

Family Preservation Programs Report

(FY 2021 Appropriation Act - Public Act 166 of 2020)

February 15, 2021

Sec. 523. (1) By February 15 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit 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 a report on the families first, family reunification, and families together building solutions family preservation programs. The report shall provide population and outcome data based on contractually required follow-up evaluations for families who received family preservation services and shall include information for each program on any innovations that may increase child safety and risk reduction.

(2) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for youth in transition and domestic violence prevention and treatment, the department is authorized to make allocations of TANF revenue only to agencies that report necessary data to the department for the purpose of meeting TANF eligibility reporting requirements.

(3) By October 1 of the current fiscal year, from the funds appropriated in part 1 for family preservation services, the department shall allocate \$1,750,000.00 and any eligible federal matching funds to increase rates paid to current family preservation service providers in the following manner:

- (a) \$1,075,000.00 for the families first program.*
- (b) \$303,900.00 for the family reunification program.*
- (c) \$370,800.00 for the families together building solutions program.*



Families First of Michigan (FFM)

During fiscal year 2020, FFM served 8,186 children in over 2,600 families. Of the families who could be located for follow-up, 90% remained intact one year after completion of services.

Innovations to Increase Safety and Reduce Risk

- The new FFM contract series includes a requirement to administer the Protective Factors Survey for each family. This assessment will help promote strengths while identifying risks and incorporating both into case planning.
- FFM staff in six counties were trained to participate in the Safety and Facilitation Expert (SAFE) Family Team Meeting pilot which helps to link key stakeholders in case decision making. The availability of FFM services in this initiative provides a means to prevent removal in cases where children may otherwise be placed in foster care without intensive services to reduce risk and ensure safety.
- The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research began the process of evaluating FFM. The purpose of this evaluation is to identify best-practices and promote the recognition of FFM as a program supported by evidence. This may ultimately help diversify funding sources for programming.

Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) – Pathways to Potential

During fiscal year 2020, FTBS served 4,434 children in 1,605 families. Of the families who could be located for follow-up, 92% remained intact one year after completion of services.

Innovations to Increase Safety and Reduce Risk

- The University of Michigan Institute for Social Research began exploring if FTBS could further reduce risk of abuse/neglect for high-risk families previously served by a more intensive program like Families First.
- FTBS staff in six counties were trained to participate in the SAFE Family Team Meeting pilot which helps link key stakeholders in case decision making. The availability of FTBS services in this initiative provides a means to reduce risk and preserve families when children can remain safely in the home with services.

Family Reunification Program (FRP)

During fiscal year 2020, the FRP served 1,704 children in 687 families. Of the families who could be located for follow-up, 86% remained intact a year after completion of services.

Innovations to Increase Safety and Reduce Risk

- FRP was an integral part of new rapid reunification efforts which helped to quickly and safely transition children from foster care back into their own homes.
- FRP staff in six counties were trained to participate in the SAFE Family Team

Meeting pilot which helps link key stakeholders in permanency planning decisions. The availability of FRP services in this initiative provides a vital tool in deciding when and how children can be returned home safely.

Innovations to Increase Safety and Reduce Risk in all Family Preservation Programs (FFM, FTBS, and FRP)

- New procedural measures were implemented in fiscal year 2020 which will permit for better data mapping in Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare System (MISACWIS) and provide more accurate outcome data for fiscal year 2021.
- Family Preservation service providers were authorized and trained to enter face to face contact information directly into MiSACWIS so the information will be more accessible to Child Protective Service workers and improve data quality.
- Harvard-Kennedy Government Performance Lab helped expand data collection for implementation in fiscal year 2021. This new data will provide more demographics and a better representation of what obstacles families face and how they may be better served.
- Harvard-Kennedy Government Performance Lab is currently exploring contract changes that will promote milestones in best-practice methods of service delivery that will increase safety and reduce risk.