

Homebuilders Prevention Program FAQ

Crossnore Communities for Children is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1.3M gift from Elizabeth M. Strickland, a longtime resident of Winston-Salem, NC. This gift will be used to pilot an evidence-based program providing prevention services to support families and prevent children being removed from their homes or entering Department of Social Services custody. Mrs. Strickland's gift will fund the pilot program for its first year.

Crossnore will implement the HOMEBUILDERS® Family Preservation program, a nationally-known, evidence-based program that provides in-home crisis intervention, counseling, and life skills education for families whose children are at imminent risk of being removed from the home. Crossnore expects to initially create four to five new staff positions in Winston-Salem, with more teams planned in the future. These teams will work with local Departments of Social Services to identify and serve families who need this support.

Prevention Outcomes

1. Who will this program serve?

This program will serve families in the Triad region who have had recent or current involvement with DSS and risk having their children removed from their homes due to safety concerns.

2. What is our hope for impact in outcomes?

Our hope is that families' engagement with this intensive, short-term, Evidence Based Model will prevent children from being removed from their homes or entering DSS custody.

3. What do we mean when we say "prevention"?

By prevention we mean "prevention from entering foster care." This program is focused on the point of time when a family is at high risk of their children being removed from the home if immediate intervention does not happen.

4. How does this initiative connect with the overall state and national child welfare changes?

The Family First Services Prevention Act (FFPSA) will go into effect in NC in October 2021. One of the goals of FFPSA is to focus on preventing children from entering foster care and providing funding to assist with this effort. It changes how states can use a specific bucket of funding called IV-E funding. NC will be able to use this funding for "prevention services" that they previously were not able to use it for. Each state must determine which "prevention services" can be used by providers for this funding. Homebuilders is one of the Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs) that North Carolina has approved to receive funding.

5. Will this program replace current Crossnore programs?

This program is developing the Prevention/Early Intervention aspect of Crossnore's Child Welfare Continuum which is a focus of the Strategic Plan. It is not designed to take the place of other programs.

6. What will this program entail?

Homebuilders is designed to operate in a team format. Each team is made up of one front-line supervisor level and up to 4 or 5 practitioner staff. Multiple teams can report to one higher level staff member.

7. What does a caseload look like?

Staff typically carry no more than 2 to 3 cases at a time but onboarding can mean initially beginning with 1 case before adding a second or third.

8. How many hours are spent with a family?

Services are time-limited and concentrated in a period targeted at 4 weeks. The service is designed to resolve the immediate crisis, and teach the skills necessary for the family to remain together. Each family receives an average of 40 to 50 hours of direct service within that 4 week timeframe.

9. How will crisis calls/after hours be handled?

Staff are on call to their clients 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Families are given as much time as they need, when they need it. This accessibility also allows close monitoring of potentially dangerous situations.

10. Are staff able to or required to provide any physical management interventions?

No, staff do not provide any physical management interventions.

11. Where can I find more information about Homebuilders?

You can visit the Institute for Family Development at: http://www.institutefamily.org/programs_IFPS.asp or the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse (CEBC) at: <https://www.cebc4cw.org/program/homebuilders/>

12. How do I make a referral for Crossnore's Homebuilders program?

Please call our Referrals & Admissions line at (866) 892-6213.