

# FAMILY ADVOCACY MINISTRY



What does FAM stand for? **Family Advocacy Ministry.**

## What is a Family Advocacy Ministry?

- All FAMs are owned and operated by the church, led by a team of Advocates (passionate lay people or church staff with a passion for the cause). See “Advocate Handout” for more on the role of an Advocate.
- Advocates are equipped by FAM Specialists (trusted partner organizations) who provide resources, ministry software, and ongoing guidance.
- Every FAM provides a minimum of one critical service that aims to either
  - **Prevent** children and families from child welfare interaction.
  - **Intervene** in the lives of children who are in foster care.
  - **Connect** children to forever homes.

## What are a church's first steps to start a FAM?

All churches interested in starting a Family Advocacy Ministry (FAM) should be directed to the FAM Project page on the Send Relief website. Church contacts have two possible first steps:

- Connect with a Send Relief - FAM Liaison.
- Navigate the Send Relief Intro to FAM course to learn how to access the support of a FAM Specialist.

FAM liaisons from Send Relief will be in contact with your church contact once they take either of the steps listed above. These liaisons will guide them into two critical action steps the church must take to receive the support, software, and resources of a FAM Specialist.

## How can a church gain the software, support, and resources of a FAM Specialist?

All churches must perform two critical action steps to receive support of a FAM Specialist. Both actions can be accomplished through the *Intro to FAM* course:

- Garner pastoral support to start a FAM in the church.
- Identify and train Advocates to lead the FAM.

## What does it cost a church to start a FAM?

Because FAMs, by nature, are ministries owned and operated by the church, there is bound to be some expense accrued by the church for programs and services offered.

FAM Specialists invest a considerable amount of time, energy, and resources into churches equipped to form FAMs, yet a church's giving capabilities never determine the level of support a church will receive. Nonetheless, giving toward these trusted organizations is encouraged for the churches receiving their support.

Additionally, some programs the church may choose to offer through the FAM (like wrap-around support) may require specialized training for Advocates. This additional training comes at a small cost.

## What does a FAM Specialist provide to churches who have gotten pastoral support and Advocates trained?

- **Ministry Software** aimed to ease the administrative burden of ministry leaders.
- **Tutorials and Resources** that give churches step-by-step guidance to perform various programs and services.
- **Consultation and Guidance** to Advocates on an ongoing basis to ensure leaders are encouraged, supported, and well-equipped to carry out their ministry effectively.

## What kind of services and programs can a church be equipped to perform through FAM?

All FAMs are equipped with guidance and resources on how to create and lead effective ministries. Additionally, churches can select one or several of the following activities to perform in their church [refer to FAM Activity handout provided].