



**Dawson County Family Connection, Inc.
FY27 Annual Plan
July 01, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

Year 3 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:

In FY27, Dawson County Family Connection (DCFC) will prioritize advancing mental health awareness and systemic change through strengthened collaboration among community partners. DCFC will focus on increasing awareness of existing mental health programs and services, identifying gaps in support, and improving coordination to ensure families can more easily access available resources.

Guided by the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (MHON) framework, DCFC recognizes that family well-being depends not only on services themselves, but on how effectively community systems work together to support foundational needs such as safety, stability, and connection. FY27 efforts will emphasize aligning partners, strengthening referral pathways, and elevating shared understanding of community resources rather than creating duplicative services.

Through collaborative engagement and data-informed dialogue, DCFC aims to strengthen the local mental health support system, promote early intervention, and contribute to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by addressing risk factors before crises occur. Improving system awareness and coordination, Dawson County families will be better supported in achieving long-term stability, resilience, and well-being.

Strategy Name: 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 |
| Other [LD10] ER Visits due to Mental and Behavioral disorders among 10–17-year-olds | Healthy Children | OASIS | 2024: 3.5%/GA 3.1% |

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] |

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| 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 will meet regularly to share resources, plan outreach initiatives, & coordinate service projects to support & uplift the most vulnerable populations in Dawson County. | Faith-based community | [CA6d] |
| 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 an awareness campaign with a on specific aspects 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 | Community-at-large | [CS3] |

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| | | social media, email, newsletters, billboards, & community activities. | | |
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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 Intervention Training | Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) | Kinship, foster, & adoptive families, & individuals serving/supporting | 75 | Kelsey Harrison, TBRI Facilitator | Supply venue, facilitator, training materials, meal(s), & childcare; identify persons to invite; promote | [FD3] | Partially Resourced | <1 Year |

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| | | <p>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.</p> | children from hard places | | | meetings; & track attendance | | | |
| Family/Adult Development | Kinship/Foster Care Support Meetings | <p>Monthly meetings are held to provide support to kinship & foster caregivers. Meetings are</p> | Kinship/Foster Caregivers | 20 | DCFC/The Way Home | <p>Provide support to The Way Home's facilitation of meetings, including financial & volunteer support needs as identified by The Way Home and DCFC.</p> | [FD8] | Fully Resourced | 1-2 Years |

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| | | held during the school year for adults caring for children when their biological parents are unable to do so. | | | | | | | |
| Mental Health Development | Microgrants for Counseling | Identify community resources for counseling to students who qualify for financial assistance. Provide micro-grants to providers for students that meet eligibility requirements. | Dawson County Children | 12 | DCFC | Provide grant funds | [MH5] | 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 each other. This fair is open to the public to | Regional partners, Community-at-large | 180 | 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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| | | provide a one-stop shop for families to gain access to services, thus improving their quality of life. | | | | | | | |
| 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 | 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, & | 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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| | | local resource opportunities. | | | | | | | |
| Information Distribution, Community Awareness, and Training | Suicide Prevention Month Campaign | Present an awareness campaign for the purpose of raising awareness, educating the community, & reducing the stigma surrounding suicide, one that is "connection" and self-care focused. 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 |

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| 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 | 60 | UGA Extension Office | Supply venue, facilitator, & training materials, identify persons to invite, promote meetings & track attendance. | [ID3] | Fully Resourced | <1 Year |
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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 roundtable events and the number of participants | Meeting notes | 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 |
| TBRI Training | Satisfaction of participants who complete TBRI Training | Post-training satisfaction survey | DCFC/The Way |
| Kinship Care Meetings | Number of kinship caregivers identified by the Dawson County School System | Student registration | Dawson County Family Services Coordinator |
| 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 |

| Activity Name | What is being measured? | What is the data source? | Who will be responsible? |
|---------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Teen Maze | Satisfaction & change of knowledge or behavior of Teen Maze participants | Post-event survey of participants & volunteers | DCFC |
| 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 |