

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM



Shelter, Inc.

Shelter's Services

Emergency, Traditional and Home-of-Relative Foster Care

Foster care for children from birth through age 17.

Boys Group Home, Palatine

The only emergency group home for boys ages 11 through 17 in the Northwest Suburbs.

Jennings Group Home for Girls, Schaumburg

Emergency housing for girls ages 11 through 17.

Older Adolescent Group Home, Arlington Heights

The only group home for 16- and 17-year-old boys in the Northwest Suburbs focusing on independent living skills.

Healthy Families Program

Home visitation and parenting education program for first-time parents. The only Healthy Families program in the Northwest Suburbs.

Community Education

Public awareness concerning child abuse, neglect, and other social problems directly impacting children and their families.

Since 1996, Shelter, Inc., a nonprofit, licensed and accredited child welfare agency, has provided Healthy Families services free of charge to first-time parents, helping them to build a healthy and secure environment for their children.

The Healthy Families Program offers a variety of services that may include home visitation or information referrals to child care, education, or health care. Home visits focus on positive parenting skills, child development, child health information, and other aspects of family functioning.

The program is voluntary and confidential. Services are focused on strengthening the family and enhancing the quality of life, thereby improving childhood outcomes.

Elements of the Program

1. To assess all first-time parents in order to identify their strengths and needs, to refer them to appropriate community resources, and to promote supportive environments that optimize child growth and development and encourage resilient, healthy families.
2. To enhance family functioning by building trusting relationships, teaching problem solving skills, and improving the family's support system.
3. To promote positive parent-child interaction.
4. To ensure children receive well-baby care and immunizations.

Professional Staff

Shelter's Healthy Families staff is bilingual, bicultural, and trained in prevention services, as well as parent education.

Length of Service

The Healthy Families approach is designed to begin working intensively with families around the time their babies are born, helping the families grow more stable, more autonomous, and more responsive to their children's needs. Services are available for up to five years.

Eligibility Requirements

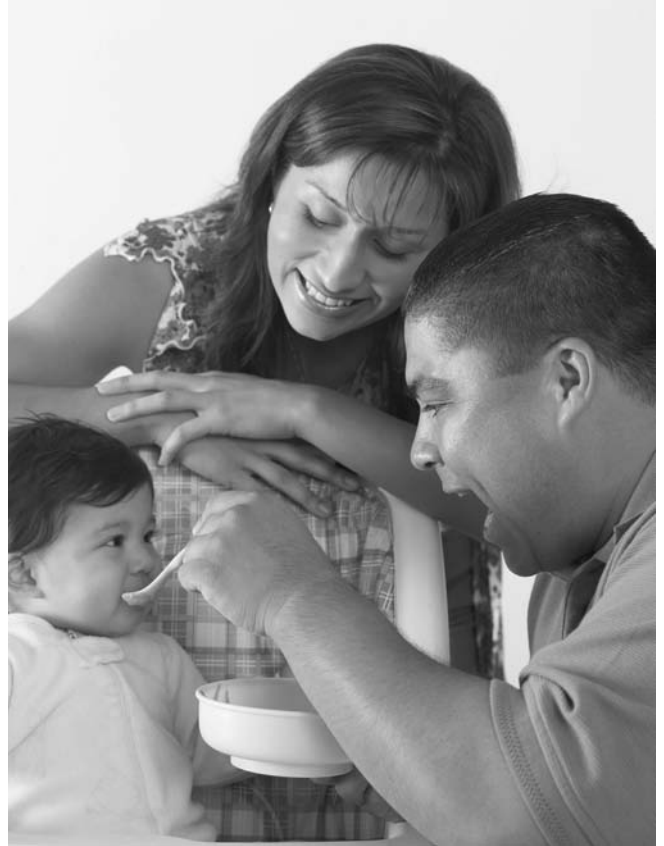
Participation in the program is voluntary and open to first-time parents residing in the Northwest and Far Northwest Suburbs.

Referral and Enrollment

Anyone may make a referral to the Healthy Families Program, including:

- Physicians and medical staff
- County health departments
- Social service agencies
- School personnel
- Family members
- First-time parents (self-referrals)

To be an effective primary prevention program, referrals need to be made as early as possible. First-time parents are enrolled either during pregnancy or within the first two weeks of a child's birth.



For more information about Shelter's Healthy Families Program or to make a referral, please call 847.255.8060.



Shelter is:

- accredited by the Council on Accreditation
- licensed by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
- governed by a board of directors

Shelter is supported by funds from Elk Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, Vernon, and Wheeling townships; United Way; municipalities; corporations; foundations; private donations; the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; and the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Shelter's Mission

Helping and protecting children who are abused, neglected, dependent or in need of supervision. We do this by:

- Providing 24-hour emergency and longer-term care
- Creating community awareness and education to prevent such abuse and neglect
- Promoting healthy families to reduce child abuse and neglect

**For emergency housing for children and adolescents
24 hours a day, 365 days a year, please call:
847.255.8060**



**Northwest
Community
Healthcare**



**ALEXIAN
BROTHERS**
Medical Center



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