

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)

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PUBLIC LAW NO: 115-123:
IT BECAME LAW ON FEBRUARY 9, 2018

THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT REDIRECTS FEDERAL FUNDS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFELY WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND OUT OF FOSTER CARE.

WHEN FOSTER CARE IS NEEDED THE FFPSA ALLOWS FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT FOR CARE IN FAMILY-BASED SETTINGS AND CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL DISTURBANCE REQUIRING SPECIAL TREATMENT



WHAT DOES IT AFFECT?

The FFPSA, modifies the way federal funding can be used by states in the following ways:

- 1) States can now spend Title IV-E and IV-B money on prevention services, such as mental health, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training for the in-home child and the parent;
- 2) Federal funding for the type of out-of-home placements will change, with an emphasis on placing children in family foster care homes instead of group foster care homes; and
- 3) FFPSA reauthorizes federal funding that otherwise would have expired.



QUICK OVERVIEW OF TITLE IV-E

The purpose of part E of Title IV is Appropriation.

According to Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary, the word Appropriation has two meanings;

1 : an act or instance of **appropriating** something

2 : something that has been **appropriated**;

specifically : money set aside by formal action for a specific use

Basically, the federal government has allocated a specific amount of money to enable each State to provide, in appropriate cases, foster care and transitional independent living programs for children as described in part B of this Title.



QUICK OVERVIEW OF TITLE IV-B

Title IV-B addresses the provision of child welfare services that can be used for prevention of and response to child abuse and neglect. It does so by funding services and programs which:

- Protect and promote the welfare of all children
- Prevent the neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children
- Support at-risk families through services which allow children, where appropriate, to remain with their families or return to their families in a timely manner
- Promote the national goals of safety, permanence and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families
- Provide training, professional development and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce
- Promote and support adoption



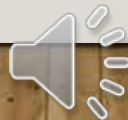
CHILD WELFARE FUNDING

BEFORE FFPSA

- Most federal money supported children in foster care—not to prevent their entry into foster care.
- Income test from the home of removal was required to qualify for federal foster care funds

AFTER FFPSA

- New federal funds are allocated for child welfare prevention services.
- The income test is no longer required.
- Services provided based on what children and families need to prevent entry into foster care.
- These services include mental health and substance use treatment and prevention, and in home parent skill based services



PREVENTION SERVICES TO: CHILD & PARENT

BEFORE FFPSA

- Limited prevention services funded by different sources, often not by child welfare funding

AFTER FFPSA

- Federal child welfare funds can now be used to provide prevention services up to 12 months to keep children out of foster care
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care have access to these services



PREVENTION SERVICES TO: KIN

BEFORE FFPSA

- No federal funds for prevention services to kin.

AFTER FFPSA

- Federal child welfare funds can now be used to provide prevention services up to 12 months to keep children out of foster care

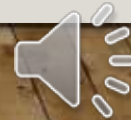


SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH

- Today, a common reason for child removal from the home is parental drug use
- Family First aims to mediate this trend by providing federal funding for prevention services that will allow parents to receive up to 12 months of substance abuse treatment.
- these funds are also available for mental health services and in-home parenting skills classes.

GROUP SETTING

- In addition, by shifting funding away from group homes, the act incentivizes states to move away from congregate care. States can now only receive federal reimbursement for two weeks of a child's stay in such a facility.
- The exception in the law is Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)—a new standard that necessitates, among other requirements, accreditation, licensing, and a trauma-informed treatment model.



NATIONAL MODEL FOSTER FAMILY HOME LICENSING STANDARDS

- These standards will help child welfare agencies to meet some unique geographical, cultural, community, legal and other needs of states and tribes.
- According to the new standards, Title IV-E agencies may waive non-safety licensing standards for relative foster family homes.
- The following eligibility requirements have to be considered:



- ∅ Age (18 and older)
- ∅ Physical and Mental Health
- ∅ Background Checks
- ∅ Home Study
- ∅ Health and Safety-- Living Space
- ∅ Health and Safety – Condition of the Home
- ∅ Foster Family Home Capacity
- ∅ Sleeping Arrangements
- ∅ Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, and Evacuation Plans
- ∅ Transportation
- ∅ Training

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FFPSA IN IDAHO

Idaho has applied for an implementation waiver of two years, which ends in 2021. This gives us enough time to review all the changes and requirements, and then come up with implementation plan that will align with both federal and state requirements.



RESOURCES

1. Administration of Children and Families (February 4, 2019). National model foster family home licensing standards. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/im1901.pdf>
2. Administration of Children and Families (February 26, 2019). Title IV-B child and family services plan; annual progress and services report; child abuse prevention and treatment act state plan; chafee foster care program for successful transition to adulthood; education and training vouchers program. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1902.pdf#page=70>
3. Children's Defense Fund. (2018). Family first prevention service act. Retrieved from <https://www.childrensdefense.org/?s=family+first+prevention+service+act>
4. Grandfamilies.org. (2019). Comparison of kin services and supports. Retrieved from <https://www.grandfamilies.org/Portals/0/Documents/FFPSA/Comparison%20of%20Kin%20Supports%20Before%20and%20After%20Family%20First%20chart.pdf>
5. Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity. (February 27, 2019). Family first act brings major changes one year after passage. Retrieved from <https://spotlightonpoverty.org/spotlight-exclusives/family-first-act-brings-major-changes-one-year-after-passage/>
6. Title IV-B: Child and Family Services. Retrieved from <https://training.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/section-2-understanding-child-welfare-system/2993>