

from
parents

for
parents

A positive new step to strengthen families and keep them together!

Key Opportunities for Families

In February 2018, the Family First Prevention Services Act was passed and signed into law (P.L. 115-123). This legislation is ground-breaking because for the first time, child welfare agencies can use a funding source to pay for early intervention services for families with a child at imminent risk of being removed from their home and prevent unnecessary placements in foster care. States and tribes have a new option to claim federal Title IV-E funds for early

intervention services to help keep children safely at home or whether to continue to use the current model, which only allows most services after a child enters foster care. As parents, we have a unique opportunity to help state and community leaders and partners understand and inform the directions of this new law. Parents have the opportunity to really help shape a robust set of services and ensure that service delivery is strengthening families.

Strengthen families and keep them resilient and strong through Family First Prevention Services Act

- Choose to use funding for evidence-based prevention activities
- Work with families earlier to get them the services they need and help prevent a child from entering foster care
- Build system collaborations by developing a state prevention plan to support families and communities
- Increase the array and accessibility of prevention and early intervention programs to meet the needs of children and families
- Contribute to a community culture that includes a range of strategies and prevention supports for all families – help families before problems become too serious

New funding opportunity for evidence-based prevention services

- Services to address mental health challenges
- In-home parenting skills-based programs which include parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling
- Substance abuse treatment

Who is eligible to receive these services?

- Children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care
- Parents or relative caregivers of children at imminent risk of removal
- Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care

Benefits for child welfare systems and all staff

This new opportunity for providing early intervention has the potential to create stronger families and provide opportunities for child welfare staff to more effectively and consistently:

- Work with parents as partners in keeping their children safe
- Become more aware of strengths-based approaches in working with families and support for implementing new strategies
- Assist all families with whom they come into contact to build strong protective factors
- Help ensure that staff are connected to and taking full advantage of formal and informal community-based resources available to families
- Develop family-friendly policies and practices

What YOU can do TODAY!

- Find out who you need to talk with to spread the positive news in your community
- Start a blog about the Family First Prevention Services Act
- Write op-eds to your local paper or letters to stakeholders and partners encouraging the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act and expressing your willingness to partner with them
- Talk with other parents about the benefits of this new legislation
- Facilitate group meetings and discuss the value of prevention services
- Add the importance of fully implementing this legislation to your speaking points during speaking engagements
- Go viral – share across all social media
- Start conversations with child welfare staff, administrators and local leaders about using the parent voice in state and local implementation planning
- Get connected to the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) at bpnn.ctfalliance.org

Learn more

and
apply
to join

online

bpnn.ctfalliance.org

Join us in educating our states and communities about the Family First Prevention Services Act!



**BIRTH
PARENT
NATIONAL
NETWORK**