You can help families keep their children safe

Parents love their children and want to keep them safe. Sometimes, life's challenges make it hard for families to meet their children's needs. Parents under stress may be more likely to abuse or neglect their children. They may not know where to turn for support. Families living in your community need your help with keeping their children safe when life gets hard.

For more information, contact:

Use the QR code and your smart phone to go straight to the FAR website, or go to:

www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/about/far.asp

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

Transforming lives

DSHS 22-1508 (Rev. 9/14)

It takes a community to keep children safe

Can you help us build a safe community for our children?

Washington State Family Assessment Response (FAR)

With community support, more children can be safe at home

Children's Administration's new Family Assessment Response (FAR) allows us to use a different approach to some families with allegations of child abuse or neglect. Some families need an investigation to keep kids safe. Other families need to reconnect with their community, family and friends.

Families involved in the child welfare system have often lost those connections. When families reconnect with their community, they not only become more aware of the supports and services available to them, but they become engaged in the community in ways that support others.

We all rely on our families and communities in times of trouble. When families build these relationships, it helps them keep their children safe.

Investing in families is good for business.

Businesses large and small can help prevent child abuse and neglect

Families need your help with:

Maintaining safe homes for their children:

- Plumbing repair
- Electrical work
- Building gates and fences
- Keeping utilities on (electricity, heat, water, sewer, garbage, phone)
- Furniture
- Cleaning supplies

Accessing other services and supplies:

- Clothing and shoes
- School tutoring and supplies
- Safe housing (identifying safe housing options - rent assistance)
- Transportation
  - Bus passes
  - Car repair
  - Rides to medical appointments
- Professional services
- Learning basic life skills (job search, parenting skills, nutrition, finding doctors who take medical coupons, maintaining a safe and clean home).

Can you donate your time or expertise to help keep children safe?

Washington State Family Assessment Response (FAR)

Children's Administration is phasing-in the Family Assessment Response (FAR) in local offices between January 2014 and July 2016, as funding allows. Families with allegations of child abuse and neglect, that do not indicate serious threats of substantial harm to a child's immediate or ongoing safety, will be eligible for FAR. The allegations must meet the legal definition of child abuse and neglect in Washington state law (RCW 26.44.020).

Child safety will always be at the heart of our work.

When the Department receives an allegation of sexual abuse or severe physical abuse or neglect, the family will be assigned to a traditional CPS investigation.