

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)



Department of
Children & Family Services
Building a Stronger Louisiana

FFPSA FOCUS

Passage of Family First Prevention Services Act is an *opportunity moment*

to build a continuum of services that is responsive to the specific needs of children, teens, and families.

Two Primary Areas of Focus

- *Prevention services* to keep children and teens safe and growing up in their homes whenever possible;
- *Limiting institutional foster care placements* unless it is for the purpose of treatment, and when that is necessary, it is evidence based and trauma informed.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION AND SERVICES ACT HAS TWO PRIMARY GOALS:

Funding to Prevent Removal

Services to prevent removal for children who are “candidates of foster care”

Services that can be claimed through Title IV-E

- In home parenting skill-based services
- Mental health services
- Substance use treatment services
- Kinship navigator services

Services must be “promising”
“supported” or “well supported”

Reduce Inappropriate Use of Group Care

States can not claim Title IV-E for children unless the placement meets a specific treatment need

Federal funding for group placement that does not meet a treatment need ends after 14 days

Residential treatment programs must meet standards to be a “Qualified Residential Treatment Program” (QRTP)

FFPSA FOCUS

- Information Memorandum: ACYF-CB-IM-18-02;
- Public Law 115-123: Enacted February 9, 2018

FFPSA amends:

- Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2 programs to reauthorize and make other revisions
- *Title IVE foster care program to create new **optional prevention funding** under Title IVE*
- *Place Title IVE **payment limits** on child care institutions*
- Reauthorize the Adoption Incentives Program
- Other Changes

TITLE IVE PREVENTION SERVICES:

- **Time- limited (12 months) foster care prevention program and services-** Provides new optional title IVE funding for time-limited (one year) prevention services for mental health/substance abuse and in-home parent skill-based programs for candidates for foster care without regard to whether the child would be eligible for Title IVE foster care, adoption, or guardianship, pregnant/parenting foster youth, and the parents/kin caregivers of those children and youth.
- States electing to provide title IV-E prevention services and programs must submit a ***Prevention Services and Programs*** five-year plan as part of the title IV-E plan (section 471(e)(5)of the Social Security Act (the Act))



FFPSA PREVENTION SERVICES IN LOUISIANA

- Implementing two evidence based programs
 - Intercept (Youth Villages Program)
 - Child First
- Pilot Areas in 2021-2022
- Expanded implementation 2023

CHILD FIRST

- In-home visiting program
 - Two-generation
 - Evidence-based
 - Mental health model
- Clinical team structure
- Holistic approach
- Decreases stressors by connecting to comprehensive community-based services and supports
- Promotes a responsive, nurturing, protective, parent-child relationship

CHILD FIRST INTERVENTION

Components

- Family engagement and stabilization
- Comprehensive assessment
- Family-driven Plan of Care
- Mental Health Consultation
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy
- Connection to community services and supports
- Building executive functioning

Team Intervention Process

- Services last 6 to 12 months (can increase to 18 months)
- In-home visits include Clinician and Care Coordinator team
 - Occur 2 times/week during the 1st month
 - Occur once per week or more after 1st month
- Team caseloads average 10-15 cases, based on complexity and geography

CHILD FIRST IN LOUISIANA

- Target population
 - Families with children age 0-6 experiencing:
 - Emotional problems
 - Behavior problems
 - Developmental delays
 - Exposure to trauma with an incident of child abuse or neglect
 - Significant risk of child abuse or neglect
 - Families experiencing challenges due to substance abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, and poverty related issues
 - Initial focus on substance involved families

CHILD FIRST GOALS/IMPLEMENTATION

Goals

- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Enhance parent and child executive capacity, allowing children to remain safely in the home
- Promote child and parent mental health
- Promote child development and learning
- Access community-based services and supports

Tentative Pilot Areas (January-June 2023)

- East Baton Rouge
- Rapides
- Caddo
- Livingston
- Orleans
- Tangipahoa
- St. Tammany
- Alternates: Lafayette, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Ouachita



INTERCEPT

- An intensive, in-home services program that includes
 - Family sessions
 - Mental health support
 - Parenting skills training
 - Help with education, as well as peers and schools
 - Assistance with accessing community resources
- Prevents out-of-home placements
- When out-of-home care is necessary, reunifies as quickly as possible
- Meets with the family 3 times a week
- Provides 24-hour crisis intervention to the family
- Services last 4-9 months
- Collaboration with other providers, schools, case managers, and community supports
- Develop individualized treatment plans

INTERCEPT

- Population Served
 - Families with youth ages 11-17 experiencing:
 - Suicidal/homicidal behaviors
 - Physical aggression
 - Sexually inappropriate
 - Fire setting behaviors
 - Runaway behaviors
 - Victim of commercial sexual exploitation
 - Substance abuse
 - Juvenile justice involvement/FINS
 - School problems
 - Parent/child conflict
 - Sibling conflict
 - Negative peer relationships
 - Pregnant/parenting
 - Other



INTERCEPT BENEFITS

- ✓ Families receive support more frequently
 - Someone in the home 3 times a week
- ✓ 24/7 crisis intervention services
- ✓ Families receive clinical interventions in their homes
- ✓ Weekly review of progress/needs and monthly reports
- ✓ Case assistance for DCFS staff in areas with high caseloads
 - Reduction in the number of home visits if family is cooperative

INTERCEPT GOALS

- ✓ Reduce youth entries into care
- ✓ Shorten the length of stay for youth who must enter care
- ✓ Meet families needs while reducing involvement with Child Welfare (long term)

INTERCEPT IMPLEMENTATION

- Areas of pilot
 - Currently implemented in East/West Jefferson, Orleans, Livingston, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Parishes (Youth Villages providing direct services in these areas)
 - Currently implemented in Caddo Parish (Choices providing services)
- Plan for expansion
 - RFP released (winter 2022-2023)
 - Statewide services begin summer 2023

THANK YOU

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