

Family Preservation Programs Report

(FY2016 Appropriation Act - Public Act 84 of 2015)

February 15, 2016

Sec. 523. (1) *By February 15 of the current fiscal year, the department shall report on the families first, family reunification, and families together building solutions family preservation programs to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office. The report shall contain all of the following for each program:*

- (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.*



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

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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. 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.

The desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for FFM services are as follows:

1. Ninety percent of the families served will avoid placement for the three-months following termination of the FFM program. *For FY 2015, the three-month follow-up evidenced 92 percent of families were intact.*
2. Eighty-five percent of the families served will avoid placement for the six-month period following termination of the FFM program. *For FY 2015, the six-month follow-up evidenced 90 percent of families were intact.*
3. Seventy-five percent of the families served will avoid placement after twelve-months of termination with the FFM program. *For FY 2015, the FFM program served 3,011 families. In the 12-month period following these Families First interventions, 88.3 percent of the families avoided placement or further Children's Protective Services involvement.*

Family Reunification Program

The Family Reunification Program (FRP) provides services to families 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, a 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.

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The desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for FRP services are as follows:

1. Seventy percent of the families served shall successfully complete four- months of the services. *For FY 2015, 93 percent of families successfully completed services.*
2. Seventy-five percent of the families who complete services shall not have any Category I, II, or III preponderance of evidence Children's Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following replacement of the child (ren) in the family home. *For FY 2015, 88 percent 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.*
3. Seventy percent of the children/families who complete 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 2015, 85 percent 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.*
4. Ninety percent of the families who successfully complete services shall express satisfaction with the services received. *For FY 2015, of the 952 families served, 99 percent of families reported satisfaction with the services received.*

During FY 2015, the web-based data tracking system which monitors and reports on the success and outcome effectiveness of the FFM program, was updated to measure FRP program outcomes. The development was completed and underwent both internal and field testing during FY 2015. The system was launched on October 1, 2015, and providers have started to enter case information. Further evaluation and testing is planned during FY 2016, to ensure proper data collection and reliability.

Families Together Building Solutions

The Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) program is a county-administered program. The FTBS provides services for low-risk families that require less intensive service to reduce the risk of placement. FTBS is a short-term in-home service utilizing strength-based, 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 ninety day extension (not to exceed a total of 180 days of service) can be granted based on approval.

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During FY 2015, 2922 families were served by FTBS providers. Outcome measures for the FTBS program are as follows:

1. Ninety percent of families referred will not have a substantiated abuse and/or neglect complaint during program participation. *For FY 2015, 98.5 percent of families who received FTBS services did not have a substantiated abuse/neglect complaint during program participation.*
2. Ninety percent of families completing services will not require an out-of-home placement within six-months of case closure. *For FY 2015, 95 percent of families did not require out of home placement during the six-month period following FTBS case closure.*
3. Eighty-five percent of families completing service do not require an out-of-home placement within twelve-months of case closure. *For FY 2015, 93 percent of families did not require out of home placement during the twelve-month period following FTBS case closure.*

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 2015. 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, it is evident that the cost of foster care services per service unit far exceeds the cost of family preservation services per service unit.

Fiscal Year 2015

<u>Program Unit</u>	<u>Service Unit</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Service</u>
Families First	per family	\$ 4,784
Family Reunification	per family	\$ 6,756
Families Together Building Solutions	per family	\$ 2,552
Foster Care	per child	\$ 27,085