

Child First provides mental health intervention and support services through a proven home visiting model that builds and strengthens relationships between caregivers and their children. As a two-generation model, Child First partners with families to address the challenges, stressors, and traumas they experience, create an environment to foster healthy child development, and connect with needed services and resources in their communities.

Child First is a comprehensive model that is fully integrated into the system of care of early childhood and young adult services in each region.

Who Child First Serves

Child First partners with caregivers who have infants and young children, from birth through age five. The program works with families who have experienced trauma and other adversities (such as poverty, mental health challenges, housing insecurity, or abuse and neglect), or whose children are experiencing emotional, behavioral, learning, or developmental challenges.

Children must have North Carolina Medicaid to be eligible for services.

child first





PROVEN RESULTS*

68%

DECREASE IN CHILD LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

64%

DECREASE IN MATERNAL DEPRESSION OR MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

42%

DECREASE IN CHILD AGGRESSIVE AND DEFIANT BEHAVIORS

40%

REDUCTION IN CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT

**Child First was evaluated with a randomized controlled trial (RCT) with strong positive outcomes. (Child Development, January/February 2011)*

States with Child First Affiliate Sites:
CO, CT, FL, LA, NM, NC, PA

ABOUT CHILD FIRST

Child First is an evidence-based, mental health home visiting program that partners with families, infants, and young children from pregnancy through age 5, to enhance strong, loving relationships.

HEALING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMA AND ADVERSITY

Child First succeeds in supporting caregivers and their children process the stresses and traumas in their lives while enhancing healthy patterns of interactions between them. The intervention serves families and children, from birth to age five, experiencing multiple challenges such as extreme poverty, maternal depression, domestic violence, substance use, homelessness, abuse and neglect, incarceration, and isolation. These challenges lead to levels of stress that can be toxic to the young, developing brain and without the buffer of strong, nurturing relationships this can result in long-term emotional/behavioral, learning and health problems.

A COMPREHENSIVE INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH MODEL

Child First is provided by a team consisting of a mental health clinician and a care coordinator, who support a family through both joint and individual sessions depending on the identified needs. In addressing concerns proactively and early in the family's development, the Child First intervention serves to positively change the ways in which the family system operates, leading to heathier trajectories for the family in the long term.

- **Two-Generation, Mental Health Treatment:**
  Master's level mental health clinician facilitates the development of responsive, nurturing parent-child relationships that can protect the child's developing brain from stress and adversity AND promote behavioral health and cognitive development.

- **Comprehensive Care Coordination:**
  Family resource partner provides hands-on support and connection to community-based services for all family members, leading to family stabilization and a reduction in major family stressors (e.g., homelessness, food insecurity, lack of health care, unemployment).

WORKING TOGETHER

Mental Health Clinicians & Care Coordinator:

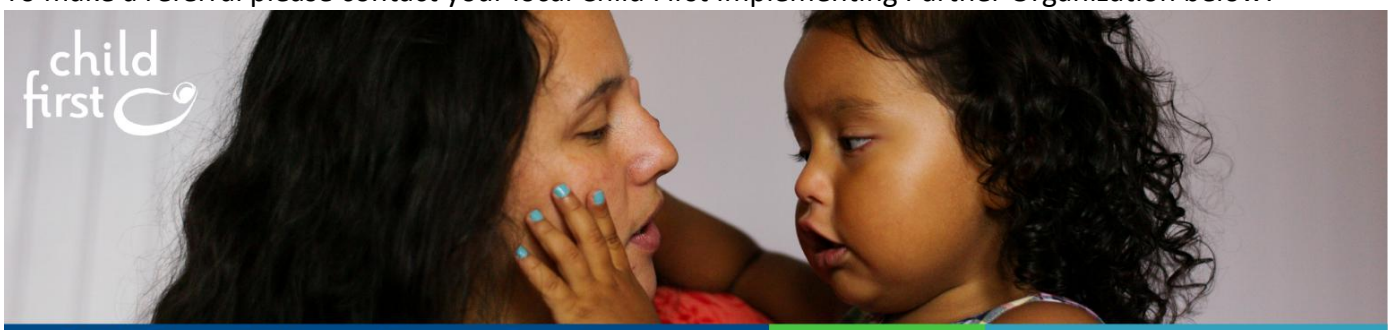
- Two perspectives adding to the understanding of the family
- Family engagement built on trust and respect
- Family stabilization through service connection
- Comprehensive assessments to develop plan of care
- Mental health consultation in school or daycare settings
- Relationship based psychotherapeutic intervention for both child and caregiver

