

Title IV-E Prevention Plan
State of Wyoming
2022-2026

WY Home Matters



Wyoming
Department of
Family Services

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Executive Summary

The Wyoming Department of Family Services (the Department) is the state agency authorized to administer and supervise all programs authorized under Title IV-B, IV-E, and Title XX of the Social Security Act [45 CFR 1357.15(e)(1) and (2)]. This Title IV-E Prevention Plan addresses all requirements that were outlined in the November 30, 2018 ACYF-CB-PI 18-09 Program Instruction. The Department strives to build a system in which children live **Safely at Home** by **Providing Opportunities for Success**, and by **Supporting the People who Support Families**. These goals, which constitute the Department's Core Values, serve as the map for every step taken by the Department to build this Plan.

This Title IV-E Prevention Plan was developed using Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSR) data and observations, insight obtained from Department data, and feedback obtained from stakeholders, community partners, and Department staff. This Plan also includes efforts made by the Department to improve the child welfare system in Wyoming through the 2018 Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and other Family First Prevention Services Act initiatives. The aim of this Plan is to take steps in transforming the Wyoming child welfare system to a family well-being system by the identification of Candidates for Foster Care and the implementation of Title IV-E Prevention Services rated as Well-Supported by the Title IV-E Clearinghouse.

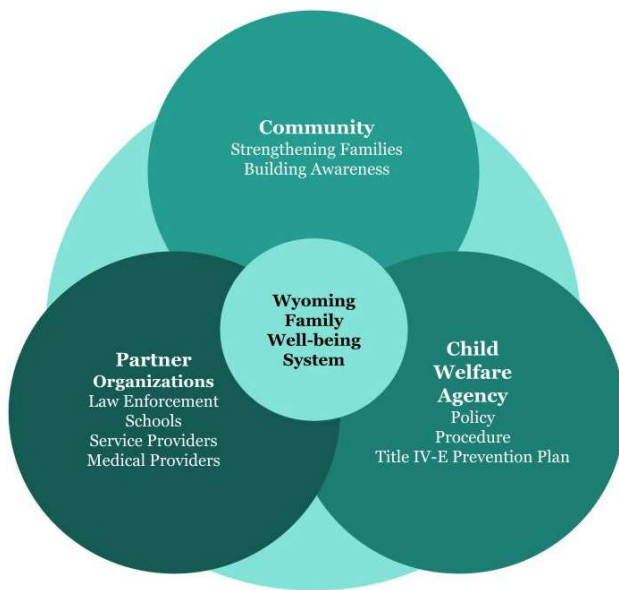
The Department, through the efforts outlined in this Plan, is striving to identify children most at risk of removal from their home and provide access to evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions that meet the unique needs of each child and family in Wyoming. Due to the 2018 PIP, the Department has already made efforts towards establishing a foundation of evidence-based approaches to casework in child welfare. Building on the existing infrastructure in the Department's state-wide child welfare system, this Plan constitutes the next steps of highlighting the strengths of the Department's system, thus improving the outcomes for children and families in Wyoming.

This Plan has been developed in collaboration with Department Social Services personnel that oversee the administration of the Title IV-B Plan and related programs. Due to the Department's State Office's limited staffing, the overlap between projects is significant. To the Department's benefit, there is ample opportunity to ensure consistency across programs and plans.

WY Home Matters

WY Home Matters is a collaborative Department-wide initiative that aims, in part, to transform Wyoming's child welfare system into a family well-being system. Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and the Title IV-E Prevention Plan constitute the means by which Wyoming hopes to accomplish the desired system change. Partnerships and collaborative approaches are vital. **Figure 1**, below, illustrates the overlapping spheres of influence within the existing family well-being system in Wyoming and the opportunities to collaborate in areas of shared responsibility and influence.

Figure 1. Family Well-being System



Using this model as a basis, the Department convened a multi-agency WY Home Matters Steering Committee in February 2020 with representatives from:

- The Department
- Wyoming Office of Guardian Ad Litem;
- Wyoming Children's Trust;
- Children's Justice Project/Court Improvement Project; and,
- The Governor's Office.

The Steering Committee met monthly from 2020-2022 to share observations and experiences with the existing system, to discuss opportunities for change and collaboration, and to review progress made by the Department on the Title IV-E Prevention Plan. The Steering Committee reviewed the proposed Candidate

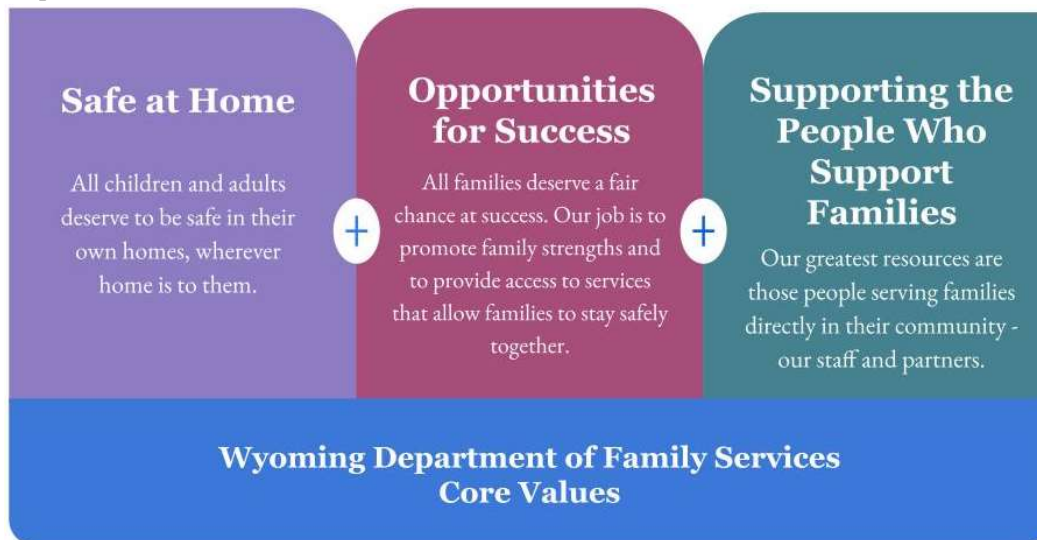
for Foster Care Eligibility criteria and Title IV-E Prevention Service selection in this Plan. Finally, a WY Home Matters website will be launching, with financial support generously provided by the CJP. The website will provide a platform for WY Home Matters communications, data, and success stories to change the conversation around child and family welfare to a prevention mindset regarding child and family well-being.

In addition to the Steering Committee, the Department internal WY Home Matters Team included:

- Social Services Division Administrator;
- Social Services Division Field Administrator;
- Senior Policy Advisor;
- IV-E Program Manager;
- Program & Policy Manager;
- CQI & Data System Program Manager;
- Program Supervisor;
- Program Analysts;
- Clinical Staff; and,
- Field Staff.

The Team is guided by the Department's Core Values, **Figure 2**, below, as the Department takes on the challenge of adopting a true prevention mindset and transitioning to a system that reflects that mindset.

Figure 2. The Department Core Values



Ongoing Collaboration and Plans for the Future

The Department’s WY Home Matters Initiative has concluded the first goals of establishing a Title IV-E Prevention Plan, with this submission, and has begun convening work groups specific to the areas of identified needs. As the Department works to across the State, the WY Home Matters work groups pertain to Juvenile Justice reform, the establishment of a home-visiting network, and inclusion of other Department sectors such as Economic Security and Child Care.

Community & Partner Engagement

In anticipation of this Plan, the Department strengthened outreach to statewide community partners through a variety of means. Each approach was tailored to the specific participants and the goal to be achieved by each group. Each group has had a hand in identifying and developing the herein contained criteria for Candidate for Foster Care, considering the children that are at the greatest risk of entry into foster care, the services available to communities, children, and families, and how those two populations could be best served by this Plan. Furthermore, the Department has strived to ensure that, by way of establishing state-wide communication across agencies, geographical areas, and stakeholders, the Department is thereby fostering a continuum of care to ensure that children and families are serviced by providers with a consistent belief in prevention and mitigating risk of entry into foster care.

Community Family Support Forum

Discussions in the Community Family Support Forum calls have highlighted the importance of communication, including:

- Building trust between the Department, stakeholders, partners, and the community;
- Being honest about what is working and not working in the child welfare system; and,
- Honoring the work that has been done while also acknowledging the system can do better.

The Community Family Support Forum is a monthly Google Meet organized by the Department as a forum that calls for action and provides a place for communities and organizations to share ideas and

resources. The forum is open to anyone who is interested in participating, including schools, providers, community-based organizations, and members of the public. Participants typically include:

- Department State Office and Field Staff
- Representatives from community, including: CJP/CIP; GAL; Office of the Attorney General; Wyoming Citizen Review Panel; Eastern Shoshone Department of Family Services; Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services; Wyoming Department of Health; Wyoming Department of Education; WCTF Community Based Child Abuse Prevention lead agency; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Residential Treatment Centers; Qualified Residential Treatment Programs, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities; Group Homes; and community mental health partners.

Since its inception in April 2020, the purpose of the Community Support Forums has shifted to more goals focused on the community-level, rather than on the Department. Looking into the future, the Department will continue to utilize the Community Support Forums as a collaborative platform for systems change.

Presentations to Community Organizations

The Department values and has prioritized the information obtained from the internal and external WY Home Matters teams, as well as the Community Support Forums, to ensure the feedback does not fall by the wayside and is inadvertently excluded from the development of this Plan. As such, the Department has participated in the following presentations, in an effort to utilize this information by remaking the view of the child welfare system.

<p>Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children & Youth</p>	<p>2021 – The Department, WCTF, and Parents as Teachers (PAT) joined together to establish the basis for this presentation, the Department's cross-agency efforts to address the need for Prevention, and to have an open panel discussion with attendees; medical providers, social services agencies, legal professionals, and community organizations.</p> <p>2022 – The Department, WCTF, GAL, and CJP/CIP collaborated for a presentation regarding the Prevention Mindset and the Title IV-E Prevention Plan, highlighting the process of systems change as informed by the FRIENDS PMI experience and other inter-agency collaborations.</p>
<p>Wyoming School Counselors Association Resiliency Conference</p>	<p>2021 – The Department’s Social Services and Economic Security divisions partnered to share information about prevention and concrete supports offered through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Low Income Energy Assistance Program, and Weatherization that can assist struggling families who school counselors may encounter.</p> <p>2022 – The WCTF presented regarding the Prevention Mindset and the Title IV-E Prevention Plan, highlighting the process of systems change as informed by the FRIENDS PMI experience and other inter-agency collaborations.</p>
<p>State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice (SACJJ)</p>	<p>The Department provides quarterly updates on the Title IV-E Prevention Plan to the SACJJ. The Department has invited the SACJJ members to participate in the Community Family Support Forum and to engage the Council’s Best Practices Committee in gathering data on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse services offered by providers, populations served, and current fidelity practices.</p>

Mandatory Supporter Training	Presented by the WCTF as a community based training. Monthly sessions are offered throughout the state to discuss protective factors and Wyoming’s Mandatory Reporting Laws. The presentation was made with the review and approval by the Department in an effort to ensure consistent messaging. As of this writing, more than 800 professionals and residents have been trained statewide.
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Engagement in Learning Opportunities

The Department has also placed great importance on going beyond Wyoming’s borders to learn from national partners regarding the prevention mindset and other states’/agencies’ Title IV-E Prevention Plans.

National Governors Association Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Learning Collaborative	Participants will learn from two model states, California and Tennessee, about their statewide ACEs initiatives and receive technical assistance from the NGA in developing their own state-specific plans and strategies. The Governor’s Office is leading the Wyoming team, with support from the Department.
FRIENDS National Resource Center, Prevention Mindset Institute.	The goal of the institute was to identify and share strategies to build a Prevention Mindset in the child welfare system through collaboration and relationship-building with partners. The WCTF led the Wyoming team; alongside community partner Parents as Teachers and the Department. This team participated in a 3 day conference, focusing on next steps for Wyoming and Prevention. The Executive Director of the WCTF was invited back for Round 2 of the PMI in 2022.
Urban Institute Evidence-Building Academy, sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families, Children’s Bureau	The Department Social Services Division Administrator, Field Administrator, and Senior Policy Analyst participated in the July and October 2020 learning sessions to educate evaluators and implementers on how to conduct program evaluations and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) for child welfare services.
Casey Family Learning Collaborative Meetings - Department	State Office staff has regularly attended these collaborative meetings since their inception to gather information and insight regarding the implementation of Qualified Residential Treatment Programs and the submission of other states’ Title IV-E Prevention Plans.

Collaboration & Consultation with Other Agencies

A Department initiative has been to re-establish the Interagency Children’s Collaborative (ICC) under W.S. § 14-3-215. The ICC had languished and was re-established in 2021 with participation from the Department, Wyoming Department of Health (WDH), Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS), and the Governor’s Office. Within the confines of existing Wyoming State Statute, cited above, the ICC is one aspect of the Department’s plan to ensure that high level conversations, with representation from agencies with the most influence on child and family well-being in Wyoming, are able to communicate and collaborate on agency policies, procedures, and approaches.

