



Strengthening Families · Transforming Lives



# Service Guide





## We're Here to Help Children and Families!

Family Services of NW PA has been serving children and families for 140+ years. We offer services in Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango and McKean Counties in Pennsylvania.

**Our Vision:**  
**Every family thrives.**

**Our Mission:**  
**We strengthen families  
and transform lives.**

## Services by County

### Erie County

#### COUNSELING SERVICES:

Center for Counseling and Wellness  
Family Based Mental Health  
Family Behavior Therapy  
Multisystemic Therapy  
MST for Problem Sexual Behavior  
Specialized FBMH

#### PERMANENCY SERVICES:

Adoption Services  
Family Preservation Services  
Family Reunification  
Foster Care Services  
Independent Living Program  
Kinship Care Services

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Children Cope with Divorce  
Family Group Decision Making  
Family Team Meetings  
LifeSkills Training Program

### Crawford County

#### COUNSELING SERVICES:

Family Behavior Therapy  
Multisystemic Therapy  
MST for Problem Sexual Behavior  
Project SOAR

#### PERMANENCY SERVICES:

Adoption Services  
Brief Services  
Family Preservation Services  
Foster Care Services  
Intensive Family  
Kinship Care Services

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Behavior Support Services  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Community Re-Entry

### Mercer County

#### COUNSELING SERVICES:

Family Based Mental Health  
Family Behavior Therapy  
Multisystemic Therapy  
MST for Problem Sexual Behavior

#### PERMANENCY SERVICES:

Brief Services  
Family Preservation Services

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES:

Community Re-Entry  
Family Group Decision Making

Learn more at  
**[www.FSNWPA.org](http://www.FSNWPA.org)**



Scan the code to see a  
list of our services!



# Counseling Services

Family Services of NW PA offers counseling services to support individuals and families of all shapes and sizes. Our team provides a safe and compassionate space to work through mental health concerns, substance abuse, family struggles, behavioral issues, and other common challenges. We're committed to helping you navigate these hurdles with care and understanding.

## Center for Counseling and Wellness

*Located in Erie County*

The Center for Counseling and Wellness provides a variety of outpatient clinical services for adults, youth, and families. It is staffed by a board-certified psychiatrist, certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP), nurse, master level therapists, and licensed clinicians.

### **Outpatient Therapy:**

*Ages Accepted: Adults and Children Age Four (4) and Older*

Outpatient Therapy helps individuals, couples, and families with a variety of issues, including relationship concerns, parenting challenges, adjustment issues, depression, anxiety, and anger management. Services are designed to help individuals, couples, and families improve personal and professional relationships, recover from trauma and loss, and adjust to life challenges and major transitions.

Clinic professionals specialize in treating trauma throughout the lifespan by using Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) for youth and Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) for adults.

### **Psychiatric Services:**

*Ages Accepted: Adults and Children Age Six (6) and Older*

Psychiatric services include psychiatric evaluations, medication management, and medication monitoring for children and adults.

### **Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services:**

*Ages Accepted: Adults and Adolescents Age 12 and Older*

As a licensed drug and alcohol treatment facility, the Center for Counseling and Wellness offers outpatient drug and alcohol treatment services for adults and adolescents who have substance use disorders. Outpatient treatment provides a structured approach to recovery while allowing the individual to function in their usual environment.

Services are designed to help individuals face the challenges of recovery and learn to manage life without the use of alcohol and drugs. This includes:

- Assessment to determine the appropriate level of care
- Individual Therapy to address personal challenges and develop coping strategies
- Group Therapy to share experiences in a supportive environment and learn from others facing similar challenges

### **Referrals:**

All referrals to the Center for Counseling and Wellness must first schedule an intake and assessment appointment with a clinic therapist to determine whether Outpatient Therapy, Drug and Alcohol Treatment, or Psychiatric Services are most appropriate. Telehealth options are available on a case-by-case basis.

# Counseling Services (continued)

## **Family Based Mental Health (FBMH) / Specialized FBMH:**

*Available in Erie County*

In-home treatment approach that provides family therapy, crisis intervention, preventions services, and service coordination for families with at least one child who is at risk for a higher level of care in the home. Children and adolescents ages 0-21 who are at risk of out of home placement due to a severe emotional or behavioral disorder, or due to mental illness, can be referred.

