

# **Family First Prevention Services Act**

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# Overview

## Purpose

- Background
- Current Status

## Key Provisions

- IV-E Funds for Preventing Removal
- IV-E Foster Care Funding Restructuring for Congregate Care
- Other Key Provisions

## Conclusions

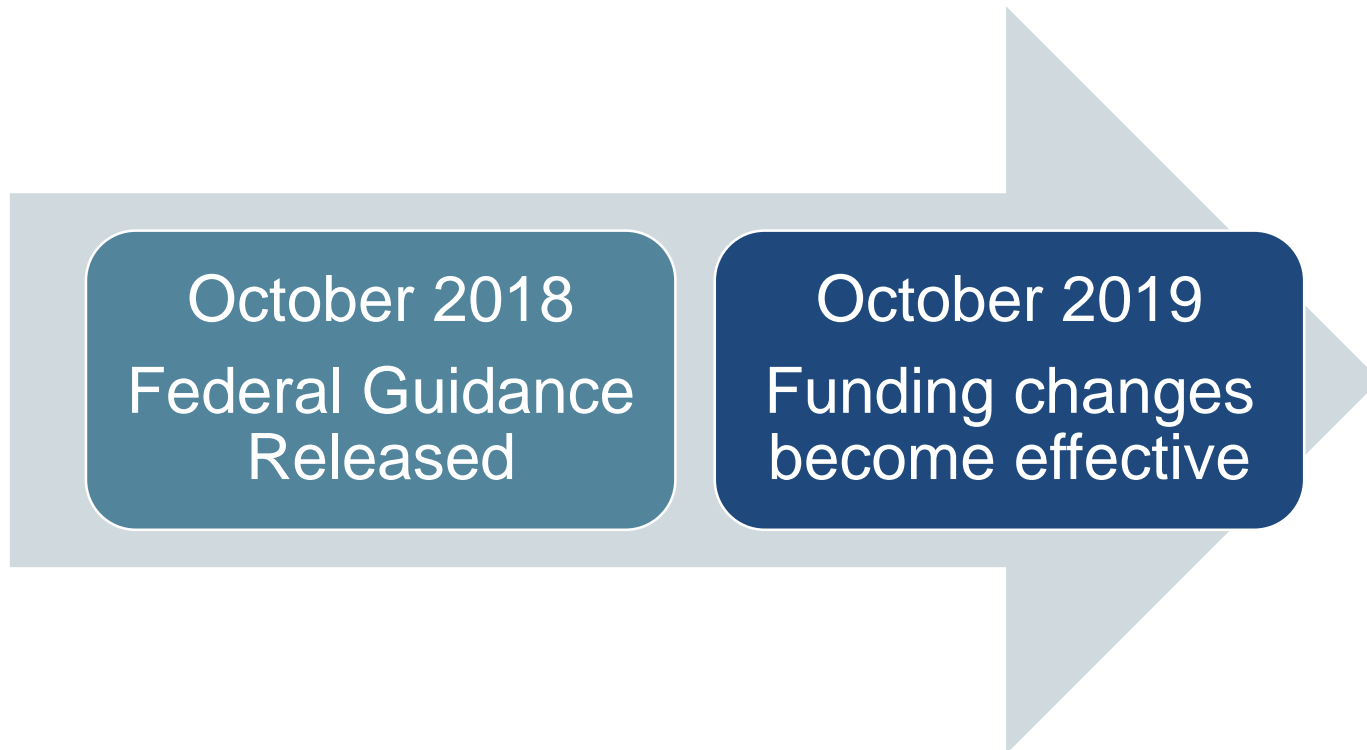
- Next Steps

# Background -FFPSA

- **Signed into law on February 9, 2018**
- **Restructures federal child welfare financing by allowing IV-E funds to be used for prevention services**
- **Introduces new parameters around federal funding for group placement settings for children in foster care**

# Current Status

- Federal guidance has yet to be issued – some aspects are subject to change
- Funding changes become effective in October 2019



# Key Provisions

Allows IV-E reimbursement for services to prevent entry into foster care.

Limits IV-E funding for congregate care to the first two weeks of placement\*

Other provisions to support safety, permanence, and well being

\* With some exceptions

# Key Provisions

## IV-E Funds for Prevention Services

What Services?	Who is Eligible?	What is Required?	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Mental health services</li><li>- Substance abuse prevention and treatment</li><li>- In-home parent skill-based programs</li><li>- Services limited to 12 months</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Candidates for foster care with a prevention plan</li><li>- Youth in care who are pregnant or parenting</li><li>- Parents or caregivers to prevent child entry into care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Prevention plan</li><li>- List of services</li><li>- Trauma-informed</li><li>- Evidence-based</li><li>- Report of outcomes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 50% match available to states from 10/1/19-10/1/26</li><li>- After 10/1/26, match will be equal to states' Federal Medical Assistance Percentages</li></ul>

# Key Provisions

## Limits on IV-Funding for Congregate Care

<b>What?</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>Qualified Residential Treatment Programs</b>	<b>Why?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-IV-E reimbursement for youth in care for up to 2 weeks</li><li>- County or State funds can be used thereafter</li><li>- There are several exceptions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- IV-E funds can continue to be used after 2 weeks in certain circumstances</li><li>- Pregnancy and postpartum residential programs</li><li>- Residential programs for youth &gt;age 18</li><li>-Residential services for trafficked youth</li><li>-QRTP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Accreditation requirements</li><li>- Clinically staffed</li><li>-Trauma informed</li><li>-Includes family in treatment</li><li>-Post-discharge planning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Extensive research that children have better outcomes in least-restrictive most family-like settings</li><li>-Enhances standards for group settings to be more clinically focused and meet the complex clinical needs of children/youth.</li></ul>

# Other Key Provisions

- **Reunification:** Currently, there is a 15-month limit on the use of IV-E funds once a child enters foster care. Beginning October 2019, there is no limit on how long services can be provided during that stay. Funds can also be used to continue supports for 15 months after the child returns home.
- **Foster Home Licensing:** By October 2018, [federal] HHS must have model licensing standards for foster family homes. States will have to certify if its licensing is in accord with the model and explain why not.
- **Plan for Prevention of Maltreatment Deaths:** States must provide: 1) description of the steps the state is taking to compile complete and accurate information on maltreatment-related deaths; and, 2) a description of steps that the state is taking to implement a “plan to prevent the fatalities.”
- **Chafee Independent Living:** For states that have extended foster care to include 18- to 21-year-olds, they will be able to extend eligibility through age 23.
- **Chafee Education Training Vouchers (ETV):** This program provides funds to assist youth aging out of care with college costs. The current age ceiling is 23. FFPA raises that to 26, with the caveat that no single student can get a voucher for more than five years.
- **Cases between States:** By 2027, all states must move to an “electronic interstate case-processing system.”



# Summary/Next Steps

- **Significant focus on how we can prevent children from entering foster care**
- **In the upcoming months, begin discussions with counties and stakeholders ahead of Children's Bureau release of guidance by October 2018**
- **Gear-up for timely implementation of FFPSA provisions effective October 2019**

# Questions?