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 programs and services, mental health programs and services, in-home parenting skill-based programs and services, 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. The Clearinghouse added one more program to the list in November 2019 and 12 more in March 2020. The determinations are listed below by service category. (Note that some programs were reviewed for multiple categories.) Find details about the programs by clicking on the links below.

**Substance Abuse Programs and Services**

- Multisystemic Therapy – Well Supported
- Motivational Interviewing – Well Supported
- Families Facing the Future – Supported
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy – Well Supported
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy – Promising
- Seeking Safety – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Family Behavior Therapy, Adolescent – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Family Behavior Therapy, Adult – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Family Behavior Therapy, Adult with Child Welfare Supplement – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria

**Mental Health Programs and Services**

- Functional Family Therapy – Well Supported
- Multisystemic Therapy – Well Supported
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – Well Supported
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy – Well Supported
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Promising
- Child-Parent Psychotherapy – Promising
In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs and Services

- Healthy Families America – Well Supported
- Nurse-Family Partnership – Well Supported
- Parents as Teachers – Well Supported
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy – Well Supported
- Homebuilders – Well Supported
- SafeCare – Supported
- Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents & Their Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Nurturing Parenting Program for Parents & Their School Age Children 5 to 11 Years – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Solution-Based Case Work – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria

Kinship Navigation

- Children’s Home of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically Advanced Model (KIN-Tech) – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect – Does Not Currently Meet Criteria
- Ohio’s Kinship Supports Intervention/ProtectOHIO – Does Not Currently 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
- Incredible Years
- Interpersonal Psychotherapy
- Multidimensional Family Therapy
- Triple P – Positive Parenting Program

Substance Abuse

- Multidimensional Family Therapy
- The Seven Challenges

In-Home Parenting Skills

- Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up
- Multidimensional Family Therapy

Kinship Navigator

- 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 was 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.