Family First Prevention Services Act - Highlights

The Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law as part of the 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.

➢ **Prevention** - The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care. Provides new title IV-E funding for prevention services for candidates for foster care and their families for:
  
  o Mental Health
  o Substance Abuse
  o In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs (i.e. parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling)

➢ **Reduce Congregate Care Placements** – incentives to states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.
  
  o Limitations on Title IV-E foster care payments for placements that are not foster family homes.
  
  o Allowable Placement Options – family foster home, facility for pregnant/parenting foster youth, Supervised Independent Living Programs, specialized placements for victim of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking, and QRTPs. RCCF level of care will no longer exist.

➢ **Qualified Residential Treatment Provider (QRTP) Requirements include:**
  
  o Licensed and accredited
  o Trauma informed treatment model
  o Nursing and other clinical staff onsite
  o Child must meet level of care assessment
  o 60-day Judicial Determination - Status Reviews
  o Full engagement with the family
  o 6 months post discharge follow-up
Family-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Facility - Allows title IV-E foster care payments for eligible child placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment facility.

Kinship Navigator Programs - to assist relative caregivers with programs and services to meet needs of children they are raising.

Licensing Standards Waivers of non-safety licensing standards for relative caregivers.

Chafee Program – Expands Chafee and ETV age eligibility and individual ETV award $ max.

Foster Family Recruitment and Retention – Authorizes competitive grants for recruitment and retention of high-quality foster families to increase capacity to place more children in family settings.

**MAJOR SYSTEM REFORM…HARD WORK…WORTH THE EFFORT!**

February 2018
- FFPSA Legislation passed
- DHS Subgroups
- Stakeholder Updates
- FFPSA – Chafee Revisions Effective

Summer 2018
- Applied for Kinship Navigator
- Attended National Convening in Denver
- Continued DHS Subgroup Work

September 2018
- Continued Planning and Development
- Continued Stakeholder Updates
- Received Kinship Navigator Award

October 2018
- Kinship Navigator RFP Issued
- Legislation, Policy, Rules, FRAME System Revisions
- ND Stakeholder Convening*
- LOC Assessment Workgroup
- Submit Proposed Law Changes

November & December 2018
- 60 Day Review Hearing Workgroup
- QRTP Rule Writing

Ongoing:
- Continued technical assistance; subgroup meetings; stakeholder involvement; & development of rules, policy, & FRAME system updates

Join us for FFPSA monthly stakeholder meetings beginning January 15. For more information on the meetings and to view additional resources, visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/family-first.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childfamily/family-first.html).

This an exciting time for our children’s system in ND! We welcome any and all feedback and collaboration and look forward to our continued partnerships!