



FamilyVillage

Helping Delaware County Families Thrive

A Delaware County
family supported
through Family Village



It takes a village to raise a child, and Family Village is a nurturing community for thousands of Delaware County families each year.

Imagine a healthier and more prosperous future for Delaware County. The first few years of a child's life provide a lifelong foundation for educational achievement, economic success, and responsible citizenship. These years are also key to a person's lifelong mental and physical health.

Delaware County's rich history, suburban charm, strong schools, and scenic parks mask the challenges many families face in providing a strong foundation for young children. According to the 2024 US Census, nearly 48,000 Delaware County children (four out of ten) live in families who struggle to meet their basic needs. Seventeen percent of our families report being food insecure. Even more troubling, the infant mortality rate in Delaware County has risen in recent years to 7.2 deaths per 1,000 births, with Black, non-Hispanic women more than twice as likely to experience a fetal or infant death compared to white women. In fact, the city of Chester has the highest infant mortality rate in the Commonwealth, nearly four times the national average.

Hope starts with Family Village

Fortunately, for more than 8,000 people a year, Family Village is here with supportive programs to help pregnant women, new moms and dads, infants, and families attain that critical strong start in the home and in the community. With philanthropic support, we can reach even more.

"I came to this country three years ago and I had questions about the insurance process. They explained everything and helped me. My doula was attentive during my pregnancy and connected me with other services including the lactation program and the parents' café. I'm grateful for all these experiences and for all the help."

FAMILY VILLAGE PARTICIPANT

A MEASURE OF PROTECTION

Engaging with Family Village protects children from the impact of poverty, which can last a lifetime. With a multidisciplinary team of more than 65, Family Village takes a holistic approach to supporting new and expecting mothers and families of young children with an array of programs that address health, well-being, and the social determinants of health. From home-visiting programs with nurses, case managers, and doulas, to programs delivering housing support, legal aid, and mental health services, Family Village offers caring, experienced professionals dedicated to removing the barriers to well-being.

Operating under the auspices of The Foundation for Delaware County, WIC clinics in three locations provide access to healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding support. Family Village is the natural evolution of the work that the Foundation has done for 30 years to develop and manage public health programs and deliver high-quality services.

And while the Family Village connection starts with mothers and babies, it grows to include fathers and partners, grandparents, and other caregivers essential to successful outcomes. Family Village programs involve everyone in the family.



“Family Village is based on the understanding that it takes a village—a community of support—to successfully raise a child, and we have the expertise and commitment to be that village for our families.”

**JOANNE CRAIG, MS
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER**

Joanne Craig, Chief Impact Officer, supports Family Village families at a diaper drive.



Just some of the Family Village staff

EXPERIENCED STAFF AND STRONG COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

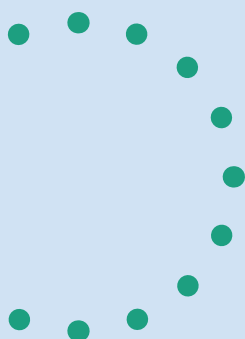
We grow strong from within. All Family Village staff are engaged in ongoing training, and more than 75% are certified in their disciplines. But that's not the only reason they're effective at providing support. Family Village has a tradition of hiring staff from the communities we serve—including past program participants.

In a multi-cultural county where residents speak dozens of languages, Family Village prioritizes people with lived expertise in all of its activities. As an example, community residents participate in the Chester Consortium and Delaware County Rental Housing Coalition, cross-sector collaboratives focused on strengthening health and housing outcomes for families.

Family Village's success emerges from enduring relationships with community partners and healthcare providers. Family Village becomes a trusted resource—for months, for years, and as needs arise related to housing, mental health, social services, and more.

“We don’t look at our work as just a job. The same way that we support our clients, we support each other.”

