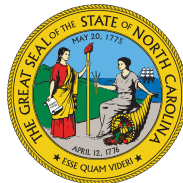


WHO ARE WE

The NC Department of Health and Human Services, through its Division of Social Services (DSS), is committed to helping children, families, and their Child Welfare workers access support where it is needed. DSS has contracted with HOMEBUILDERS to provide intensive family preservation services that focus on addressing factors directly related to the risk of out-of-home placement. HOMEBUILDERS Specialists:

- Partner with families to assess the family's strengths, values, and needs;
- Teach new skills and promote positive changes through motivational interviewing;
- Provide practical support such as assisting a family when navigating community resources; and
- Collaborate with community support systems that impact the family, while teaching family members to advocate for themselves.



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services
Child Welfare Services

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Family
FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

HOMEBUILDERS — FOR STAFF —



WHO WE SERVE

HOMEBUILDERS in North Carolina is an evidence-based prevention service for families with an open In-Home Services case, with at least one child at immediate risk of being removed from their home. HOMEBUILDERS should be considered as a layer of support:

- When kinship care is under consideration;
- When there is active court oversight and DSS continues efforts to prevent removal of child from the home; and
- When a new risk is identified in an active In-Home case.

CASEWORKER REQUIREMENTS

Prior to referral for HOMEBUILDERS, the family's In-Home Family Case Plan (DSS-5239) must be signed by the parent indicating agreement to the service and clearly show:

- Each eligible child's name and the imminent risk criteria for entry into foster care, and HOMEBUILDERS as the service being provided to the family; and
- Completion of the North Carolina Trauma Screening Tool (DSS-6195a/DSS-6195b) for each child prior to referral.

The following documentation should be sent to the provider within 72 business hours of the referral being accepted:

- In-Home Family Case Plan (DSS-5239);
- North Carolina Safety Plan (DSS-5231);
- North Carolina Trauma Screening Tool (DSS-6195a/DSS-6195b) for each child; and
- Common Name Data Service (CNDS) ID for each child.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The referral process is initiated with a phone call by the DSS In-Home caseworker. Upon acceptance, a HOMEBUILDERS Specialist will work with the family within 24 hours, focusing on assisting the caregivers.

Multiple sessions occur within a week, accumulating up to 10 hours of support per week in a period of four to six weeks.

- Support takes place in the family's home, schools, medical appointments or other community settings;
- HOMEBUILDERS Specialist will collaborate with caregivers and In-Home Caseworker for the safety and well-being of the child;
- HOMEBUILDERS Specialist and DSS will be in regular contact;

- Regular attendance at sessions is essential;
- Multiple missed sessions or cancellations may potentially end services; and
- To prevent premature end of services due to multiple missed sessions, the HOMEBUILDERS Specialist will ask for support from the DSS In-Home Caseworker.

For urgent needs, Specialists are available 24/7 to:

- Address mental health crisis;
- De-escalate potentially violent situations;
- Address environmental safety risks; and
- Provide linkage to community resources

RESOURCES

HOMEBUILDERS Providers in North Carolina:
Coastal Horizons – <https://coastalhorizons.org>

Crossnore Communities for Children –
www.crossnore.org

Children's Home Society – <https://chsnc.org>

North Carolina Child Welfare Evidence-Based Prevention Services Policy – https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/document/012_evidence-based-prevention-services-policy