Parents with Lived Experience

The Wyoming Children's Trust Fund (WCTF) conducted a series of 38 Parent Cafes from November 2020 to February 2021, offering Cafes in English and Spanish. The WCTF and the Department were conscientious of which agency would be the most appropriate choice for gathering parent voice and it was decided that the Department would not be at the table for these Cafes. Rather, the WCTF shared the insight from these Parent Cafes with the WY Home Matters Steering Committee at each monthly external WY Home Matters meeting. This data was used to inform a portion of the 2021 Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children & Youth referenced above.

The WCTF held a series of 40 Dad's Cafes from December 2021 to February 2022, again in English and Spanish. The WCTF and the Department are aware of and hoping to respond to the need for concrete support for fathers in Wyoming.

In addition to these collaborative efforts by the WCTF, the Department intends to add a Parent Survey to the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process to capture family experience and satisfaction with services offered through CPS or JS cases (see the Continuous Quality Improvement section below on pages 19). This effort will be a part of the upcoming statewide assessment Round 4 of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) for Wyoming, scheduled for 2023.

At this time, Wyoming is reviewing statute regarding the privacy of Child Protective Services (CPS) cases, which may limit anyone from discussing a current or past CPS case. Unfortunately, this may apply to a parent sharing their experience with the Department or a foster child sharing their experience in the Wyoming foster care system. This is a significant challenge to effectively engaging parents and youth with lived experience with the Department. Thus, WCTF's efforts to capture lived experiences have come from Wyoming parents and families that do not have a history of involvement with the Department.

Youth with Lived Experience

The Department established a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) in 2021 with eleven (11) youth participating initially. Youth are compensated for their time and several requests have been accommodated regarding scheduling. The YAC's purpose is to provide a platform for the Department and former foster youth to:

- Provide insight into their experience in foster care;
- Gather suggestions/information about how the Department can improve practice;
- Update the Wyoming Foster Youth Rights form to be inclusive of LGBTQ+;
- Update the Independent and Transitional Living Plan to be inclusive of LGBTQ+;
- Allow former foster youth to modify practice through Policy and Procedure to ensure that their voices are not only heard, but are listened to;
- Develop plans for future Youth Conferences which provide continuing Independent Living (IL) skills and opportunities for learning, based on the YAC's identified needs; and
- Harness all of this information and channel it into the development of and support for Candidates for Foster Care.

Early feedback from YAC indicates the need for increased involvement in Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings and Case Plan development, as well as support and education for LGBTQ+ foster youth.

Child Safety

Woven throughout the Wyoming Department of Family Services' approach to becoming a family well-being agency, rather than a child welfare agency, is the importance of always prioritizing child safety. Nonetheless, safety applies to more than the child's physical safety, but also their mental and emotional safety and well-being. Ensuring that any child involved with the Department is kept safe is the foremost responsibility of the Department. Through the identification of Candidates for Foster Care, the Department recognizes the trauma of removal and aims to ensure that children and families are not separated unnecessarily and that involvement with the Department results in betterment of family functioning and prevents entry into or reduced returns to foster care.

Child safety is critical to the success of a Prevention Plan that is developed for any child and family involved with the Department and for whom a determination has been made regarding eligibility as Candidate for Foster Care. It is the expectation that the Prevention Plan and associated services will

1. mitigate any safety concerns in the home through Case Planning activities and
2. provide the child and family with a path to success.

Wyoming recognizes that there will also be cases in which prevention services are insufficient to stabilize the family and the child may enter care at that point. The Department will be closely monitoring safety as well as the number of children and families entering care from a Candidate for Foster Care status (see Prevention Program Reporting section on page 23).

As part of the most recent Program Improvement Plan (PIP), a result of the 2016 Round 3 of the CFSR, the Department updated and implemented a comprehensive Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk Assessment for all Child Protection Services (CPS) and Juvenile Services (JS) cases. The Department developed a Family Assessment aimed to bridge the gap between the Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk Assessments that gives families credit for their strengths and prioritizes their needs. The new Family Assessment policy went into effect in January 2020. Candidates for Foster Care will be treated the same as all CPS or JS cases served by the Department. The existing Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk assessments will be used to continuously monitor the safety of Candidates for Foster Care and the Family Assessment will continue to help Caseworkers prioritize Case Plan goals.

Wyoming Practice Model

The Wyoming Practice Model (WPM) is a solution-focused approach that aims to build and strengthen partnerships with the Department and within a family by involving their informal support networks of friends and family members. Staff receive approximately 11 hours of CORE training in the WPM, which incorporates Signs of Safety, Motivational Interviewing, and Solution-Based Casework philosophies and tools. The WPM provides a framework in which the Caseworkers can directly engage the child, family, and Family Team (Wyoming's term for Family and Permanency Team) in identifying concrete strengths, increasing engagement by the family and their network, and focusing on enhancing child safety through quality Safety Plans and quality, behaviorally-centered Case Plans.

Though use of WPM tools (i.e. mapping, Safety Circles, genograms, Three Houses, etc), Caseworkers are able to conduct informal assessments of safety and well-being during quality visits (i.e. Face to Face visits, Family Team Meetings, etc). Collectively, the formal and informal assessments support Caseworkers in their ability to objectively assess family strengths and needs, as well as obtain family voice at all times and at all stages of a CPS or JS case.

Assessment of Child and Family Needs

The WPM includes tools such as Safety, Risk, Juvenile Risk, and Family Assessments, which are utilized formally in the Department’s SACWIS data system, WYCAPS, as well as in person with the children and families of Wyoming. These Assessments help the Caseworkers identify and prioritize the family’s needs from multiple perspectives. Per **Figure 3**, below, Safety, Risk, Juvenile Risk, and Family Assessments are conducted at specific intervals throughout any open case and are repeated at least every 6 months. Utilizing these Formal and Informal Assessments, the Department will monitor safety at least monthly, by way of informal Face-to-Face contact, and at least every 6 months, through the Formal Assessment described below. This global assessment approach will ensure that the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services is based on assessed needs, strengths, and response to services.

Figure 3. Overview of Formal Assessment Timelines



Safety Assessment	Aims to identify specific safety threats under 5 domains: Extent of Maltreatment, Nature of Maltreatment Surrounding Circumstances, Child functioning, Parenting/Discipline, and Adult Functioning. The Assessment funnels the identified Safety Threats into the development of a Safety Plan and identification of a Safety Rating (Safe, Conditionally Safe, and Unsafe). The Safety Assessment was trained in November 2019 after significant updates were made to the Policy due to the PIP. The Safety Assessment is conducted within 7 days of intake acceptance and periodically throughout the life of a case, including at important intervals in the case, such as a change in placement.
Risk Assessment	Identifies risk factors that directly impact the child and family. The Risk Assessment rates the risk to the child as Low, Moderate, High or Very High. The Risk Assessment was trained in November 2019 after significant updates were made to the Policy due to the PIP. The Risk Assessment and Reassessment are conducted within 30 days of intake acceptance, periodically throughout the life of a case, at least every 6 months, and at important junctions in the case, such as a change in placement.
Juvenile Services Risk Assessment	Specifically designed to address the unique needs of a JS case, the Assessment provides insight into the youth’s ability to function in the community in a socially appropriate manner and identifies red flags. It also examines how the youth’s history, circumstances, and behaviors impact their safety and well-being. Like the CPS Risk Assessment described above, the Juvenile Services Risk Assessment was updated and trained in November 2019 after significant changes were made to the Policy due to the PIP. The Juvenile Risk Assessment is completed within 30 days of intake, at least every 3 months, and at important junctions in the case, such as a change in placement.
Family Assessment	The Family Assessment focuses on the strengths and needs within the family system. Furthermore, the Family Assessment instructs the Caseworkers on identifying the areas of strength and the highest needs and then channeling that assessment into the development of a Case Plan. The Family Assessment is conducted within the first 45 days of intake acceptance and family strengths and needs are monitored throughout the life of the case.

The results of these formal assessments are then utilized in the development of Case Plan goals, along with other WPM tools which, as discussed above, aid in the identification of the family’s safety network.

All of these evidence-based, safety-oriented tools constitute the WPM and are utilized by all Caseworkers in Wyoming. Since the initial training in November 2019, ongoing training on Safety, Risk, Juvenile Risk, and Family Assessments have taken place in conjunction with Policy updates for Case Plan, Assessment for Appropriate Placement in Residential Care, and Face to Face Contact, to name a few.

Differential Response

The Wyoming Department of Family Services operates a unique differential response system for both CPS and JS cases, based on the level of concern, assigning a track to each accepted intake.

CPS cases are assigned according to three tracks: Prevention, Assessment, and Investigation.

- The Prevention Track is used in cases which do not have any allegations of abuse and/or neglect but the Department has identified a need for concrete support in order to prevent escalation of safety threats or risk of removal. The Prevention Track is not equivalent to a Candidate for Foster Care, as children in this track are usually not at imminent risk of removal.
- The Assessment Track is used for cases in which there are allegations of abuse and/or neglect, but the concerns do not rise to the level of an Investigation.
- Finally, the Investigation Track is used for cases in which there are allegations of abuse and/or neglect that include, among others, the following criteria: imminent danger, removal from the home is likely, major injury, or sexual abuse.

JS Cases are assigned according to different paths: Diversion, Probation or/and Intensive Supervised Probation. The County/District Attorney makes the decision on how each citation is handled through the local Single Point of Entry process.

- Diversion is a voluntary program offered to youth who have been cited into a court other than District Court. This program helps the youth address the citation by offering needed services and opportunities for retributive justice (community service, restitution) without further court action.
- Probation (CHINS/Delinquency) that results from a petition being filed with the juvenile court by the County Attorney.
 - Intensive Supervised Probation (ISP) is an alternative to an out-of-home placement or incarceration that provides an opportunity to the youth for care and treatment within the family and community. ISP is a balanced approach to supervision, which is designed to enhance public safety.

From the time an intake is reported, reviewed, and accepted by a Supervisor, a track is assigned to that case, based on the above criteria, at the center of which is the child's safety. Nonetheless, formal assessments and use of WPM tools are used universally to provide objective, insightful, and multifaceted assessments of a child and family.

Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based Service Provision

The Department has an infrastructure centered on providing a trauma-informed, evidence-based approach to child welfare. The development of this Title IV-E Prevention Plan is the Department's logical next step to transition to a family well-being system in Wyoming. The Department's trauma-informed, evidence-based approaches prior to removal include:

- A differential response that allows the Department to assess family needs and address such needs accordingly, rather than launch into an investigation at the first intake.

- The implementation of the WPM, which centers on communication and relationship-building skills. Throughout the recent PIP, the Department added a Family Team Meeting Policy to bolster the Department’s family centered approach to casework.
- The Department utilizes Flex Funding for in-home services in an effort to prevent further trauma by supporting families and keeping children **Safe at Home**.

Candidates for Foster Care

The Wyoming Department of Family Services has thoughtfully considered how to identify criteria for eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care. The Department has developed the following criteria based on the outcomes of the above-described WPM formal Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk Assessments, as well as circumstances that fundamentally place a child at risk of removal. Additionally, all criteria were developed with the goal of reducing entry into foster care and avoiding an unnecessary increase in Department involvement with children and families. Please see the attached Candidate for Foster Care Policy for more information.

Criteria for Eligibility as Candidate for Foster Care

In order to strengthen the Department’s response to accepted intakes, regardless of track assignment through a differential response process, the Department has developed the following criteria for Candidate for Foster Care. Eligibility criteria for Candidate for Foster Care is based on identifying existing populations served by the Department that meet the “imminent risk of removal” criteria for a Candidate for Foster Care. The Department recognizes that being a subject of an intake falls short of being at imminent risk of removal, thus basing criteria for eligibility on the outcomes of formal assessment and objectively high-risk circumstances (i.e. previously having been the subject of 3+ accepted intakes.) Please see the attached [Candidate for Foster Care Policy](#) for more information. **Table 1**, below, summarizes the Candidate for Foster Care eligibility criteria.

Table 1. Candidate for Foster Care Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility Criteria
Child Protective Services (CPS) formal Risk Assessment score of Moderate or higher
Juvenile Services (JS) formal Juvenile Risk Assessment score of a Moderate or higher
Children marked Conditionally Safe or Unsafe on the Safety Assessment
Children that are the subject of three or more (3+) prior accepted intakes
Siblings living in the same household of origin/removal as a youth currently in DFS custody AND in an out-of-home placement
Recent reunifications/Trial Home Placements ¹ /Parent Placements ² and a case remains open

¹ Trial Home Placement as defined in section 45 CFR 1356.21 (e)

² See the attached Candidate for Foster Care Policy for definition of “Parent Placement”

A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.

Pregnant and parenting foster youth are eligible for Title IV-E Prevention Services, regardless of placement type. This criterion applies to foster youth that are pregnant or are parenting. The Department SACWIS system, WYCAPS, is equipped to contain a field to identify a child as pregnant or parenting.

