

# Family First Prevention Services Act

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Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

# Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), signed into law February 9, 2018, focuses on creating new opportunities for states to receive federal reimbursements for services that aide in preventing children from entering foster care and improving the well-being of children already in the system.

# Focus of FFPSA

## Prevention

- Develop an optional Prevention plan that helps children and families who are at risk of entering foster care.
- Use existing federal resources in to an array of qualifying prevention and early intervention services.
- Expand prevention services to address disproportionate involvement in the child welfare system.

## Out-of-Home Care

- Align with national foster care model licensing standards to ensure children in foster care are safe.
- Establish reasonable pathways for relatives and non-relatives to become licensed foster parents.
- Federal funds for evidence-based kinship navigator programs.
- Electronic interstate case-processing system to expedite interstate placement of children in foster care, adoption or guardianship.

## Residential

- Enhance the quality of congregate/group care for children and safely reduce the inappropriate use of these programs.
- Ensure all group care staff complete a fingerprint-based background check before they can work in a group care facility.

## Support

- Extends to age 23 the financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate supports and services to former foster care youth.
- Adding flexibility to the Education & Training Voucher (ETV) program.



# FFPSA and Prevention

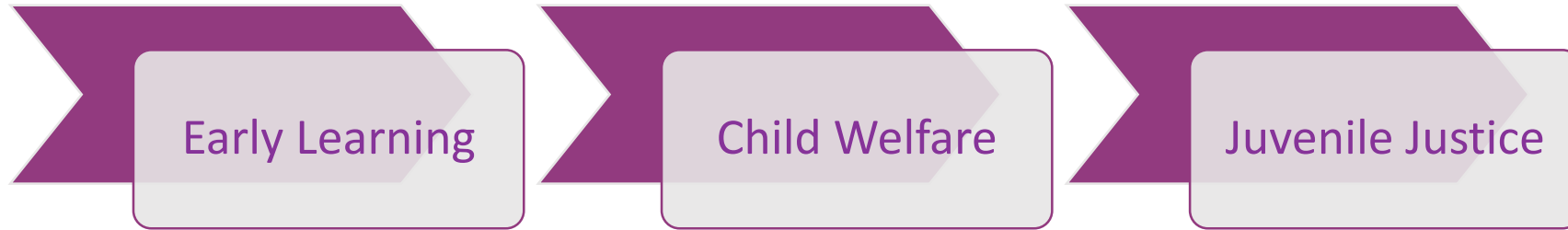
As of October 1, 2019, states have the option to use Title IV-E funds for prevention services for eligible children at risk of foster care placement and their families, based on a federally-approved Prevention Services Plan.



# Washington State Prevention Plan

- On December 20, 2019, Washington State submitted their FFPSA Prevention Plan to the Children's Bureau. The plan can be found on our [website](#).
- The plan must be approved by the Children's Bureau before we can access the Title IV-E funds. We have not yet received feedback from the federal government on our plan.

# Prevention Principles



- Prevention all along the DCYF continuum of services
- Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- Prevention services provided both voluntary and court-involved children, youth and families
- Prevention at multiple levels – individual, family and community
- Informed by the voices of children, youth and families
- Informed by data and evidence
- Prevention to address disparities and disproportionalities
- Early learning is prevention
- Endorse Children’s Bureau vision for child welfare: “Strategies to Strengthen Families”

# FFPSA Prevention Services

- **Title IV-E funding**
- **Time-limited, 12-months**
- **Evidence-Based Programs**
  - New clearinghouse – well-supported, supported, promising
  - (definitions same as California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare)
  - Allowable program types: Mental health treatment, in-home parenting, substance abuse treatment & prevention
- **Candidacy**
  - Imminent risk of entry or re-entry into foster care
  - Prevention Plan
- **Restrictions/requirements**
  - 50% prevention dollars must go to “well-supported”, all claimed must be at least “promising”
  - Training and state administration are allowable costs
  - Non-federal Maintenance of Effort requirements

# Candidacy for Prevention Services

*Candidate groups will  
be phased in for  
implementation over  
multiple years*

- CPS Family Assessment Response (FAR)
- CPS Investigation
- CPS Family Voluntary Services
- Children on trial return home following placement
- Substance Abusing Pregnant Women
- Adoption Displacement
- Family Reconciliation Services (FRS)
- State Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) discharge
- Pregnant or parenting Foster Youth
- Pregnant or parenting JR Youth
- Children with developmental disabilities and/or intensive mental health needs





# Future Candidacy Groups for consideration

- Additional families with screened out CPS referrals
- Kinship care
- Adolescents at risk of homelessness
- Statistical prediction/need for prevention in very high need communities



# FFPSA Prevention Pathway Options



A family that has identified Prevention needs has a series of ways they can receive assistance and services

## CPS Family Assessment Response (FAR)

For cases where allegations are considered to be low to moderate risk and are non-emergency, the family would be eligible for a FAR assessment versus an investigation. If in addition, the child(ren) can remain safely in the home with the safety plan, the case remains in FAR for ongoing service provisions.

