

## Population of Focus

Pernet is within the Green Island neighborhood of Worcester. The organization works closely with residents of this neighborhood.

	Worcester Overall	Green Island
Population density (per sq. mile)	4,860	6,979
Median household income (2013)	\$45,011	\$24,568
% of family households	47.7%	50.6%
% below the poverty level	25.7%	44.8%
% of poor or non-English speakers	8.0%	27.2%

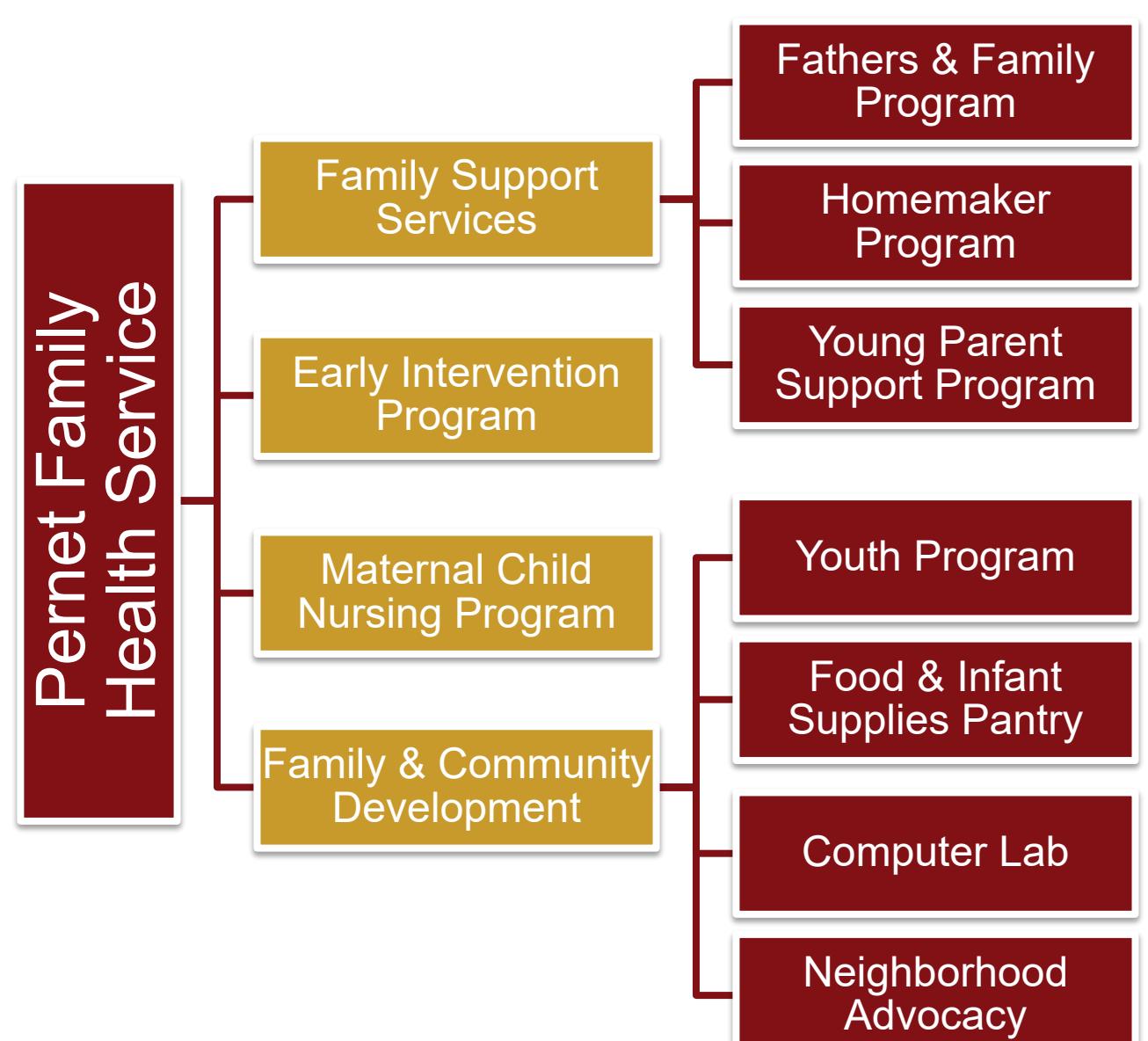
Pernet also works with families in other Worcester neighborhoods and nearby towns and with fathers in the Worcester County House of Correction.