In order to support the Caseworkers in correctly identifying siblings living in the same household of origin/removal as a youth currently in DFS custody AND in an out-of-home placement, significant examples are provided in Department Candidate for Foster Care Procedure. The Department believes that each case deserves to be assessed by its own merit and being the siblings of a child in foster care does not automatically constitute a risk of removal. The Department has provided guidance, examples, and support regarding determinations of eligibility based on this criteria.

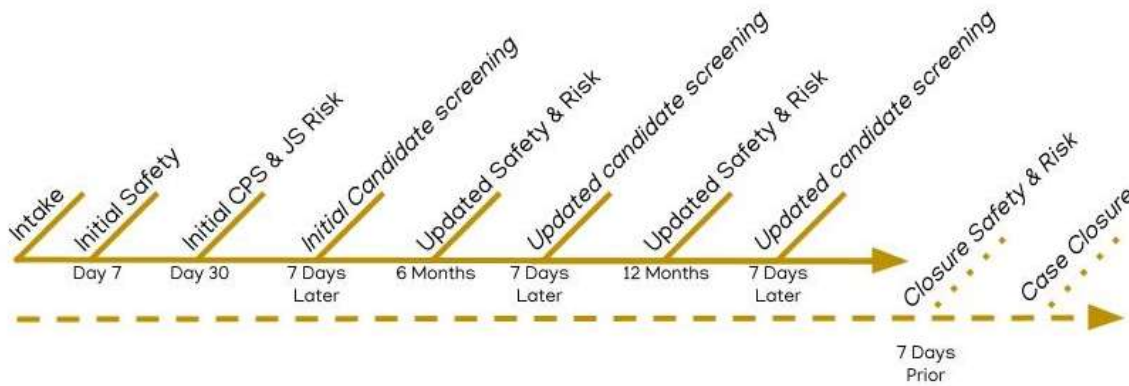
- In CPS cases, the Department anticipates that children that remain in the household of origin/removal may be at risk of removal due to several assessed factors including, reason for removal and age of the child removed and of the children who remain in the home.
- In JS cases, the Department anticipates that children that remain in the household of origin/removal may be at risk of removal if a sibling that remains in the home demonstrates comparable risk factors, engages in behaviors that may constitute a risk of removal, or parental support is comparably lacking for the sibling. The Department does not anticipate that siblings of children in foster care that do not display these concerns are likely to be at risk of removal.

Children may fall into one or more of the above eligibility criteria. Note that not all cases are at “imminent risk” of entering out-of-home placement, nor is the existing Prevention track equivalent to a Candidate for Foster Care. Rather, the development of the criteria and the anticipated identification of a Candidate are aimed at ensuring that Wyoming’s children are able to remain safely in their home through the provision of Well-Supported services. Cases scored as Low on the Risk Assessment are generally not at imminent risk of removal and services and support can typically be implemented quickly, resulting in less involvement with the Department. The work groups were sensitive to the risk of over-identifying Candidates for Foster Care, resulting in increased surveillance of families and the possible unintended consequence of more children coming into care as a result.

Eligibility Determinations

As demonstrated in **Figure 4**, below, the formal assessments that are tied to the Candidate for Foster Care criteria are timed so that accurate eligibility determinations may be made post-assessment. The eligibility screening is based on, at a minimum, the established timelines for the formal assessments. Additionally, case changes, such as a change in Risk or Safety scores, trigger the need for an updated screening to ensure ongoing accuracy of eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care.

Figure 4. Candidate for Foster Care Timeline Based on Formal Assessments



Eligibility determinations will be made by the Caseworkers and require sign-off by a Supervisor, and allows for a Discretionary Supervisory Override. The Caseworker will conduct a screening on every child that is not placed out-of-the-home and is involved in an open case via the Department’s SACWIS data system, WYCAPS (with further development in the new CCWIS system after acquisition and implementation are complete). As outlined above, 3 of the 7 criteria are based on the outcomes of the formal Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk Assessments (described on page 10). In collaboration with the established timelines for those assessments (initial assessments due at 7 and 30 days respectively), the screening for Candidate eligibility is due within 7 days of the completion of the Risk Assessment.

Eligibility determinations will not stop at case intake, but rather, eligibility will be evaluated throughout the life of the case. The Department anticipates that eligibility, based on the outlined criteria for Candidate for Foster Care, will be a dynamic status in need of regular reassessment. The Department is prepared for several outcomes of the Candidate for Foster Care screening:

1. Initial eligibility within 7 days of Risk Assessment Completion
2. Ongoing eligibility supported by Safety, Risk, and Juvenile Risk reassessments, completed per policy throughout the life of the case
3. Eligibility ceasing due to a reduction in identified Safety Threats and/or Risk Scores
4. Initial ineligibility changing due to an increase in identified Safety Threats and/or Risk Scores
5. Categorical eligibility for all pregnant and parenting foster youth, as well as children whose adoptions or guardianships are at risk of disruption.

Eligibility will be based on 6-month increments (the maximum amount of time, per established Department policy is no more than 6 months between any formal assessments) or whenever a child’s eligibility changes based on the above-mentioned anticipated changes, whichever occurs first. By relying on the 6-month time period, in direct correlation with Department policy, Caseworkers will be able to determine whether the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services is proving effective to avoid removal.

As required by Department Policy, prior to case closure, the Caseworker completes final Safety and Risk Assessments. The Department SACWIS data system, WYCAPS, requires these assessments prior to incident closure, whenever a case closure decision is made.

Development of Prevention Plans

The Department has equipped the SACWIS data system, WYCAPS, with the ability to screen each child for eligibility as a Candidate utilizing an eligibility determination form which prompts the Caseworker to select appropriate Title IV-E Prevention Services, and thus establishing, prior to the provision of services,

the Prevention Plan for the child. The subsequent reporting for Prevention Services and Claiming will be based on this data entry to ensure that ONLY children with eligibility as Candidates will be used in claiming for Prevention Services.

The eligibility screening will provide a clear determination of:

- 1) eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care (based on the criteria on page 12);
- 2) the date this determination was made (start date for claiming purposes);
- 3) the Title IV-E Prevention Service that will be provided to prevent removal, as well as the service category under which it is being implemented for each child's unique Prevention Plan (mental health, in-home parenting, or substance abuse); and
- 4) that the alternate plan for the child would be placement in foster care.

From that point forward, the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services will be in addition to the child and family's Case Plan.

Caseworkers have two Case Plans available to them: the Safe at Home Case Plan and the Case Plan, which have been developed for either a case without juvenile court involvement or a case with juvenile court involvement, respectively.

The Safe at Home Case Plan is a behavior-focused tool that utilizes WPM tools, particularly Solution-Focused Inquiry, to prevent the escalation of safety threats that jeopardize the child's ability to remain safely in their home. The Plan is able to be developed quickly, in writing, with a family, after the completion of the formal Safety, Risk, and Family Assessments. All Department staff were provided training via a "Lunch and Learn" in September 2021, which is also available on the Department Intranet page. The approach to the development of a Safe at Home Case Plan mirrors that of a Case Plan for juvenile court involved cases.

For children and families already involved with the juvenile court, the Case Plan is a document that meets Federal and State requirements, while also providing a platform for documenting the results of formal Safety, Risk, Juvenile Risk, and Family Assessments, as well as ensuring that the Caseworker can track the needs of the child and family's well-being. The Case Plan also provides an infrastructure for needs specific to foster care cases, including juvenile services, foster parent needs, visitation schedules, and Qualified Residential Treatment Program requirements.

Title IV-E Prevention Services

The Wyoming Department of Family Services will provide children, parents, and kinship caregivers, with Title IV-E Prevention Services that directly address a identified need per the guidelines above), and prevent an entry into foster care. It is the Department's strategic goal to begin with Motivational Interviewing (MI) as a starting point and leverage funds claimed from Title IV-E reimbursement to later implement further services in Wyoming. Those additional services will be added to the Wyoming Title IV-E Prevention Plan via Amendments to this Plan when such a time comes.

Motivational Interviewing

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is rated as a Well Supported practice by the Title IV-E Clearinghouse. Wyoming intends to implement MI as a **cross-cutting service**³ that will be used with all caregivers in

³ [District of Columbia's approved Title IV-E Prevention Plan](#) lists MI as a cross-cutting service.

all open cases as an in-home parenting, mental health, and substance abuse prevention and treatment service, per the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. MI is a communication style that increases internal motivation to change and enhances engagement in services⁴. The Department sees MI as a catalyst for all other services and referrals. By engaging clients in MI, the Department is able to support clients' understanding of their own goals and reasons for engaging in additional services. In an effort to ensure that Caseworkers are able to provide MI with fidelity, the Department has contracted with a local business, Communicating for Change and its owner, Kayla Opdahl, a certified MINT trainer (Please see the attached [Motivational Interviewing Training Plan](#)).

Evidence in Support of Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare

MI was selected as a Title IV-E Prevention Service because it has been a part of the aforementioned Wyoming Practice Model (WPM) since its implementation in 2015. The WPM is a family-centered approach to all interactions with a family; thus MI is inherently complimentary to this approach. Miller and Rollnick (2013, p. 29) define MI as “a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change. It is designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person’s own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.” Therefore, through the use of MI, the Department has focused on identifying and building upon a caregiver’s strengths, leveraging that information to better engage them in Case Planning activities. Because the WPM includes MI, the Department’s implementation of MI as a Title IV-E Prevention Service focuses on fidelity monitoring, ongoing workforce training and support, and continuous quality improvement through the methods outlined in this Plan.

The main tenets of MI are compassion, acceptance, evocation, and partnership are one in the same as the WPM. The Department’s Core Values, as visualized above on pg. 5, go hand in hand with the use of MI. The Department’s ultimate goal of keeping children and families **Safe at Home** is achieved through providing **Opportunities for Success** and **Supporting the People who Support Families**. MI is essential to the promotion and perpetuation of the Department’s Core Values with the goal of helping families feel understood and how their role in any Department interaction is an active, guiding role⁵.

It is important to note that involvement with the Department comes in many forms in Wyoming: juvenile justice issues such as CHINS or delinquency matters, child protection issues such as environmental hazards, substance abuse, and physical, mental, emotional, or educational neglect, MI has been shown to be successful as an intervention in child welfare practice⁶, particularly when coupled with other clinical inventions. Although the reasons for Department involvement may vary, the use of MI is malleable because it is based on the premise of reflecting back a client’s own internal desires, rather than the imposition of the Department’s.

⁴ MI has primarily been studied in substance abuse populations. MI has also been shown to be effective in any population in which behavior change is sought. 3rd Edition, *Motivational Interviewing, Helping People Change* by William R. Miller, Stephen Rollnick, Christopher J. McLouth, Scott T. Walters, Melinda Hohman, Copyright 2013

⁵ Casey Family Programs. (2020). How can motivational interviewing be used in child protection?, [Application of Motivational Interviewing Techniques in Child Welfare Practice](#) by Margaret M. Higgins, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2017). Literature review: Motivational Interviewing

⁶ [The Benefits of Motivational Interviewing and Coaching for Improving the Practice of Comprehensive Family Assessments in Child Welfare](#) by Elizabeth H. Snyder, C. Nicole Lawrence, Tara N. Weatherholt, & Paul Nagy & [Application of Motivational Interviewing Techniques in Child Welfare Practice](#) by Margaret M. Higgins

As shown below in **Figure 5**, the Department’s belief that a family’s needs are identified and assessed in the Case Planning process (observe the interactions between MI, WPM, and formal assessments), the parents’ willingness to change is ascertained, resulting in a written Case Plan document, and then the Caseworker has an organized, prioritized approach based on the family’s input.

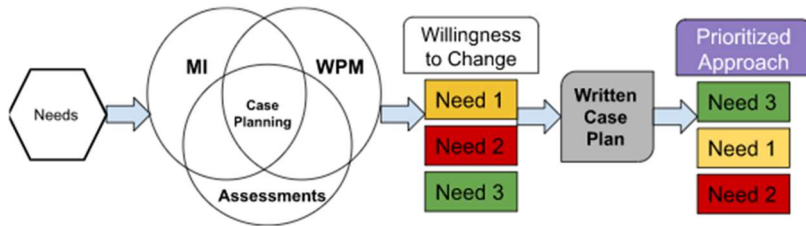
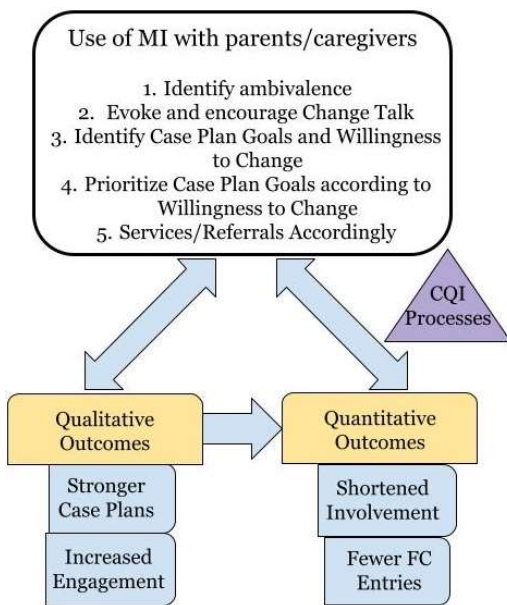


Figure 5. Interactions in Case Planning between MI, WPM, and Formal Assessments

All Caseworkers will provide this service to all parents involved with the Department, regardless of their eligibility as Candidates for Foster Care (see page 12), in an effort to standardize and optimize the quality of services and care the Department offers to the children and families of Wyoming. The Department’s

stance is that use of MI with parents and older youth creates a “trickle down” effect in which the children ultimately benefit from the provision of this Title IV-E Prevention Service. Furthermore, the Department will use MI with Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth in an effort to prevent their child’s entry into foster care and to ensure that they are prepared for the demands of parenting.