DCYF is considering an FFPSA prevention pilot with some FAR units as part of the implementation for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

## CPS Family Voluntary Services (FVS)

After a CPS investigation, if the family is identified as being moderately-high or high risk (SDM) for future abuse or neglect and the child(ren) can remain safely in the home, the case is transferred to FVS.

FVS will develop a prevention plan, monitors ongoing safety, risk and progress and provides services to address the needs of the family.

This pathway is part of the initial implementation phase for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

## Additional DCYF Program

There are multiple programs within DCYF that can provide Prevention support to families. Children on trial return home following placement, Family Reconciliation Services (FRS), youth discharged from state Juvenile Rehabilitation services and potentially others.

DCYF is interested in exploring how FFPSA Prevention services can support these families in these programs.

This pathway will be part of future implementation for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

## Community

There are Washington Families that are not yet involved with Child Welfare, but may demonstrate risk factors for involvement

DCYF is interested in developing a pathway to ensure these children and families are supported in their communities.

We will look to our community partners to help in developing the best way to meet these families' needs.

This pathway will be part of the future implementation for the FFPSA Prevention Plan.



# Evidence Based Program Selection

- These practices were chosen as the initial set of EBPs based in part on contracts DCYF already has in place for prevention, as well as stakeholder and partner feedback, and federal guidance.
- Washington state intends that the list of evidence-based family services available to children and families served under this plan will be more than ten; however, the other services under consideration by DCYF have not yet been reviewed by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and to our knowledge are not currently under review.

# DCYF Proposed EBPs for Initial FFPSA Prevention Plan

	Practice	Type of Service	Title IV-E Clearinghouse Rating
1	Child-Parent Psychotherapy	parent skill based	under review
2	Homebuilders	parent skill based	under review
3	Incredible Years	parent skill based	under review
4	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	mental health	well-supported
5	Motivational Interviewing	mental health substance abuse	well-supported
6	Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	mental health substance abuse	well-supported
7	Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)	parent skill based	well-supported
8	Parents as Teachers (PAT)	parent skill based	well-supported
9	SafeCare	parent skill based	under review
10	Triple P	parent skill based	under review

# Next Round of Evidence Based Program

- States have the option to contract for 3<sup>rd</sup> party evidentiary review for EBPs that have not yet been rated by the clearinghouse.
- DCYF is contracting with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) to conduct reviews of additional practices
- Six additional practices that DCYF currently contracts for that have some evidence available for review are: Parent-Child Home, Circle of Security, ECLIPSE, Promoting First Relationships, Aggression Replacement Therapy, Parent Child Assistance Program.

# Tribal Evidence Based Practices

- DCYF has partnered with Tribes to learn what prevention practices are embraced in tribal communities.
- We are committed to moving the four prevention practices identified by tribes through the evidentiary review process to try to get them approved for FFPSA funding.
  - *Family Spirit, Positive Indian Parenting, Healing of the Canoe, Healing Circles*
- Because these practices have yet been reviewed by the Federal FFPSA Prevention Clearinghouse, DCYF will contract with a Native researcher for a review process according to federal requirements.



# Tribal Evidence Based Practices

- As suggested by the Tribal Policy Advisory Committee, we have found a research center with Native expertise to conduct the evidentiary reviews.
- Once we get these practices through the evidentiary review and federal approval process we will be able to contract with tribes to provide the practices in tribal communities, and we are committed to partner with tribal evaluators to complete the required evaluations.

# Implementation Considerations

- Technology changes required for data collection and implementation of new tools.
- Expansion of evidence based practices and field building
- Implementation of rigorous program evaluation requirements
- Alignment with agency-wide performance-based contracting standards
- How to partner with community based organizations for non-CPS candidacy groups, and still meet FFPSA requirements.
- Workload impacts – Prevention cases can remain open for up to 12-months and require additional tasks.
- Legislative support - matching WA funding.



# Next Steps

- FFPSA Prevention Implementation planning.
- Multiple workgroups will be developed to focus on developing the project plans to support implementation. These workgroups will include staff, providers, tribes, partners, and external stakeholders.
- Partnership across systems will be critical to bring this to life in Washington.

# Questions



# Additional Resources

- Learn more about FFPSA online
  - <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ffpsa>
- Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
  - <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>



# Thank you!

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