

# Welcome To Wraparound

Congratulations on your decision to develop, implement, or improve your wraparound project. Administering a wraparound project takes a great deal of commitment, time and energy. We are hopeful that this *Implementation Guide* can be helpful to you as you seek to improve services, supports, and outcomes for children and families.

## About the Process

*Wraparound* is a planning *process* that follows a series of steps to help children and their families realize a life that reflects their hopes and dreams. Wraparound also helps make sure children and youth grow up in their homes and communities. It is a planning process that brings people together from different parts of the family's life. With help from one or more *facilitators*, people from the family's life work together, coordinate their activities, and move closer together in their view of the family's situation. This process of coming together always includes the family as a central partner in building a coordinated view.

Since the term was first coined in the 1980s, "wraparound" has been defined in different ways. Wraparound has been described as a philosophy, an approach, and a service. Wraparound can feel like a moving target because it is designed to adapt to the contexts of different types of communities and systems as well as the needs of individual families.



In recent years, wraparound has been most commonly conceived of as an intensive, individualized care planning and management process. Wraparound is not a treatment per se. The wraparound process aims to achieve positive outcomes by providing a structured, creative and individualized team planning process that, compared to traditional treatment planning, results in plans that are more effective and more relevant to the child and family. Additionally, wraparound plans are more holistic than traditional care plans in that they are designed to meet the identified needs of caregivers and siblings and to address a range of life areas. Through the team-based planning and implementation process, wraparound also aims to develop

the problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-efficacy of the young people and family members. Finally, there is an emphasis on integrating the youth into the community and building the family's social support network.