Specialized FBMH is an in-home treatment approach that provides family therapy, crisis intervention, preventions services, and service coordination for families with at least one child who has been a victim of sexual abuse or demonstrated sexually reactive behaviors. Children and adolescents ages 0-21 who have a mental health diagnosis and have been a victim of sexual abuse or are displaying sexually reactive behaviors can be referred.

## **Family Behavior Therapy (FBT):**

*Available in Erie, Crawford, and Mercer Counties*

Evidence-based program that treats parents/caregivers and adolescents struggling with substance abuse. Families with children ages 0-18 who are involved with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth, Erie County Juvenile Probation Office, Crawford County Children and Youth Services, Crawford County Juvenile Probation, and Mercer County Children and Youth Services can be referred.

## **Multisystemic Therapy (MST) / MST for Problem Sexual Behavior:**

*Available in Erie, Crawford, and Mercer Counties*

Intensive, family-based treatment approach that helps youth ages 12-17 decrease and prevent anti-social and delinquent behaviors. To qualify, at least one adult caregiver must participate in treatment.

MST for Problem Sexual Behavior is an intensive, family-based treatment approach that helps youth ages 10-17.5 who have committed sexual offenses and demonstrated other problem behaviors. To qualify, at least one adult caregiver must participate in treatment.

## **Project SOAR:**

*Available in Crawford County*

Helps children in the Penncrest School District who are experiencing emotional and/or behavioral difficulties in the school setting. Services include ongoing assessment throughout the school day, individual and group counseling, and classroom intervention.

Available to youth in grades K-12 at Cambridge Springs Elementary School, Cambridge Springs Junior High School, or Maplewood Elementary School. Youth must have a mental health diagnosis and be unable to remain in the school setting without onsite support. Youth must also be MA eligible.

Referrals must be made through the Penncrest School District.

# Permanency Services

Every child needs a safe, loving home where they feel protected, supported, and valued. At Family Services of NW PA, our Permanency Services are available to support the well-being of children and families through prevention, family preservation, family reunification, adoption, and independent living. We're dedicated to building strong foundations and fostering positive change for children and their families.

## Adoption Services:

*Available in Erie and Crawford Counties*

Include a variety of child placement services for both children and families, including adoption searches, child profiles, child preparation, home studies, and post-permanency services.

Family Services is a licensed adoption and foster care agency. As an affiliate of the Statewide Adoption Network (SWAN), Family Services of NW PA supports and assesses families who wish to adopt children available through any Office of Children and Youth agency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Brief Services:

*Available in Crawford and Mercer Counties*

Short-term, intensive, family-focused service that helps at-risk families cope with problems and improve childcare practices. Families with children ages 0-18 who are involved with Crawford County Children and Youth Services at the intake level, Crawford County Juvenile Probation, or Mercer County Children and Youth Services can be referred.

## Family Preservation Services (FPS):

*Available in Erie, Crawford, and Mercer Counties*

Family-focused, community-based service designed to help families with children from 0-18 years old cope with significant stressors or problems that interfere with their ability to nurture their children. Families involved with Crawford County Children and Youth Services, the Crawford County Juvenile Probation Office, the Erie County Office of Children and Youth, and Mercer County Children and Youth Services can be referred.

## Family Reunification (FR):

*Available in Erie County*

Community-based service that helps families that have had children removed from the home achieve safe reunification. Immediately following placement, referrals can be made by the Erie County Office of Children and Youth for children ages 0-18 years, with priority given to children ages 0-5 and reunifying families with children who have been in foster care or kinship placement for ten days or less.

## Foster Care Services:

*Available in Erie and Crawford Counties*

As a licensed adoption and foster care agency, Family Services of NW PA provides a variety of foster care services, including family recruitment, training and licensing, and supervision of foster placements.

## Kinship Care Services:

*Available in Erie and Crawford Counties*

Kinship Care Services help facilitate the placement of children in the custody of a County Children and Youth agency into the home of a relative or other significant adult and provide ongoing supervision of placements. All referrals must come from Crawford County Children and Youth Services or the Erie County Office of Children and Youth.

# Permanency Services (continued)

## Intensive Family (IF):

*Available in Crawford County*

Intensive, family-focused service that helps keep children and families safe, prevent out of home placement, assist in reunification of families, and prevent unnecessary changes in placement. Families with children ages 0-18 who are involved with Crawford County Children and Youth Services, or the Office of Juvenile Probation, can be referred.

