Eligible Prevention Services Under the Family First Act

When implemented, the Family First Prevention Services Act will provide funding for prevention services for youth who are determined to be a candidate for foster care and their families. States will define candidacy for themselves. According to the act’s guidance, candidates are:

- Children at “imminent risk” of placement in foster care but who can remain at home or in a kinship placement if provided with preventative services. States also define kinship.
- Children whose adoption or guardianship arrangements put them at risk of entering the foster system.
- Children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting.

Prevention services include substance abuse prevention, mental health treatment, in-home parenting skills training, and kinship navigation.

Approved Prevention Services & Programs

To be eligible for Family First funding, services and programs must supported by evidence to be promising, supported, or well supported as determined by the federal Administration for Children & Families (ACF) and the new Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. At least 50% of programs must be well-supported for a state to be eligible for funding.

In July and September 2019, ACF announced its review of 12 programs through the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. Six were rated as well supported, one as supported, and two as promising. The determinations are listed below by service category. (Note that Multisystemic Therapy was reviewed for multiple categories.) One additional service, motivational Interviewing, remains under review. Find details about the programs by clicking on the links below.

Substance Abuse Prevention
- Multisystemic Therapy – Well Supported
- Families Facing the Future – Supported
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy – Promising

Mental Health
- Functional Family Therapy – Well Supported
- Multisystemic Therapy – Well Supported
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – Well Supported
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Promising

In-Home Parenting Skills
- Healthy Families America – Well Supported
- Nurse-Family Partnership – Well Supported
- Parents as Teachers – Well Supported
Kinship Navigation
Children’s Home of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model – Currently Does Not Meet Criteria
Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically Advanced Model (KIN-Tech) – Currently Does Not Meet Criteria
Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect – Currently Does Not Meet Criteria

More information about programs for future review is available on the Clearinghouse’s FAQ page.

Services & Programs Currently Under Review
The Clearinghouse identified and prioritized the next wave of programs for review, with an emphasis on those recommended by state and local governments and federal partners, rated highly by other clearinghouses, or evaluated as part of grants supported by the Children’s Bureau. You can find this list on the Clearinghouse’s FAQ page.

Mental Health
Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (also under In-Home Parenting Skills)
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (also under Substance Abuse and In-Home Parenting Skills)
Child Parent Psychotherapy
Incredible Years
Interpersonal Psychotherapy
Multidimensional Family Therapy (also under Substance Abuse and In-Home Parenting Skills)
Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

Substance Abuse
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (also under Mental Health and In-Home Parenting Skills)
Family Behavior Therapy
Multidimensional Family Therapy (also under Mental Health and In-Home Parenting Skills)
Seeking Safety
The Seven Challenges

In-Home Parenting Skills
Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (also under Mental Health)
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (also listed under Mental Health and Substance Abuse)
Homebuilders
Multidimensional Family Therapy (also listed under Mental Health and Substance Abuse)
Nurturing Parenting
SafeCare
Solution Based Casework

Kinship Navigator
Ohio Kinship Supports Intervention/ProtectOHIO
YMCA Kinship Support Services, YMCA Youth and Family Services of San Diego County
Clearinghouse Request for Service & Program Recommendations

The Clearinghouse is taking recommendations for services and programs to review. Calls for recommendations will happen at least once a year. The deadline for 2019 recommendations is October 31. To be eligible for review, services must:

- Fit into one of the four program areas (substance abuse prevention, mental health, in-home parenting skills, or kinship navigation).
- Include written manuals, protocols, or other documentation to show that it is clearly defined and replicable.

You can find details about eligibility and making program recommendations on the Clearinghouse website.