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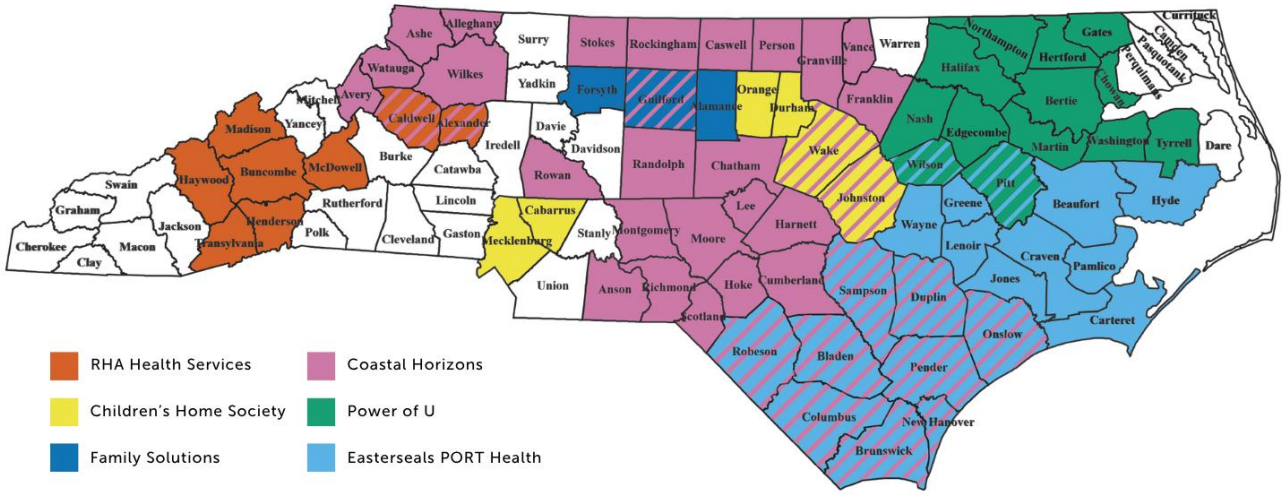
Child First is a program of Changent, a national organization that implements and supports data-driven programs.

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To make a referral please contact your local Child First Implementing Partner Organization below:



Child First Affiliates | North Carolina



Child First Affiliate	Primary Contact	Primary Email	Counties Served
Power of U 2317 B Executive Circle Greenville, NC 27858 Office: 252-551-5544 Fax: 252-751-0661	Trevor Blue, MSW, LCSW	tblue@upliftnc.org	Chowan, Gates, Pitt, Edgecombe, Halifax, Washington, Tyrrell, Bertie, Martin, Hertford, Northampton, Nash, Wilson
Easterseals PORT Health - Greenville 154 Beacone Drive, Ste I Winterville, NC 28590 919-406-4135	Earlisha Leach Courtney Barrett	earlisha.s.leach@eastersealsport.com courtney.barrett@eastersealsport.com	Beaufort, Pitt, Hyde, Wayne, Sampson, Bladen, Columbus, Robeson, Greene, Wilson
Easterseals PORT Health - New Bern 281 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28562 919-406-4135	Christine Perrotto	christine.perrotto@estersealsport.com	Lenoir, Duplin, Carteret, Craven, Onslow, Pamlico, Jones, New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender
Coastal Horizons 330 Shipyard Blvd. Wilmington, NC 28412 910-202-3155	Terrance Williams, MSW, LCSW Tiffany Salter, LCSW	tewilliams@coastalhorizons.org tsalter@coastalhorizons.org	Guilford, Randolph, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Hoke, Richmond, Scotland, Anson, Cumberland, Harnett, Columbus, Pender, Brunswick, New Hanover, Onslow, Wake, Johnston, Stokes, Rockingham, Caswell, Person, Robeson, Bladen, Duplin, Sampson, Alamance, Chatham, Granville, Vance, Franklin, Rowan, Watauga, Avery, Caldwell, Alexander, Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany
Children's Home Society 604 Meadow Street Greensboro, NC 27405 800-632-1400	Ashley Oriol	aoriol@chsnc.org	Orange, Wake, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Durham and adjacent areas
Family Solutions 231 N. Spring St. Greensboro, NC 27401 336-899-8800 x22	Markela Batts Anita Faulkner Chris Faulkner	markela@famsolutions.org anita@famsolutions.org chris@famsolutions.org	Alamance, Guilford, Forsyth and adjacent areas
RHA Health Services 356 Biltmore Avenue Asheville, NC 28801 828-254-2700; 828-713-1749	Lelia Allen	leila.allen@rhanet.org	Buncombe, Madison, McDowell, Transylvania, Henderson, Caldwell, Alexander, Haywood

Child First is a program of Changent, a national organization that helps grow and support data-driven programs that ensure every child and family has what they need to be healthier.

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Please Visit the Changent Website For More About Child First:

https://changent.org/what-we-do/child-first/
https://changent.org/why-it-works/resources/
https://changent.org/locations/

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