

# Family First Prevention Services Act

October 2019 – Implementation Deadline

## Family First Prevention Services Act - Highlights

The **Family First Prevention Services Act** was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system.

- **Prevention** - The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care. Provides new title IV-E funding for prevention services for candidates for foster care and their families for:
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Abuse
  - In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs (i.e. parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling)
- **Reduce Congregate Care Placements** – incentives to states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.
  - Limitations on Title IV-E foster care payments for placements that are not foster family homes.
  - Allowable Placement Options – family foster home, facility for pregnant/parenting foster youth, Supervised Independent Living Programs, specialized placements for victim of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking, and QRTPs. RCCF level of care will no longer exist.
- **Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTP) Requirements include:**
  - Licensed and accredited
  - Trauma informed treatment model
  - Nursing and other clinical staff onsite
  - Child must meet level of care assessment
  - 60-day Judicial Determination - Status Reviews
  - Full engagement with the family
  - 6 months post discharge follow-up

# Family First Prevention Services Act

October 2019 – Implementation Deadline

- **Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Facility** - Allows title IV-E foster care payments for eligible child placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment facility.
- **Kinship Navigator Programs** - to assist relative caregivers with programs and services to meet needs of children they are raising.
- **Licensing Standards Waivers** of non-safety licensing standards for relative caregivers.
- **Chafee Program** – Expands Chafee and ETV age eligibility and individual ETV award \$ max.
- **Foster Family Recruitment and Retention** – Authorizes competitive grants for recruitment and retention of high-quality foster families to increase capacity to place more children in family settings.

## MAJOR SYSTEM REFORM...HARD WORK...WORTH THE EFFORT!

### February 2018

- FFPSA Legislation passed
- DHS Subgroups
- Stakeholder Updates
- FFPSA – Chafee Revisions Effective

### Summer 2018

- Applied for Kinship Navigator
- Attended National Convening in Denver
- Continued DHS Subgroup Work

### September 2018

- Continued Planning and Development
- Continued Stakeholder Updates
- Received Kinship Navigator Award

### October 2018

- Kinship Navigator RFP Issued
- Legislation, Policy, Rules, FRAME System Revisions
- ND Stakeholder Convening\*
- LOC Assessment Workgroup
- Submit Proposed Law Changes

### November & December 2018

- 60 Day Review Hearing Workgroup
- QRTP Rule Writing

### Ongoing:

- Continued technical assistance; subgroup meetings; stakeholder involvement; & development of rules, policy, & FRAME system updates

Join us for FFPSA monthly stakeholder meetings beginning January 15. For more information on the meetings and to view additional resources, visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/family-first.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/family-first.html).

This an exciting time for our children's system in ND!  
We welcome any and all feedback and collaboration and look forward to our continued partnerships!