



## HISTORY

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law as part of the Federal 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 and children who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing states to target their existing federal resources into an array of prevention and early intervention services to keep children safe, strengthen families, and reduce the need for foster care whenever it is safe to do so. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by reducing placement of children in group care settings and enhancing quality of care for residential treatment programs.

## CONTACT:

Family First Prevention Program  
Manager  
Christine Theriault, LMSW  
[Christine.Theriault@maine.gov](mailto:Christine.Theriault@maine.gov)  
207-624-7914

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://familyfirstact.org/>

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/family-first-act.shtml>

Maine Office of Child and Family Services

# FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT FACT SHEET

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES THROUGH PREVENTION

- Developing a statewide prevention plan that incorporates building system collaborations to support healthy and safe families and communities.
- Using federal funding for evidence-based prevention activities to provide early intervention services to families to help prevent children from entering foster care.
- Increasing the accessibility of prevention and early intervention programs to meet the needs of children and families.
- Maintaining a family prevention plan for children to remain safely at home or live with a kinship caregiver; a plan which will outline the evidence-based, trauma-informed services to be provided.

## ENHANCING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Increasing evidence-based prevention services including:
  - Services to address mental health challenges;
  - In-home, skills-based parenting and treatment programs;
  - Substance use treatment;
- Establishing Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) standards for Maine's residential programs to enhance trauma-informed treatment service delivery and utilize federal funding to support these placements.

## WORKING TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

The FFPSA will strengthen the child welfare system and families by:

- Working with parents as partners to keep their children safe.
- Utilizing strengths-based approaches to working with families and supporting the implementation of new evidenced based strategies.
- Assisting families to build strong protective factors and reduce risk.
- Ensuring staff and families are connected to, and utilizing, the formal and informal community-based resources available.
- Developing family-friendly policies and practices.

## HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

- Sign up and participate in FFPSA stakeholder workgroups at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/family-first-act.shtml>
- Share FFPSA information with families and professional networks.