



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

August 14, 2020

Mr. Cory Pedersen
Director
DHHS - Children and Family Services Division
600 E. Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505

Dear Mr. Pedersen,

Thank you for submitting North Dakota's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan for fiscal years (FYs) 2020-2024. The title IV-E prevention program is authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), enacted as part of Public Law (P.L.) 115-123, which amended titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act). The FFPSA is an important tool that, if utilized effectively, will help move child welfare in the United States to a more preventative system that works to strengthen families and reduce unnecessary family disruption.

Plan Approval

North Dakota submitted a title IV-E prevention program five-year plan to the Children's Bureau (CB) Regional Office on May 22, 2020. We completed a review of this submission and identified areas requiring further documentation to support compliance with state plan requirements. On July 27, 2020, North Dakota provided a revised plan that addressed the identified provisions.

We are pleased to notify you that we reviewed North Dakota's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan submitted July 27, 2020, and find it to be in compliance with applicable federal statutory and regulatory requirements. North Dakota's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan for FYs 2020-2024 is approved as outlined below. An amendment must be submitted any time there is a substantial change to information in the approved plan.

The effective date of North Dakota's plan is 04/01/2020. Please maintain this approval letter as a part of the final, approved plan.

Title IV-E prevention program federal financial participation claims must be for allowable costs on behalf of eligible program participants and may be submitted for applicable periods beginning no earlier than the above listed plan effective date. Additionally, all program costs other than payments for provision of prevention services directly to program recipients must be identified in an approved public assistance cost allocation plan as per federal regulations at 45 CFR §1356.60(c). This cost allocation plan may have an effective date that is the same or later than the title IV-E prevention program five-year plan, depending on when submitted and the approval granted. For state title IV-E agencies, a public assistance cost allocation plan (PACAP)

amendment must be submitted addressing title IV-E prevention program administrative costs in accordance with applicable regulations at §95.509(a)(3).

Approval of Services under the Title IV-E Prevention Program

Pursuant to Sections 471(e)(1) and 471(e)(5)(B)(iii) of the Act, only services and programs provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices as rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse or a state’s designation based on an independent systematic review approved for transitional payments as part of the title IV-E prevention program five-year plan by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are permitted. In addition, section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) of the Act requires the state to describe how each program and service will be evaluated through a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy (unless waived for a well-supported practice rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse). The title IV-E agency must also provide an assurance each program or service will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the practice model, to determine outcomes achieved, and that the state will use information gleaned from the continuous monitoring efforts to refine and improve practices. CB has approved the following allowable programs and services under this program:

Healthy Families America (HFA)
Homebuilders
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Brief Strategic Family Therapy
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Approval of Request for Waiver of Evaluation Requirements

Pursuant to section 471(e)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act, the requirement for a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of any well-supported practice rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse may be waived if the evidence of effectiveness of the practice is deemed compelling and the continuous monitoring requirements of Section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) are met. CB approves North Dakota’s request for waiver of the evaluation requirement for the following approved services:

Healthy Families America (HFA)
Homebuilders
Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
Parents as Teachers (PAT)
Brief Strategic Family Therapy
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Section 471(e)(4)(E) of the Act, states electing the title IV-E prevention program are required to collect and report on child-specific data to HHS for each child who receives title IV-E prevention services. North Dakota has provided an assurance that the state will collect and submit information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to title IV-E prevention and family services and programs, including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures. CB will provide additional information on how to report this information in future guidance.

Payer of Last Resort

In approving the title IV-E prevention program five-year plan, we remind states that section 471(e)(10)(C) of the Act requires that title IV-E is the payer of last resort for services allowable under the title IV-E prevention program. This means that if public or private program providers (such as private health insurance or Medicaid) would pay for a service allowable under the title IV-E prevention program, those providers have the responsibility to pay for these services before the title IV-E agency is required to pay.

The title IV-E prevention program is part of the Children’s Bureau’s broader vision of advancing national efforts that strengthen the capacity of families to nurture and provide for the well-being of their children. We look forward to working together with you to implement the title IV-E prevention program as part of the broader vision, and to meet our shared goal of keeping families healthy, together and strong.

For any question or concerns you may have, please contact Marilyn Kennerson, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager in Region 8, at (303) 844-1163 or by e-mail at marilyn.kennerson@acf.hhs.gov. You also may contact Debora Flowers, Children and Families Program Specialist, at (303) 844-7451, or by e-mail at debora.Flowers@acf.hhs.gov.

We wish to thank you and your staff for your work and wish you all the best in implementing your important plan.

Sincerely,



Jerry Milner
Associate Commissioner
Children’s Bureau

cc: Mr. Lauren Sauer, Assistant Director, ND Children and Family Services Division, Bismarck, ND
Tracy L. Miller, Family Preservation and Prevention Administrator, ND Children and Family Services, Bismarck, ND
Marilyn Kennerson, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region 8; Denver, CO
Debora Flowers, Children and Families Program Specialist; CB, Region 8; Denver, CO
Janice Davis Caldwell, Director of Family Protection & Resilience Portfolio, ACF Office of Grants Management, Dallas, TX; Margaret Harrell, Grants Management Officer Western Division, Family Protection & Resilience Portfolio, ACF Office of Grants Management; Chicago, IL