

Evidence-Based Programs

Evidence-based programs (EBPs) involve identifying, assessing, and implementing strategies that are supported by scientific research.

State child welfare agencies are increasingly aware of the need to focus their resources on programs that target outcomes in accordance with child well-being, child safety, child permanency and adult well-being.



The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is developing the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, a federal clearinghouse that ranks evidence-based programs and can be reimbursed with federal dollars for eligible children and their caregivers. Programs included in the clearinghouse are intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and reduce foster care placements.



1 Well Supported

- Improved outcomes must be based on the results of at least two studies with non-overlapping analytic samples
- The studies were carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Earned a rating of moderate or high on study design and execution
- At least one of the studies must demonstrate a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome

2 Supported

- Improved outcomes must be based on the results of at least one study carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Earned a rating of moderate or high on study design and execution
- Demonstrates a sustained favorable effect of at least six months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome

3 Promising

- Improved outcomes must be based on the results of at least one study
- Earned a rating of moderate or high on study design and execution
- Demonstrates a favorable effect on at least one target outcome

For more information on the program evaluation procedure developed by The Administration for Children and Families please visit: <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/review-process>



Upon implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act,

Virginia will be utilizing the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse to strengthen our efforts to provide support services to families of children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care.



Why are Evidence-Based Programs Important?

EBPs are important because they demonstrate positive outcomes based on scientific research. EBPs provide the most effective care that is available, with the aim of improving child and family outcomes. Programs that improve child and families' lives can strengthen families, reduce the need for foster care and target financial resources more effectively.

For additional information on Family First in Virginia please visit our site
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