



Highlights of Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and Future Implications for Florida's Child-Caring Agencies

Who is impacted by the child-caring agency changes?

Child Protective Investigators, Case Managers, Licensing Staff, Placement Staff, Dependency Judges, Child-Caring and Placing Agency Providers, Foster Parents, Youth in Care.

What is changing?

After 14 days of a child being in care, Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments can only be claimed for the following placement settings:

1. Foster family home

- Term "foster family home" means the home of an individual or family
- Meets the licensure standards established for the licensing of foster family homes
- Licensed or approved by the State to be a foster parent
- Child is placed in the care of the licensed individual
- Licensed individual resides in the home with the child
- The State deems the licensed individual capable of:
 - Adhering to the prudent parent standard
 - Providing 24-hour substitute care
 - Providing care for not more than six (6) children in foster care; exceptions allowed for sibling groups, parenting youth, and established relationships
- Payment may be made to the individual or public/private child-placement or child-care agency

2. Family-Based Residential Treatment Facility for Substance Abuse

- Placement recommendation specified in the child's case plan
- Treatment facility provides parent skills training, parent education, and individual/family counseling as part of the substance abuse treatment
- Organization structure and treatment framework includes a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions
- May claim IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments (FCMP) and admin (case management) for up to 12 months
- Child is under the placement and care responsibility of the IV-E agency
- Not a child-caring agency

3. Specialized placement settings for youth 18 years and older

- States have discretion to develop this setting category and to determine if setting should be licensed

4. Specialized placement settings for pregnant or parenting youth

- Licensed as a child-caring agency



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5. Specialized placement settings for youth who are victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking

- Licensed as a child-caring agency
- States have flexibility to determine "high-quality residential care" and array of supportive services needed

6. Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP)

- Licensed as a child-care agency
- Accredited by a federally approved not-for-profit accreditation body
- Trauma-informed treatment model
- Serves children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances
- Assessment of the child completed within 30 days of the start of placement by "Qualified Individuals" (not employed by the state or affiliated with any provider) using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool
- Court approves placement within 60 days
- Clinical and Nursing staff available 24/7 and onsite according to the treatment model
- Providers must maintain documentation of family engagement, including contact with siblings
- Provide six (6) months of post-discharge, family-based aftercare services/support

When will the changes become effective?

The effective date is no later than 9/29/2021.

Important Notes

Child-caring agencies must meet all licensure and title IV-E safety requirements to be eligible for IV-E foster care maintenance payment. IV-E safety requirements include the following background checks:

- Federal and statewide, fingerprint-based criminal records (Ch 39 and 435)
- Local law enforcement criminal records
- Local 911 call responses
- Civil court, domestic violence and orders of protection records
- Florida sex offenders and predators' registry
- Florida abuse and neglect records
- Out of state child abuse registry (if applicable)
- Juvenile records (if applicable)

The term "**foster care maintenance payments**" means payments to cover the cost of (and the cost of providing) food, clothing, shelter, and daily supervision. **Allowable costs do NOT include the costs of social services** provided to the child, the child's family or foster family which provide counseling or treatment to ameliorate or remedy personal problems, behaviors or home conditions.