Every child in our community deserves the best possible start in life—mentally, physically, and emotionally.

When that happens, we all win.

**Distinct**
A program that advances the child and the child’s family.

**First**
Family Services launches first Early Head Start in Forsyth County.

**Success**
50+ years of proven readiness & achievement of Head Start students.

Early Head Start is a long-term strategy for addressing the persistent and growing problem of poverty in Forsyth County.

$2.2 million
- For Early Head Start
- For 120 children (0–36 mos)
- For 50 new jobs
- For 30 teaching positions
- For 15 classrooms in Forsyth County

28,852 children, age 6 and under live in Forsyth County
1 in 3 children (28.5%) lives in poverty in our community (1 in 4 Statewide)
34% of children under 5 live in a household below poverty level
83% The increase of people living in poverty in our community since 2000
530+ eligible children are on the waiting list for Early Head Start
55% of female-headed single-parent households with children under 5 are below poverty level

Early Head Start impacts the entire family by engaging, educating, and placing families in a position to become self-sufficient.

EARLY HEAD START
- Strengthens the child and the child’s family
- Develops mental capacities for self-regulation and coping
- Contributes toward eliminating the achievement gap between low-income children and affluent children
- Provides evidence-based care and instruction from birth
- Educates parents and caregivers
- Provides nutrition education for the entire family
- Offers free health screenings: vision, hearing, learning
- Appoints family advocate who provides designated support
- Enables parents to work, earn a degree free from child care worry
- Customizes plans for learning and development

The first five years of life are a time of rapid brain development, and the architecture of the brain is largely developed during those years, establishing the foundation for success in later life. Too few of our community’s children receive a solid foundation for success.

Bob Feikema, President and CEO

MAKE AN IMPACT

www.familyservicesforsyth.org
Every child has an inherent right to reach his or her potential.

What happens by age 5 lasts a lifetime.

**SCHOOL READINESS**
Children are able to learn and perform academically when they are able to self-regulate their behavior and emotions.

**Forsyth County School Readiness Project**
- Mental Health Coaches/Teachers work together
- Evidence-based strategies support preschoolers’ self-control, concentration and reasoning
- 28 Teachers, 14 Classrooms
- 3- and 4-year-old children

**Head Start/Early Head Start Mental Health Consultation**
- Individual assessments
- Handling disruptive behavior
- Teacher guidance and support
- Counseling with children and their families
- Behavior support plans for home and school
- Social-Emotional skill development

**Children who live in poverty are at risk**
- Self Control
- Inattention
- Impulsivity
- Oppositional behavior
- Poor Peer Relationships

**Research over the past two decades has shown that social and behavioral competence in young children predicts their academic performance in first grade over and above their cognitive skills and family backgrounds.**

Bob Feikema, President and CEO

**Childhood Trauma**
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful life events that have broad and lasting effects on mental and physical well-being, especially before age 18.

More than 1/2 of children in USA are impacted by a traumatic event.

One Quarter of children develop significant symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Court-involved children are 2–3x More Likely to have extremely high rates of traumatic stress than their non-court-involved peers.

NC adults & childhood Trauma*
- 38% reported 3–8 ACEs; 20% reported 2 ACEs; 41% reported 1 ACE

*2012 survey of adults in NC (State Center for Health Statistics (May 2014))

336.722.8173  |  www.familyservicesforsyth.org

We are here for you.
IN AMERICA
1 IN FOUR WOMEN WILL BE A VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT SOME POINT IN HER LIFE

157,000 ADULTS IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EVERY YEAR

FAMILY VIOLENCE CROSSES ALL BOUNDARIES GENDER, RACE, ETHNICITY, CULTURE, INCOME, RELIGION, NEIGHBORHOOD

87% of income goes to Agency programs

4,611 abused incidents flagged as “domestic violence related” by WSPD

881 incidents involved child abuse and other juvenile victims.

24hr Crisis Lines Domestic Violence Sexual Assault

1,000+ sought assistance: counseling, court advocacy, support services

193 abused children received forensic interviews through our Child Advocacy Center

1,741 victims sought protective orders with help from Safe on Seven

5 therapists trained in trauma-focused cognitive behavior therapy

HELP US ELIMINATE FAMILY VIOLENCE IN FORSYTH COUNTY

MAKE AN IMPACT

www.familyservicesforsyth.org

MAIN OFFICE 336.722.8173  DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 336.723.8125  SEXUAL ASSAULT 336.722.4457

2014 and 2015 Reports