The Response Advocate program employs case managers, working side-by-side with local law enforcement, to assist families identified as at-risk for child maltreatment. A Response Advocate visits a family’s home when there has been involvement with law enforcement. Families receive home visiting, goal setting assistance, and referrals to other community resources, including courses on preventing child abuse and neglect, basic child development, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

“Sometimes…we think we know what the families need and want, but every family is different and individual, and you have to approach it differently each time.”

- Ann Elliott, Executive Director, Family Resource Center
**CHALLENGES**

- The median household income in Crawford County is $39,521. This is $15,307 less than the Kansas statewide average income. ¹
- In Crawford County, 23% of children live below the poverty line, compared with 14% statewide. ¹
- Drug violations and overall calls for police intervention have increased in Pittsburgh. This decreases the time and follow-up officers can provide to families and increases the need for the Response Advocates.
- Crawford County has higher rates of infant mortality and lower rates of prenatal care than the overall rates in Kansas. ¹

**SOLUTIONS**

- Partner with law enforcement to identify families in crisis and provide the support they need to maintain custody of their children.
- Provide home visiting and case management.
- Educate police officers on best practices in supporting families in crisis.

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**COLLABORATION**

- Received the Outstanding Service Award from the Pittsburg Police Department for their work with children and families, and worked closely with them to discuss strategy, raise funds, and ensure the program continues to meet the needs of the community.
- Partnered with other community agencies to hold a Safe Sleep event, a community car seat event, and a community baby shower.
- Referred families as needed to Early Head Start, Crawford County Mental Health, local substance abuse providers, and the health department.

**SPECIAL POPULATION OUTREACH**

- Served on several homeless advisory boards and coordinated with a day shelter and rapid re-housing program to ensure outreach to homeless populations.
- Collaborated with CLASS, Mosaic, New Hope, and the Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) of Southeast Kansas to reach populations with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.
- Worked closely with victim advocates at the local domestic violence shelter to reach and serve families affected by domestic violence.

**EVIDENCE BASE**

Well Supported: Response Advocate uses Strengthening Families, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration model program that is rated as ‘effective’ by the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Model Programs Guide.
OUTCOMES
The number of families who scored a three or above increased between pre- and post-test on the following subscales of the PFS-2 (n = 69):
• Family Functioning/Resilience by 51%*
• Social Supports by 64%*
• Caregiver/Practitioner Relationship by 21%*
• Nurturing and Attachment by 16%*

*Results significant at the (p < .01) level

TOTAL FUNDING: $135,476

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<thead>
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<th>Source</th>
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<td>CBCAP</td>
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ECBG $20,005

“If you work in the field, you know what’s available, but as a parent you really don’t. And there are a lot of hoops to jump through.”

- Ann Elliott, Executive Director, Family Resource Center