

Family First Prevention Services Act

The Center provides assistance to child welfare agencies for implementing the [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) (Family First or FFPSA). FFPSA, signed into law as part of Public Law (P.L.) 115-123, enhances support services for families to help children remain at home. It enables states and territories to use funding for preventative services, such as:

- ▶ Evidence-based mental health programs
- ▶ Substance abuse prevention and treatment
- ▶ In-home parent skill-based programs
- ▶ Kinship navigator programs

In addition, Family First provides incentives to reduce congregate care. The Center's existing tools and resources can support jurisdictions in implementing best practices and multiple provisions of FFPSA through **customized technical assistance** and [tailored services](#), including:

- ▶ Building capacity for **kinship navigator and prevention services**
- ▶ Reducing **congregate care**, enhancing **service array**, and improving **family engagement**
- ▶ Integrating a **framework** for foster family **recruitment and retention**
- ▶ Applying a **structured change management approach** that includes processes for problem exploration, root cause analysis, intervention selection and development, and monitoring and evaluating interventions
- ▶ **Analyzing data** and using it to develop state supports
- ▶ **Opportunities to network with peers**, connect on relevant topics, and find support through our [constituency groups](#) such as Promoting Safe & Stable Families (PSSF), In-Home Services Managers, Foster Care Managers, Diligent Recruitment, and State Chafee and ETV Coordinators

Any questions related to interpretation or funding of Family First should be re-directed to Children's Bureau [regional office program managers](#).

To read the FFPSA bill in its entirety, visit: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1892>.

Disclaimer:

The services and materials included in this handout are not meant to interpret nor to fully cover the provisions of the FFPSA, nor do they supplant federal law, policies, and regulatory guidance.

Resources For Family First

Many of the Center's existing tools and resources developed prior to passage of FFPSA are relevant to specific requirements and language in the Act. The following are examples of briefs, assessment tools, tip sheets, and learning resources that offer states and jurisdictions support for developing Family First implementation strategies. [Register through CapLEARN](#) to access webinars and learning experiences.

Developing service array

- ▶ [A Data Driven Approach to Service Array](#) toolkit includes an overview, step-by-step guidance, and worksheet to assist jurisdictions in using data to assess and improve their service array.

Enhanced kinship programming

- ▶ [It's All Relative: Supporting Kinship Care](#) videos present kinship caregivers talking about their experiences fostering and adopting relative children. Discussion guides for Child Welfare Agency Leadership, Supervisors, and Training Directors are designed to promote dialogue, critical

thinking, and practice improvement. Also includes recorded webinars and supplemental discussion guides to support integration of strategies into practice

Identifying and evaluating evidence-based practices

- ▶ [2017 Child Welfare Virtual Expo: Strengthening Assessment and Decision-Making for Improved Outcomes](#) includes recorded sessions, learning activities, personal stories, and supplemental resources designed to improve practice and the quality of assessments and decision-making.
- ▶ [Selecting Evidence-Based Practices](#), a Children’s Bureau Express article, defines “evidence-based practices” and identifies resources.

Increasing family engagement

- ▶ [Quality Matters: Improving Caseworker Contacts with Children, Youth, and Families](#) includes learning tools, program guidance, and supervisory and practice tips designed to improve engagement, assessment, and case planning.
- ▶ [Family Empowerment Leadership Academy \(FELA\)](#) learning experience includes guidance and resources for individual and group learning to advance partnerships with family leaders and identify effective family empowerment strategies.
- ▶ [Youth Development](#) resources include briefs, tip sheets, podcasts, videos, and other tools for learning to enhance youth engagement.

Recruitment and retention of foster families and reductions in congregate care

- ▶ [Empowering Caregivers, Strengthening Families](#) presents videos of caregivers talking about their experiences and discussion guides designed to promote dialogue, critical thinking, and practice improvement around collaborative partnerships and support structures for resource parents.
- ▶ [National Foster Care Month: Supporting Caregivers to Promote Positive Outcomes](#) recorded webinar highlights effective strategies for collaboration between caregivers and birth parents.
- ▶ [Working With Children and Youth With Complex Clinical Needs: Strategies in the Safe Reduction of Congregate Care Guide](#) highlights the array of evidence-based practices, promising practices, and strategies that exist nationwide.

Shifting culture and climate

- ▶ [Continuous Quality Improvement and Implementation](#) resources provide assessment tools, how-to guides, and learning experiences to help individuals and groups better assess systems and implement and manage change in systematic, evidence-informed ways to improve child welfare practice.