

Our Commitment to Our Families



Intensive involvement with families is the hallmark of SCO Family of Services' Permanency Plus Program. We have found that both emo-

tional and financial supports comprise many of the interventions that help us more wholly engage families. Additionally, the use of parent advocates — individuals who come from communities we serve and understand the issues our families are facing — has been especially critical in forging more trusting, productive relationships with families of children in foster care.

We have received compliments in numerous New York City courts on our service delivery and on our dedication to our families. Judges have requested literature on our programs. We share best practices with other community-based organizations. However, we believe the best way to measure the success of our programs is to listen to the families we work with every day:

“SCO helped our family solve problems that we couldn't solve on our own.”

“I've never felt such a great sense of support...for once, I felt that I could do this. And I did, with your help.”

Contact Us Foster Care & Adoption Services Office Locations

Brooklyn

570 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217
718.935.9466

Queens

Dominica Center
161-06 89th Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432
718.725.0410

Long Island

3rd Avenue & 8th Street
Brentwood, NY 11717
631.273.2773

Executive Offices

1 Alexander Place
Glen Cove, NY 11542
516.676.5332 or 718.895.8670

www.sco.org

SCO  Family of Services
Caring for People • Committed to Family • Connected to Community

Permanency Plus

Reuniting Families
and Keeping Them Strong



A Program of

SCO  Family of Services

About the Program

Permanency Plus provides ongoing, intensive services to families who are in the process of reuniting with their children who have been in foster care. These enhanced services enable both more timely and more stable reunifications than otherwise would occur. The program also allows us to provide ongoing support for families up to six months after final discharge. When necessary, we refer families to ongoing preventive services.

SCO Family of Services' foster care team refers families to Permanency Plus. Criteria for acceptance are that children must be on trial discharge to their parents or discharge resource or to have a plan for trial discharge within three months.

We Take a Three-Step Approach

Permanency Plus offers a caring continuum of concrete services and effective case management for the families we serve:

1. We identify critical barriers to reunification and adoption;
2. We provide targeted, expedited and tangible services to remove those barriers;
3. We provide added community-based casework services to assist and strengthen families as they transition into – and through – trial and final discharge/adoption of their children from foster care.

Helping Families Succeed

SCO Family of Services provides compassionate, professional and individualized support to each family in our care. Our direct services include:

- Comprehensive case management
- Support groups including Parent Support Groups
- Guidance in helping families establish a support network
- Youth development services

Community Linkages

We also provide referrals to other community-based services so that families can access in-kind services and critical family supports such as:

- Psychotherapy
- Substance abuse rehabilitation
- Employment
- Education and vocational training
- Child care
- Homemaking
- Housing support
- Financial support
- Preventive services

SCO Family of Services implemented Permanency Plus in September 2005, and we currently operate two main sites: one in Brooklyn and one in Queens. Each site has a team of caseworkers, parent advocates, an expediter and a court liaison. The Permanency Plus program director oversees both sites.

Our Permanency Plus Team

Six Caseworkers – Facilitate parent support groups and make additional required casework contacts with families to expedite discharges and provide aftercare casework services.

Eight Advocates – Provide individualized, family-focused casework services to families in the three months immediately preceding trial discharge, during trial discharge, and for three months after final discharge.

A Teen & Family Systems Therapist – Works specifically with adolescents in foster care and their families.

A Housing Specialist – Helps ensure our families have safe, stable and affordable housing options. Half of the housing specialist's time is dedicated to families and youth where housing is the only or primary barrier to reunification.

Two Court Liaisons – Attend family court hearings and present Permanency Plus position and family progress reports when necessary. The court liaison interacts with foster care and Permanency Plus staff to ensure timely and prompt responses to the court.

Two Adoption Expeditors – Work with freed children to expedite their finalization processes and assist pre-adoptive and post-adoptive parents with identifying post-adoptive services.