

***Michigan's Family Resource
Centers: The Role of Public
Human Services in
Promoting Student Stability***

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Family Resource Centers (FRCs) Overview

- 1 Special service units of Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS).
- 1 Provide all of the public human service programs offered at any other MDHS office.
- 1 Created in response to “priority schools” that had not met AYP after first year to wrap services around these schools.

Theory of Change: Direct Services to Families are Related to Academic Outcomes

- 1 Family functioning is a key predictor of academic success.
- 1 Security in basic needs is absolutely essential for school attendance and academic achievement.
- 1 Public human services are the main access point and provider of family supports and basic needs assistance.

Theory of Change: Increased Collaboration is Related to Improved Service Delivery

- 1 Parents are already required to ensure that their children are attending school in order to receive public assistance.
- 1 Schools and public human service agencies are often working with the same families.
 - Don't always have the same information.
 - Sometimes don't have the same targeted outcomes.
 - Sometimes goals even conflict.

FRC Impact on Schools

- ⌊ Mutually exclusive sets of schools that had previously not met AYP were compared.
- ⌊ FRC-linked schools were almost 4X more likely to make AYP:
 - 10.4% vs. 40.6%

Genesee Scholars Pilot Project

- 1 Targeted students with high mobility (3 or more moves during previous school year).
- 1 Families participating in DHS public assistance programs who had their rent vendored.

Genesee Scholars Project Partners

- 1 Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- 1 Cities of Promise
- 1 Genesee County DHS
- 1 Genesee County Community Action and Resource Development

Genesee Scholars Project Process

- 1 Rent incentives to landlords to work with families to increase family stability.
- 1 Parental engagement to focus on student attendance.
- 1 Collaboration with Family Resource Centers to provide family supports.

Genesee Scholars Project Outcomes (after first year)

- 1 Significant increase in attendance at one of the pilot schools.
- 1 Slight increase in attendance at other two pilot schools.
- 1 75% of children tested at or above grade level compare to 35.3% of control group.