

CHILDREN FIRST SHARP (SUPPORTING PARENTS, HOLISTIC CASE MANAGEMENT, ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, REACHING GOALS, POSITIVE PARENTING)

Program Type: Noncustodial Parent Work Program

Agency and Location: Kenosha County Child Support Agency, Kenosha, Wisconsin

Population Served: Noncustodial Parents that are under- or unemployed and struggling to support their children.

Program Description: Children First SHARP is an employment and training program that encompasses multiple supportive services into a one-stop approach. These services are designed to remove barriers to child support payment and promote engagement of noncustodial parents. Guided by principles of Supporting Parents, Holistic Case Management, Access to Employment, Reaching Goals, and Positive Parenting, the program aims to reach and engage as many parents as possible while providing quality programming and tailored, relevant services. Through intensive, trauma-informed case management, staff work with participants to develop a plan to move the parent to self-sufficiency. Services include job search, resume building, work support, and participation in a weekly Children First Job Club that facilitates networking and peer support. Noncustodial parents can also participate in Dedicated Dads, which is a 13-session evidenced-based Fatherhood program founded on the Nurturing Fathers curriculum.



Results: Children First SHARP builds on learning from Kenosha County's federal demonstration grant, Supporting Parents Supporting Kids (SPSK). The county reports that noncustodial parents that participated in SPSK were 2.4 times more likely to be employed than those in the control group that did not receive extra case management services. Additionally, for those noncustodial parents that did find work, SPSK participants gained, on average, \$1.35 more per hour than those in the control group. [See the interim implementation report for SPSK.](#)

Program Perspective: As one father said, "The SPSK program empowered me and pushed me towards positivity in my outlook of the future."

Federal Funding Streams Used: Office of Child Support Enforcement Section 1115 waiver and Access and Visitation Grant funds

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