

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.



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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.

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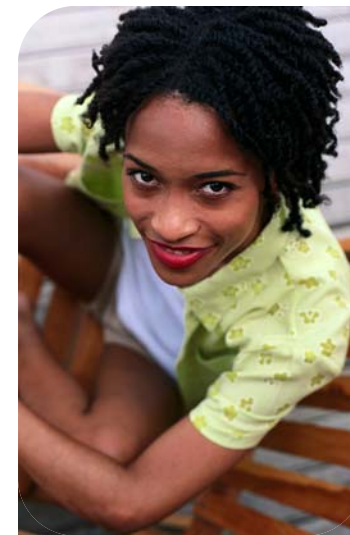
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Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)



Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) is an evidence based mental health treatment program that specifically focuses on working with youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who are on probation.





SHIELDS Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program is an evidence-based mental health model that targets probation referred youth (ages 12-17) and their families. While most treatment programs focus on working with the individual, Multi-Systemic Therapy strives to involve all the key people and/or systems in the youth's life. Services including **family therapy, case management and assistance with navigating through the juvenile justice system, and educational advocacy** provided in the home, at school and in the community, so that the therapist is familiar with the youth's ecology. The focus is to target each factor in a systematic approach such that change can occur across systems with the goal of youth enrolled displaying increased pro-social behavior.

The MST program was developed in South Carolina and is currently in use throughout the United States. SHIELDS MST is an evidence-based program, for which the success rate has been documented in clinical studies. The SHIELDS MST therapist works with a limited number of families at any given time, so that intense services can be provided. The SHIELDS MST therapist works to create support networks for the youth, bridge gaps between systems and the youth/family and to empower parental/authority figures involved in the youth's life. The services we provide include **family therapy, case management, and assistance with navigating the juvenile justice system**. When necessary, educational advocacy is also available.

Enrollment within SHIELDS MST is limited; most clients remain in the program from two to five

months.

Youth are referred to the program by the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer responsible for the defined schools and housing developments. In addition, youth who reside in probation suitable placements (group homes) may be referred at the recommendation of the probation residential placement officer. SHIELDS MST services are primarily funded by the Department of Mental Health EPSDT program and the Department of Probation Schiff Cardenas Funding. Fee for services may be required under certain circumstances.



Program Highlights

- 86% of participants showed success in their educational/vocational setting.
- 97% of youth enrolled were involved in activities that promote increase social skills amongst peers and 100% showed improved relations within their family units.
- 94% of cases resulted in positive life changing sustainability which also resulted in no new arrests.

