Virginia Department of Social Services people helping people

An Overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act Carl Ayers, Director, Division of Family Services Duke Storen, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Social Services

Family First Prevention Services Act

Public Law 115-123

Division E – Health and Human Services Extenders Title VII –

Family First Prevention Services Act



Family First









Our vision for Family First is to keep children safe, strengthen families and reduce the need for foster care whenever it is safe to do so. IV-E \$210 million 50/50 match rate (federal/state)

Children's Services Act \$370 million 65/35 average match rate (state/local)

New Prevention Program

Eligibility for Prevention Services

A child identified as a candidate for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship home and is identified as being at imminent risk of entering foster care

A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is a risk of a disruption/dissolution and includes post-reunification services

A child in foster care who is pregnant or parenting

Caregivers of children identified above are also eligible for prevention services.



Virginia's Imminent Risk Definition

<u>"Imminent risk</u>" means a child and family's circumstances demand that a defined case plan is put into place within 30 days that identifies interventions, services and/or supports and absent these interventions, services and/or supports, foster care placement is the planned arrangement for the child.

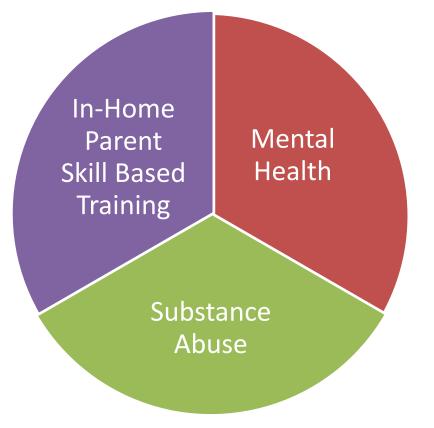


The Candidate for Foster Care must have a written prevention plan which includes the following:

Identify the prevention strategy so that the child came remain in the home, live temporarily with a kin caregiver until reunification can be safely achieved, or live permanently with a kin caregiver;

List of services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of the child to ensure success of the prevention strategy

Providing Prevention Services



All of the services provided, must be evidence-based and trauma informed.

There is no income test for children and their families to receive these identified services.

New federal funds for prevention services are intended to <u>increase</u>, not replace, state funding for Prevention Services.

Federal Clearinghouse of Evidence Based Programs

Mental Health Services

- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Functional Family Therapy

Substance Abuse Services

- Motivational Interviewing
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Families Facing the Future
- Methadone Maintenance Therapy

In-Home Parent Skill Based Training

- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers

Other Changes



Family Reunification Services



- Removes the time limit on providing reunification services
- Now allows service provision for a period of up to 15 months after reunification

Family Reunification Services and Activities Include:

- Individual, group, and family counseling.
- Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services.
- Mental health services.
- Assistance to address domestic violence.
- Services designed to provide temporary childcare and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries.
- Peer-to peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.
- Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings.
- Transportation to and from any of the services and activities described.

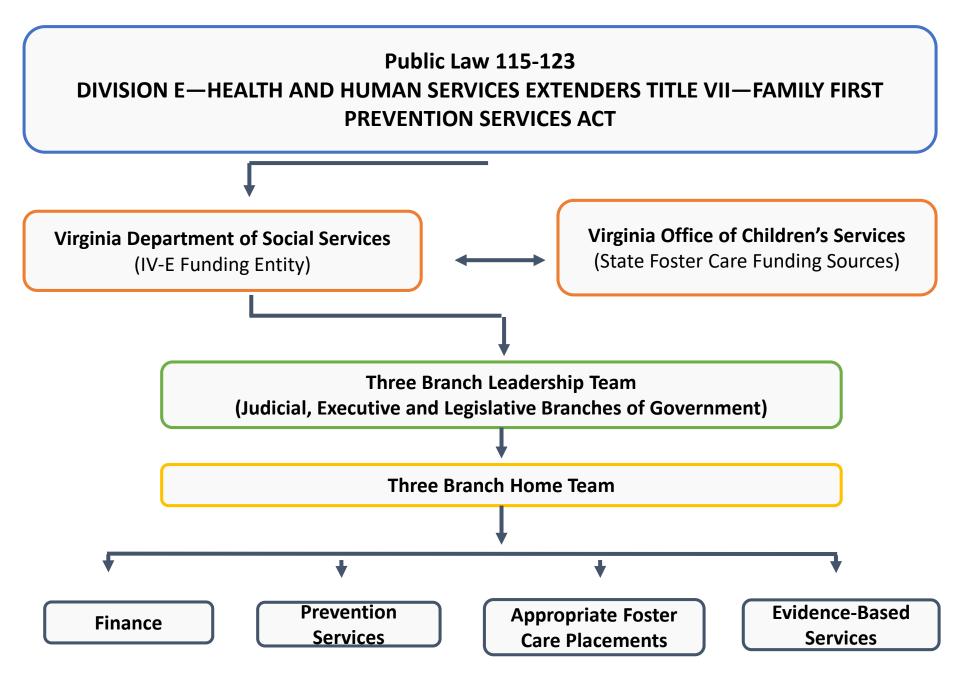
Virginia **Kinship** Navigator Programs

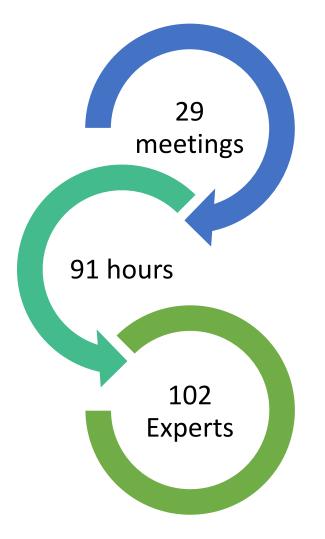


Implementing Family First

Family First can be implemented as early as October 2019; however, it <u>must</u> be implemented by October 2021.







= **9,282 hours of work** invested in the implementation of the Family First Act in Virginia **June 2018 - February 2019

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