

## MISSION STATEMENT

SHIELDS for families is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to developing, delivering, and evaluating culturally sensitive, comprehensive service models that empower and advocate for high-risk families for over 20 years.



We believe that with education, access to appropriate services and caring guidance, families can rebuild their lives and become productive members of the community, nurturing parents and achieve all of their dreams.



## HISTORY

SHIELDS was formed in 1987 in response to high incidence of infants born prenatally exposed to drugs at Martin Luther King Hospital in South Central Los Angeles.

SHIELDS began providing services to this unique population and has since grown to provide over 30 comprehensive, family-centered, wrap-around programs addressing issues facing high-risk families in South LA.



*believing, building, becoming*

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SHIELDS for Families is an equal opportunity service provider that does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief, citizenship/status as a lawfully admitted immigrant authorized to work in the United States, or participation in any WIA Title I-financially assisted program or activity. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

[www.shieldsforfamilies.org](http://www.shieldsforfamilies.org)

## Family Preservation/Alternative Response



SHIELDS Compton Family Preservation Network provides high-risk DCFS and Probation referred families with intensive case management, home visits, and other services to reduce the risk of abuse and out-of-home placements. In addition, the Alternative Response Program is offered to DCFS referred low-risk families in order to help them stay together by strengthening families and promoting a safe and nurturing environment.





SHIELDS Compton Family Preservation Network works with the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) Compton Office to offer a continuum of care to DCFS and Probation families who are experiencing family functioning challenges related to child abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. The program provides comprehensive, family-focused and community based services that ensure the physical, emotional, social, and educational development of children in a safe and nurturing environment necessary for positive outcomes including **home outreach counseling, emergency housing, drug testing and child focus activities**. Family participation, flexibility, availability and accessibility of services provide families with a supportive framework to develop to their maximum potential and minimize the risk of child abuse and neglect and out-of-home placement.



SHIELDS Compton Family Preservation Network (CFPN) has been providing family preservation services to families in Compton and the surrounding areas since January, 1992, as one of the original nine family preservation programs in Los Angeles County. Since implementation, Compton Family Preservation Network has provided collaborative, community-based family preservation services to high-risk families referred by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The goals of the CFPN are: (1) Safety - Children shall remain free from abuse and neglect; (2) Permanency - Children shall achieve permanency through reunification, adoption, and guardianship; and (3) Well-Being - Children shall improve their level of functioning in the areas of physical, emotional, social, education, cultural and spiritual development.

CFPN works closely with the Compton Office of the Department of Children and Family Services to provide high-risk DCFS and Probation referred families with **intensive case management, home visits, and other services to reduce the risk of**

**abuse and out-of-home placements**. In addition, the Alternative Response Program is offered to DCFS referred low-risk families in order to help them stay together by strengthening families and promoting a safe and nurturing environment. Services are provided using a comprehensive, family strength-based approach and are offered in the home, community, and/or center in both English and Spanish, to ensure equal availability of services to all families accessing the program.



Based on our annual evaluation reports, approximately 90% of all families served have been successful in accomplishing their established goals and unification or reunification. The success of the Compton Family Preservation Network has been based upon the collaborative efforts of the Network members and Department representatives that have continued to meet and work together to resolve concerns, develop resources, and improve upon service delivery. Additionally, the Compton Family Preservation Network initiated the co-location model for the provision of services. From the beginning, all staff from the lead and member agencies have been co-located at the Compton Family Preservation site, including the out-stationing of our mental health services.

### Program Highlights

- Within two years of providing Family Preservation services, the foster care rate had decreased in the City of Compton by 29%.
- SHIELDS successfully piloted the Families First Program within our CFPN, which was later implemented county-wider as the Alternative Response Program.
- SHIELDS helped to design Family Preservation, developed policies and procedures for Los Angeles, and was a primary partner with the Department to implement the program throughout the Country.