As a result of using MI in all open cases throughout the state, the Department anticipates the following qualitative outcomes:

- Families and Caseworkers will produce stronger Case Plans that better reflect the families needs and desires for change
- Children and families will be more engaged in service referrals.

Through the achievement of the subjective outcomes, the Department anticipates it will be able to measure these quantitative outcomes:

- Time involved with the Department will decrease; and
- The number of children entering foster care from in-home will decrease.

Figure 6. Operationalization of Qualitative and Quantitative Outcomes

As demonstrated in **Figure 6**, left, a Case Plan that is able to capture the voice, input, and feedback of the parents as obtained through the use of MI is expected to improve outcomes for children and families. Not only does the Department anticipate that the Case Plans will align more appropriately with the child and families’ needs, but also that the use of MI will aid Caseworkers in identifying areas in which a parent is more willing to change, thus guiding Caseworkers to areas of need to which the parent may be more willing to respond to intervention. The bi-directional feedback allows the parent to determine the route their Case Plan takes while also allowing the Caseworker to follow the family’s lead regarding referrals, timelines, and responses. Thus, it can be reasonably expected that children and families will be more likely to engage in a service that aligns with an area of need which they are open to change.

Complementarily, the Caseworker will also be better able to identify areas of resistance and thus not prioritize service referrals which may generate a resistant response.

While these data points are not necessarily part of the federal reporting requirements, they will provide objective outcomes that demonstrate if the implementation and use of MI is proving successful. Because the Department is dedicated to implementing MI for all cases and with all caregivers, the Department anticipates that casework practice around the state will improve, as demonstrated by these data points.

Please see the [MI Training Plan](#) for more information on how these outcomes will be operationalized.

Oversight and Evaluation of Services

The evaluation of services will take place at several levels, as discussed below.

- Caseworker and Supervisor Staffing - Ultimate responsibility for all casework falls on the Caseworker and their Supervisor. Supervisors provide at least once monthly staffing with each individual Caseworker. In these staffings, Caseworkers and Supervisors monitor case progress, barriers, problem solve, and strategize next steps. As such, the effectiveness and oversight of any Title IV-E Prevention Service will be directly monitored at these staffings.
- Case progress as overseen by the Family Team, Multidisciplinary Team (MDT), and Juvenile Court - Caseworkers are required to have monthly meetings in all high risk in-home cases or cases in which a Candidate for Foster Care has been identified. Consequently the Family Team is directly involved in identifying needs, addressing those needs, and monitoring progress. Furthermore, cases with involvement from the Juvenile Court provide an extra layer of oversight via the MDT. Ongoing monitoring of progress on both the Case Plan and the written Prevention Plan (identifying the child as the Candidate for Foster Care and the provision of MI as a Prevention Services) is a part of this case oversight.
 - Successful engagement and achievement of Case Plan goals will result in outcomes assessed and addressed through existing Policy and Procedures regarding safety, risk, and needs, as described under the “Child Safety” section of this Plan.
 - If the provision of MI proves to unsuccessful over a 12 month period of time in which a child has been identified as a Candidate for Foster Care, the Caseworker, in collaboration with their Supervisor will comply with existing Policy and Procedures regarding updates to the Safety and Risk Assessments, thus re-evaluating the content of a Case Plan, and seek further support from the Family Team and the juvenile court, if necessary. Involvement of the juvenile court does not require removal from the home and thus judicial oversight does not automatically jeopardize the Candidate for Foster Care status.
- Outcome monitoring via the CQI processes as described below on pages 19, specifically relative to Permanency timelines – The Department is focused on utilizing quantitative data derived from our existing CQI process, interviews with families, service providers, and court members, and in addition to the Department’s partnership with the CJP/CIP and their review and analysis of Timeline to Permanency data to drive the formation and modification of practice. Ongoing CQI activities, as discussed below, will help the Department ensure, from the state-level, that the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services is proving fruitful in producing results.

Fidelity Monitoring

Wyoming has elected to focus only on those services rated as ‘Well Supported’ and is requesting an evaluation waiver for Motivational Interviewing (MI). Wyoming will monitor implementation and fidelity to the model through the existing CQI process, staff surveys, training records, and qualitative and

quantitative data. The Department’s approach will be universal across the state, across Districts, and across field offices.

Fidelity Monitoring will take place at several levels throughout the implementation process for MI. The Department will provide a Train the Trainer (TtT) collaboration with Communicating for Change in order to establish a group of MI trainers that serve as the core resource. These MI trainers will provide coaching and support to District Managers and Supervisors. The District Managers and Supervisors will provide coaching and support to the Caseworkers. District Managers and Supervisors will provide field supervision for MI through the use of an Artificial Intelligence platform called LYSSN. Individual Caseworker proficiency will be monitored at the State Office

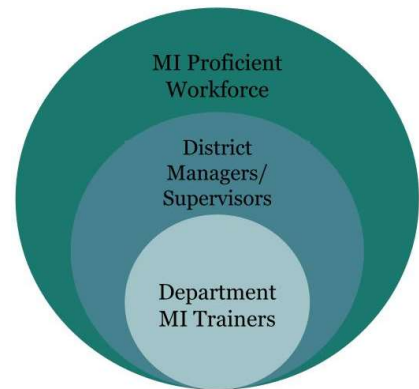


Figure 6. MI Workforce

level and direct support will be provided at the field level. Any Caseworker that falls below the appropriate level of proficiency will be provided coaching and support from their Supervisor, as well as the Department MI trainers.

The Department will leverage Family First funds to implement MI. In year one of implementation, the Department will perform CQI on this well-supported model. It should be noted there are no adaptations to the original model, and it is presently being implemented in alignment with the model handbook as noted on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse⁷.

Monitoring of individual Caseworker proficiency in MI will be conducted through ongoing training and coaching protocols, as described below in the Department Workforce Support & Training section of this plan and the attached [Motivational Interviewing Training Plan](#).

Continuous Quality Improvement

Monitoring and evaluation of Motivational Interviewing will be conducted as part of the state’s existing Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. The CQI process evaluates overall fidelity to the WPM, which includes MI. The CQI will be measured by:

1. Outcomes of District by District CFSR data
2. Qualitative Data from Caseworkers and Supervisors
3. Quantitative Data of outcomes based on data collected in the Department’s SACWIS data system, WYCAPS.

Measurement of outcomes shall take place from these perspectives to ensure that the data captures the effectiveness of Title IV-E Prevention Services offered, while still capturing and documenting the voice of the children and families involved with the Department.

Quantitative Data: Data points regarding

- Children whose in-home cases closed without foster care placement
 - Use of MI to fidelity will result in an increase of cases that avoid an entry into foster care.
- Case duration (intake to case closure)

⁷ Miller, W. R., & Rollnick, S. (2012). *Motivational Interviewing: Helping people change* (3rd ed.). Guilford Press.

- Use of MI will result in a decreased amount of time that cases are open.

Qualitative Data: Family Survey as a part of the 2023 Round 4 CFSR in Wyoming

- Enhance internal motivation to change
- Reinforce that motivation
- Develop a plan achieve change

Please see the [MI Training Plan](#) for how these outcomes will be used to refine and improve practice.

As demonstrated in **Figure 7**, below, over the last 5 Federal Fiscal Years (FFY), the Department has experienced a decrease in the percentage of children who exit in-home care and enter foster care. Correct attribution accounting for this decrease is difficult to pinpoint. Nonetheless, the Department aims to ensure that this data point continues to decrease, resulting in more children **Safe at Home** with their family, rather than entering foster care.

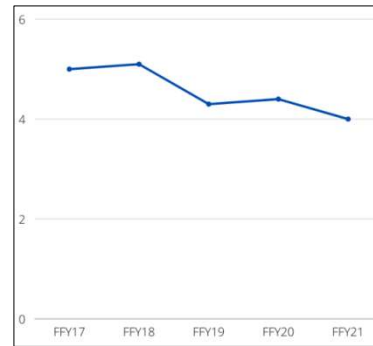


Figure 7. In-home exits into Foster Care

The Department shall use information obtained from fidelity monitoring, quantitative, and qualitative data tracking to refine and improve use of Title IV-E Prevention Services. The restructured Department CQI team launched in July 2020 and had their first regular quarterly meeting in August 2020. At each quarterly meeting, the Department team reviews Key Performance Indicators (KPI), case review updates, and discusses both policy challenges and successes observed at the local level that may be replicated in other offices or at the State Office level.

In between quarterly meetings, local offices review KPI data specific to their region and office. As part of the CQI process, qualitative data will be drawn from two surveys, a Supervisor Survey and a Caseworker Survey. These surveys will be conducted annually going forward to monitor overall agency performance with regards to MI. The Department expects to see the frequency and confidence of both Supervisors and Caseworkers to increase with regards to MI as additional training and fidelity monitoring are implemented as part of staff training protocols.

After an initial review, the data shed some light on areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement. **Figures 8a, 8b, 9a, and 9b** show an MI-related outcome of the Caseworker and Supervisor surveys from 2020 and 2021.

Figure 8a. Caseworker Survey 2020 (n=102)

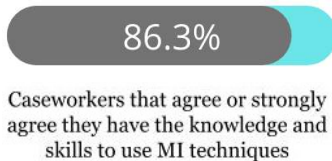


Figure 8b. Caseworker Survey 2021 (n=139)

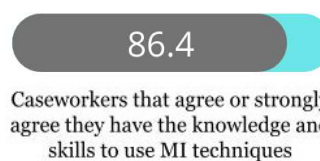


Figure 9a. Supervisor Survey 2020 (n=29)

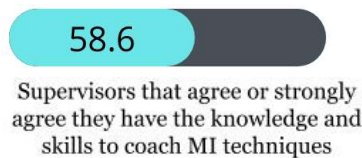
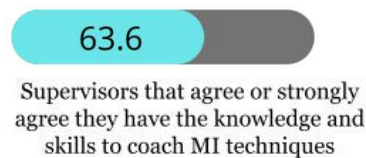


Figure 9b. Supervisor Survey 2021 (n=44)



As can be seen in **Figure 8a**, the workforce at the time of the 2020 survey reported a strong agreement regarding their confidence in their ability to provide MI. In contrast, as demonstrated in **Figure 9a**, just over half of the Supervisors (n=29), reported that they have the knowledge and skill to

coach on MI. Throughout the MI training process, it has become apparent that supporting the District Manager and Supervisory levels of the Department is fundamental to successful implementation of MI in Wyoming. As can be seen in **Figure 9b**, the Supervisors' agreement in their knowledge and ability to coach MI skills improved 5% from 2020 to 2021.

In addition to on-site review findings (via the OSRI) and CFSR-related performance metrics, the DFS Division Administrator and Field Operations Administrator will be monitoring results of monthly Supervisor case reviews via a Division operations report. In collaboration with the CQI Program Manager, Social Services Division leadership identified a core set of operational metrics that will be used to assess the overall effectiveness of CQI activities. The Department also put into place recurring measurement strategies to ensure fidelity. These measurements include a Wyoming Practice Model (WPM) Fidelity Worker survey, WPM Fidelity Supervisor survey, quality Supervision surveys for both Supervisors and Caseworkers, and measurement of KPI regarding caregiver strength and needs and the use of Wyoming Practice Model tools.

Department Workforce Support & Training

The Department is committed to ensuring that staff, at all levels, are qualified to provide services that are rated as Well-Supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and to appropriately develop Prevention Plans, in compliance with the provisions of FFPSA.

Workforce Support

Support and training for the Department's field staff does not end at CORE training. The Department has established that each Caseworker shall receive, at a minimum, Supervisor support through monthly individual staffing and group supervision. Due to the varying size of local field offices, some Supervisors have a team of 5 Caseworkers and some have a team of 9 or more workers. Additionally, of the 9 District Managers, several oversee more than one local field office. Due to this geographical challenge, the importance of creativity and innovation for ongoing support cannot be overstated in Wyoming.

Ongoing training is provided throughout the year for updated policies/procedures and in accordance with the requirement for Continuing Education for all Caseworkers to maintain their state Social Services Worker certification. The State Office provides monthly "Lunch and Learn" training via Zoom. Over the last year, the topics have ranged from Predisposition Reports (PDRs) to updates on the implementation of QRTPs. Recordings of these trainings are made available on the Department's Intranet site, providing for 24/7 access to Department staff. As the Department has strategically updated Policy to accommodate the provisions of FFPSA and the PIP, the Department State Office has provided at least 5 trainings for each updated policy, including the Face to Face Contact and Case Plan policies.

