



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



Prevention and Early Intervention Committee Family First Prevention Services Act Recommendations for California's Implementation

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The State of California is in the unique position to reinvent our Child Welfare System as it prepares to plan for and implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). We have the opportunity to design and implement a Child and Family Well-Being System, *beyond the responsibility of child welfare agencies for child protection*, that includes multiple entities, providers and community touch-points and shares the responsibility of supporting children, parents and families with comprehensive services that begin with prevention.

The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Committee recommends the State allocate a **minimum of 80%** of the Family First Transition Act funds to counties for the development of "Child and Family Well-Being System" plans that include prevention and early intervention as a component of the system of care outlined in these recommendations.

FFPSA Implementation Recommendations

1. California should define Prevention and Early Intervention as fundamental elements of a Child and Family Well-Being System that consists of an integrated continuum of family serving systems that support the ability for parents and families to provide safe, stable and nurturing environments for their children.
2. To support the development of a Child and Family Well-Being System throughout California, State and local approaches to FFPSA must mandate the inclusion of prevention and early intervention as integral components of a system of care.
3. The development of State and local FFPSA plans must incorporate public and private stakeholders representative of the systems involved that includes, but is not limited to youth, parents and families, Public Child Welfare, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Maternal and Child Health, Education, Housing and Juvenile Probation agencies, the Juvenile Court, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, First 5, Child Care, and non-traditional partners
4. State and local approaches to FFPSA must demonstrate the engagement of communities, parents, and families in the development of a culturally appropriate, community driven solution to the development and implementation of a Child and Family Well-Being System.
5. Institutional racism must be addressed, and approaches implemented that eliminate systemic barriers and eradicate disproportionality. This should include a fundamental review of policies and practices, as well as consideration of proven methods and services approaches such as up front assessment, family resource centers, equity and inclusion training, and assuring staffing is representative of the communities served.
6. Plans should incorporate a prevention and early intervention system that comprises Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention, as outlined by the California Department of Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention.
7. Data and research should be used to inform the development of strategies, supports, and family strengthening programs that address high risk factors associated with child welfare system involvement and result in building protective factors and mitigating the impact and prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences. Performance measures must be developed, in consultation with public and private stakeholders including parent and youth leaders with lived experiences that incorporate the identification of disparities and disproportionality.
8. State and local FFPSA plans should invest in data and evaluation systems that are able to share data across systems to allow for continuous quality improvement.
9. Plans should demonstrate that resources have been aligned and that leveraging existing and future funding initiatives have been utilized to support the Child and Family Well-Being System in order to achieve positive outcomes for children, parents and families. This should include alignment with the system of care efforts, building on AB2083 (System of Care) and opportunities such as: First 5, California Advancing and Integrating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), MHSA, ACEs, California Parent & Youth Helpline, and Family Resource Centers. If savings are identified, reinvestment into prevention services should be considered.

10. Plans must identify and respond to current practice and policy that may present barriers to family-focused prevention and intervention. This could include a review other states' and localities' prevention initiatives for potential relevance to California.