Left: Families and children served by Pernet  
Right: Inside of the Worcester County House of Correction

## Pernet Mission & Services

Pernet Family Health Service is a non-profit home health agency working with individuals and families to provide family-centered health and social services that lead to long term strengthening and enhancement of family and community life.



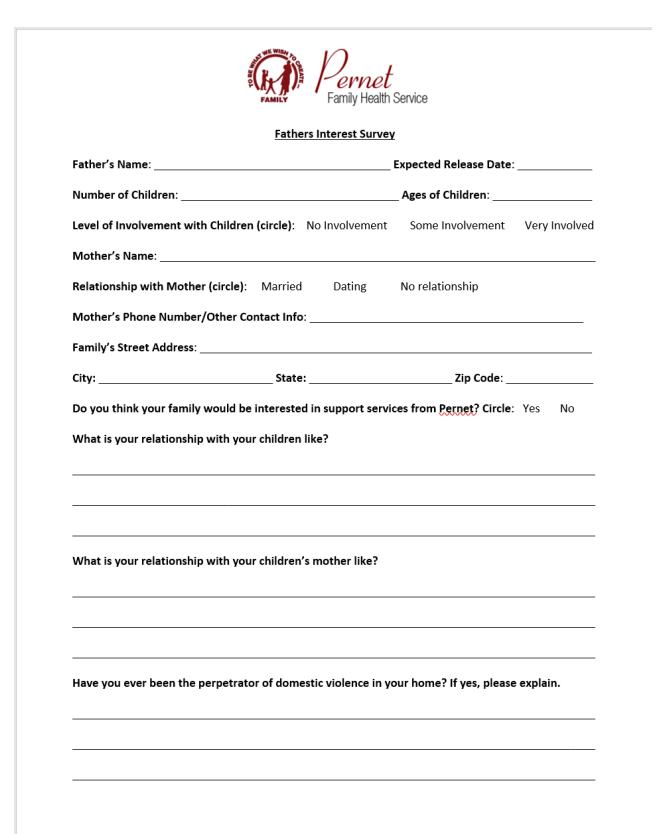
## Service Project Overview

### Needs Assessment

In order to address family stability, Pernet Family Health Service offers the Fathers & Family Program, a weekly parenting class for fathers residing in the Worcester County House of Correction. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, most men recently released from prison plan to live with their families after their release. However, there have been few efforts directed towards families of these fathers living in the greater Worcester community. With 245 male inmates released from prison in Worcester County in 2015, Pernet aspires to work with both incarcerated fathers and their families to foster positive relationships prior to and post-release.

### Program Summary and Interest Survey

In order to better serve the incarcerated population, Pernet will expand their current program for incarcerated fathers to include programming for families of the incarcerated. To assist with this project, our team has designed an initial survey to assess father and family interest in the program. The survey also includes eligibility criteria to better understand how many families with incarcerated fathers would be eligible for Pernet's services.



This is a sample of the Fathers Interest Survey. It includes fields for Father's Name, Expected Release Date, Number of Children, Age of Children, Level of Involvement with Children (circle: No Involvement, Some Involvement, Very Involved), Mother's Name, Relationship with Mother (circle: Married, Dating, No relationship), Mother's Phone Number/Other Contact Info, Family's Street Address, City, State, Zip Code, and a section for Do you think your family would be interested in support services from Pernet? Circle: Yes or No. It also asks What is your relationship with your children like? and What is your relationship with your children's mother like? followed by two sets of lines for responses.

