



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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February 4, 2015

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Earl Poleski, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator MacGregor and Representative Poleski:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act, PA 252 of 2014, Article X, Section 523 (1). This section requires that DHS submit a report on the Families First of Michigan, Family Reunification and the Families Together Building Solutions family preservation programs. The report shall contain the following:

- (a) The average cost per recipient served.
- (b) Measurable performance indicators.
- (c) Desired outcomes or results and goals that can be measured on an annual basis, or desired results for a defined number of years.
- (d) Monitored results.
- (e) Innovations that may include savings or reductions in administrative costs.

Families First of Michigan

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 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 the risk of out-of-home placement and increase child safety. FFM workers provide service to the family for up to four weeks, with a two-week extension in some cases.

In FY 2014, FFM expanded from thirty-six (36) to thirty-seven (37) contracts. The additional contract was established in Kent County based on the number of families with children considered to be at imminent risk of removal and the demonstrated need for additional FFM services. For FY 2014, the

FFM program served 2,381 families. The outcomes and measured performance indicators for FFM services are:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of the families served will avoid placement for the three (3) months following termination of the FFM program. For FY 2014, the three-month follow-up evidenced 99.3% of families were intact, an increase of 9.3% from FY 2013.
2. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the families served will avoid placement for the six (6) month period following termination of the FFM program. For FY 2014, the six-month follow-up evidenced 89.6% of families were intact, an increase of .6% from FY 2013.
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. In the 12-month period following these Families First interventions, 88.3% of the families avoided placement or further Children's Protective Services involvement, an increase of .3% from FY 2013.

The innovation of a web-based data tracking system which monitors and reports on the success and outcome effectiveness of the FFM program was launched in October 2011. During FY 2014, this system was updated to generate independent case numbers for tribal, juvenile justice and domestic violence shelter referrals.

Family Reunification Program

The Family Reunification Program (FRP) 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 successful at reuniting families sooner and more safely than would have been possible without the program services.

For FY 2014, the FRP served 903 families. The desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for FRP services are:

1. Seventy percent (70%) of the families served shall successfully complete four (4) months of the services. For FY 2014, 88% of families successfully completed four (4) months of the services, an increase of 1% from FY 2013.
2. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the families who complete the four months of services shall not have any Category I, II, or III preponderance of evidence Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following replacement of the child(ren) in the family home. For FY 2014, 83% of families did not have any Category I, II, or III preponderance of evidence Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following replacement of the child (ren) in the family home and FRP case closure, an increase of 1% from FY 2013.
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 replacement in the family home. For FY 2014, 81% of families did not have children removed from the home and placed in out of home care for the 12 month period following replacement in the family home and FRP case closure, an increase of 4% from FY 2013.

4. Ninety percent (90%) of the families who successfully complete services shall express satisfaction with the services received. For FY 2014, 98% of families reported satisfaction with the services received an increase of 6% from FY 2013.

DHS plans to innovate a data system to measure FRP program outcomes. The system development is near completion and the system will receive both internal and field testing during the spring of 2015. Implementation of the system is planned for FY 2016 and will be made available for use by all contractors.

Families Together Building Solutions

The Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) is a DHS county office administered and monitored program. The contractors are not monitored by the Family Preservation Program Office and the data related to outcomes is not submitted to the program office. FTBS provides services for low-risk families that require less intensive preventive services to reduce the risk of placement. FTBS is a short term in-home clinical counseling service utilizing strength-based and solution-focused techniques. The FTBS worker is available to the family 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The FTBS worker spends an average of three hours per week for up to 90 days in the home providing individual, couple or family counseling. A 90 day extension (not to exceed a total of 180 days) can be granted based on approval.

For FY 2014, 415 families were served by FTBS providers. The desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for the FTBS program are as follows:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of families referred will not have a substantiated abuse and/or neglect complaint during program participation. For FY 2014, 97.5% of families who received FTBS services did not have a substantiated abuse/neglect complaint during program participation, an increase of 4.5% from FY 2013.
2. Ninety percent (90%) of families completing services will not require an out-of-home placement within six (6) months of case closure. For FY 2014, 97% of families did not require out of home placement during the six (6) month period following FTBS case closure, an increase of 1% from FY 2013.
3. Eighty-five percent (85%) of families completing service do not require an out-of-home placement within twelve (12) months of case closure. For FY 2014, 95% of families did not require out of home placement during the twelve (12) month period following FTBS case closure, an increase of 1% from FY 2013.

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 the different service models cannot be done in exact measures. The information below demonstrates costs for each program in FY 2014. When the programs meet the expected outcomes and in this case exceed the expected outcomes of preventing out-of-home placement and/or facilitate the early return of a child to

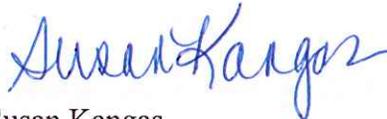
the family, the cost of foster care services per service unit far exceeds the cost of family preservation services per service unit.

Fiscal Year 2014

<u>Program Unit</u>	<u>Service Unit</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Service</u>
Families First	per family	\$ 4,482
Family Reunification	per family	\$ 6,756
Families Together Building Solutions	per family	\$ 2,552
Foster Care	per child	\$ 27,085

If you have any questions, please contact Guy Thompson, Family Preservation and Prevention manager, at (517) 331-5136.

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices