



Region 17

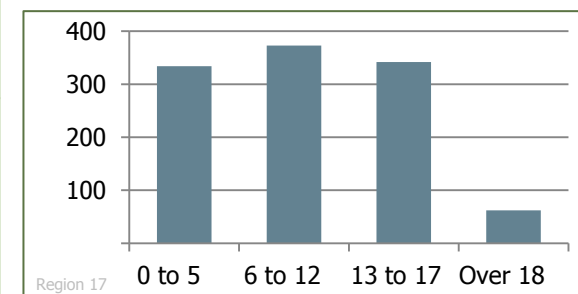


Our Children...

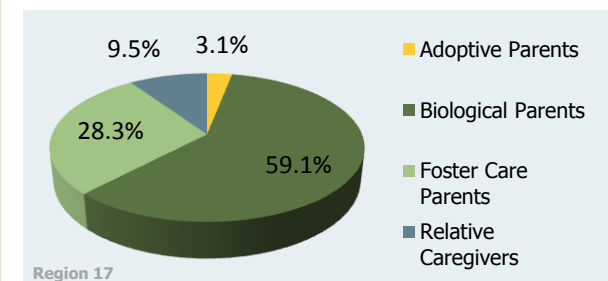
1,112

Children resided in all households

Number of Children by Age



Children being cared for by:



PSSF Making a Difference

Danger for young children sometimes lurks in the guise of a "caring" relative. The PSSF advocacy center received a call from DFCS requesting forensic interviews for 8-year-old Marisa and her 5-year-old brother Matt. The police had been called out to their home after the little girl had disclosed that her grandfather had been sexually abusing her and her brother.

The children would visit their grandparents after school and on weekends. It was during these times that the grandfather was molesting them. When the children were interviewed at the center, Marisa reported that each time he molested her, he would tell her it was going to make him cry if she did not let him touch her. The abuse and secrecy were causing anxiety and physical symptoms.

Immediately following interviews with both children, a therapist began to see the family for counseling and identified other resources for the family. Therapy helped Marisa realize her grandfather was the only person responsible and that it was her bravery that ultimately put an end to the abuse. The parents experienced marital troubles because of the stress, but the therapist helped them learn to communicate and identify ways to support one another and their children.

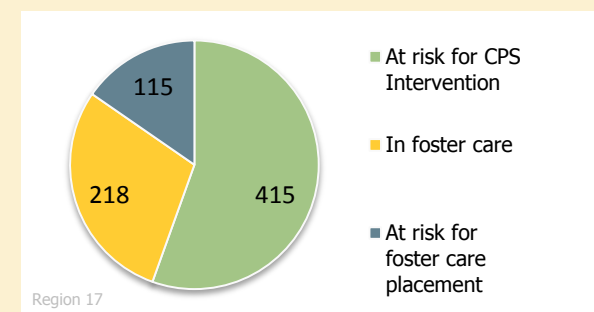
A year later, the case went to trial. The grandfather was convicted and sentenced to prison. While this family experienced extreme trauma, they fought to heal themselves and actually became a stronger family unit.

Our Families...

748

Families residing in Region 17 received a wide array of community-based services

Family involvement with their local child welfare agency at referral:



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

- 53%** two-parent households
- 47%** single-parent households
- 53%** high school education or less
- 73%** employed full- and/or part-time
- 47%** income less than \$20,000

Producing Results...

For the families who completed services in FFY2011:

- 73%** Children remained safely in their homes
- 16%** Children remained in foster or relative care
- 5%** Children were reunified with their families
- 4%** Children achieved permanency through adoption or legal guardianship
- 2%** Youth emancipated from Foster Care
- 1%** Children were referred to DFCS for investigation

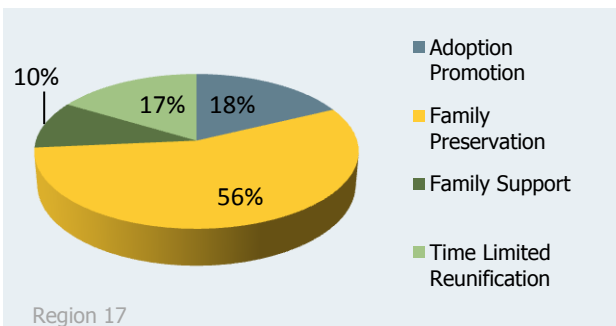
Georgia's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program has steadily built a network of community-based organizations reflecting the state's commitment to ensuring that families have access to the highest quality services and resources needed to help children and youth grow into healthy, contributing members 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

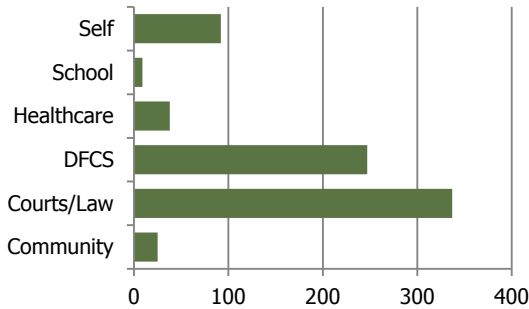
PSSF funds provide services to at-risk families in the areas of:

- **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

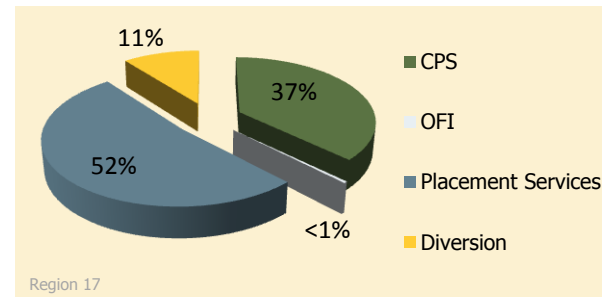


Source of Community Referrals



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DFCS referrals:



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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 17, visit the Family Services Resource Guide at www.pssfnet.com.

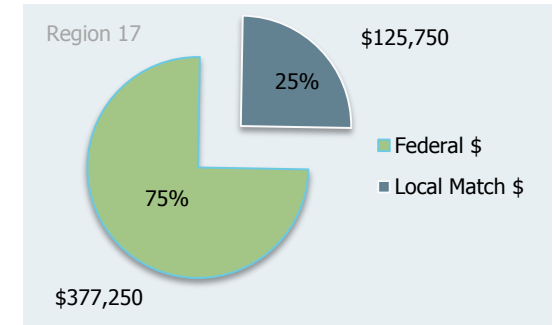
- CASA for Children, Inc.
- Center for Children & Young Adults, The
- Cherokee Child Advocacy Council, Inc.
- Cobb County Community Services Board
- SafePath CAC, Inc.
- SHARE House, Inc.

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 17.

- Center-based Parent Education
- Center-based Support Group
- Child/Family Assessment
- Crisis Intervention
- Effective Discipline/Behavior Management
- Family Life Skills
- Follow-up Services
- Home-based Parent Education
- Information and Referral Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Mentoring and Tutoring
- Parent/Child Activities
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Therapeutic Counseling
- Transportation