**FAMILY VILLAGE
STAFF MEMBER**

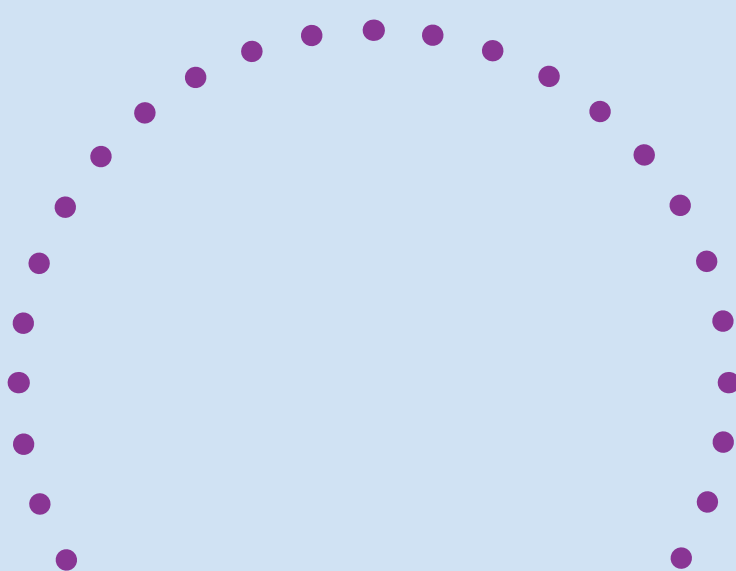


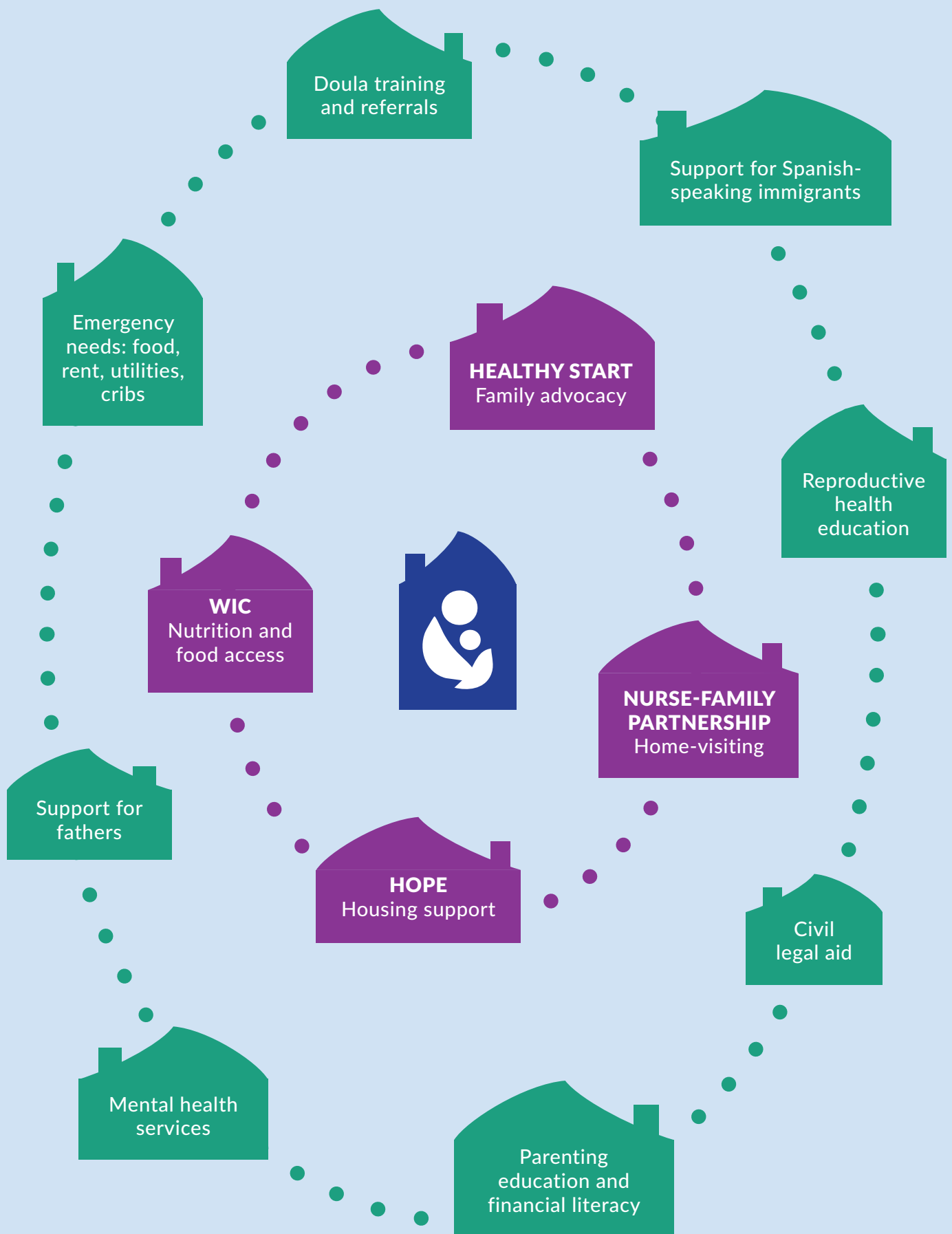
THE FAMILY VILLAGE COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Expectant and new mothers connect to Family Village through referrals from healthcare and insurance providers and word-of-mouth. They benefit from visiting nurses, case managers, and WIC nutritionists who coordinate services to meet their individual needs. An additional constellation of programs connect the family to housing, medical, and legal resources, mental health counseling, parenting and fatherhood classes, translation services, and other support.

