

# PSSF

Promoting Safe & Stable Families  
NETWORK



## Region 1



### PSSF Making a Difference

Angry outbursts and physical punishment were a constant for Deb and Jim's kids. The family was in constant turmoil. The couple struggled to make ends meet, and neither one had come from a happy, functioning home. They were divorced, yet still living together, and passing their anger issues down to their children. When DFCS intervened due to a report of abuse, it seemed that this family was about to be totally broken.

Relatives took in the children to avoid foster care placement, and an unexpected lifeline came along for Deb and Jim. A DFCS case manager referred the couple to a PSSF-supported agency providing family reunification services. An assessment identified their strengths as a family, as well as areas where they were struggling. Based on that information, the entire family was brought together to discuss strategies to try and turn their situation around. These were concepts the family had never experienced before.

The family was able to involve their children in some of their classes, learning skills together. Before long, there were positive changes in their attitudes and willingness to do what was needed. As a family, they began to learn how to communicate effectively without resorting to angry outbursts and inappropriate discipline. DFCS saw these changes, too, and allowed the children to return home.

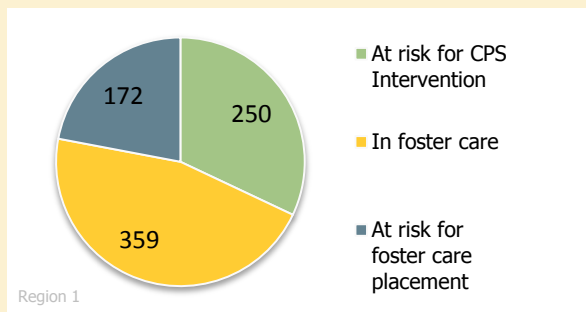
The relationship between Deb and Jim has improved so much that they have plans to remarry. Amazingly, this family is now helping to mentor others who are experiencing similar difficulties.

### Our Families...

# 781

Families residing in Region 1 received a wide array of community-based services

*Family involvement with their local child welfare agency at referral:*



Region 1

**430** of these families were headed by a biological or adoptive parent, or a relative caregiver

**67%** two-parent households

**33%** single-parent households

**80%** high school education or less

**73%** employed full- and/or part-time

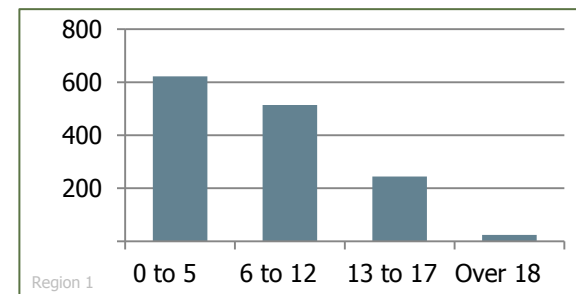
**57%** income less than \$20,000

### Our Children...

# 1,404

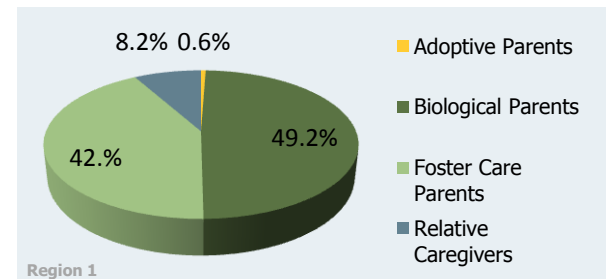
Children resided in all households

### Number of Children by Age



Region 1

### Children being cared for by:



Region 1

### Producing Results...

For the families who completed services in FFY2011:

- 44%** Children remained safely in their homes
- 29%** Children remained in foster or relative care
- 17%** Children were reunified with their families
- 8%** Children achieved permanency through adoption or legal guardianship
- 1%** Youth emancipated from Foster Care
- 1%** Children were referred to DFCS for investigation



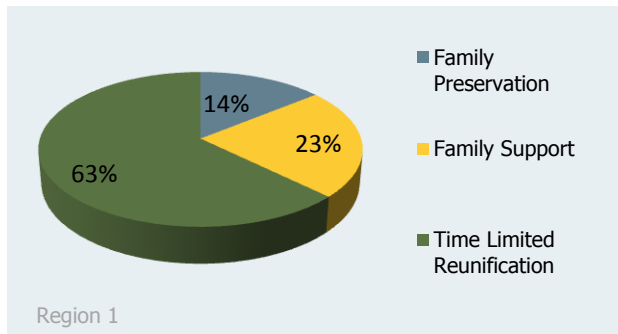
Georgia's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program has steadily built a network of community-based organizations reflecting the state's commitment to ensuring that families have access to the highest quality services and resources needed to help children and youth grow into healthy, contributing members of our society. PSSF is one of the few sources of federal funds directed toward the *prevention* of issues that bring families into the child welfare system.

