

## Is Intercept right for my family?

Intercept intensive in-home services may be right for your family if your child:

- Is 0-17 years old
- Must be active with DCFS

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who will meet with me?**

A: A Start Corporation employee, called a family intervention specialist, will be assigned to your family to help your family solve problems.

**Q: How often will we meet?**

A: Three times per week on average, at times that are good for you. They are on call 24/7 to provide support when needed. Intercept typically lasts four to six months.

**Q: Where do I meet my specialist?**

A: Intercept is an intensive in-home and community-based program. Your specialist will meet at times that are good for you, most often in your home but also at school or work.

**Q: Is there any cost to me?**

A: No. Intercept is free to families.

**Q: Do I (the guardian) need to be present in the home during the session?**

A: Yes, the participation of all family and other involved individuals is encouraged. Intercept allows your family to work together to successfully meet your goals, in order to keep your child safely in your home.

**Q: How exactly will Intercept help my family?**

A: Intercept is designed to address just what you need to help your child. Your family will be involved every step of the way.



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*A program of Youth Villages*

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AN INTENSIVE IN-HOME  
SERVICES PROGRAM  
OFFERED BY START CORP

## It begins with a family that needs help

Start Corporation works together with families to help children who have emotional or behavioral problems get the support they need to do well at home and at school.

The Intercept® program specializes in:

- Helping children overcome challenges and live safely and successfully with their families at home.
- Working with families so that children can come home successfully from foster care, hospitals or residential centers when those have been necessary.
- Providing 24/7 support for families in a crisis or emergency and individualized treatment to meet each child and family's specific needs.

## How does Intercept work?

Intercept intensive in-home services focuses on proven ways to help families in their homes, in schools, and in their communities. Intercept works with doctors, teachers, case workers and courts to manage their child's behavior themselves. Most importantly, Intercept teams support the whole family.

Intercept services include:

- Family sessions
- Mental health support for caregivers
- Parenting skills training
- Help with schools and the youth's friends
- Assistance with community resources
- 24/7 support in an emergency or crisis

Intercept's approach promotes long-term success for children and their families.

## KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Intercept is evidence-based, comprehensive in-home services that help children overcome challenges while supporting the entire family. Specialists work intensively with the child and family to prevent or reduce the need for out-of-home placements. Intercept includes coordination with schools, interaction in the neighborhood with children's peers and 24-hour, in-person crisis support to families.



## Eligibility Criteria

- Active DCFS involvement
- At least one caregiver is willing to meet with the Intercept Specialist within 24 hours of the referral.
- The family is available to participate in an intensive, 4-6 month intervention with an average of 3 sessions per week.
- Less intensive services would not sufficiently reduce the safety risks.
- If a child is referred for reunification, the child will be returned to the family within 60 days of the start of services.

## Exclusionary Criteria

- Gang involvement resulting in violent behavior: youth unwilling to detach from gang or gang involvement or be significant enough that the youth is unable to detach from the peers (consider gang association related to neighborhood, peers, and persons within youth's family)
- Problem sexual behavior present in youth 13 years and older who has not completed a problem sexual behavior treatment program. Youth currently enrolled in treatment may be considered after review of sexual risk assessment and unique individual and family dynamics by the LPE and Clinical Manager. In such approved cases, enrollment in Intercept services is contingent on ongoing problem sexual behavior treatment
- Current homicidal ideation/threats/attempt (with intent/plan) and caregiver unable to restrict access to lethal means
- Current suicidal ideation/behavior (with intent/plan) and caregiver unable to restrict access to lethal means
- Youth who has a history of 1 or more violent and/or threatening incidents towards another person in the past year with the use of a firearm and/or weapon.

Please complete referral form  
and send it to:  
[houmareferrals@startcorp.org](mailto:houmareferrals@startcorp.org)  
to make a referral