

# Family First Prevention Services Act



**The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law as part of the federal Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018.** This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system.

## Family First \* Family First \* Family First

### **Family First – Keep children safely at home by providing services to prevent removals.**

- States may use federal funds to provide up to 12 months of mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parenting training to families at risk of entry into the foster care system.
- Prevention services must be trauma-informed and should be promising, supported, or well-supported practices as modeled by the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for child welfare.

### **Family First – When children need out of home placements, children should be served in family foster homes not congregate care settings.**

- Title IV-E reimbursement for group homes will only be available for two weeks unless the child is in a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP), a setting that specializes in prenatal or parenting support, or supervised independent living for youth over 18.
- A QRTP must include a trauma-informed treatment model designed to meet the emotional and behavioral needs of children as identified by an assessment within 30 days of the child's placement.
- States must implement the congregate care provisions to be eligible for reimbursement of prevention services.

### **Family First – Recruit and retain high quality foster families and relative providers.**

- provides for competitive grants to support recruitment and retention of high-quality foster families
- expands until 23 Chaffee supports for states that elected to extend eligibility for foster care to 21, and expands use of education and training vouchers for youth until 26

*Oregon Senate Bill 171 aligns Oregon law with the federal funding requirements of FFPSA by prescribing the specific circumstances and conditions under which DHS may place a child or ward in a congregate care residential setting.*