



Region 8

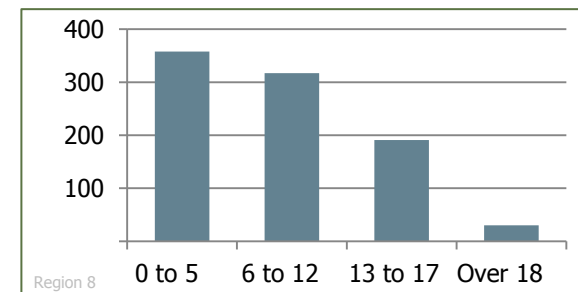


Our Children...

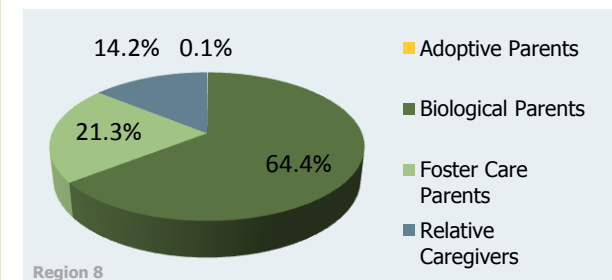
896

Children resided in all households

Number of Children by Age



Children being cared for by:



PSSF Making a Difference

Truancy and dropout rates are sky high in many communities. Shaundra, a pregnant ninth grader, was just one of many truants who were habitually absent from her high school. With more than ten absences in the first few weeks of school, catching up on work was getting difficult, she was in trouble with the school attendance officer ... and on the way to becoming another statistic.

Like many young women who find themselves in this predicament, Shaundra faced not just one or two, but several major obstacles in her young life. The father of her child was not interested in helping to support her. She was one of four children in a single parent household. As the oldest, she was responsible for helping with the younger siblings.

A change in Shaundra's life began with a phone call to a PSSF truancy prevention program officer. Ms. Green helped Shaundra identify her education goals, including her long-range plan to become a cosmetologist. During her remaining three years of high school, truant officer Green made hundreds of contacts with Shaundra, including phone calls and visits at school and at home, to help her keep on track. Shaundra graduated from high school, and Ms. Green was there to witness her excitement as she accepted her diploma.

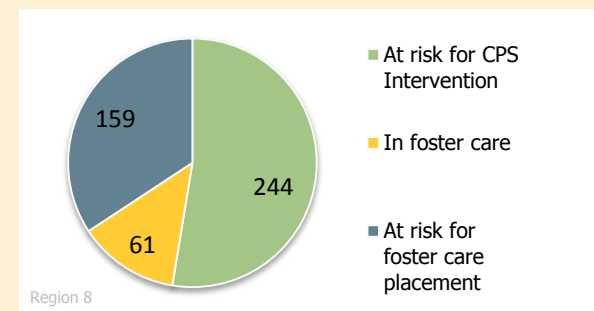
Shaundra's success has inspired her younger siblings to continue their education, and now her mother is seeking her own GED. This young mother is currently enrolled in college on the path to achieving her cosmetology degree.

Our Families...

464

Families residing in Region 8 received a wide array of community-based services

Family involvement with their local child welfare agency at referral:



348 of these families

were headed by a biological or adoptive parent, or a relative caregiver

28% two-parent households

72% single-parent households

76% high school education or less

45% employed full- and/or part-time

81% income less than \$20,000

Producing Results...

For the families who completed services in FFY2011:

- 60%** Children remained safely in their homes
- 28%** Children remained in foster or relative care
- 6%** Children were reunified with their families
- 3%** Children achieved permanency through adoption or legal guardianship
- 2%** Youth emancipated from Foster Care
- <1%** Children were referred to DFCS for investigation

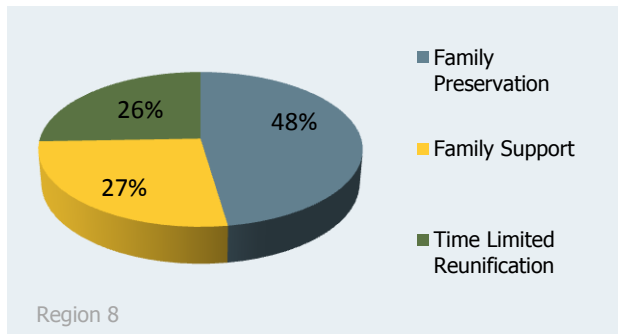
Georgia's Promoting Safe and Stable Families program has steadily built a network of community-based organizations reflecting the state's commitment to ensuring that families have access to the highest quality services and resources needed to help children and youth grow into healthy, contributing members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

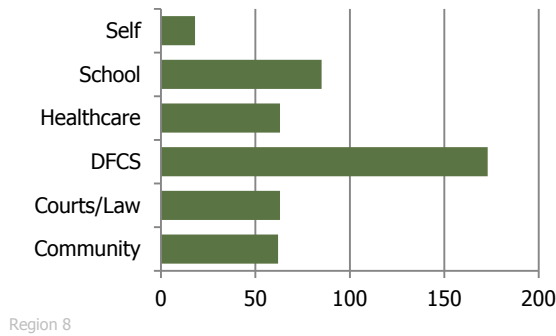
PSSF funds provide services to at-risk families in the areas of:

- **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

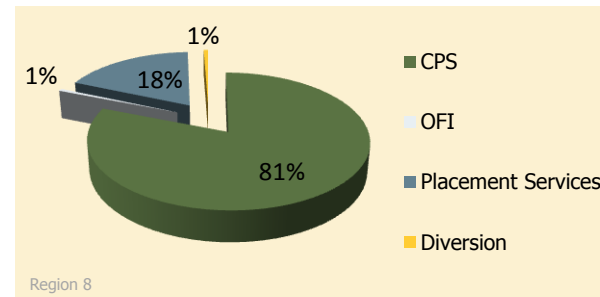
Service Allocation



Source of Community Referrals



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

Housing Authority of City of Cordele

Morningstar Children and Family Services, Inc. (Columbus)

Open Door Community House, Inc.

SOWEGA CASA, Inc.

Twin Cedars Youth and Family Services, Inc.

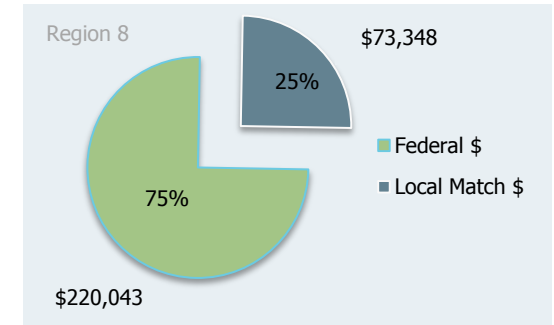
Visions for Sumter: Seeing Through Young Eyes, Inc.

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 8.

- Center-based Parent Education
- Center-based Support Group
- Child/Family Assessment
- Crisis Intervention
- Effective Discipline/Behavior Management
- Follow-up Services
- Healthcare Screening/Services
- Home-based Parent Education
- Information and Referral Services
- Legal Advocacy
- Parent/Child Activities
- Stress/Anger Management
- Therapeutic Counseling

