



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

April 16, 2012

The Honorable Bruce Caswell, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable David Agema, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative Agema:

Section 523(1) of 2011 Public Act 63 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report on the family preservation programs for which money is appropriated in part 1 to the Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees on the department budget.

If you have any questions regarding the attached report, please contact Suzanne Stiles Burke, director, Bureau of Child Welfare, at (517) 241-8606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kangas".

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
State Budget Office

Department of Human Services
Family Preservation Programs
Report on Public Act 63 of 2011
Section 523 (1)

Families First of Michigan (FFM) serves families that have at least one child at imminent risk of placement in out-of-home care. In addition, families with children in out-of-home care are eligible for referral to the program when it is determined that reunification is not appropriate without intensive services and the Family Reunification Program is not available. FFM offers families intensive, short-term crisis intervention and family education services in their home for four weeks using the FFM model. FFM workers are available and accessible to the family 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The workers assist families by establishing individual family goals designed to reduce risk of out-of-home placement and increase child safety. FFM workers provide service to the family for up to four weeks. Up to a two-week extension may be available in some cases.

As contracted, the desired outcomes for Families First of Michigan services are as follows:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of the families served will avoid placement after three (3) months of termination with the FAMILIES FIRST OF MICHIGAN program.
2. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the families served will avoid placement after six (6) months of termination with the FAMILIES FIRST OF MICHIGAN program.
3. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the families served will avoid placement after twelve (12) months of termination with the FAMILIES FIRST OF MICHIGAN program.

For FY 2011, the Families First of Michigan program served 2,610 families. In tracking performance indicators for families served, DHS found that 92% of families avoided placement for the 3-month period following the Families First intervention; 89% of families avoided placement for the 6-month period following the Families First intervention and 88.5% of families avoided placement for the 12-month period following the Families First intervention. Each of the desired outcomes was met satisfactorily.

Department of Human Services
Family Preservation Programs
Report on Public Act 63 of 2011
Section 523 (1)

The **Family Reunification Program** provides services to a family when a plan for return of the children has been established and the foster care worker has initiated reunification with the family and the court. In those counties where the program is offered, referral for these services is considered mandatory. The intervention model is a blend of skill-based interventions and solution-focused family work. This four-month model of intervention has been found to be successful at reuniting families sooner and more safely than would have been possible without the program services.

As contracted, the desired outcomes for Family Reunification Program services are as follows:

1. Seventy percent (70%) of the families served shall successfully complete four (4) months of the services.
2. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the families who complete the four months of services shall not have any Category I, II, III, preponderance of evidence Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following re-placement of the child(ren) in the family home.
3. Seventy percent (70%) of the families who complete the four months of services shall not have a child(ren) removed from the family home and placed in out-of-home care for a 12-month period following re-placement in the family home.
4. Ninety percent (90%) of the families who successfully complete services shall express satisfaction with the services received.

For FY 2011, the Family Reunification Program served 859 families. At this time, the Family Preservation program office is piloting a data tracking system to capture performance indicators for these services. The tracking system is expected to be fully operational and able to capture the key performance measures for FY 2013.

Department of Human Services
Family Preservation Programs
Report on Public Act 63 of 2011
Section 523 (1)

Savings and Cost Effectiveness

When evaluating the savings and cost effectiveness of these family preservation programs, it is critical to note that recipients of these services are identified by family unit. Alternatively, recipients and costs associated with foster care services are per child. Therefore, comparing these two different service models cannot be done in exact measures. The information below demonstrates costs for each program in fiscal year 2012. When the programs meet the expected outcomes of preventing out-of-home placement and/or facilitate the early return of a child to the family, it is evident that the cost of foster care services per service unit far exceed the cost of preservation services per service unit.

Fiscal Year 2012

<u>Program</u>	<u>Service Unit</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Service Unit</u>
Families First	Per family	\$ 4,744
Family Reunification	Per family	\$ 6,595
Foster Care	Per child	\$23,913

The development of a data tracking system which monitors and reports on the success and cost effectiveness of these programs is an innovation which is expected to result in the reduction of administrative costs, by cutting the dedicated resources assigned to a manual tracking process. As such, the Family Preservation program office is pursuing the development of that system.