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

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

- Landmark legislation
- Dramatically alters the federal financing structure for child welfare programming
“Family First” in Many Ways

**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
Federal Funding for Evidence-Based Prevention Services

- In-home parent skill-building and development
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention
- Mental health treatment
Prevention Opportunities

✓ **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
Reduce Inappropriate Institutional Placements

• 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

✓ **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

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

Transformation Framework

Sequencing and Jurisdictional Considerations

Implementation Capacity, Strategy, and Risk Management

Administrative and Fiscal

Practices, Service Array, and Policy

Data and Evidence
Partnering Jurisdictions

- District of Columbia
- New York City
- New Jersey
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- Michigan
- Illinois
- Oregon
- Los Angeles
- Kentucky
Suite of Assessment and Planning Tools
Chapin Hall Suite of Tools for Readiness Assessment, Planning & Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Assessment and Planning Guide</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Explains the overall approach to assessment and planning for Family First.</td>
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<td>• Clarifies how the tools collectively support data-informed decision-making and a comprehensive implementation plan.</td>
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<td>• Recommends a governance/implementation structure (new or leveraged) to conduct assessment, planning and readiness activities.</td>
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<th>Agency Readiness Assessments and Capture Tools</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Leadership assessment and capture tool to articulate the transformation framework, identify partners, and determine sequencing.</td>
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<td>• Provision assessment and action capture tool to assess readiness for implementation per provision and articulate action steps and responsible parties.</td>
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<td>• Provider readiness assessment/survey to assess current EBP capacity, and readiness to implement prevention EBPs, congregate care, and other provisions</td>
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<th>Other Facilitative Tools</th>
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<td>• Prevention plan theory of change template to articulate, document, and communicate the agency’s theory of change for the Five-Year Prevention Plan.</td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
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<td>• Work plan template to guide action steps towards implementation</td>
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<td>• Prevention Plan outline</td>
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