“When I had my first child, I did not have a support system. With Family Village, somebody really had my back. I had a therapist to help me deal with my postpartum. I didn’t have to stress as much. I needed a pack and play. I went to my caseworker and she helped me. My doula helped me. It was hard at first to ask for help. But now I’m realizing when I need help, I have the support. I don’t have to feel like I’m alone or begging.”

FAMILY VILLAGE PARTICIPANT





PHILANTHROPY HELPS YOUNG FAMILIES SUCCEED

Family Village is key to helping all people in Delaware County prosper and thrive, and philanthropy enables us to carry out our crucial mission every day, especially at times when funding is uncertain.

At Family Village, philanthropy:

- **Sets the stage for a healthy family life while meeting emergency needs.** While visiting nurses, case managers, and WIC nutritionists are providing infant education and support to new parents, donor funds help meet basic needs including rent and utilities arrears, food, transportation to medical appointments, and infant supplies. Philanthropy also supports education on infant safety, breastfeeding, safe sleep, and nutrition, and it funds unmet legal needs, such as preventing eviction, securing benefits, and arranging therapy for postpartum depression.
- **Supports proactive solutions.** We work to address the social determinants of health and advocate for policy and systems changes at all levels of government that help families thrive. Family Village representatives participate in committees and coalitions that advocate for affordable rental housing, secure funding for doulas, support lactation in the workplace, engage fathers in the system of care, and prevent maternal deaths, to name a few.
- **Helps realize the dream of a central community hub, integrating services under one roof.** When money is tight and a parent needs to work or care for children, getting to multiple appointments on public transportation presents a significant barrier to accessing services. Our big goal is to better provide for our clients by offering a one-stop shop that integrates clinical and community services in a location convenient to public transportation. One site with multiple providers for health care, dental care, parenting classes, education, and workforce development resources, would improve access to services and be a best practice for community-centered design.

“A lot of the little things that participants need are not really supported by our grant funds. They’re supported by our donors.”

FAMILY VILLAGE STAFF MEMBER



A Family Village nurse meets a new baby

A POWERFUL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Many of the clients we see are from families whose basic needs are not being met. They live in poverty and lack access to food, healthcare, and transportation, and they face risks to their personal safety. Family Village's holistic approach to addressing these needs is a critical intervention at a pivotal time of life—one that puts families on a solid footing from where they can pursue an education, gain employment and become fiscally responsible. The return on investment is profound:

- The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) that Family Village administers is a cost effective way to prevent pre-term births. Every \$1 invested saves an average of \$2.48 in medical, educational, and productivity costs over the lifetime of the newborn.
- Emergency shelters and transitional housing cost nearly 10 times more than supportive services, and demand far exceeds available beds. Family Village's HOPE program, which provides financial literacy, tenant education, (civil) legal aid, utility and rental arrears costs \$3,500 per client while the average cost for a shelter bed is \$32,000.
- **The federal government saves \$26 billion annually through home visiting programs such as our Healthy Start and Nurse-Family Partnership programs, which focus on reducing pre-term births, neonatal intensive care unit stays, and specialty care costs.**

As a proactive force for health and family life, Family Village is one of the most important investments you can make in the future of Delaware County. It is also one of the most compassionate. The futures of every mother, every baby, and every family are important, and there's no time to lose. **Thank you for helping ensure that no one in Delaware County raises a child alone, or without the resources the county's youngest children need to thrive. Thank you for being part of the Family Village.**

Thank you for being a valued partner in bringing hope to Delaware County families. **Together, we are building a healthier, more prosperous future for all.**





Family Village is a program of The Foundation for Delaware County.

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