Community Stakeholder Guide to Prevention Services

Transformational Change

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) is historic legislation intended to bring about transformational change in children’s services.

- Family First Prevention Services Act is new federal legislation signed into law in February 2018.
- Family First Prevention Services is a fundamental change in our work with families. It allows Title IV-E reimbursement for Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) in order to prevent children from entering substitute care. Ohio has chosen to begin with practices supported by the most robust research findings that address the most critical needs of the families we serve.
- FFPSA is driving meaningful shifts in multiple aspects of children’s services:
  - Culture shift: Adopting a mindset of providing evidence-based services to prevent recurrence of maltreatment and/or substitute care placements;
  - Practice shift: Providing evidence-based services to families sooner than ever before;
  - Funding shift: Provides Title IV-E reimbursement for EBPs.
- Children’s services system transformation is aligned with and supports priorities across state agencies by contributing toward overarching goals for Ohio’s children and families.
  - A consistent framework and approach for Ohio’s work in all areas of the state
  - Statewide practice model and vision for children and family services broadly
  - Equity in access to responsive prevention services

FFPSA Overview: Prevention Services is one part of historical FFPSA legislation intended to create systemic change

Prevention Services

**Title IV-E Prevention Services, Phase One:**

- Ohio’s Prevention Services Plan identifies five EBPs rated Promising, Supported, or Well-Supported in the Title IV-E Clearinghouse for Phase One:
  - Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
Who is Eligible for Prevention Services?

- Candidate for Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) Definition:
  - A child, identified in a prevention plan, who is at imminent risk of entering or re-entering foster care, but is able to remain safely in the home or with kin as long as approved prevention services (mental health, substance abuse, in-home parenting) for the child, parent(s), or kinship caregiver(s) are provided.

- Provision of EBPs through a Prevention Services Plan is a Tertiary Prevention Service.
  - Tertiary prevention is offered to families who meet specific criteria.
  - All families served by Children’s Services must meet screening criteria to be initially identified through a report of possible abuse or neglect.
  - Assessments of Safety and Risk identify families who are best served through Prevention Service Plans.

Center of Excellence

- The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has announced that the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Center for Innovative Practices at the Begun Center for Violence Prevention Research and Education, a part of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (CIP/Begun/MSASS), has been awarded a two-year, $3.6 million contract to coordinate a new statewide Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence (COE).
- OhioMHAS partnered with other state agencies, which include Job and Family Services, Medicaid, Youth Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health and Ohio Family and Children First, to develop and issue the RFP.
- Among its primary responsibilities, the COE will be responsible for building and sustaining a
standardized assessment process, evaluating the effectiveness of services, and expanding service and care coordination capacity for children with complex behavioral health needs and their families. The Center will also provide orientation, training, coaching, mentoring, and other functions/supports as needed to support Ohio’s statewide child caring provider network.

- The new COE will bolster Ohio’s ongoing system transformation and improvement efforts, which to date, have included: expanding the behavioral health continuum of care to better serve youth and families; implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First); and development of OhioRISE.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is dedicating up to $10 million in Family First Transition Act funds to build capacity and provide evidence-based prevention services to alleviate the need to place children in foster care and support children and families in community-based settings.

Learn More about Ohio’s FFPSA Prevention Services Plan

Additional facts, trainings, and resources can be found at our Family First Prevention Services Website: [https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm](https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm)