Generations United Webinar

Family First Prevention Services Act: Implications for Grandfamilies

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Housekeeping

To hear the presentation
- Listen through your speakers
- Or call in on your phone
  - (914) 614-3221
  - Passcode: 630-976-926

Q&A/Discussion
- You can send your questions at any time.
- We will respond to them at the end of the presentation.

PowerPoint slides and a recording of the webinar will be available on the Generations United website later this week. Registrants will also receive an email with a link to the recording this week.
Today’s Agenda - What to expect

- Family First context
- Special focus:
  - Prevention Services
  - Kinship Navigators
  - Licensing Standards
- Overview of other grandfamilies-related provisions
- Next steps/opportunities
- Resources
- Questions
What not to expect

- Details of entire bill
- State-specific information
- All of the answers

..... But stay tuned for more to come at www.grandfamilies.org
Legislative Context

2015-
- Senator Wyden- Family Stability and Kinship Care Act- Prevention Services and Support for Kinship Families
- Senators Hatch & Wyden Finance Committee hearing- A Way Back Home- Alternatives to Congregate Care

2016-
- Family First Prevention Services Act Introduced-bipartisan compromise; paid for
- Youth, caregivers, birth parents voice support; support letter from hundreds of organizations
- Passes House; blocked by few senators from passing Senate by UC
- Added to 21st Century Cures Act, then removed before passage due to opposition from some congregate care providers

2018-
- Included in Bipartisan Budget Act, passed and signed into law Feb. 9th. (Full bill H.R. 1892 available at congress.gov)
Themes

- **PREVENTION** is important – Previously majority of federal child welfare $ available only after child in foster care.
  - For $7 (child welfare), $1 (prevention)

- Children do best in **FAMILIES**

- **REDUCE OVER-RELIANCE ON CONGREGATE CARE** - should be short term, quality, treatment-oriented

- Investments in **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS** - Federal funds for proven approaches
Prevention Services and Programs: 
Who?

- Federal funds for 12 months of services to prevent children from entering or re-entering foster care.

**WHO:**

- Babies, children, youth, birth parents, kinship caregivers providing temporary or permanent care for children
- Children who are “candidates” for foster care— at risk of entering but can stay safely with parents or kinship caregivers with prevention supports
- Includes children whose adoption or guardianship is at risk of disruption/dissolution
- Can receive more than once if child is again identified as a candidate
- Without regard to eligibility for federal foster care maintenance payments
Prevention: What?

- 3 Categories of Prevention Services:
  - Mental Health
  - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
  - In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs including parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling (includes kinship caregivers)

- Trauma-Informed

- Evidence-Based: Promising, Supported, Well-Supported
  - At least 50% Well-Supported
  - 50% reimbursement until 2026, After 9/30/2026- FMAP rate (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage)
Prevention: What?

- **All Evidence-Based Programs:**
  - Book or manual
  - No evidence of harm
  - Overall weight of studies show benefit

- **Promising:**
  - Superior to comparison group
  - Independent review says well-designed/executed
  - Used some form of control group, such as untreated, wait listed, or placebo group
Prevention: What?

**Supported:**
- Superior to comparison
- Independent review
- Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
- Carried out in usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect 6 months beyond treatment

**Well-Supported:**
- Superior to comparison
- Independent review
- Rigorous random-controlled trial OR rigorous quasi-experimental research design
- Carried out in usual care or practice setting
- Sustained effect 12 months beyond treatment
Prevention: When? How? Where?

**When:**
- **October 1, 2018** - HHS to Release Guidance and List of Pre-Approved Prevention Services
- **October 1, 2019** - Federal Funds for Prevention Available

**How:**
- States include prevention services in detail in state plans
- Only available when also begin congregate care provisions (2 year delay allowed)
- Services and programs included in child’s prevention plan

**Where:**
- States or localities that include prevention in State Plans
- Tribes with approved IV-E agreements (allows for cultural adaptations)
Prevention Services & Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Kin

- Children receiving prevention services while living with kin for more than 6 months remain eligible for foster care maintenance payments if they meet AFDC eligibility requirements.
Kinship Navigator Programs

- **Who:** Kinship families regardless of eligibility for federal foster care payments

- **What:** Promising, Supported, or Well-Supported Kinship Navigator Programs

- **When:** October 1, 2018, without regard to other prevention services or congregate care provisions

- **Where:** States, localities, tribes (with state agreements)

- **How:**
  - Public agency or private provider with contract with public agency
  - Federal reimbursement at 50% of state expenditures on evidence-based kinship navigators
Action Steps

- Share your evidence-based program for kinship families

- Evaluate your kinship program with goal of meeting well-supported standard

- Urge your states to include prevention services in their state plans
Improve Licensing Standards for Relative Foster Homes: When? What?

- **When?**
  - By **October 1, 2018**, HHS must identify a model of family foster home licensing standards
  - By **April 1, 2019**, each state must report to HHS

- **What?**
  - are the state standards in accord with the model and if not, why not?
  - does the state waive non-safety licensing standards for relatives, as allowed by federal law?
  - which standards does the state most commonly waive?
  - if the state does not waive, why not?
  - how are caseworkers trained to use the waiver authority?
  - does the state have a process or tools to assist caseworkers in waiving non-safety standards so they can place quickly with relatives?
  - what steps are the state taking to improve caseworker training or the process?
Federal Licensing Requirements

Federal law says little about the actual licensing of foster homes:

- States must designate a state authority responsible for standards
- States have broad flexibility so long as those standards “are reasonably in accord with recommended standards of national organizations…”
- “a waiver of any such standard may be made only on a case-by-case basis for non-safety standards (as determined by the State) in relative foster family homes…”
- States must periodically review their licensing standards
  42 U.S.C. § 671 (a)(10) and (11)

The federal Adam Walsh Act requires states to conduct criminal background and child abuse registry checks, 42 U.S.C. § 671(a)(20)(A)
The Model Standards Package of Materials

National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA), Generations United, and ABA created the standards

Available free of charge at www.naralicensing.org and www.grandfamilies.org includes:

- a purpose statement
- ten guiding principles
- the model standards
- an interpretive guide
- a crosswalk tool
Model Standards

- Uses model language from states and from accreditation agencies like Child Welfare League of America and the Council on Accreditation

- Fulfills the public policy intent behind licensing standards, which is to ensure that children in foster care have safe and appropriate placements

- Fills the previous void in “national standards”

- Reflects community standards and is flexible so children in out of home care are placed in the best homes for them

- No waivers or variances needed
Categories Covered by Model Standards

- Definitions
- Basic Eligibility
- Physical and Mental Health
- Home Study
- Capacity
- Sleeping
- Other living space
- Fire safety/evacuation
- Additional health & safety
- Criminal history records check
- Abuse and neglect records check
- Assurances
- Pre-license training
- Emergency placement
Action Steps: Compare and Align State Standards with Model

- Establish workgroup or taskforce:
  - Consider what are the barriers to licensing for relatives in your state? Common barriers include:
    - Criminal history of relative
    - Training requirements
    - Housing requirements like square footage, etc.

- Compare state licensing standards to Model Standards, using the crosswalk tool
Action Steps: Look at Waiver Practices

- Tools, see wikiHow for Kinship Foster Care

- Licensing waivers or variances approved at the local level instead of the state level

- Designated kinship liaisons to help relatives through the difficult licensing process
Other Key FFPSA Provisions for Grandfamilies

- Encourages placement of children in foster care in the least restrictive, most family-like settings by not allowing federal funds for inappropriate group placements - An important component of the appropriate use of quality residential treatment programs (QRTP) is the need to maintain family connections.

- Expedites interstate placement of children in foster care, adoption or guardianship by requiring states to use an electronic interstate case-processing system.

- Extends funding for five years for The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program and The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (Title IV-B, Subparts 1 and 2).
Other Key Provisions for Grandfamilies Cont.

- **Extends** services through the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program:
  - to age 23 the financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate supports and services to former foster care
  - to age 26 for Education and Training Vouchers

- **Reauthorizes** for five years the Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payment program
Timeline and Next Steps
### Timeline for Key Grandfamilies Provisions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Now</td>
<td>Extends funding for Title IV-B Subpart 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Extends ages for Chaffee</td>
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<td>Reauthorizes Adoption and Guardianship Incentives</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2018</td>
<td>HHS identifies Model Licensing Standards</td>
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<td>HHS provides guidance on prevention and list of pre-approved programs</td>
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<td>Federal reimbursement for certain kinship navigator programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 1, 2019</td>
<td>Each state must report to HHS about licensing and waivers</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2019</td>
<td>Allow states to use federal funds for prevention services</td>
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<td>No federal funds for inappropriate group placements (may ask for 2 more years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1, 2027</td>
<td>States must use electronic interstate case-processing systems</td>
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What Next?

- Sign up for Generations This Week (GTW) & quarterly Grand Voice Newsletter – [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org), Click “Sign Up for Alerts”

- Raise your voice-
  - Governors
  - State Legislatures
  - Child Welfare Agencies

- Implementation help - Generations United provides technical assistance to states

- Ask questions

- Learn more……
www.grandfamilies.org

A collaboration of the
Generations United
ABA Center on Children and the Law
Casey Family Programs
Additional Resources

- **Generations United** –
  - Family First Prevention Services Act: brief summary, implication for grandfamilies at [www.gu.org](http://www.gu.org) and [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)
  - Model Family Foster Home Licensing Standards at [www.naralicensing.org](http://www.naralicensing.org) or [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org)
  - WikiHow for Kinship Foster Care at [www.grandfamilies.org](http://www.grandfamilies.org) and [www.wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com)


- **Casey Family Programs** - Attachments to this webinar about evidence-based programs

Questions or State Assistance - Contact Us

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