Through consistent training and standardized minimum supervision, the Department is able to oversee and evaluate the appropriateness of services being provided to children and families involved with the Department. As Caseworkers conduct ongoing Safety, Risk, and Family Assessments, as well as continuously utilize WPM tools, they are able to frequently view the family from multiple standpoints, informed by formal assessments and by their individual, professional experience with the family.

Training in Title IV-E Prevention Plan

Since the passing of FFPSA in 2018, the Department has been in a period of updating, re-working, and training a significant number of policies and procedures. The Department was involved in a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) from 2018-2022 which led to a significant effort put toward ensuring the policies, procedures, and training directly led to improved outcomes for children, families, and the overall well-being of the child welfare system. The policies that have been updated to compliance with FFPSA and to incorporate a prevention-oriented, family-centered approach include:

- CPS Intake
- Juvenile Probation Intake
- Case Plan
- Face to Face Contact
- Safety Assessment
- Risk Assessment
- Juvenile Risk Assessment
- Family Assessment
- Family Team Meeting
- Assessment for Appropriate Placement in Residential Care
- Juvenile Courts Timelines, Reviews, and Reports
- Predisposition Report
- Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)
- Supervision

Throughout all of the training that has taken place from 2018-2022, the Department has incorporated a prevention mindset, including demonstrations from the Department’s Clinical Services staff on the importance of attachment, bonding, and child trauma, as well as assistance from the Wyoming’s Child’s Trust Fund (WCTF), the Children’s Justice Project (CJP), and the Office of Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) to establish a baseline understanding of prevention.

The training relative to this Title IV-E Prevention Plan has not differed past 4 years’ efforts to establish a prevention-based approach to child welfare, as the Department works to establish a child well-being system in Wyoming. The Department has provided three (3) trainings to the State Office staff and field staff, including all District Managers, Supervisors, and Caseworkers. The trainings took place in February, March, and April 2022, with the topics as follows:

February 2022	Prevention Mindset, Title IV-E Prevention Plan, & Candidates for Foster Care. The training focused on the values, motivations, and rationale behind transforming child welfare systems into family well-being systems, as well as an introduction to the Wyoming approach and our unique strengths and challenges.
March 2022	Motivational Interviewing & Candidate for Foster Care. The training guided Caseworkers in harnessing their MI proficiency in casework with children and families in Wyoming, as well as incorporating the resulting outcomes to improve Case Plans and prevent removals.
April 2022	Candidate for Foster Care, WYCAPS, and Time Analysis. The training provided direct instruction on data entry into WYCAPS for Candidate for Foster Care screenings and use of appropriate TA codes for in-home cases.
June-August 2022	MI Mondays. The Department has provided demonstrated use of MI in relation to work in every day case management approaches. Through the use of online videos and resources, MI Mondays are based on bringing MI to life with mock case scenarios, WPM tools, and Case Planning.

Training in Title IV-E Prevention Services

As discussed above on pages 15-16 under the heading “Motivational Interviewing,” the Department is systematically training all Social Services staff, from Caseworkers to District Managers to the State Office staff in Motivational Interviewing. Please also see the attached “[Motivational Interviewing Training Plan](#),” which further details the steps that are being taken to ensure that the workforce is trained to proficiency in Wyoming’s first Title IV-E Prevention Service.

Prevention Caseloads

As discussed above on page 11, the Department utilizes a differential response with three track assignments available at the time of intake acceptance. All track assignments are made with prevention services in mind, but this is particularly important in in-home cases. Due to the rural and frontier nature of the state, there is a wide variety of approaches that each field office takes to caseload assignment and management. Some offices in Wyoming utilize a specialized approach in which staff are divided into units that only handle specific cases, such as Investigations, Juvenile Probation, in-home/foster care Child Protection cases, and Adult Protection. Other offices utilize a generalized approach where workers are responsible for managing all case types. All Department field offices are staffed with Caseworkers to provide Juvenile Services. Offices also vary in the number of Caseworkers; some having only one or two workers while others have 15 or more. The target caseload standard for Caseworkers managing prevention cases is a ratio of 1:15 for the Department, statewide.

Table 2. Average number of prevention/in-home cases assigned per worker

District	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Caseload	11	10	10	13	13	16	10	8	8

The intention of the identified Candidates for Foster Care criteria focuses on providing more effective services to the children and families that are subjects of accepted intakes. The Department aims to ensure that all cases are worked with a prevention-oriented mindset to minimize entry into foster care and maximize safe reunifications as quickly as possible.

The management and measurement of individual caseloads is essential in the Department’s intention to focus on the number of children on a caseload and the number of foster care placements. The focus will be on the current caseload numbers and providing more effective, evidence-based, trauma-informed services to the current children and families involved with the Department. By focusing on the number of children monitored by individual Caseworkers, the Department will be better able to monitor child safety, prevention plans, and the provision of prevention services.

In the 2021 legislative session, the Department received funding to support the procurement process for a new CCWIS system, which is being managed by Public Knowledge. A new CCWIS system will help manage caseloads in a way that the current system does not support. Wyoming’s current SACWIS system, WYCAPS, is incident-based and does not accurately account for the number of children per case incident, which can significantly change the agency’s understanding and interpretation of caseload. The reasonableness of caseloads will vary by case type and the number of children and family members involved. Regardless of the data system, the Department aims to support the workforce and Wyoming’s children and families by ensuring that each Caseworker has a caseload that maximizes the level of meaningful engagement with each child and family.

Prevention Program Reporting

The Department is cognizant of the new reporting requirements and will report such information to the Secretary that may be required with respect to the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services for children who meet the eligibility requirements as Candidates for Foster Care in order for Wyoming’s compliance and performance with the provisions of FFPSA to be measured. (See [Attachment I](#) for the Department’s assurance).

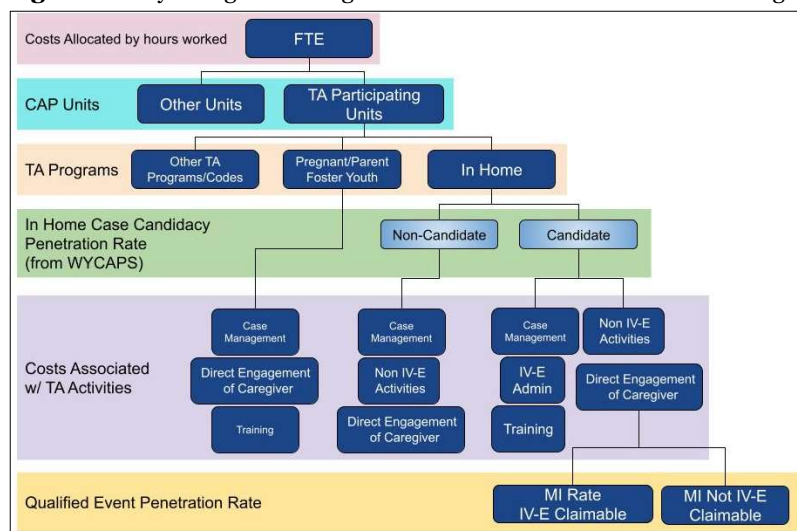
Reporting Title IV-E Prevention Plan Program Data Elements

The Department will comply with all Title IV-E Prevention Plan Program reportable data requirements as outlined in Revised [Technical Bulletin #1](#) and per the timelines of [Technical Bulletin #2](#). The Department has attended training sessions for the use of the National Child Welfare Data Management System (NCWDMS) and is prepared to comply with all reporting requirements.

Claiming for MI for Candidates for Foster Care: Administrative Costs & Reimbursement

The Department will claim Title IV-E Reimbursement for Administrative Costs related to Motivational Interviewing. Specific related provisions and the proposed methodology will be addressed in the Department’s updated PACAP.

Figure 10. Wyoming’s Claiming Flowchart for Motivational Interviewing



The Department will claim allowable reimbursement for Candidates for Foster Care, using Time Analysis (TA). Additional details, including the rate setting process, will be available in the Department’s updated PACAP. Note in the flowchart above that the Department anticipates that non-IV-E activities (such as Investigations) will be associated with Candidates for Foster Care and ineligible for claiming.

The Department’s SACWIS system ensures that only children who meet the criteria as a Candidate for Foster Care are eligible for claiming Title IV-E funds. This is achieved through a multi-step process.

1. All open cases require children be screened for eligibility BUT excludes children who are in foster care, including pregnant and parenting foster youth.
2. Completion of the screening is based upon the eligibility criteria as described above on page 12.

3. Caseworkers will select MI as the service and designating the most appropriate service category (mental health, in-home parenting, or substance abuse), using the formal assessments to make that determination.
4. Supervisory oversight is required through signoff on each individual screening.
5. Structured reports based upon the eligibility screenings to determine:
 - Candidates for Foster Care for whom a written Prevention Plan has been reviewed and approved by a Supervisor.
 - Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth for whom a written Prevention Plan has been reviewed and approved by a Supervisor. This plan differs from a Candidate for Foster Care, specific to the needs of a pregnant and parenting foster youth.
6. Claiming will be based upon the approval dates of the written Prevention Plans. Although it is expected that MI be used at all stages of an open case, the SACWIS system's screening limits Title IV-E claiming to eligible children after they have been screening and had a Prevention Plan approved for them.

The Department will claim Title IV-E Reimbursement for allowable training costs related to the training of staff on Motivational Interviewing, per the current PACAP for the Department.

Attachments

[Attachment 1](#): Candidate for Foster Care Policy

[Attachment 2](#): Motivational Interviewing Training Plan

[Attachment B](#) – Title IV-E Pre-Print

[Attachment I](#) – State Title IV-E Prevention Program Reporting Assurance

[Attachment II](#) – State Request for Waiver of Evaluation Requirement for a Well-Supported Service

[Attachment III](#) – State Assurance of Trauma-Informed Service Delivery

[Attachment IV](#) – State Annual Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Report

Attachment 1: Candidate for Foster Care Policy



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

Safe at home • Supporting the people who support the families • Opportunities for success

Policy Title:	Candidate for Foster Care
Effective Date:	
Revision Date:	
Approval:	

Wyoming Practice Model

The Department of Family Services' Wyoming Practice Model (WPM) is a solution-focused, family centered approach that uses strategies and techniques that build on the children, youth and family's strengths in an effort to find solutions that ensure safety, permanency, and well-being for children. The Department has integrated elements of evidence-based practices and techniques into its overall case management philosophy. WPM is a term encompassing both the philosophy itself and tools used to support our best practice casework.

Federal & State Authority

Social Security Act 471 codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(e)(4)(A)

472 codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(c)(1)(A)(ii)

471 codified at 42 U.S.C. 671 (e)(5)

471(a)(15) codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(a)(15)

471(e)(5)(B)(ii)

45 CFR 1356.21 (e)

45 CFR 1355.20

472(c)(1)(A)(ii) codified at 42 U.S.C. 672(c)(1)(A)(ii)

Definitions:

Candidate for Foster Care - A child who is identified as being at imminent risk of entering foster care but who can remain safely in the family home as long as services or programs are provided that are necessary to prevent the entry of the child into foster care, in accordance with section 471 codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(e)(4)(A). A child may not be considered a Candidate for Foster Care solely because the Department is involved with the child and their family. To be considered a Candidate for Foster Care, the Department's involvement with the child and family must be for the specific purpose of satisfying the reasonable efforts requirement with regard to preventing removal.¹

¹ Reimbursement for administrative costs listed at 45 CFR 1356.00(c) is limited to children that the Department determines to be a Candidate for Foster Care

Child – A person under eighteen (18) years of age. W.S 14-3-202, W.S. 14-3-402, W.S. 14-6-201, 14-6-402, section 475(8) of the Social Security Act codified at 42 U.S.C. 678(8)}

Case Plan - A comprehensive, living document, which outlines the outcomes, goals, and tasks in order to meet the needs of the family through services and interventions in regards to safety, permanency and well-being of the child. The Case Plan is the document used by the Department of Family Services in all juvenile court cases.

Safe at Home Case Plan - A type of Case Plan used when families are not involved with the juvenile court. The Safe at Home Case Plan is the document used by the Department of Family Services in in-home cases without involvement from the juvenile court. The Safe at Home Case Plan documents the services offered and provided by the Department that aim to maintain the child(ren) safely at home, in particular servicing children identified as Candidates for Foster Care.

Fidelity Monitoring - The assessment and monitoring of a program or service as it is delivered to clients to measure and analyze the degree to which a program or service is implemented as intended.

