Eligibility Requirements
All referrals for Families First are made by Brown County Human Services. Specific services are provided based upon the results of each family’s assessment.

To qualify for in-home services, families must meet one of the following criteria:

- Be actively involved, or previously involved, with Child Protective Services of Brown County
- Be currently at risk of community intervention

Contact Information
For more information about the Families First program, call:
- Erin Helman or Melinda Luque, Case Managers, (920) 448-6121
- Meika Burnikel, Program Director, (920) 436-4360 ext. 1267

Agency Accreditations
- State of Wisconsin AODA Outpatient and Mental Health Outpatient
- Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children
- State of Wisconsin Certified for Residential, Day Treatment, and Crisis Intervention
Community Involvement
Families First believes that community involvement plays a key role in strengthening and preventing the separation of children and families.

Through community collaboration, Families First is able to:
- Enhance community awareness
- Assist in distribution of information regarding community resources in our area
- Support and participate in neighborhood outreach activities
- Continue to build and develop coalitions to offer parenting education and support

Service Fees
There are no service fees for participants, funding is provided through the Brown County Department of Human Services. All services are provided free to referred families.

What is Families First?
The Families First program works with the Brown County Department of Human Services to offer prevention and intervention services to families in need throughout Brown County, with a primary goal of reuniting and preserving families.

Families First diligently pursues permanence for children by working to maintain families through comprehensive support services. The program provides family assessments, referrals for community-based services, and in-home parenting support, as needed.

- **Assessments** assist families in identifying family stressors and current needs in order to reunite and/or maintain a successful, intact family.

Program Vision: It is our vision to be the vehicle that promotes family strength and stability, enhance parental functioning, and protect children through preservation services and community-based family support.

Program Mission: Families First will actively seek out and filter prospect referrals through community collaborative efforts. We will provide assessment, in-home as well as community based support via intense direct service coordination and community education.

- **Community referrals** are made when a family's needs can be met by offering information and resources to other support services within the community.
- **In-home support** is provided when the level of assistance required cannot be met by community referrals alone. Our in-home support services utilize the wrap-around philosophy, incorporating each family's unique strengths and values to provide the best service possible.

  Families First staff, along with the family and community agency members, will work together to develop a team of support for the family.

  - The family will define their individual and family strengths
  - The team will assist the family, using the strengths stated, to set goals focused on achieving a more stable, intact home
  - The intensity of in-home services will be determined through team conclusions and may be offered as often as daily or as little as once per month