



## Prevention Services under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act

Family First allows states to use federal funds to provide prevention services and programs for up to 12 months to:

- A child (and their caregivers) who is a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or with a kin caregiver and is identified as being at imminent risk of entering foster care
- A parenting or pregnant youth in foster care
- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of disruption/dissolution

Federal funds can only be used for services in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>) and must be trauma informed and evidence-based. In addition, services must adhere to the following categories:

- Mental health prevention and treatment services
- Substance use disorder prevention and treatment services
- In-home parenting skill based training
- Kinship navigator programs

## Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018

**The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was included in the federal bipartisan budget in February 2018. The Act includes historic reforms to child welfare funding.** It will provide federal funding for prevention services to families of children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care. It underscores the importance of children growing up in families and seeks to avoid the traumatic experience of children being separated from their families and entering foster care. Specifically, federal reimbursement will be available for trauma-informed and evidence based mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and in-home parenting skill based training to safely maintain children in their homes. It also aims to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to place children in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their individual needs and reducing the placement of children in non-family based placements.

## Encouraging Placements in a Family-Like Home

Family First changes the federal reimbursement criteria for out of home placements for children and youth in foster care. Federal funds may be used for six placement types:

- Family and kinship foster homes
- Placements for pregnant or parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18+
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (Q RTP) for youth with treatment needs
- High quality residential placements and support services for victims of sex trafficking
- Family-based residential treatment programs for substance use disorders



## Standards for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (Q RTP)

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Q RTP is a new federal term for non-family based placements. Q RTPs serve children with specific treatment needs who need short term placement out of their home. The Q RTP designation has specific criteria.

The Q RTP must meet the following criteria:

- Accreditation by one of the following:
  - The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)
  - The Joint Commission (JACHO)
  - The Council on Accreditation (COA)
- Utilization of a trauma-informed treatment model
- Staffed by registered or accredited nursing and clinical staff in accordance with the treatment model and:
  - Provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by state law
  - Available 24 hours a day and seven days a week
- Be inclusive of family members in the treatment process and document the extent of their involvement
- Offer at least six months of support after discharge

## Requirements for Placement in a Q RTP

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### Within 30 days of placement

- an age-appropriate and evidence-based assessment must occur to determine whether or not the child's needs can be met with a family member or foster family home. A team of family members and professionals should participate in the assessment and decision making process.

### Within 60 days of the placement

- the court must approve or disapprove the placement

### If a child is placed in a Q RTP

- for 12 consecutive months or 18 non-consecutive months, the state must submit to the federal government signed approval from the state agency for continued placement.

*For additional information:*

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