Foster Care - 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. This includes, but is not limited to, placements in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, and pre adoptive homes. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made by the State or local agency for the care of the child, whether adoption subsidy payments are being made prior to the finalization of an adoption, or whether there is Federal matching of any payments that are made. (45 CFR 1355.20)

Foster Family Home - The home of an individual or family

- that is licensed or approved by the appropriate Department in the state in which the foster family home is located that meets that Department’s established standards for a licensed or approved as a foster family home;
- in which a child in foster care has been placed in the care of an individual, who resides with the child and who has been licensed or approved by the Department to be a foster parent;
- that the Department deems capable of adhering to the reasonable and prudent parent standard;
- that provides 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or other caretakers; and
- that provides care for up to six children who are in foster care. (472)(c), codified at 42 U.S.C 672(c)).

In-home Case - (Also referred to as a “non-placement case”) a case in which no child(ren) is in an out-of-home placement in which services and support are provided by the Department through an open case. These cases may or may not have involvement with the Juvenile Court.

Motivational Interviewing (MI) - A Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse rated Well Supported Practice under the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment Programs and Services. A collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change, designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person's own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.² *Motivational Interviewing will be practiced by all Caseworkers, with fidelity, as a component of the Wyoming Practice Model.*

Pregnant and Parenting Foster Youth - Youth in foster care who are pregnant or who are custodial or noncustodial parents.

Title IV-E Prevention Service - Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Programs or Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs or Services, In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs or Services, and Kinship Navigator Programs. as categorized by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (see definition below) which provides review of such services.

Mental Health Prevention and Treatment Programs and Services - Those that aim to reduce or eliminate behavioral and emotional disorders or risk for such disorders. Included programs and services may target any mental health issue.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Programs and Services - Those that have an explicit focus on the prevention, reduction, treatment, remediation, and/or elimination of substance use, misuse, or exposure in general.

In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs and Services - Those that are psychological, educational, or behavioral interventions or treatments, broadly defined, that involve direct intervention with a parent or caregiver.

Kinship Navigator Programs - Those focused on assisting kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs and services to meet the needs of the children and youth they are raising and their own needs, and that promote effective partnerships among public and private agencies to ensure kinship caregiver families are served.

Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan - The State's living document requiring regular updates in response to changes in the availability of state general funds for prevention services, additional services and updated ratings on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, and the changing needs of Wyoming children and families. The State Plan of prevention services and programs with respect to each 5-year period for which the plan is in operation in the State with descriptions of steps the State is taking to support and enhance a competent, skilled, and professional child welfare workforce to deliver trauma-informed and evidence-based services 471(e)(5) codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(e)(5).

² Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers

Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse - The Prevention Services Clearinghouse uses a systematic review process that is implemented by trained reviewers using consistent, transparent standards and procedures. Pursuant to Sections 471(e)(1) and 471(e)(5)(B)(iii) of the Act codified at 42 U.S.C. 671(e)(1) and (e)(5)(B)(iii), only services and programs provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices as rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse are approved services under the Title IV-E Prevention Program. The ratings are as follows:

Does not currently meet criteria. A program or service that has been reviewed and does not achieve a rating of well-supported, supported, or promising is deemed ‘does not currently meet criteria.’ This includes (a) programs and services for which all eligible contrasts with moderate or high design and execution ratings have no statistically significant favorable effects and (b) programs and services that do not have any eligible contrasts with moderate or high design and execution ratings.

Promising Practice. A program or service is designated as a promising practice if it has at least one contrast in a study that achieves a rating of moderate or high on study design and execution and demonstrates a favorable effect on a target outcome.

Supported Practice. A program or service is rated as a supported practice if it has at least one contrast in a study carried out in a usual care or practice setting that achieves a rating of moderate or high on design and execution and demonstrates a sustained favorable effect of at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome.

Well-Supported Practice. A program or service is rated as a well-supported practice if it has at least two contrasts with non-overlapping samples in studies carried out in usual care or practice settings that achieve a rating of moderate or high on design and execution and demonstrate favorable effects in a target outcome domain. At least one of the contrasts must demonstrate a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome.

Trial Home Placement - A court ordered, time limited placement type intended to be short-term to prepare the child to permanently reunify. The child remains in the custody of the Department, following a placement in foster care, and is typically placed in the family home from which they were removed after the safety issues that necessitated have been mitigated. A Trial Home Placement may not exceed six months in duration, unless a court orders a longer trial home placement. *The child remains under the placement and care responsibility of the Department.* (45 CFR 1356.21 (e))

Parent Placement - A placement type in the Department’s data system that is utilized when a child is in the legal custody of the Department and placed with a parent. This is not considered foster care. This is not a THP.

Purpose

The Department shall maintain children in their home environment with their primary caregivers whenever possible through the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services to the children and families of Wyoming. In an effort to prioritize prevention services and mitigating the need for out of home placements, this Policy outlines the screening of children at risk for removal from the home and entry into foster care. Additionally, the Policy aims to outline the Department's protocol for assigning, monitoring, and improving Title IV-E Prevention Services in in-home cases.

The Department's role in providing Title IV-E Prevention Services to children and families in Wyoming is to mitigate the risk of removal by authorized personnel (i.e. physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or law enforcement³), as the statutory ability to remove children lies outside the Department. Circumstances in which the Department plays a role in the removal of children from their home is a significant legal and practice issue that is not entered into lightly.

Policy

Scope of Department Involvement & Candidate for Foster Care

The Department's response to assessed and identified needs is determined by the completion of informal and formal assessments.

- A. Based upon the assessment, the Department shall also determine if a child is at imminent risk of removal from their home and provide Title IV-E Prevention Services to maintain them safely at home. These children are referred to as Candidates for Foster Care.
- B. A child involved with the Department that is not eligible as a Candidate for Foster Care shall receive services, which may or may not include Title IV-E Prevention Services.
- C. Services offered by the Department, whether Title IV-E Prevention Services or not, and whether offered to a child determined to be eligible as a Candidate for Foster Care or not, shall have a Safe at Home Case Plan or Case Plan developed in accordance with the Case Plan Policy.
- D. Being involved with the Department or being the subject of a report of abuse/neglect does not necessarily mean that a child is at risk of removal.
- E. A child identified as a Candidate for Foster Care shall receive Title IV-E Prevention Services to prevent removal from the family home.

Provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services⁴

A child who is a Candidate for Foster Care **AND**

- Can remain safely at home; **OR**
- Can remain in a privately arranged relative or kinship placement; **OR**
- A youth in foster care who is pregnant or parenting according to 471(e)(2); **OR**

³ W.S. 14-3-208, W.S. 14-3-405, 14-6-205, 14-6-405

⁴ The Department is considered a Payer of Last Resort and may not claim for a Title IV-E Prevention Service if public or private providers (such as private health insurance or Medicaid) would pay for a service allowable under the Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan. Those public or private providers have the responsibility to pay for these services before the Department is required to pay, according to 471(e)(10)(C) of the Act.

- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement

shall receive appropriate Title IV-E Prevention Services through the Department.

Motivational Interviewing-Based Case Management

Motivational Interviewing, as a Well-Supported Title IV-E Prevention Service, will be practiced by all Caseworkers, with fidelity, as a component of the Wyoming Practice Model in all cases, whether the child is determined to be a Candidate for Foster Care or not. Motivational Interviewing shall be utilized with all parents in all open cases. MI shall not be used with children but the “trickle down” effect that results from MI ultimately benefits them.⁵

- A. Additional Well-Supported Title IV-E Prevention Services, as rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, may be added once included in the Department’s Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan.

Eligibility Determination as Candidates for Foster Care⁶

The Caseworker shall conduct a thorough initial assessment of a child’s eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care for all children that are involved in an open case and are not in an out-of-home placement. The initial eligibility screening shall be completed **as soon as possible and no later than 7 days after the completion of the JS/CPS Risk Assessment.**

Eligibility for Title IV-E Prevention Services as Candidates for Foster Care is determined according to each of the following criteria:
Child Protective Services (CPS) formal Risk Assessment score of Moderate or higher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal risk assessments do not meet the requirements of the criteria. • The Caseworker shall comply with the Risk Assessment Policy regarding Discretionary Override of a formal Risk Assessment.
Juvenile Services (JS) formal Juvenile Risk Assessment score of a Moderate or higher
Recent reunifications/Trial Home Placements ⁷ /Parent Placements ⁸ and a case remains open
Children that are the subject of three or more (3+) prior accepted intakes
Siblings living in the same household of origin/removal as a youth currently in DFS custody AND in an out-of-home placement
Children marked Conditionally Safe or Unsafe on the Safety Assessment
A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement.

⁵ 3rd Edition, Motivational Interviewing, Helping People Change by William R. Miller, Stephen Rollnick, Christopher J. McLouth, Scott T. Walters, Melinda Hohman, Copyright 2013

⁶ The Department may claim Federal reimbursement for the allowable Title IV-E administrative costs, however, a child may not be simultaneously both in foster care and a candidate for foster care. 471(a)(15), 472(i)(2) and 479B; 45 CFR 1356.21(e) and 1356.60; ACYF-CB-IM-06-02

⁷ Trial Home Placement as defined in section 45 CFR 1356.21 (e)

⁸ See the attached Candidate for Foster Care Policy for definition of “Parent Placement”

Eligibility for Title IV-E Prevention Services, without exception, applies to the following criteria:

Pregnant and parenting foster youth

- Pregnant and parenting foster youth may include the child of the mother or father.

- A. Meeting ONE (1) criteria is sufficient to be eligible as a Candidate for Foster Care.
- B. All Candidates for Foster Care shall have a Case Plan, in accordance with the Case Plan Policy.
- C. All Candidate for Foster Care eligibility screenings shall be subject to a Discretionary Override. All eligibility determinations shall be made in good faith.
- D. A child in an out-of-home placement cannot be determined to be a Candidate for Foster Care.

Ineligibility as Candidates for Foster Care⁹

As a result of the Caseworker's thorough initial assessment of a child's eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care for all children, a child may be determined to not meet any of the above criteria as a Candidate for Foster Care.

- A. A child that is ineligible shall receive services to address assessed and identified needs and have a completed Case Plan according to the Case Plan Policy.
- B. A child in an out-of-home placement cannot be determined to be a Candidate for Foster Care.

New or Ongoing Eligibility Determination as Candidates for Foster Care

As a result of the Caseworker's thorough, ongoing work with any child or family involved with the Department, the Caseworker shall monitor and oversee the safety of children who receive either services and/or Title IV-E Prevention Services through a Safe at Home Case Plan or a Case Plan. This shall constitute ongoing, periodic screening of determination eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care throughout the 12 month period in which the Title IV-E Prevention Services are provided.

- A. The Department shall review and document its determination for retaining a child in Candidate for Foster Care status for longer than six months.
- B. The Caseworker shall reexamine the Case Plan for the child(ren) if the Caseworker determines, through ongoing screenings for determinations as Candidates for Foster Care, that the child(ren)'s risk of entering foster care remains high despite the provisions of the Case Plan according to 471(e)(5)(B)(ii).¹⁰ If necessary, in collaboration with the Supervisor and Family Team, the Caseworker may seek judicial oversight through the Juvenile Court.
- C. If, through ongoing screenings for determinations as Candidates for Foster Care, the child(ren) are determined to no longer be eligible as Candidates for Foster Care, the

⁹ Should the Department determine that the child is no longer a candidate for foster care at any point prior to the removal of the child from the home, subsequent activities will not be allowable for reimbursement of costs under Title IV-E.

¹⁰ The Department will cease claiming federal reimbursement at any point prior to the removal of a child from the home, that such child is no longer a candidate.

Caseworker shall continue to monitor and provide services as long as the Department is involved with the family.

- Risk Reassessment results will be monitored alongside progress toward Case Plan goals by the Caseworker. If a child's risk of entering foster care does not improve at a reasonable rate during or following the provision of the services, the Case Plan will be re-assessed and modified as needed.
 - Safety Assessment results will be monitored alongside progress toward Case Plan goals by the Caseworker. If safety concerns continue to place the child at risk of entering foster care and are not mitigated at a reasonable rate during or following the provision of the services, the Case Plan will be reassessed and modified as needed.
- D. Children previously determined not to meet criteria as Candidates for Foster Care shall be screened on an ongoing basis according to the criteria as Candidates for Foster Care as outlined in section Eligibility Determination as Candidates for Foster Care above.
- Significant changes in the case (i.e. recent reunifications, changes in the formal Safety and Risk Assessment, etc) indicate that a new screening shall be completed to determine eligibility status.
- E. Children for whom the Department has successfully mitigated the risk of removal, as evidenced by no longer meeting any of the criteria listed above as Candidate for Foster Care, shall no longer be considered eligible as Candidates for Foster Care.
- F. The expected progress on reducing the risk of entry into foster care will depend on the unique family and their circumstances, as well as the variations in services. The length of time for any service to prove effective may range from a few months to several years, depending on the severity of the need. Decisions regarding updated formal Safety Assessments and Risk Reassessment shall be made in accordance with the Safety Assessment Policy and the Risk Assessment and Reassessment Policy.

Documentation of Candidate for Foster Care Determination

The determination which identifies a child as a Candidate for Foster Care shall be documented in a written Prevention Plan and shall clearly indicate that, absent effective Title IV-E Preventive Services, foster care is the planned arrangement for the child and that the child is at serious risk of removal from his/her home because the Department believes that a plan of action is needed to prevent that removal.

