



The **North Carolina 16th Judicial District Family Treatment Court Collaborative (FTCC)** seeks to reestablish a Family Treatment Court (FTC) in Durham County.

The FTCC consists of partnerships between the Durham County Justice Services Department (JSD), Durham County Department of Social Services (DSS), Durham County Guardian ad Litem office, Durham County Public Defender's Office, the Private Bar, Durham County Judicial Offices, and various mental health and substance use disorder treatment agencies.

FTC Quick facts:

- Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) previously funded a Family Treatment Court in Durham County from 2002 to 2012. It was eliminated due to funding cuts.
- FTC received 93 referrals between 2004 and 2011.
- Roughly one-third of exiting participants completed all required stages of the program.
- Graduation rates increased from 29% in 2005 to 36% in 2011.
- The average participant length of stay rose from nine months (2004-2005) to 12 plus months (2008-2010).
- The number of participants who remained in treatment for longer than six months increased from 35% in the program's earliest years to 86% in FY 2010-2011.

Community Need:

- Between 2020 and 2023, 41,500 North Carolinians overdosed on opioids resulting in death. In Durham County alone, 74 individuals lost their battle to substance use disorder in 2024. And 12 individuals die daily in North Carolina.
- In Durham County, and consistent with national trends, approximately 40% of child removals are linked to substance use disorder.
- According to Durham County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) data, there were 146 reports of families involved with the child welfare process based upon parents/caregivers suffering from substance use disorder between July 2022 and June 2025.
- As of December 2025, the DCo DSS, Child and Family Services Division reported working with 165 families and 263 children.
- Annually, Durham County DSS spends \$204,282 on wraparound services.

Four main components of the FTC project include:

1. Reestablish FTC including hiring full-time staff (Coordinator and Case Manager) for program implementation.
2. FTC staff engage partner agencies for referrals and evaluate potential participants for fit with eligibility criteria.
3. Eligible participants voluntarily enroll into the program.
4. Successful participants graduate after the completion of three phases of recovery (typically 9 to 12 months; limit 24 months).

Target Population: high-risk, high-need parents/caregivers involved in the child welfare system for whom substance use impacts parenting. Program success will lead to better outcomes for reunifying families.

Research demonstrates the effectiveness of Family Treatment Courts. In a 2016 report on drug courts in the United States, researchers found that:

- Parents who joined an FTC program were 25%-35% more likely to finish than those enrolled in standard recovery programs.
- Out-of-home placement time decreased by 3-6 months for children.
- Children were 15%-40% more likely to be reunited with their parents/caregivers.