

WELCOME TO THE CHILD WELFARE TRACK MEETING!!!

Wondering how to access WiFi?

- #APM19
- Universityofdenver



STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES:

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU'S VISION FOR CHANGING NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE

Change our work's focus to

- Preventing maltreatment
- Preventing unnecessary placements

Prioritize the importance of families

- Children must be kept in their communities and schools
- Foster parents must become resources to help support birth parents

Focus our interventions on the well-being of children and their parents

- Address both parent and child trauma
- Don't cause additional trauma through unnecessary removal

Build the capacity of communities to support their children and families

- Locally based resources and services
- Supports families need must be located where families live

Develop and support a healthy and stable child welfare workforce

- Competent, skilled, and informed
- Capable and visionary leadership



Children's Bureau's Vision for Changing National Child Welfare Practice

Family First Prevention Services Act

Family First is Part of Broader Vision for Changing National Child Welfare Practice



- ❖ focuses on strengthening families and communities
- ❖ recognizes the importance of working with children and families to prevent unnecessary foster care placements
- ❖ **focus on prevention of child maltreatment** as a primary goal, **rather than foster care placement** as our main intervention
- ❖ provides an opportunity for states to envision and advance a vastly improved way of serving children and families

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- Enacted on February 9, 2018
- Created a new optional prevention funding under title IV-E which provides title IV-E funding for certain time-limited (1-year) prevention services for mental health/substance abuse and in-home parent skill-based programs
- Revised and reauthorized title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2
- Places title IV-E payment limits on child care institutions
- Reauthorized the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Programs and extends availability of appropriated funds through FY 2021.
- Revised the definition of foster family home to limit a home to six children (with exceptions)
- Allows title IV-E foster care payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse
- Delays the Adoption Assistance Phase-In of the Applicable Child Requirements

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- Revised the regional partnership grant program to support implementation of title IV-E prevention services and to improve outcomes for families affected by heroin, opioids, and other substances.
- New funding for title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for children placed with parents in licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment
 - Allows 12 months of title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for an eligible child placed in certain licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment facilities beginning October 1, 2019. No income-based eligibility test applies.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

New Limitations on Title IV-E Foster Care Payments for Placements in a Child Care Institution (CCI):

- Title IV-E agencies may claim for only up to 14 days of title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for a child in a Child Care Institution each time a child is placed in a child care institution.
- If the Child Care Institution is one of the following settings, title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments can continue after 14 days:
 - a setting providing prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth
 - a setting providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who are or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims.
 - a supervised independent living setting
- Title IV-E agencies may claim for children placed in Qualified Residential Treatment Placements. These placements must meet detailed assessment, case planning, documentation, judicial determinations and ongoing review and permanency hearing requirements.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

Criminal Record and Registry Checks for Adults Working in Child-Care Institutions

- Amended the title IV-E plan to require procedures for fingerprint-based criminal records checks of national crime information databases, and child abuse and neglect registry checks on any adult working in a child care institution.
- Title IV-E agencies may use alternative procedures by reporting them to HHS describing why the required procedures for the checks are not appropriate for the agency.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

Electronic case processing system

- The law modified the title IV-E plan requirement for the orderly and timely interstate placement of children to require that state title IV-E agencies have a centralized electronic interstate case processing system by 10/1/2027.
- There was funding in the law for the development of the systems.
- The FOA was published in FY 2019 and the grants awarded by September 30, 2019
- The Children's Bureau is encouraged by the results of the project so far and encourages other states to join as soon as possible.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- **Preventing increases to the juvenile justice population**
 - Added a title IV-E plan requirement that title IV-E agencies must certify they will not enact policies that will significantly increase the state/tribe's juvenile justice population in response to the restrictions on title IV-E foster care payments for child care institutions.
- **Limit on number of children in a foster family home**
 - Revised the definition of foster family home to limit a home to six children.
 - Allows title IV-E agencies to make exceptions to the numeric limitation for parenting youth to remain with their child, to allow siblings to stay together, to allow a child with a meaningful relationship with a family to stay with that family, and to allow a family with special training or skills to care for a child with severe disabilities.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- **Model Licensing Standards for Foster Family Homes**
 - The law required HHS to identify national model licensing standards for foster family homes.
 - The Children's Bureau published proposed model standards in the Federal Register for a 60 day comment period on August 1, 2018.
 - We received over 1,000 comments from states, tribes, advocacy groups, private providers, private citizens, and universities.
 - HHS released the National Model Foster Family Home Licensing Standards on February 4, 2019 in [ACYF-CB-IM-19-01](#)
 - Title IV-E agencies must now provide HHS specific and detailed information about their licensing policies; if consistent with the model licensing standards and whether non-safety licensing standards are waived.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- The law reauthorized all title IV-B programs at current funding levels through FY 2021, and made changes to several Subpart 1 plan requirements and Subpart 2 service definitions:
 - Revised the definition of “family support services” to include supporting and retaining foster families so they can provide quality family-based settings for children in foster care.
 - Revised and renames “time-limited family reunification services” to “family reunification services” to allow 15 months of family reunification services for children who return home from foster care, and removes the 15-month limitation for a child in foster care to receive reunification services
- **Grants for supporting and retaining foster families:**
Authorized \$8,000,000 for competitive grants to recruit and retain high-quality foster families.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

- **Court Improvement Program:**
Requires state court grantees to train specified legal professionals on child welfare policies and title IV-E payment limitations for children in non-foster family homes.

Family First Prevention Services Act

- The law changed the name from the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood.
- The Chafee Program is now available to children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older.
- Education and training vouchers (ETV) are now available to eligible youth ages 14-26, but participation in the ETV program is limited to 5 years total.
- Permits states and tribes with extended foster care programs to provide the Chafee program up to age 23.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Children and Youth Placed in Qualified Residential Treatment Placement (QRTPs)

- ❖ QRTPs is defined in statute, and includes requirements such as:
 - Has a trauma-informed treatment model designed to address the needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders
 - Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for at least 6 months
 - Is licensed and accredited in accordance with title IV-E requirements
 - Has registered or licensed nursing staff and other staff who provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by state/tribal law, are on-site according to the treatment model, and are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week



Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plan

RESOURCES

- **TITLE IV- E PREVENTION SERVICES CLEARINGHOUSE**
<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>
- **CHILDREN'S BUREAU WEBSITE**
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/laws-policies/whats-new>
- **CHILD WELFARE CAPACITY BUILDING COLLABORATIVE**
<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/>



Family First Prevention Services Act

RESOURCES

[ACYF-CB-IM-18-02](#): Informs states and tribes of the enactment of the Family First Prevention Services Act and provides basic information on the new law.

[ACYF-CB-PI-18-06](#): Provides new information and instructions for the Annual Progress and Services Report, as a result of passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

[ACYF-CB-PI-18-07](#): Provides Instructions for: 1) changes to the title IV-E plan requirements as a result of the Family First Prevention Services Act that are effective as of January 1, 2018 and later; and 2) delayed effective dates for title IV-B/E plan requirements.

[ACYF-CB-PI-18-09](#): Provides instructions to state title IV-E agencies on the title IV-E prevention program requirements.

[ACYF-CB-PI-18-11](#): Provides instructions to title IV-E agencies on the requirements for participating in the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program, as amended by the FFPSA.

[ACYF-CB-PI-19-06](#): Provides guidance on conducting an independent systematic review to claim transitional payments for services not yet rated by the Clearinghouse.

[ACYF-CB-IM-19-04](#): Provide an Evaluation Plan Development Tip Sheet to assist with developing an evaluation plan

[The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse Handbook](#)

