | Fully Resourced | 1-2 Years |

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| | | resource opportunities. | | | | | | | |
| Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training | Suicide Prevention Month Campaign | Present an awareness campaign in September for the purpose of raising awareness, educating the community, & reducing the stigma surrounding suicide. This campaign could include the use of social media, email, newsletters, billboards, & community activities (including display of the Suicide Prevention Butterfly Wings mural/photo op). | Community-at-large | 100 | DCFC | Creating advertisements, procuring space for advertisement distribution, scheduling/delivering/setting up Suicide Prevention mural/photo op. | [ID7] | Fully Resourced | 1-2 Years |

To Document and Monitor Progress:

| Activity Name | What is being measured? | What is the data source? | Who will be responsible? |
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| Community Resource Center | Number of requests for resources received & tracking of referral agencies | Charity Tracker, Staff client logs | DCFC |
| Stuff the Bus | Tangible & monetary equivalent of goods donated | Collection log | DCFC |
| TBRI Training | Number of participants fully trained in TBRI | Certificates of Completion | DCFC/The Way H |
| TBRI Training | Satisfaction of participants who complete TBRI Training | Post-training satisfaction survey | DCFC/The Way H |
| Kinship Care Meetings | Number of kinship caregivers identified by the Dawson County School System | Student registration | Dawson County S Family Services C |
| Kinship Care Meetings | Number of kinship caregivers attending support meetings | Sign-sheets | DCFC |
| Kinship Care Meetings | Monetary support provided by DCFC to kinship caregiver | Charity Tracker | DCFC |
| Teen Maze | Satisfaction & change of knowledge or behavior of Teen Maze participants | Post-event survey of participants & volunteers | DCFC |
| Group Counseling | Number of students attending counseling sessions | Sign-in sheets | Facilitator/Counse |
| Group Counseling | Satisfaction & change of knowledge or behavior after attending counseling | Post-session survey of participants | Facilitator/Counse |
| Indicator | Children with substantiated incident of abuse (per 1,000) | KIDS COUNT Website | DCFC |
| Indicator | Children with substantiated incident of neglect (per 1,000) | KIDS COUNT Website | DCFC |
| Indicator | Number of approved foster families in Dawson County who can accept children placed in care | Dawson County DFCS open records request | DCFC |