Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Investing in Prevention and Supporting Families
Enacted into law February 9, 2018

New federal funds to increase, not replace, state funds for prevention

Purpose is to provide support to children and families to prevent foster care placements

All of the provisions have different effective dates.
Goals of FFPSA

- IV-E Funded Prevention Services
- Quality Evidence-Based Services
- Promote Family-Based Placements
- Reduce Congregate Care Placements
FFPSA: Continuum of Prevention

- **Primary Prevention**
  - Prevent child welfare involvement

- **Secondary Prevention**
  - Prevent foster care placement

- **Tertiary Prevention**
  - Prevent generational child welfare involvement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The majority of children enter foster care due to neglect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annually approximately 45% of children who enter out-of-home care</td>
<td>-of-home care are ages 0-5.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximately 46% of children who enter out-of-home care ages 0-5</td>
<td>have at least one parent who was also a state ward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% or more of children who enter out-of-home care in Nebraska is</td>
<td>due to parental substance use.</td>
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<tr>
<td>As of January 2019, approximately 60% of all children served are in</td>
<td>out-of-home care and 40% are in-home.</td>
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</table>
Planning for FFPSA

- DHHS – Division of Children and Family Services (CFS) hosted a Family First kick off event in June 2018
- Formed eight workgroups to lead the planning and implementation for the correlating Family First provision
- Conducted statewide service array scan
- Created a public website, [http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Family-First.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Family-First.aspx), to communicate updates, meeting agendas, draft plans, post public comments, etc.
Title IV-E Prevention Program

Effective date: 10/1/2019
Optional for states: Nebraska opting in
Prevention Program

Allows federal funds to cover the cost of prevention programs to prevent children from entering foster care.
Title IV-E Prevention Program

Eligible:

- Candidates for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement
- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution
- A child/youth in foster care who is pregnant or parenting
- The parents or kin/relative caregivers of these children
## Title IV-E Prevention Program Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Current Clearinghouse Rating</th>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Anticipated Claiming Rate</th>
<th>Cost Neutral or Cost Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Families America</td>
<td>Funded through the MICHIV/ -E grant via DPH</td>
<td>Well-Supported</td>
<td>Parenting Skills</td>
<td>50% General Funds and 50% (IV-E) Federal Funds</td>
<td>Short-term cost neutral displacing current IV-E eligible services, long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Centered Treatment</td>
<td>Blended funding of Medicaid and general funds</td>
<td>Not yet rated</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>100% General Funds until rated by Clearinghouse</td>
<td>Short-term cost increase (unknown), long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma Focused - CBT</td>
<td>Medicaid, private insurance, general funds</td>
<td>Promising</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>50% General Funds and 50% (IV-E) Federal Funds first 2 years if under Transitional Payments, 100% General Funds thereafter unless rated higher by Clearinghouse</td>
<td>Potential short-term cost increase (unknown), long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functional Family Therapy</td>
<td>Medicaid, insurance, general funds</td>
<td>Well-Supported</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>50% General Funds and 50% (IV-E) Federal Funds</td>
<td>Short-term cost neutral displacing current IV-E eligible services, long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent-Child Interactive Therapy</td>
<td>Medicaid, insurance, general funds</td>
<td>Well-Supported</td>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>50% General Funds and 50% (IV-E) Federal Funds</td>
<td>Short-term cost neutral displacing current IV-E eligible services, long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Systematic Therapy</td>
<td>Medicaid, insurance, general funds</td>
<td>Well-Supported</td>
<td>Mental Health/Substance Abuse</td>
<td>50% General Funds and 50% (IV-E) Federal Funds</td>
<td>Short-term cost neutral displacing current IV-E eligible services, long-term cost savings as CW population decreases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bring Up Nebraska

Community collaboratives focused on prevention into the child welfare system

Community Collaboratives:

- Blue Valley
- Cherry County
- Dakota County
- Dawson County
- Dodge County
- Douglas County
- Hall County
- Lancaster County
- Madison County
- North Platte
- Omaha Tribe
- Otoe County
- Panhandle
- Platte/Colfax County
- Sandhills Coalition
- Sarpy County
FFPSA Modifications Related to Placements
Placement Limitations

Limitations on title IV-E foster care payments for placements that are not foster family homes

Effective date: 10/01/2019
Required for all states

Title IV-E foster care payments are limited to two weeks unless it is an approved placement (see next slide)
Approved Placements that are not foster family homes

- Family-based residential substance abuse treatment facility
- A setting specializing in providing prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth
- Supervised independent living for youth over 18
- Specialized placements for survivors of sex trafficking

A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
Placement with Parent in a Treatment Facility

Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Children with Parents in a Licensed Residential Family Based Treatment Facility for Substance Use

Optional for states: Nebraska opting in

Allows foster care payments for up to 12 months for an eligible child placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment facility

Treatment facility must provide parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling under a trauma-informed framework
Components of a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for 6 months post discharge
- Registered or licensed nursing or clinical staff
- Family outreach & facilitate family participation in child’s treatment
- Trauma-informed treatment model

Accredited

QRTP

30 day assessment
- To determine what placement setting best meets the child’s needs
- Develop short-term and long-term mental health and behavioral health goals

60 day court review
- Court must approve placement in QRTP in order for State to continue to claim federal funding
### 30 Day Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment to be completed within 30 days of placement in QRTP</th>
<th>Conducted by a trained professional or licensed clinician</th>
<th>Cannot be an employee of the State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assess strengths and needs of the child using an age appropriate evidence-based validated functional assessment tool approved by HHS</td>
<td>Determine which setting is best for the child</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop list of short-term and long-term child specific mental and behavioral health goals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family and permanency team must be assembled to work in conjunction with qualified individual</td>
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</tr>
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**IV-E Modifications - QRTP**

**Helping People Live Better Lives.**
Juvenile Court will consider the assessment, within 60 days of placement and determine the most appropriate placement of the child and **approve or disapprove the placement**.

The state has to demonstrate why child is in QRTP if for an extended period of time.

If assessment determined that the placement of a child in a QRTP is **not appropriate**, a court **disapproves** of the placement or the child is returning to a family home setting, **federal funds can be used while the child remains in QRTP during the transition period**.

No federal funds can be used after 30 days if placement determined inappropriate for the child or the Court disapproves of the placement.
QRTP – At Review and Permanency Hearings

- On-going assessments continue to support the placement
- Meet the needs of the child in the least restrictive setting
- Identify specific treatment or services needs, and length of time for treatment
- DHHS’s efforts to prepare for transition

Questions?
For more information:

http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/FamiliesFirst/Pages/Home.aspx

DHHS.familystfirst  @Nebraska.gov