### Program Development and Implementation

Utilizing the *Toolkit for Developing Family-Focused Jail Programs* put out by the Urban Institute, our team designed a model for rolling out a program for families of inmates at the Worcester County House of Correction.

### Identify Goals

Provide effective parenting education for incarcerated fathers  
Improve relationship between incarcerated fathers and their children  
Increase academic success and behavior of children with incarcerated fathers

### Collaborate with Stakeholders

Incarcerated Fathers Families of the Incarcerated Pernet Family Health Service Worcester County House of Correction

### Establish Program Components

Parenting class for incarcerated fathers Home visits to families to provide support and resources Visits between fathers and families

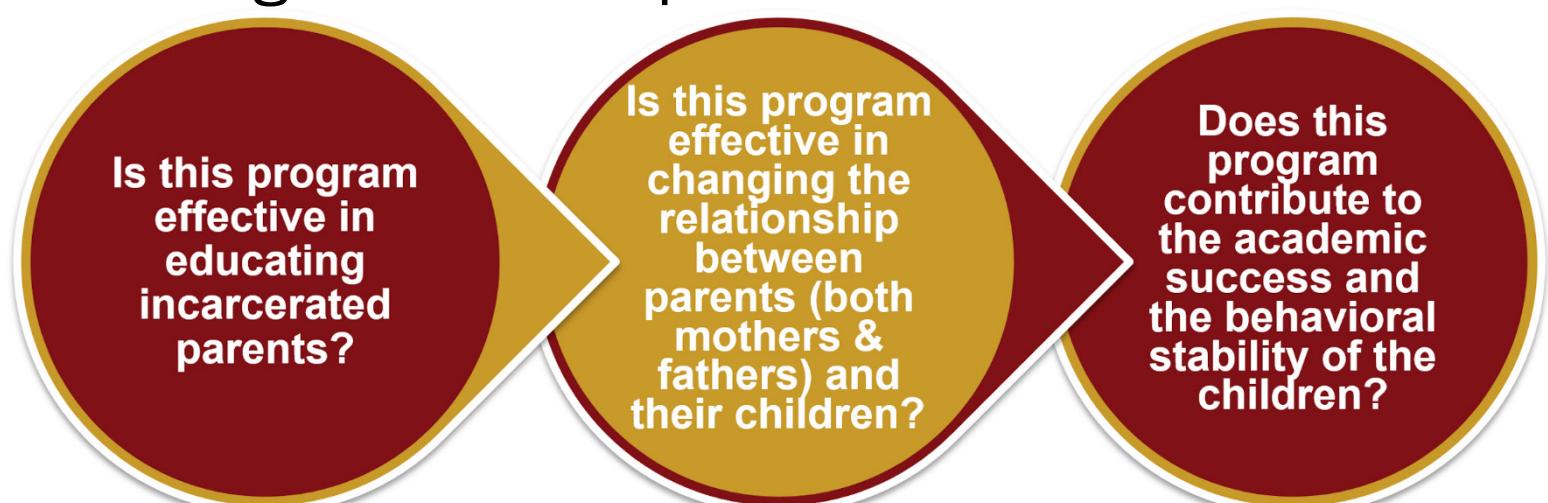
### Implement Program

Administer survey to incarcerated fathers Contact families and assess eligibility for services Set up home visits Follow up and complete program evaluation

