Two nonprofit organizations, Mississippi Community Education Center and the Family Resource Center of Northeast Mississippi, collaborate to jointly administer Families First Centers across the state to strengthen families of all backgrounds and life circumstances.

At a Glance

- Type of Members: Community-based
- Membership Dues: No
- Target Population: Families First’s target population includes individuals referred based on priorities of family stability, educational attainment, at-risk based on various factors, or referrals from agencies with priority.
- Network Structure: Independent Nonprofit Organization
- Impetus for Network Creation: Started by Programs coming together

Service Areas

- Basic Needs Support
- Child Development Activities
- Child Abuse/Neglect Treatment Services
- Community Development Activities
- Domestic Violence Treatment Services
- Family Economics and Self Sufficiency
- Family Health and Wellness
- Family Literacy and Education Supports
- Formal Service Coordination
- Life Skills Development
- Parent Education
- Parent Leadership Development
- Peer-to-Peer Supports
- Resource and Referral
- Senior Services
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Youth Development
- High School Online Diploma Program
Mississippi

Highlights

• The Mississippi Department of Human Services is deepening its collaboration with Families First as part of its gen+ Initiative.
• Families First has added 6 new Resource Centers across the state to increase availability of services.
• Families First has added a High School Diploma program to support diploma achievement and increase employment opportunities.
• Families First has facilitated partnerships with Community Colleges and Junior Colleges for straight-line referrals for work-ready credentials, job-ready certificates, and 2-year degrees.

Outcomes

The work of the Families First Centers has:
• Decreased High School dropout rate
• Decreased Teen Pregnancy Rate
• Increased the number of job-ready individuals