- A. Completion of an eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care shall contain the determination of each child's status in the written Prevention Plan.
- B. For every child identified as a Candidate, an appropriate Title IV-E Prevention Service shall be documented in the written Prevention Plan.
- C. The written Prevention Plan shall document that the Department shall seek placement in a foster family home should the written Prevention Plan be unsuccessful.
- D. The prospective placement for the child cannot be a non-foster care setting (i.e. Detention, including the Boys School and Girls School).
- E. All children involved in in-home cases shall be screened to determine eligibility as a Candidate for Foster Care (per the criteria above on page 6 in the Eligibility Determination as Candidates for Foster Care section) via the Department's Data Entry System.

Recent Reunification

According to the case circumstances and the family's unique needs, the Department shall facilitate the successful reunification and, if so, shall make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal and re-entry into foster care pursuant to 471(a)(15) of the Act. (see criteria #4 in the Eligibility Determination as Candidates for Foster Care section above on page 5).

- A. The Department may provide Title IV-E Prevention Services after a child has returned home, to include a Trial Home Placement.
- B. If Title IV-E Prevention Services are provided, such services shall be provided under a written Prevention Plan and shall fulfill all requirements of section Documentation of Candidate for Foster Care Determination section above.
- C. The Case Plan for a child in a Trial Home Placement or that has been recently reunified shall be updated according to the Case Plan Policy.

Case Closure or Out-of-Home Placement

Ongoing involvement with the Department progresses in a variety of ways after a child no longer meets eligibility requirements as a Candidate for Foster Care based on the unique circumstances and needs of the family.

- A. Children never identified as Candidates for Foster Care shall receive services and intervention to address assessed and identified needs. The Caseworker, in collaboration with the child, family, Family Team, and their supervisor, shall determine when it is appropriate for the case to close.
- B. For children who were once determined to meet the eligibility criteria as Candidate for Foster Care but NO LONGER meet that criteria, the Caseworker shall do as follows:
 - In cases in which the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services successfully mitigate the imminent risk of removal and entry into foster care, the child remains safely at home, and there is no juvenile court involvement, the Caseworker, in collaboration with the child, family, Family Team, and their Supervisor, shall determine when it is appropriate for the case to close.
 - In cases in which the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services successfully mitigate the imminent risk of removal and entry into foster care, the child remains safely at home, but the family's unique circumstances and needs may necessitate juvenile court involvement, the Caseworker, in collaboration with the child, family, Family Team, and their Supervisor shall determine how to proceed and shall continue to provide Title IV-E Prevention Services and other mitigating services to prevent removal until such a time that the case may be closed.
- C. For children who were once determined to meet the eligibility criteria as Candidate for Foster Care but NO LONGER meet that criteria due to removal from their family home, the Caseworker shall do as follows:
 - In cases in which the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services are not successful in mitigating the imminent risk of removal and entry into foster care, the Caseworker shall comply with the Authority for Placement Policy in prioritizing relative and kinship placement options.

- In cases in which the provision of Title IV-E Prevention Services are not successful in mitigating the imminent risk of removal and entry into a non-foster care placement (i.e. Detention), the Caseworker shall comply with the Assessment for Appropriate Placement in Residential Care Policy. Additionally, children involved in juvenile services through the Department shall not be placed in non-foster care placements (i.e. Detention) without first considering lower levels of care in foster care settings.
- Any case in which a child is entering an out of home placement (whether foster care or non-foster care) shall have a Case Plan developed according to the provisions of the Case Plan Policy.

Data Entry

The Caseworker shall enter all information pertaining to screening children as Candidates for Foster Care into the Department’s data system.

Policy Review and Training:

Every two years by assigned Social Services Policy Analyst

Party Responsible for Policy Oversight:

Social Services Policy Analyst

New Policy:

This policy creates the criteria for determining a Candidate for Foster Care.

Reference:

Family First Prevention Services Plan

Federal Child and Family Services Review:

Safety Outcome 1, Safety Outcome 2, Well-being 1, Well-being 2 and Well-being Outcome 3

Back to the [Candidate for Foster Care Section](#) of the Title IV-E Prevention Plan

Attachment 2:

Motivational Interviewing Training Plan

The Wyoming Practice Supervision Model

The Department utilizes an administrative, educational, and supportive Supervision Model which ensures staff statewide has the knowledge, skills and tools using elements of evidence-based practices and techniques through the Wyoming Practice Model which includes Motivational Interviewing, Appreciative Inquiry, and Solution-Focused Questions. This Supervision Model supports positive outcomes for vulnerable adults, children and families with elements of evidence-based practices and techniques into its overall case management philosophy.

Supervision plays a key role in the provision of adult and child protection and juvenile justice services. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that effective and efficient services are provided to vulnerable adults, children and families. Effective Supervisors orchestrate the work of the unit to make it consistent with the mission and goals of the Department. Strong supervision supports positive staff/client relationships, comprehensive assessments, treatment plans which build on the client's strengths.

Supervisors are required to provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision:

Administrative Supervision: the administrative function involves planning, executing, monitoring and evaluating activities of the supervisee to accomplish the work of the agency. Administrative supervision is oriented toward agency policy and organizational demands and focuses on a supervisee's level of functioning.

Education Supervision: the educational function focuses on advancing the practice of staff, to include District Managers, Supervisors, Caseworkers, Foster Care Coordinators, and Social Service Aides, by helping develop knowledge and skills they can apply to specific cases and work duties. The activities of the Supervisor are directed toward helping staff learn what they need to know to carry out their jobs, become more self-aware and refine their knowledge and skills.

Supportive Supervision: the supportive function of supervision are the activities of the Supervisor that are directed toward creating a psychological and physical climate that enables staff to feel positive about the job. These activities may be showing concern and empathy toward individuals to keep them satisfied, comfortable and positive so clients may be better served. Supportive supervision is intended to decrease staff stress that could interfere with performance and eventually lead to burnout.

Supervisors are required to provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision through the following settings:

Individual Supervision: Individual supervision is defined as time spent one on one with the Supervisor, free from interruptions that is focused on case management, reflection and helps staff grow.

Group Supervision: Group supervision is defined as time that is facilitated by the Supervisor with each unit or office to process events, learn new practices and have discussions with peers (shared learning). Development in skills and development is the key task.

Unit/Office Meetings: Unit or office meetings are defined as meetings facilitated by the Supervisor where there are discussions of statutes, rules, policies and procedures, as well as the logistics of getting work done.

Field Supervision: Field supervision is defined as time spent with the Supervisor discussing what requirements and duties need to be accomplished in the field; having the Supervisor shadow staff as work is being done (in the field), then discussing how staff did in accomplishing the required duties and areas needed to improve in practice for the future.

Child Welfare Workforce Support

MI, being a trauma-informed and evidence-based service, will be trained and supported for all staff, to include District Managers, Supervisors, Caseworkers, and Foster Care Coordinators, who assess and identify needs and services for children and families.

- MI Training with Communicating for Change LLC for **all** Department staff
 - August/September 2021 – District Managers and Supervisors
 - December 2021 through June 2022- Caseworkers, Foster Care Coordinators, other staff
- Proficiency with Communicating for Change LLC
 - Communicating for Change LLC provides coaching to ensure proficiency with all staff
 - Coaching at the individual level targets the staff's specific needs
 - Coaching in “pods” supports the group proficiency, allowing the members to learn from each other
 - Supervisors who are proficient in MI will provide coaching support to staff to support efforts in meeting proficiency.
 - Coaching shall be provided at least weekly until staff become proficient.
- On-going Training and proficiency
 - Communicating for Change LLC will provide a Train the Trainer Training in 2022. A group of MI proficient trainers will be selected to participate.
 - The Trainers will assist in developing a MI training plan for the state and each District which will include District refresher training events.
 - The Trainers will assist in training at the new Caseworker CORE training.
 - The Trainers will provide on-going assistance, consultation and support for each District as well as statewide support.
 - Wyoming will identify three (3) staff to become MI MINT trainers who will apply to attend the MINT Conference training in 2023.
 - Communicating for Change will continue to provide training and support MI if the Department is unable to get 3 MI MINT Trainers admission to the MINT Conference
- Wyoming MI Trainers will facilitate future training events to include CORE and annual proficiency training.
- MI will be used throughout Supervision, coaching and training new and seasoned staff.
 - Supervisors may consult with MI trainers (Department or Communicating for Change LLC) for support.
- The MI Trainers will provide consultation to all staff trained in MI as a support to ensure on-going proficiency.
- Wyoming is contracting with LYSSN which is a HIPAA and FERPA compliant platform that provides valuable evidence-based analytics to support Continuous Quality Improvement. The AI platform supports high-quality evidence-based care with secure recording and sharing, speech-to-text transcripts, actionable feedback, and more.

- The Department intends to implement a graduated system to ensure proficiency of MI to maintain fidelity of the service:
 - Staff will record sessions with families to demonstrate proficiency in MI service.
 - Staff who meet proficiency throughout the year will be required to demonstrate proficiency through LYSSN, or Communicating for Change LLC/Department MI Trainer(s).
 - Staff who are unable to maintain proficiency:
 - Supervisors will provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision to coach and support the staff to meet MI proficiency.
 - Individual and field supervision will be provided to support the staff.
 - If staff are unable to meet MI Proficiency, an MI refresher training will be provided.
 - Communicating for Change or Department MI Trainers may provide consultation and coaching to support the staff.
 - Communicating for Change or Department MI Trainers may provide consultation and coaching to support the supervisor to support the staff.
- Wyoming uses a performance management instrument (PMI) system to measure and evaluate performance. PMI fosters a culture of communicating at all levels within state government. This process utilizes collaboration between Supervisors and employees not only to develop and set standards that align with state and agency missions.
 - Goals will be developed in the PMI system for each staff to support and enhance a competent, skilled, and professional child welfare workforce to deliver the trauma-informed and evidence-based services for families.
 - Supervisors will provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision to coach and support the staff through individual, field and group supervision settings to meet MI proficiency and meet fidelity of the services.
 - Supervisors will provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision through individual, field and group supervision settings at least monthly and may be increased depending on the need of the staff.
- Department staff will provide an annual training certification, per Department Social Services policy, to demonstrate MI proficiency and ensure fidelity of MI services. Proficiency will be demonstrated through the data collection provided by LYSSN and documented in the training certification.

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and Quality Assurance (QA)

- Each Supervisor conducts a Quality Assurance (QA) Review of three (3) CP/JS cases monthly for:
 - Safety Assessments and Written Safety Plans
 - Risk Assessments and Case plan to address risk factors
 - Family Team Meetings to identify needs and services to develop a Case Plan
 - Case Plan
- Quarterly QA will be conducted by the State/Administrative CQI team
- Supervisors will use the analytic data from LYSSN to support CQI
 - Staff will record sessions with families using LYSSN to demonstrate proficiency in MI.
 - Supervisors will provide coaching and support for staff to ensure proficiency
 - Supervisors will provide administrative, educational and supportive supervision to coach and support the staff to meet MI proficiency.
 - Individual and field supervision settings will be provided to support the staff.

- If staff are unable to meet MI Proficiency, an MI refresher training will be provided.
 - Communicating for Change or Department MI Trainers may provide consultation and coaching to support the staff.
 - Communicating for Change or Department MI Trainers may provide consultation and coaching to support the Supervisor to support the staff.
- During County CQI reviews, Safety Assessments and Written Safety plans, Risk Assessments, and Family Team meetings, will be evaluated to ensure MI services are provided through the development of Case Plans.

Child Welfare Workforce Training

Staff will receive training and support to conduct Safety and Risk assessments and facilitate conversations in Family Team meetings to develop Case Plans using MI.

- Staff will use MI in engaging families in identifying safety threats and developing a safety plan.
 - Staff will record engagement interactions using the LYSSN.
 - LYSSN shall provide documentation/data on staff's engagement in using MI
 - Supervisors shall review data and provide feedback/consultation. MI will be used throughout supervision, coaching and training with new and seasoned staff. Supervisors will use MI through administrative, educational and supportive supervision in individual, field and group settings.
- Staff will use MI in engaging families in identifying risk factors for the Case Plan.
 - Staff will record monthly engagement interactions using the LYSSN.
 - LYSSN shall provide documentation/data on staff's engagement in using MI
 - Supervisors shall review data and provide feedback/consultation. MI will be used throughout supervision, coaching and training with new and seasoned staff. Supervisors will use MI through administrative, educational and supportive supervision in individual, field and group settings.
- Staff will use MI in facilitating family meetings to engage families in identifying needed services for the Case Plan.
 - Staff will record monthly engagement interactions using the LYSSN.
 - LYSSN shall provide documentation/data on staff's engagement in using MI
 - Supervisors shall review data and provide feedback/consultation. MI will be used throughout supervision, coaching and training with new and seasoned staff. Supervisors will use MI through administrative, educational and supportive supervision in individual, field and group settings.
- Data from LYSSN will be reviewed by Supervisors, District Managers, and State Administration to support CQI.
 - Supervisors will support staff by providing administrative, educational and supportive supervision to coach and support the staff to meet MI proficiency.
 - State/Administration will provide on-going support through training, policy/procedure development and consultation to support staff to meet MI proficiency.
- During County CQI reviews, Safety Assessments and Written Safety plans; Risk Assessments and plans; and Prevention Plans will be evaluated to ensure MI services are provided.