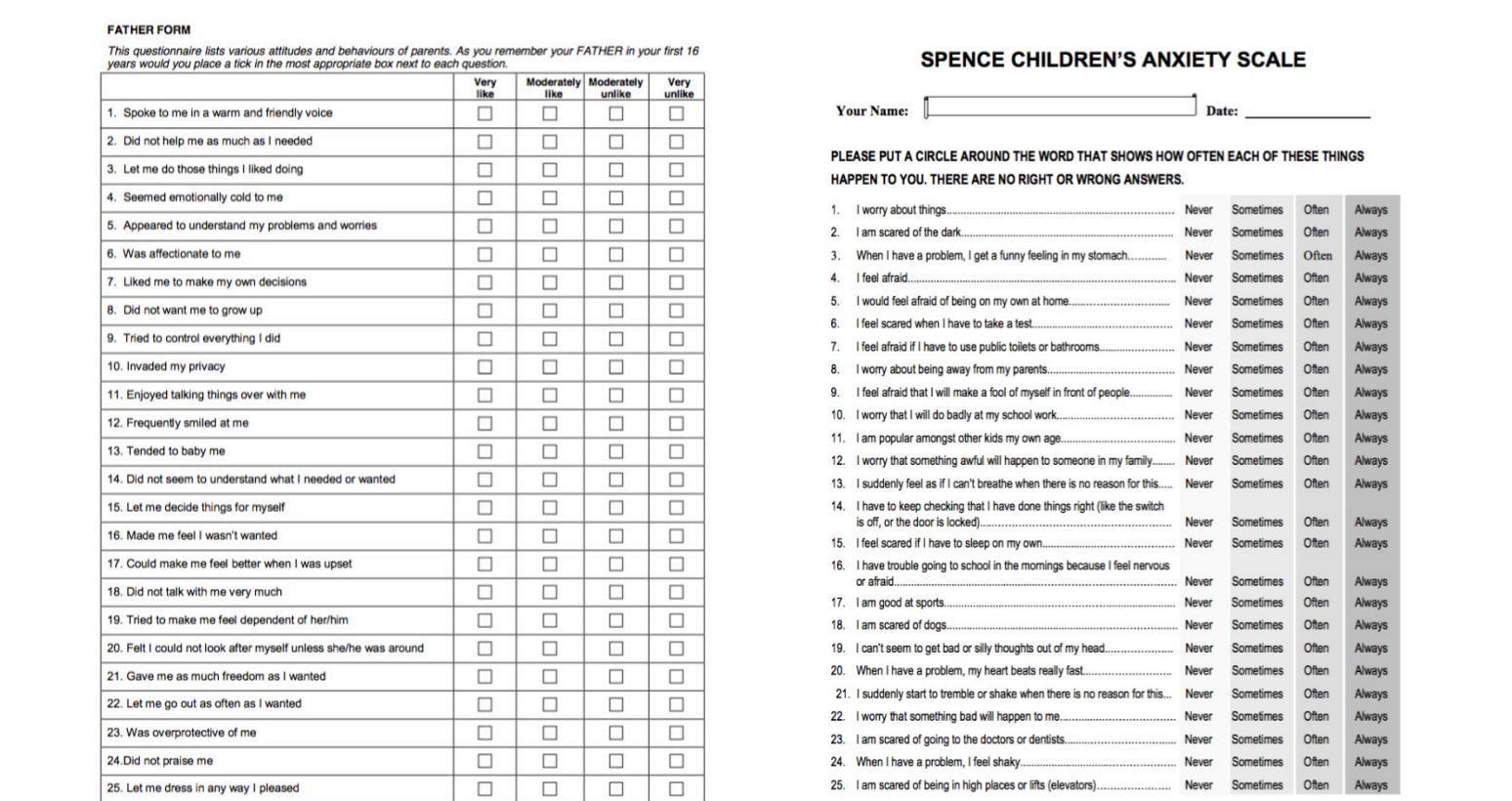
## Evaluation & Future Directions

### 3 Key Questions

To assess the successes of this family-focused program, our team came up with the following evaluation questions.



Our team has compiled a series of assessment tools for Pernet to utilize after implementing the program. These assessments include measures of parental bonding and children's anxiety levels.



This block contains two examples of assessment tools. On the left is the Parental Bonding Instrument, a 20-item questionnaire with three response options: Never, Sometimes, Often. It asks about various attitudes and behaviors of parents. On the right is the Spence Children's Anxiety Scale, a 25-item questionnaire with three response options: Never, Sometimes, Often. It asks about various symptoms of anxiety in children.

Examples of Assessment Tools: Parental Bonding Instrument (left) and Spence Children's Anxiety Scale

## Acknowledgements

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## Resources

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