AGENDA

- Family First Prevention Services Act (“Family First”) and Implementation Updates:
  - Overview
  - Prevention services and the clearinghouse
  - Congregate care/group care

- NEW Child Care Resources
A shift in child welfare **funding and structure**

Intent of the law is for children and youth to safely remain at home while their parents receive necessary services, rather than removing children from their homes.

To ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children and their families, and to address mental health and substance use disorder issues, the federal government is now allowing states to use money previously used only for foster care to pay for prevention services for children at imminent risk of entry into foster care.
FAMILY FIRST-CHANGING THE SYSTEM

Pre-Family First

- Incident/Child Welfare Report
- Child Welfare System Intervention and Involvement
- Foster Care

Family First

- Identification of Families at Risk
- Prevention and Treatment Services Provided
- (Hopefully) No Foster Care Placement
## FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT OF 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEFORE Family First</th>
<th>AFTER 2018 Family First</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most federal Title IV-E money designated for foster care</td>
<td>Title IV-E money: in-home parenting skills, services, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and mental health treatment, kinship navigators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services only for the child</td>
<td>Prevention services for child, parents, kinship care providers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income test</td>
<td>No income test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title IV-E funding for children placed in group homes with little oversight</td>
<td>Congregate care/residential homes must be quality, appropriate settings to qualify for Title IV-E funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No funds for children placed with parents in residential treatment</td>
<td>12 months of Title IV-E money for these placements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Casey Family Programs, 2018
PREVENTION SERVICES

Allows the use of Title IV-E funds (through reimbursement) for the following evidence-based services to prevent the placement of children and youth into the foster care system:

- Children can receive services for up to 12 months.
- Mental health and substance abuse treatment and services have to be provided by a qualified clinician.
- There is no limit on how many 12-month periods a child and family can receive prevention services.

Title IV-E funds can only be used in this capacity for 12 months for:

- Children who are “candidates for foster care”
- Pregnant or parenting foster youth
- Parents of these children and youth (both biological and adoptive parents)
- Kinship caregivers of these children and youth

Candidates for foster care: Children who can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services

No income test for eligibility

Title IV-E reimbursement for the optional prevention services begins on October 1, 2019
Eligible services must meet certain requirements:

- Must be trauma informed.
- Must be part of the child’s prevention plan.
- The service must be described as part of a state’s Title IV-E plan.
- There must be a manual outlining the components of the service.
- The service must show a clear benefit and no risk of harm to participants.
- The service must meet one of the three evidence thresholds: promising practice, supported practice, and well-supported treatment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program or Service Name and Date</th>
<th>Program or Service Rating</th>
<th>Program or Service Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model</td>
<td><img src="https://preventionervices.abtsites.com/program" alt="Does not currently meet criteria" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Updated: Jun 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Subdomains with favorable impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Impacts:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Favorable: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Effects: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unfavorable: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families Facing the Future</td>
<td><img src="https://preventionervices.abtsites.com/program" alt="Supported" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Updated: Jul 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Subdomains with favorable impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adult well-being: Parent/caregiver substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Impacts:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Favorable: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No Effects: 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unfavorable: 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Family Therapy</td>
<td><img src="https://preventionervices.abtsites.com/program" alt="Well-supported" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Updated: Jul 2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>Subdomains with favorable impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child well-being: Behavioral and emotional functioning, Child well-being: Substance use,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child well-being: Delinquent behavior, Adult well-being: Family functioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All Impacts:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Favorable: 16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://preventionervices.abtsites.com/program
The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released, “The Prevention Services Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures”

Family foster care limited to six children, with certain exceptions (specified in the bill)

Limits to congregate/residential care:

- Federal Title IV-E reimbursement for children placed for more than 2 weeks is allowed only for the following residential placements:
  - A specialized program for pregnant or parenting teens in foster care
  - A supervised independent living placement for a child age 18 or older
  - Residential care and supports for children who have been or are at risk of sex trafficking
  - A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) as described on the next slide.

*Placements already allowable and will continue.
Beginning October 1, 2019, Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP), will be reimbursed through Title IV-E. For a setting to be designated as a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP), it must meet the following qualifications:

- Utilizes a trauma-informed treatment model that includes service of clinical needs.

- Meets the treatment needs of child as determined by an independent assessment within 30 days of placement. The court must approve or disapprove the placement within 60 days and continue to demonstrate at each status review that the placement is beneficial to the youth.

- Staffed by a registered or licensed nursing staff:
  - Provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by state law.
  - Are on-site according to the treatment model.
  - Are available 24 hours a day and seven days a week.
QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS (QRTP)

- Facilitates outreach and engagement of family members in child’s treatment plan.
- Must provide discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months.
- Must be licensed by the State and accredited by at least one of the following:
  - The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
  - Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
  - Council on Accreditation

There are no time limits for how long a child may be placed in a QRTP as long as the placement continues to meet his/her needs as determined by assessment.
States are required to develop plans that provide for standards for foster family homes related to (states are NOT required to adhere to the national model standards):

- Admission policies (age, income, mental and physical health).
- Safety (background checks, home study, living space, condition of the home, home capacity, sleeping arrangements, emergency preparedness, fire safety, evacuation plans).
- Sanitation.
- Protection of civil rights, training, foster parent assurances, and permit the use of the reasonable prudent parent standard.

For Federal Updates
Margaret Wile
Senior Policy Specialist
margaret.wile@ncsl.org
202-624-8171

For State Updates and State Legislative Action
Nina Williams-Mbengue
Senior Fellow
nina.mbengue@ncsl.org
303-856-1559
NEW Child Care Resource!
LEARN MORE

**Paying for Child Care**
How to find help to pay for child care.

**Choosing Quality Child Care**
What does a quality child care program look like in your State? Start here to learn more about quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS).

**Model Relationships, Interactions and Communication**
The way adults care about you and your child helps their brains grow and be ready for school. See how this happens in child care.

**Selecting a Program**
Use these brief checklists when you visit child care programs.

https://childcare.gov/
RESOURCES

- NCSL Family First Prevention Services Act Webpage:

- NCSL Child Welfare Webpage:

- Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse:
  - https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/program

- The Prevention Services Clearinghouse Handbook of Standards and Procedures:

- National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards

- Child Care Webpage
  - https://childcare.gov/