

# Community Resources

## Background Notes

Providing protection to children and services to their families is much too big a job for child welfare to tackle alone. We rely on several resources in our communities to assist us in this endeavor. While DHS Child Welfare is the agency that is ultimately responsible for child safety, it is important to engage and consult with extended family members, community members and professionals to assist us in developing case plans and providing services to children and families. It is important to be able to identify resources for the diverse needs of the families we serve. Developing working relationships with your community partners will ensure your clients get the appropriate services they need in a timely fashion. Matching the unique needs of a family to the resources in the community is the art of casework. In addition removing barriers to accessing resources is crucial to successful family outcomes.

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Start to create a list of service providers in your community. Talk with caseworkers in your office to find out if there is a resource manual in your office or if workers have created their own. Borrow examples from others. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.
- Formal and informal resources are keys to successful casework. Ask your coworker what informal resources they utilize.
- Contact at least three of the following resources on the next page and discuss with them how to best access their services.

*Discoveries:*

## Tasks / Assignments:

- Obtain information on the services they provide and the name and phone number of a worker you have met or talked with. You can even arrange to take a tour of their facility. It is so much more helpful to clients if you have first hand knowledge of a program when making a referral.

Domestic Violence Shelter  
WIC (women, infant, children)  
Health Department  
Parenting Program  
Drug/Alcohol Treatment Center  
Community Action Agency  
Housing Department  
Self-Sufficiency  
Healthy Start  
Head Start  
Psychologist  
Child Therapist  
Sex Offender Treatment Program  
Early Intervention  
Child Abuse Assessment Center  
Faith Based Organizations

## Discoveries:

- *What did you learn about your local resources?*
- *How did you organize your knowledge of resources?*
- *How will your knowledge of resources make you more effective with the children and families that you serve?*