Back to the [Motivational Interviewing](#) section of the Title IV-E Prevention Plan

B. STATE PLAN FOR TITLE IV-E OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT: PREVENTION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

STATE OF WYOMING

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Children's Bureau
November 2018

- Section 1: Services description and oversight
- Section 2: Evaluation strategy and waiver request
- Section 3: Monitoring child safety
- Section 4: Consultation and coordination
- Section 5: Child welfare workforce support
- Section 6: Child welfare workforce training
- Section 7: Prevention caseloads
- Section 8: Assurance on prevention plan program reporting
- Section 9: Child and family eligibility for the title IV-E prevention program

- [ATTACHMENT I](#): State title IV-E prevention program reporting assurance
- [ATTACHMENT II](#): State request for waiver of evaluation requirement for a well-supported practice
- [ATTACHMENT III](#): State assurance of trauma-informed service-delivery
- [ATTACHMENT IV](#): State annual maintenance of effort (MOE) report

As a condition of the receipt of Prevention Services and Program funds under title IV-E of the Social Security Act (hereinafter, the Act), the

Wyoming Department of Family Services
(Name of State Agency)

Submits here a plan to provide, in appropriate cases, Prevention Services and Programs under title IV-E of the Act and hereby agrees to administer the programs in accordance with the provisions of this plan, title IV-E of the Act, and all applicable Federal regulations and other official issuances of the Department. This Pre-print is provided as an option for the title IV-E agencies to use over the course of the five years that the Prevention Services and Programs Plan is in effect.

The state agency understands that if and when title IV-E is amended or regulations are revised, a new or amended plan for title IV-E that conforms to the revisions must be submitted.

Federal Regulatory/ Statutory Reference ¹⁸	Requirement	State Regulatory, Statutory, and Policy Reference and Citations for Each
Section 1. Services Description and Oversight		
471(e)(1)	<p>A. SERVICES The state agency provides the following services or programs for a child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child when the need of the child, such a parent, or such a caregiver for the services or programs are directly related to the safety, permanence, or well-being of the child or to preventing the child from entering foster care:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES.– Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) of Section 471(e) with respect to the child. 2. IN-HOME PARENT SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS.– In-home parent skill-based programs for not more than a 12-month period that begins on any date described in paragraph (3) of Section 471(e) with respect to the child and that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling. 	Prevention Plan Motivational Interviewing , pg. 15 & footnote #3 & Candidate for Foster Care Policy , pg. 6
471(e)(5)(B)(i)	<p>B. OUTCOMES. The state agency provides services and programs specified in paragraph 471(e)(1) is expected to improve specific outcomes for children and families.</p>	Prevention Plan Evidence in Support of Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare , pg. 17 & Continuous Quality Improvement , pg. 19
471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(I)-(IV) 471(e)(4)(B)	<p>C. PRACTICES. With respect to the title IV-E prevention services and programs specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph 471 (e)(1), information on the specific practices state plans to use to provide the services or programs, including a description of –</p>	

¹⁸ Statutory references refer to the Social Security Act. Regulatory references refer to Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Federal Regulatory/ Statutory Reference	Requirement	State Regulatory, Statutory, and Policy Reference and Citations for Each
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the services or programs selected by the state, and whether the practices used are promising, supported, or well-supported; 2. how the state plans to implement the services or programs, including how implementation of the services or programs will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the practice model and to determine outcomes achieved and how information learned from the monitoring will be used to refine and improve practices; 3. how the state selected the services or programs; 4. the target population for the services or programs; 5. an assurance that each prevention or family service or program provided by the state meets the requirements at section 471(e)(4)(B) of the Act related to trauma-informed service-delivery (states must submit Attachment III for each prevention or family services or program); and 6. how each service or program provided will be evaluated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention Plan Motivational Interviewing, pg. 15 2. Prevention Plan Fidelity Monitoring & Continuous Quality Improvement, pgs. 17-20 & MI Training Plan 3. Prevention Plan Evidence in Support of Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare, pg. 16 4. Prevention Plan Evidence in Support of Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare, pg. 17 5. Attachment III 6. MI Training Plan
Section 2. Evaluation strategy and waiver request		
471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(V)	<p>A. PRACTICES. With respect to the prevention family services and programs specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of the paragraph 471(e)(1), information on the specific practices state plans to use to provide the services or programs, including a description of how each service or program provided will be evaluation through a well-designed and rigorous process, which may consist of an ongoing, cross-site evaluation approved by the Secretary, unless a waiver is approved for a well-supported practice; and</p>	<p>Prevention Plan Oversight and Evaluation of Services, Fidelity Monitoring, Continuous Quality Improvement, pgs. 17-20 & MI Training Plan</p>
471(e)(5)(C)(ii)	<p>B. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF WELL DESIGNED, RIGOROUS EVALUATION OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR A WELL-SUPPORTED PRACTICE. The state must provide evidence of the effectiveness of the practice to be compelling and the state</p>	<p>Attachment II & Prevention Plan Evidence in Support of Motivational Interviewing in Child Welfare</p>

	meets the continuous quality improvement requirements included in subparagraph 471 (e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) with regard to the practice	pg. 16
Section 3. Monitoring child safety		
471(e)(5)(B)(ii)	The state agency monitors and oversees the safety of children who receive services and programs specified in paragraph 471(e)(1), including through periodic risk assessments throughout the 12-month period in which the services and programs are provided on behalf of a child and reexamination of the prevention plan maintained for the child under paragraph 471(e)(4) for the provision of the services or programs if the state determines the risk of the child entering foster care remains high despite the provision of the services or programs.	Prevention Plan Child Safety , pgs. 9-11 & Oversight & Evaluation of Services , pg. 18 Candidate for Foster Care Policy pgs. 7-10
Section 4. Consultation and coordination		
471(e)(5)(B)(iv) and (vi)	A. The state must: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. engage in consultation with other state agencies responsible for administering health programs, including mental health and substance abuse programs and treatment services, and with other public and private agencies with experience in administering child and family services, including community-based organizations, in order to foster a continuum of care for children described in paragraph 471(e)(2) and their parents or kin caregivers and 2. describe how the services or programs specified in paragraph (1) of section 471(e) provided for or on behalf of a child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child will be coordinated with other child and family services provided to the child and the parents or kin caregivers of the child under the state plans in effect under subparts 1 and 2 of part B. 	Prevention Plan Community & Partner Engagement pgs. 5-9
Section 5. Child welfare workforce support		
471(e)(5)(B)(vii)	The state agency supports and enhances a competent, skilled, and professional child welfare workforce to deliver trauma-informed and evidence-based services, including– <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. ensuring that staff is qualified to provided services or programs that are consistent with the promising, supported, or well-supported practice models selected; and B. developing appropriate prevention plans, and conducting the risk assessments required under clause (iii) of section 471(e)(5)(B). 	Prevention Plan Department Workforce Support & Training pgs. 21-22 & MI Training Plan

Section 6. Child welfare workforce training		
471(e)(5)(B)(viii)	The state provides training and support for caseworkers in assessing what children and their families need, connecting to the families served, knowing how to access and deliver the needed trauma-informed and evidence-based services, and overseeing and evaluating the continuing appropriateness of the services.	Prevention Plan Department Workforce Support & Training pgs. 21-22 & MI Training Plan
Section 7. Prevention caseloads		
471(e)(5)(B)(ix)	The state must describe how caseload size and type for prevention caseworkers will be determined, managed, and overseen.	Prevention Plan Prevention Caseloads pgs. 22-23
Section 8. Assurance on prevention program reporting		
471(e)(5)(B)(x)	The state provides an assurance in Attachment I that it will report to the Secretary such information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to the provision of services and programs specified in paragraph 471(e)(1), including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures for the state under paragraph 471(e)(6) and compliance with paragraph 471(e)(7).	Attachment I & Prevention Plan Prevention Program Reporting pgs. 23-24
Section 9. Child and family eligibility for the title IV-E prevention program		
471(e)(2)	A. CHILD DESCRIBED.–For purposes of the title IV-E prevention services program, a child is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A child who is a candidate for foster care (as defined in section 475(13)) but can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services or programs specified in paragraph (1) of 471(e). 2. A child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting foster youth. 	Prevention Plan Candidate for Foster Care pgs. 12-15

Title IV-E Plan – State of Wyoming

PLAN SUBMISSION CERTIFICATION

Instructions: This Certification must be signed and submitted by the official authorized to submit the title IV-E plan, and each time the state submits an amendment to the title IV-E plan.

I, Lindsey Schilling(name) hereby certify that I am authorized to submit the title IV-E Plan on behalf of the Wyoming Department of Family Services (state). I also certify that the title IV-E plan was submitted to the governor for his or her review and approval in accordance with 45 CFR 1356.20(C)(2) and 45 CFR 204.1.

Date 6/26/22



(Signature)

Senior Administrator, Social Services Division

(Title)

APPROVAL DATE:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

(Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau)

State Title IV-E Prevention Program Reporting Assurance

Instructions: This Assurance may be used to satisfy requirements at section 471(e)(5)(B)(x) of the Social Security Act (the Act), and will remain in effect on an ongoing basis. This Assurance must be re-submitted if there is a change in the assurance below.

In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(B)(x) of the Act, Wyoming Department of Family Services, (Name of State Agency) is providing this assurance consistent with the five-year plan to report to the Secretary such information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to title IV-E prevention and family services and programs, including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures.

Signature: This assurance must be signed by the official with authority to sign the title IV-E plan, and submitted to the appropriate Children’s Bureau Regional Office for approval.



6/26/22
(Date)

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator, Social Services Division
(Signature and Title)

(CB Approval Date)

(Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau)

State Request for Waiver of Evaluation Requirement for a Well-Supported Practice

Instructions: This request must be used if a title IV-E agency seeks a waiver of section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(V) of the Social Security Act (the Act) for a well-supported practice, and will remain in effect on an ongoing basis. This waiver request must be re-submitted anytime there is a change to the information below.

Section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(V) of the Act requires each title IV-E agency to implement a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy for each program or service, which may include a cross-site evaluation approved by ACF. In accordance with section 471(e)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act, a title IV-E agency may request that ACF grant a waiver of the rigorous evaluation for a well-supported practice if the evidence of the effectiveness the practice is: 1) compelling and; 2) the state meets the continuous quality improvement requirements included in section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) of the Act with regard to the practice. The state title IV-E agency must demonstrate the effectiveness of the practice.

The state title IV-E agency must submit a separate request for each well-supported program or service for which the state is requesting a waiver under section 471(e)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act.

The Wyoming Department of Family Services (Name of State Agency) requests a waiver of an evaluation of a well-supported practice in accordance with section 471(e)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act for Motivational Interviewing (Name of Program/Service) and has included documentation assuring the evidence of the effectiveness of this well-supported practice is: 1) compelling and; 2) the state meets the continuous quality improvement requirements supporting this request.

Signature: This certification must be signed by the official with authority to sign the title IV-E plan, and submitted to the appropriate Children's Bureau Regional Office for approval.



6/26/22
(Date)

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator, Social Services Division
(Signature and Title)

(CB Approval Date)

(Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau)

State Assurance of Trauma-Informed Service-Delivery

Instructions: This Assurance may be used to satisfy requirements at section 471(e)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (the Act), and will remain in effect on an ongoing basis. This Assurance must be re-submitted if there is a change in the state's five-year plan to include additional title IV-E prevention or family services or programs.

Consistent with the agency's five-year title IV-E prevention plan, section 471(e)(4)(B) of the Act requires the title IV-E agency to provide services or programs to or on behalf of a child under an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma and in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions to address trauma's consequences and facilitate healing.

The Wyoming Department of Family Services (Name of State Agency) assures that in accordance with section 471(e)(4)(B) of the Act, each HHS approved title IV-E prevention or family service or program identified in the five-year plan is provided in accordance with a trauma-informed approach.

Signature: This assurance must be signed by the official with authority to sign the title IV-E plan, and submitted to the appropriate Children's Bureau Regional Office for approval.



6/26/22
(Date)

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator, Social Services Division
(Signature and Title)

(CB Approval Date)

(Signature, Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Children's Bureau**

State Annual Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Report

State: Wyoming	FFY:
Baseline Year: 2016	
Baseline Amount: \$0	
Total Expenditures for Most Recent FFY: \$0	

**This certifies that the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
This also certifies that the next FFY foster care prevention expenditures will be submitted as required by law.**

Signature, Approving Official:



Typed Name, Title, Agency:

Lindsey Schilling, Senior Administrator, Social Services Division
Wyoming Department of Family Services

Date: 8/26/22