



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

Division of Communications
275 E. Main Street, 5C-A
Frankfort, KY 40621
(502) 564-6786
Fax: (502) 564-0274
www.chfs.ky.gov

Vickie Yates Brown Glisson
Secretary

Statewide News Release

Media Contact: Doug Hogan, 502-564-6786, ext. 3465, or 502-330-9323 (cell); Anya Armes Weber, 502-564-6786, ext. 3104

Family Resource and Youth Services Centers Celebrating 25 Years

FRANKFORT, Ky. (July 7, 2016) – Educators, students and families from across the state are celebrating the 25th anniversary of Kentucky’s Family Resource and Youth Services Centers (FRYSCs) this year.

FRYSC is housed in and administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS). There are 816 centers in 1,181 schools serving a total student population of 626,696.

FRYSCs were established as a component of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990 and help academically at-risk students succeed in school by minimizing or eliminating noncognitive barriers to learning.

CHFS Secretary Vickie Yates Brown Glisson thanked and congratulated past and present FRYSCs coordinators and administrators.

“For 25 years, FRYSCs staff has made a tremendous contribution to Kentucky’s children to ensure their academic success and well-being,” she said. “Through the intervention and assistance of FRYSC staff, hundreds of children and their families have found help with social, financial and health issues. FRYSCs are a vital link in the home, community and school connection to improve the welfare of our children.”

Each FRYSC is unique to the needs of its school and community. The centers promote literacy and math skills, help students and their families with clothing and shelter, broker social services such as health care and family counseling, and organize anti-bullying and dropout prevention programs.

Melissa Goins, director of the CHFS Division of FRYSCs, said that center coordinators are agents of change.

“Through their dedication and resourcefulness, FRYSCs coordinators have helped to not only improve students’ classroom performance, they also have helped children strengthen their peer and family relationships through their assistance,” she said. “Parents and teachers relay so much positive feedback for their school centers. This is a program with proven, grassroots success.”

Kentucky Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt said FRYSCs are a vital partner in education.

“Our students come to schools across the Commonwealth from a variety of backgrounds and circumstances beyond their control,” Pruitt said. “For the past quarter century, Family Resource and Youth Services Centers have helped to level the playing field for our students by providing the supports they need to help remove many of the barriers to learning that these students face daily.”

Summer is a good opportunity for FRYSCs staff to get professional development, Goins said.

On July 18-20, FRYSCs is hosting its annual Victory over Violence conference for FRYSCs coordinators, educators, advocates and other child welfare stakeholders. Workshop topics will include helping children from families of substance abuse, bullying prevention and involving families more in students’ success.

“This conference – and all training we provide – is meant to give FRYSCs coordinators better access to the resources that can help minimize the service gaps in their communities,” she said. “Each center is unique, and our coordinators are fortunate to have so many partners help them achieve their goal to improve students’ well-being.”

Learn more about FRYSCs online at <http://chfs.ky.gov/dfrcvs/frysc/>.

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The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state’s human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services, the Department for Public Health, and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.