

The History of Family Service Rochester

Family Service Rochester was founded in 1965 as a nonprofit organization with a staff of three and the mission to support and enhance the dignity and quality of life for individuals and families in our community.

In 1990, Sunrise Youth and Family Counseling and the Rochester branch of Minnesota's Consumer Credit Counseling Service joined with Family Counseling and Home Service to form Family Service Rochester. This created three agency divisions providing a wide range of social services: Counseling, Consumer Credit Counseling Services and the Home Services Division. In 2002, Family Service Rochester launched the Family Access Center to provide services in an additional area of need.

Due to the emergence of numerous credit counseling services, operating costs and competition challenged the Consumer Credit Counseling division of Family Service Rochester. In 2003, Family Service Rochester transferred the Consumer Credit Counseling division to Family Means of Stillwater, Minnesota. This nonprofit organization operates a much larger Consumer Credit Counseling service and provided a means for our community to maintain this service.

For the past 15 years, FSR has sharpened our focus to working with families whom the community had not provided service. Major program expansions have been in the areas of child maltreatment, child welfare, domestic violence and providing our services to ethnically diverse populations in our community.

Today the agency provides more than 30 programs, across 12 different counties, to meet ever-changing community needs. Our staff of over 150 along with 800+ volunteers provides a wide range of human services that educate, strengthen, support, protect, and empower individuals and families in our community.