## Independent Living Program (ILP):

*Available in Erie County*

Helps youth ages 14-23 years old who are in out-of-home placement make the transition to become independent, self-sufficient and productive adults. Youth in placement on or after their 14th birthday through the Erie County Office of Children and Youth or Juvenile Probation Office are referred exclusively by the Erie County Office of Children and Youth.

Additional services provided by the Independent Living Program include:

- **North Star Mentoring:** Helps young people with a history of foster care and/or out-of-home placement to make permanent connections with positive adult role models. This service is available to all youth enrolled in the Independent Living Program.
- **Youth Media Development:** In partnership with Community Access Media (CAM), provides opportunities for youth and young adults in the Independent Living Program to learn skills needed to navigate the digital world. This includes skills related to television, social media, photography, podcasts, e-sports, and more.
- **The Snack Shack Food Truck:** A youth-driven business operated by the Independent Living Program, provides youth and young adults with practical, hands-on job readiness skills and training by providing the opportunity to develop, run, and operate a full-service food truck business.

# Community Support Services

Every family should have the opportunity to grow and thrive together. Community Support Services at Family Services of NW PA help strengthen family connections through mentoring, education, re-entry from incarceration, family skill building, and more. Our team is committed to walking alongside families as they create lasting, positive change.

## Behavior Support Services:

*Available in Crawford County*

School-based service that helps students in the Penncrest School District reduce behaviors that interfere with academic success. Services are available to all students in grades K-12 at Cambridge Springs Elementary School and Saegertown Junior/Senior High School.

## Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS):

*Available in Erie and Western Crawford Counties*

Mentoring program that helps children realize their potential and build their futures by creating and supporting one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Children ages 6 through young adulthood are matched with an adult who shares common interests.





# Community Support Services (continued)

## Children Cope with Divorce (CCWD):

*Available in Erie County*

A court-mandated parent seminar designed to help minimize the negative impact of divorce and changes in custody or visitation on children. The four-hour parent/caregiver training provides information about helping children adjust to the changes associated with the divorce or separation of their parents and other family transitions.

## Community Re-Entry:

*Available in Crawford, Mercer, and Venango Counties*

Support service that helps people who have been incarcerated make a successful transition to community life and reunite with family members. Re-Entry is available to adults and their families who are preparing for, or who have already transitioned back into the community from incarceration. Clients must be assessed as moderate to high risk to meet eligibility for the program.

Referrals can be made by the Department of Corrections (DOC); PA Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP); Crawford County Adult Probation; Mercer County IPP; Mercer, Venango, and Crawford County Jails, and other providers. Self-referrals are also accepted.

## Family Group Decision Making (FGDM):

*Available in Crawford, Erie, and Mercer Counties*

A decision-making process that draws on the strength of the family unit to develop a plan to address concerns of child safety, wellbeing, and overall development. Services help engage families and find solutions for both immediate and long-term needs related to safety, well-being, and permanency.

Families with children ages 0-18 who are transitioning from intake to ongoing services, any client that is open with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth or Mercer County Children and Youth Services, and those who are under court order, can be referred.

## Family Team Meetings (FTM):

*Available in Erie County*

A strength-based service that invites families and others to come together as the best people to plan and make decisions for family members. Services help engage families and find solutions for both immediate and long-term needs related to safety, well-being, and permanency.

Families with children ages 0-18 who are transitioning from intake to ongoing services, any client that is open with the Erie County Office of Children and Youth or Mercer County Children and Youth Services, and those who are under court order, can be referred.

## LifeSkills Training Program (LST):

*Available in Erie County*

A classroom-based substance abuse prevention curriculum designed to help students develop essential life skills and resist peer pressure related to substance use and other risky behaviors. LST is designed to promote mental health and positive youth development. It also helps students resist drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, and supports the reduction of violence and other high-risk behaviors.



Learn more about Family Services of NW PA at

**[www.FSNWPA.org](http://www.FSNWPA.org)**



# Office Locations



## Main Office

5100 Peach Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509



## Downtown Erie Office

240 West 11th Street, Suite 402  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16501



## Crawford County Office

18360 Technology Drive, Suite 200  
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335



## Mercer County Office

7 West State Street, Suite 208  
Sharon, Pennsylvania 16146

# Contact Us



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Family Services *of NWPA*

