

# Family First Prevention Services Act: Readiness Assessment, Planning and Initial Implementation

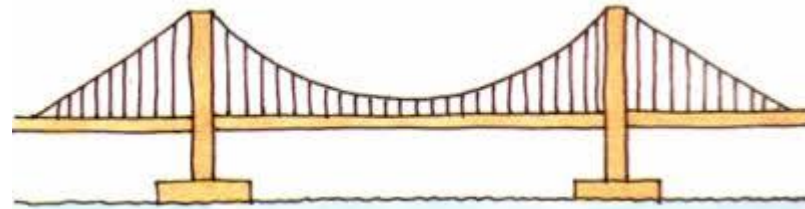
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# Bridging the Gap Between What We Know and What We Do

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*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago is a research and policy center, focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities.*



*Chapin Hall provides public and private decision-makers with rigorous data analysis and achievable solutions to support them in improving the lives of society's most vulnerable children, youth and families.*

# Family First Prevention Services Act

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- Landmark legislation
- Dramatically alters the federal financing structure for child welfare programming

# “Family First” in Many Ways

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Family as the first and best choice for children

- Services to reduce risk and prevent removal from home

Family as a safety net when children cannot remain at home

- Emphasis on kinship placement and kinship navigation

Family as a high quality foster care service

- Improved foster care standards

Family as the first and best choice for children in foster care

- Reduction in payments for congregate settings



# Reorienting Around Prevention

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# Federal Funding for Evidence-Based Prevention Services



In-home parent  
skill-building  
and  
development



Substance abuse  
treatment and  
prevention



Mental health  
treatment

# Prevention Opportunities

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- ✓ **Transform** the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention, increased family stability, and well-being
- ✓ **Invest** in evidence-based interventions
- ✓ **Apply** a trauma-responsive lens to the continuum of prevention services
- ✓ **Partner** across systems to align prevention efforts
- ✓ **Scale** up prevention services and de-scale foster care

# Ensuring Appropriate Placements

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# Reduce Inappropriate Institutional Placements

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- Family First restricts federal dollars for institutional placements
- Federal reimbursement primarily available for:
  - ✓ Facilities that meet the *Qualified Residential Treatment Program* (QRTP) criteria
  - ✓ Children whose assessment indicates their clinical needs are best met in a residential treatment setting

# Create Responsive Placement Arrays

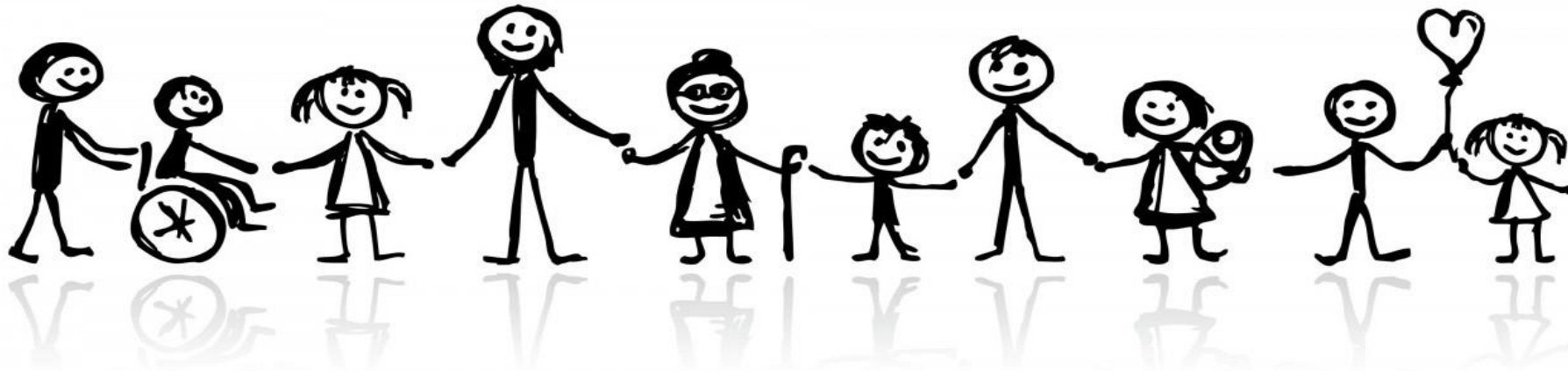
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- ✓ **Improve** quality of treatment settings to better address child needs
- ✓ **Build** an effective array of family-based placements and community supports to meet treatment needs and promote placement stability
- ✓ **Prevent** inappropriate increases to the juvenile justice population and inappropriate clinical diagnoses
- ✓ **Provide** aftercare services to promote on-going stability and success
- ✓ **Expand** business models of placement providers beyond group care
- ✓ **Scale** up high quality foster caregiving and descale group care settings

# Family First Call to Action

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- Reorient child welfare systems around prevention and **FAMILY**
- Increase quality family-based placements and right-size congregate care