## PSSF Program Areas

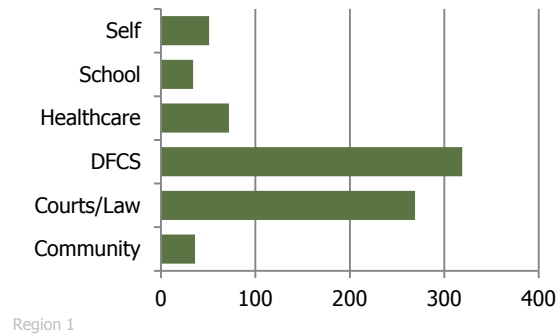
PSSF funds provide services to at-risk families in the areas of:

- **Family Support** to prevent child abuse and neglect among families at risk through the provision of supportive family services
- **Family Preservation** to assure children's safety within the home and preserve intact families in which children have been abused or neglected when the family's needs can be addressed effectively
- **Time-Limited Reunification** to address the needs of families whose children have been placed in foster care so that reunification may occur in a safe and timely manner
- **Adoption Promotion/Post-Permanency Support** to provide foster and adoptive families support services so that they can make a lifelong commitment to their children

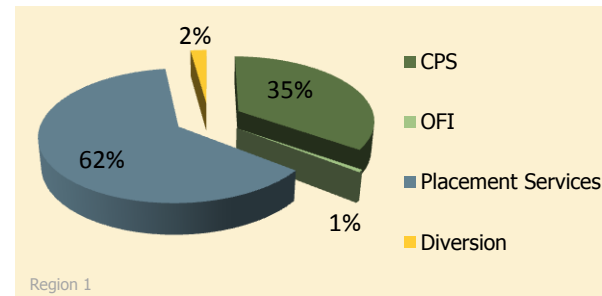
### Service Allocation



## Source of Community Referrals



### DFCS referrals:



## Responding to Community Needs

PSSF supports easy access and coordinated service delivery that is child- and family-focused. For more information about the following network providers in Region 1, visit the Family Services Resource Guide at [www.pssfnet.com](http://www.pssfnet.com).

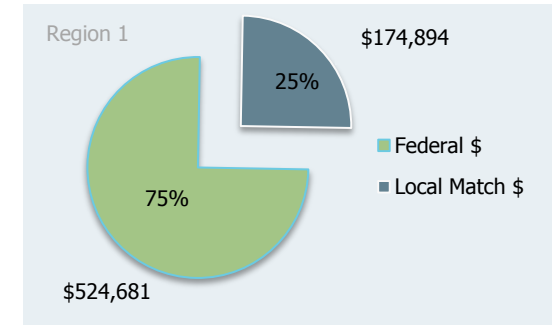
- Appalachian Children's Center, Inc.
- Compassion House, Inc.
- Family Support Council, Inc.
- Fannin County DFCS
- Four Points, Inc
- Gilmer County DFCS
- Pickens County Council on Child Abuse
- Pickens County - CASA
- Pickens County - Visitation

## Shared Responsibility

PSSF resources have been strategically invested to enhance the capacity of DFCS to identify and meet the needs of families and to expand the array of supportive services available through community-based family service agencies.

Federal allocations are leveraged with the support of matching funds contributed at the local level.

### Investment



## Service Array

PSSF supports a variety of services for families with children. The following services were made available to families through network providers in Region 1.

- Center-based Parent Education
- Center-based Support Group
- Child/Family Assessment
- Childcare
- Crisis Intervention
- Family Conference/FTM
- Family Life Skills
- Follow-up Services
- Healthcare Screening/Services
- Home-based Parent Education
- Information and Referral Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Mentoring and Tutoring
- Parent/Child Activities
- Stress/Anger Management
- Supervised Visitation
- Therapeutic Counseling
- Transportation

