

# Specialized Family Support Program Overview for Hospital Providers

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# Topics

- Overview of the Specialized Family Support Program (SFSP)
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Application Process
  - Services available to youth enrolled in the program
  - Value of these programs to Illinois Families
  - Questions



# Specialized Family Support Program (SFSP)

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## About SFSP

- SFSP is designed to prevent youth at risk of custody relinquishment from entering the child welfare system solely to receive mental health services pursuant to the Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act P.A. 98-808
  - SFSP is administered by 89 Ill. Admin Code 139, commonly referred to as 'Rule 139'
- SFSP is administered collaboratively by several State agencies. These include the Illinois Departments of: Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Human Services (DHS)

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## About SFSP (cont.)

- SFSP is specifically targeted to prevent custody relinquishment of youth after a stay at an in-patient psychiatric hospital or hospital like setting
- SFSP grants youth 90 days of program eligibility, which provides the youth and family with:
  - Access to crisis stabilization services
  - Mental health assessment and treatment planning services
  - Treatment recommendations and service linkage



# SFSP Eligibility



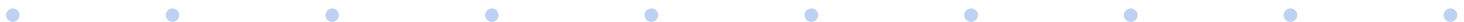
## Eligibility Criteria

1. The youth's parent or guardian must demonstrate and maintain residence in Illinois as defined by the Illinois Public Aid Code 305 ILCS 5/2-10
2. The youth must be under the age of 18 at the time of SFSP enrollment
3. The youth must not be under the guardianship or in the legal custody of any unit of Federal, State, or local government
4. The youth has been referred to and accepted for SFSP enrollment by the CARES line
5. Upon enrollment and throughout the youth's participation in the SFSP, the parents/guardians of the SFSP youth meet the SFSP Parent/Guardian Requirements

# Parent/Guardian Requirements

The Parents/Guardian must agree to the following:

1. Be willing to transition the youth back into a home or community setting
2. Consent to program participation and sign the SFSP Parent Agreement
3. Engage in the SFSP youth's care throughout the course of treatment.
4. Be primarily responsible for any financial obligations associated with participation in the program
5. Assist in identifying and coordinating funding for services from all available sources, including insurance coverage
6. Assist in the completion of all applications for public assistance programs and any documentation required by the Department for SFSP
7. Initiate and coordinate all necessary educational processes with the youth's home educational district to meet the youth's educational and treatment needs





# SFSP Enrollment and Referral



## SFSP Enrollment

At the time of SFSP enrollment:

1. The youth must be admitted to an in-patient psychiatric hospital or hospital like setting for the primary purpose of psychiatric treatment and be determined clinically appropriate for discharge from that facility
2. The youth's parent/guardian refuses to take the youth home from the treatment facility because the parent or guardian has a reasonable belief that the youth will harm himself or herself or other family members upon returning home, and there is no evidence of abuse or neglect



## Intake Process/Referral

1. The youth is deemed clinically appropriate for discharge from the hospital, but the parent refuses to take the youth home
2. A referral is made to the DCFS Child Abuse Hotline that the youth is at risk of custody relinquishment
3. If the youth is between the ages of 11-17, a Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) provider has 48 hours to stabilize the situation and reunite the family.
  - If CCBYS fails to stabilize the family unit, they will notify DCFS

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## Intake Process/Referral (cont.)

4. DCFS will refer the family to SFSP by contacting the CARES line
  - **CARES will only accept an SFSP referral from DCFS**
5. CARES will then make a referral to the appropriate SASS agency based on the youth's location
6. SASS then has 24 hours to perform a face-to-face crisis assessment
  - The SASS agency will assign the youth to an SFSP Coordinator



## SASS Agency Responsibilities

- The SASS agency is responsible for informing the family of:
  - The Parent/Guardian Requirements
  - Available Crisis Stabilization services
  - Other services available through SFSP
- The SASS agency is responsible for:
  - Obtaining the SFSP Parent Agreement
  - Completing an Illinois Medicaid Crisis Assessment Tool (IM-CAT)
  - Completing a Crisis Safety Plan for the family
  - Gathering all appropriate consents for services

# SFSP Services



## SFSP Services

- SFSP youth are provided with 90 days of SFSP eligibility
- While enrolled in SFSP the youth will be:
  - Assessed to determine their service needs
  - Assigned to a local SFSP Coordinator to coordinate treatment and services for the youth
    - The SFSP coordinator will work with other crisis systems to stabilize the youth, make treatment and service recommendations, and assist the youth and the parent/guardian in applying for all clinically appropriate programs

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## SFSP Services (cont.)

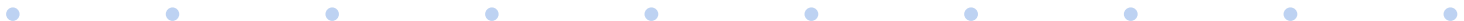
- Case management through the SFSP Coordinator
- Family Support Services
  - Family Support Services provide funds for services and supports not normally available, with the purpose of promoting stabilization of the youth in their community
- Community Mental Health Services
  - Please see the Community-Based Behavioral Services Handbook (CBS) for reimbursable Community Behavioral Health Services under the Illinois Medical Assistance Program.

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## SFSP Services (cont.)

- Intensive Placement Stabilization program supports
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Mentoring services
  - Placement stabilization services
  - Tutoring
- CCBYS
  - Ensure the safety of youth
  - Develop and implement crisis stabilization plan.
  - Provide placement services for youth in crisis



# Value of SFSP



## Benefits of SFSP

- Youth may return home sooner and have decreased time hospitalized beyond medical necessity
- Remain with their family, rather than state custody
- Have appropriate community services in place upon discharge



# Contact Information

**Healthcare and Family Services**  
**Bureau of Behavioral Health**

[HFS.BBH@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.BBH@illinois.gov)

(217) 557-1000