# Family First Readiness Assessment, Planning and Initial Implementation Framework

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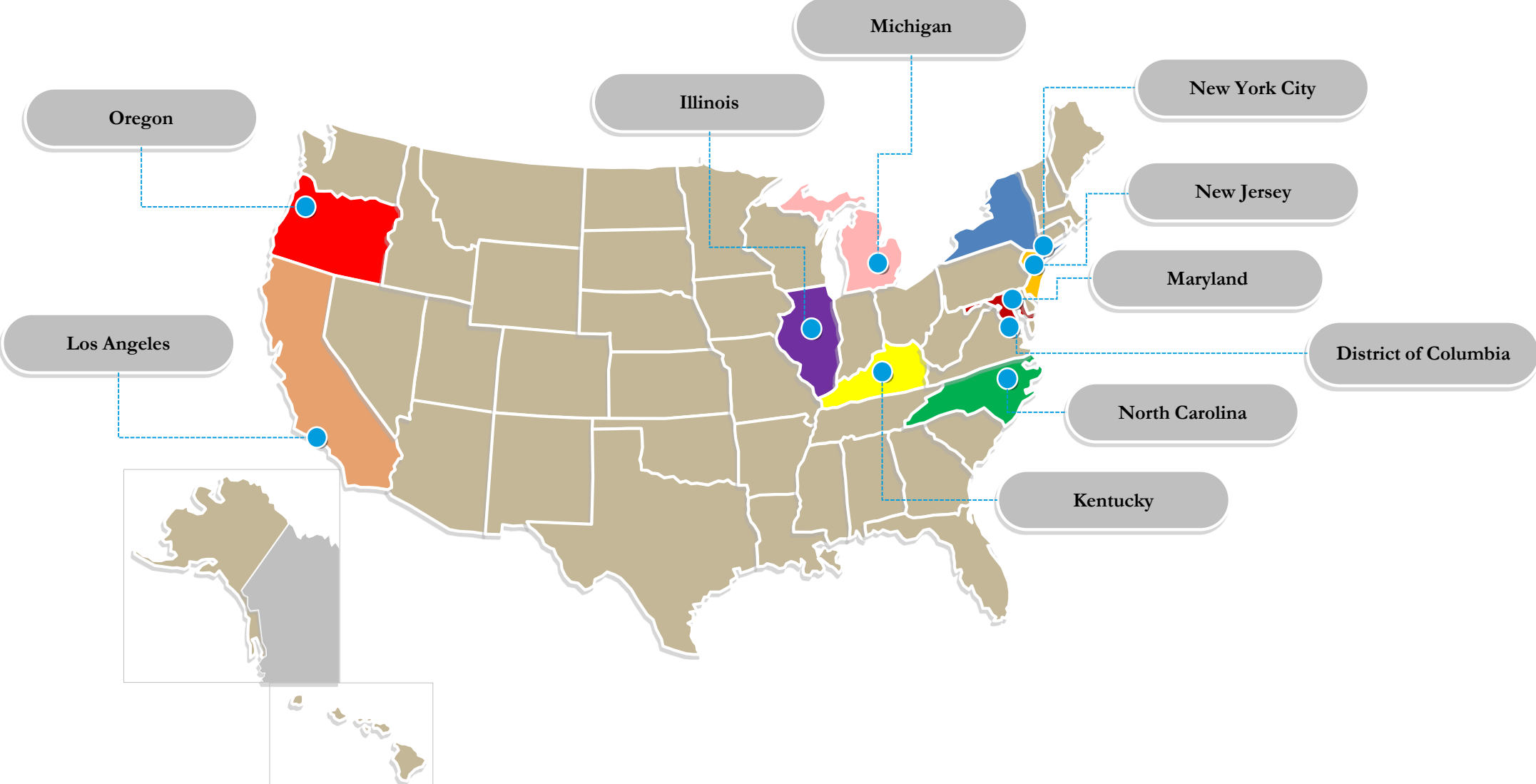


# Family First: Readiness Assessment, Planning and Capacity Building for Implementation

Transformation Framework



# Partnering Jurisdictions



# Suite of Assessment and Planning Tools

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# Chapin Hall Suite of Tools for Readiness Assessment, Planning & Implementation

## Overall Assessment and Planning Guide

- Explains the **overall approach to assessment and planning** for Family First.
- Clarifies how the tools collectively support data-informed decision-making and a **comprehensive implementation plan**.
- Recommends a **governance/implementation structure** (new or leveraged) to conduct assessment, planning and readiness activities.

## Agency Readiness Assessments and Capture Tools

- **Leadership assessment and capture tool** to articulate the transformation framework, identify partners, and determine sequencing.
- **Provision assessment and action capture tool** to assess readiness for implementation per provision and articulate action steps and responsible parties.
- **Provider readiness assessment/survey** to assess current EBP capacity, and readiness to implement prevention EBPs, congregate care, and other provisions

## Other Facilitative Tools

- **Prevention plan theory of change template** to articulate, document, and communicate the agency's theory of change for the Five-Year Prevention Plan.
- **Candidacy discussion graphic** to provide context and prompt dialogue regarding the children who are at risk of foster care relative to those who could best benefit from a prevention EBP intervention.
- **Work plan template** to guide action steps towards implementation
- **Prevention Plan outline**



# Contact information

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