

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

**The Changing Landscape of
Texas Child Welfare**



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services



The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) passed in February 2018.

FFPSA targets improved services and outcomes for four main populations:

- Children placed in congregate care;
- Kinship caregivers and the children they care for;
- Parents who struggle with substance abuse and their children; and
- Children who are at imminent risk, as defined by Texas, for entering foster care.



FFPSA aims to:

- Elevate the quality of specific types of prevention services provided to families with children at risk of entering foster care.
- Encourage and support kin placements.
- Support pregnant and parenting foster care youth.
- Decrease the use of, and time spent in, congregate care settings.
- Allow children to be placed with their parents in substance abuse treatment facilities.



On Friday, December 20, 2019 the President signed a year-end spending package that included the Family First Transition Act (FFTA).

- Granted a temporary suspension of at least 50% of a states reimbursement for prevention programs be well supported.
- FFTA appropriates one-time funding to states in an effort to assist with the implementation of FFPSA.
- Reporting to federal government will be done on the expenses states make with the monies granted.



In November 2018, Texas notified the Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) that it intended to delay implementation of FFPSA until September 2021.

- Texas is currently conducting analysis of information available and engaging stakeholders.
- Texas is developing a strategic plan due September 1, 2020 to inform the Legislature about potential options for implementation.



Required Provisions for States

FFPSA included five required provisions to start FFPSA funding:

1. Creation of an Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) System (Required by 2027)
2. Creation of a Statewide Fatality Prevention Plan, to Prevent Abuse and Neglect Fatalities
3. Establish Protocols to Prevent Inappropriate Diagnoses and Ensuring Appropriate Placements
4. Create Procedures for Providers to Conduct Abuse and Neglect Registry and Criminal Records Checks, Including Fingerprint-Based Checks
5. Compliance with Federal Model Licensing Standards



Section Requirements

Section	Required/Optional
50711 - Prevention Services	Optional
50712 - Substance Abuse Services	Optional
50713 - Kinship Navigator Program	Optional
50721 - Family Reunification Services	Additional Analysis
50722 - ICPC/NEICE System	Required, grant received
50731 - Model Licensing Standards: Foster Homes	Required, submitted to ACH
50732 - Fatality Prevention Plan	Required, Likely in Compliance
50733 - Title IV-E Name Change	Additional Information Required
50741 - QRTPs/Accreditation	Optional
50742 - 30-day Assessments	Optional
50743 - Prevent Inappropriate Diagnoses	Required, Likely in Compliance
50744 - Reporting Requirements	Additional Information Required
50745 - Background Check Requirements	Required, Pending
50751 - Funding Supporting and Retaining Foster Families	Additional Information Required
50753 - Chafee Funding	Optional, Additional Information Required
50771 - Data Exchange Standards	Additional Information Required
50781 - Delinking Adoption Assistance Eligibility	Additional Information Required



- **FFPSA supports Prevention Services for:**
 - Mental Health
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - In-Home Parenting Skills
- **FFPSA allows for funding of Prevention Services with no financial eligibility requirements.**
- **Due to new federal funds, new data requirements will also be enforced.**
- **Services must meet well-supported, supported or promising practices.**



Current Clearinghouse Programs

- **Mental Health**

- Functional Family Therapy – Well-supported
- Multisystemic Therapy – Well-supported*
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy – Well-supported
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Promising

- **Substance Abuse**

- Families Facing the Future – Supported
- Multisystemic Therapy – Well-supported*
- Methadone Maintenance Program – Promising
- Motivational Interviewing – Well-supported

- **In-home Parent Skill-based**

- Healthy Families America – Well-supported
- Nurse-Family Partnership – Well-supported
- Parents as teachers – Well-supported



FFPSA-eligible Federal Matching

- **Placement requirements for Foster Care funding will change.**
- **If a placement does not meet new requirements, IV-E funding can only be used for 2 weeks of placement.**
- **Federal match will continue for the following placements:**
 - Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
 - Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
 - Specialized placements for youth who are victims of, or at-risk of, becoming victims of sex trafficking
 - Foster Family Home - no more than 6 children in foster care, with some exceptions, such as sibling placement
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Program - QRTP - congregate care



How Texas Supports FFPSA Goals

- **Prevention Services**

- Texas currently serves families at imminent risk of entering the foster care system through Family-Based Safety Services.
- Accesses free or low-cost services for parenting skills training and support.

- **Kinship Supports**

- Texas Kinship placements have grown to account for over 40% of substitute care placements.

- **Congregate Care**

- Texas has already been reducing the number of children in congregate care, with a 5% decrease over the last 10 yrs.



State Legislation and Planning

- Texas will use the 86th Interim to study the implementation options and potential costs for FFPSA and inform the 87th Legislature of options for the state.
- SB 355 requires DFPS to submit a strategic plan for implementation of the prevention services provisions of FFPSA.
- SB 781 requires DFPS to submit an analysis and recommendations associated with the placement provisions of FFPSA.
- These two strategic plans will be combined and completed by September of 2020.



- **U of H completed a kinship navigator study.**
- **2-1-1 trained their staff to better meet needs of Kinship families.**
- **Work with Casey Family Programs and Texas Center for Child and Family Studies to survey current landscape of prevention services.**
- **Application for NEICE grant was approved.**
- **Engagement with other states and consideration of outcomes and work they have done with implementation.**
- **Stakeholder Engagement.**



- **Performing costs and benefits analysis.**
- **Identifying and researching requirements.**
- **Use partners to assist with service development and evaluation of services eligible for FFPSA.**
- **Evaluate allocation of money, loss of IV-E dollars and potential effects of implementing FFPSA.**





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