Definition for Family Support

Family Support programs are defined as community-based services to promote the well-being of children and families.

Family Support programs have the following <u>characteristics</u>:
- **Family driven**, meaning there is a true partnership with families.
- **Comprehensive, flexible,** and **individualized** to each family based on their culture, needs, values and preferences.
- **Build on strengths** to increase the stability of family members and the family unit.
- Utilize **informal** and **formal** family supports.

Family Support programs produce the following <u>results</u>:
- Increased parent confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.
- Safe, stable, and supportive families who are connected to their communities.
- Enhanced health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit.

Reference Sources:
Adopted from – Family Preservation and Support Services Program Act, 1993,
Dunst, Trivette, and Thompson, 1990,
Family Support America, National Center for Family Support, and
Family Centered Services – Early ACCESS