

## Community Partnership for Protecting Children in Polk County

Keeping children safe is everyone's concern. Through the Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) in Polk County, you can make it your concern, too.

CPPC links vulnerable families to their community in new ways. It blends the work and experience of families, professionals, community members, public and private agencies and systems, and people like you to produce positive, healthy results:

- **Families helped before they enter "the system".**
- **Children living safely and permanently with their families.**
- **Families engaged in solution-finding.**
- **Less child abuse and neglect.**
- **Greater use of tailor-made approaches to solving problems.**
- **Fewer disparities in services, supports, and results among racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic groups.**
- **New policies and practices that more-effectively address the needs of families needing help.**
- **A stronger, better-connected community prepared to support its families.**

### CPPC believes...

- There is no substitute for strong families to ensure that children and youth grow up to be capable adults.
- Each family is unique and special and deserves high-quality services.
- Families know themselves better than anyone and can offer creative solutions to the situations they face if given a chance.
- Children can best be kept safe when families, friends, and organizations work together as partners to surround families with the support they need.



## How It Works

CPPC is a collaborative effort. We help families in need by tapping the collective power of individuals, families, neighborhoods, organizations and agencies within the greater Des Moines community to help families in need. By working with families as equal partners, services become more inviting, accessible, relevant, and effective.

While available to anyone in Polk County, CPPC focuses its efforts to help families living in close-in neighborhoods north of downtown east and west of the Des Moines River.

### CPPC MISSION

1. To keep children safe.
2. To address the issue of disproportionality, improving the well-being of minority children.

### What People are Saying about CPPC and Family Team Meetings

*"The children have a voice in the process. Needs can be discussed without being mean-spirited. We can all work together toward each child's welfare and safety and be very supportive of the family."*

*"This brings family members together to work toward common goals."*

*"This is a strength-based approach. Everyone works together to come up with solutions. They can state their opinions and feel comfortable about doing so."*

*"Avenues of success can be found by the family, not the providers. Families feel empowered and comfortable enough to be open."*