

# Family First Prevention Services Act Implementation Status

(FY 2020 Appropriation Bill - Public Act 67 of 2019)

**March 1, 2020**

***Sec. 536. By March 1 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, and the policy offices a report on the status of the department's planned and achieved implementation of the federal family first prevention services act, Public Law 115-123. The report shall include, but not be limited to, an estimate of the 5-year spending plan for administrative and compliance costs, information regarding compliance with the title IV-E prevention requirements, the status of statewide compliance with the qualified residential treatment program requirements, the department's conformity with federal model licensing standards, the department's plan for tracking and preventing child maltreatment deaths, and the department's plan for extending John H. Chaffee foster care independence programs up to age 23.***



## Section 536 PA 67 of 2019

Child safety is the highest priority for the Children's Services Agency (CSA) within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The ideal way to keep children safe is to provide meaningful, timely, and effective services and supports to families experiencing challenges. When such services are provided, fewer children will experience recurrence of maltreatment and entry into foster care. To achieve this vision, CSA intends to significantly change the way our child welfare system responds to suspected maltreatment, beginning with receipt of the hotline complaint through completion of the Children's Protective Services (CPS) investigation. CSA is dedicated to ensuring families who encounter the child welfare system experience meaningful supportive services and develop relationships that will help them keep their children safe and improve family well-being.

CSA has engaged and collaborated with many national experts to begin transforming Michigan's child welfare system to one that better protects children by effectively serving families.

### **Five Year Spend Plan**

- The Fiscal Year 2021 executive budget invests \$8.6 million gross (\$5.4 million general fund) in programs designed to keep families intact and prevent children from entering foster care, as well as a pilot program designed to prevent children from being placed into congregate care.  
Potential services include:
  - Sobriety treatment and recovery teams.
  - SafeCare.
  - Multisystemic therapy.
  - Functional family therapy.
  - Parent-child interactional therapy.
  - Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.
- The Fiscal Year 2021 executive budget investment of \$6.0 million gross (\$3.0 million general fund) will also enable expansion of four of Michigan's home visiting programs to serve at-risk families. Enhancements will include:
  - Additional home visiting slots to Michigan families in Wayne, Kent, Kalamazoo, and Saginaw counties.
  - Ensures new home visiting enrollees receive mental health consultation services.
  - Establishes an integrated home visiting system to support adequate referral, monitoring, and program evaluation to maximize family outcomes.

### **Implementation of Title IV-E Prevention Plan**

Michigan plans to implement strategies to narrow entry into care as well as strategies to speed time to reunification. Following are significant strategies planned or underway:

1. **Front End System Redesign.** With technical assistance from Casey Family Programs, MDHHS has initiated a comprehensive redesign of its centralized intake and investigation processes. This strategy will be completed by mid-2021 and is

## Section 536 PA 67 of 2019

intended to help Michigan respond to complaints more effectively, promote desirable outcomes, and more efficiently align staff resources with family needs and circumstances.

- 2. Expand evidence-based prevention services.** Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) has served as a catalyst for partnership between the MDHHS Public Health Administration and the Michigan Department of Education to expand availability and access to effective home visitation services for child welfare encountered families. CSA has joined several home visitation workgroups including: Leadership, Governance and Structure, Advisory, and Expansion. To further support this effort, the Governor's fiscal year 2021 budget recommends a significant budget enhancement that will enable expansion of secondary prevention services to an additional 520 families at imminent risk of having a child enter foster care.

MDHHS engaged with Chapin Hall via its partnership with Casey Family Programs to co-facilitate stakeholder groups to:

- Explore the population of children at risk of entering foster care, identify and describe the target population for prevention services.
- Explore the adequacy of existing preventive services array to meet the needs of candidates and determine where expansion of existing services is required and/or what services are needed.

The stakeholder workgroups achieved the following:

- Submitted nominations for Family Spirit, Families First of Michigan, and Family Reunification Program for consideration to fund evaluations.
- Recommended four programs for review that meet the level of promising, supported, or well-supported for inclusion on the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse.
- Gathered data from community providers to determine evidence-based services currently in operation. Information gathered will facilitate alignment of the service array with the needs of children at risk of entering out of home care and pregnant/parenting youth.

- 3. Overhaul training and workforce supports.** CSA has formed a partnership with approximately 15 Michigan universities to develop and implement a plan to improve child welfare training and workforce recruitment, training, and retention. Recruiting, preparing, and retaining highly skilled staff is critical to consistent practice and excellent decision making needed to assure children are protected and families remain intact whenever possible.
- 4. Incorporating the use of evidence-based risk assessment.** CSA has integrated the use of the Michigan Juvenile Justice Assessment System for juvenile justice youth at risk of placement into foster care or returning home from foster care to prevent unnecessary placement into congregate care and to enhance early release from congregate care. The assessment helps staff balance the risk of reoffending with the

## **Section 536 PA 67 of 2019**

ability to provide community services available to keep the youth and others safe. The statewide juvenile justice assignment unit is assisting providers and local office staff with identifying youth that may be served in home with community-based services and supports.

### **Implementation Status of Qualified Residential Treatment Providers (QRTP)**

Michigan is working toward implementing QRTP requirements in FY 2021. Legislation regarding QRTP was signed into state law by the governor on January 24, 2020; these statutes include both department and court requirements for QRTP compliance.

MDHHS has worked with currently contracted residential providers to incorporate the facility/program-based requirements of QRTP into the residential contracts and policy.

MDHHS has selected the tool that will be used as part of the required assessment process and is working on contract requirements for those assessments.

In collaboration with the State Court Administrators Office (SCAO) and tribal representatives the department has been working on the development of training regarding requirements and procedural changes regarding QRTP and will be providing a series of webinars for both court staff and child welfare field staff on the changes and requirements related to QRTP. Additionally, the department has been working with SCAO and court staff on development of court rules and court form changes.

### **Model Licensing Standards**

On April 11, 2019, Michigan submitted a title IV-E plan amendment to the Regional Office, Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF). The plan amendment addressed the department's conformity with model licensing standards for foster family homes and plans to address deviations through the rule revision process. On May 2, 2019, MDHHS received approval from ACYF for Michigan's revised title IV-E plan. The effective date of this amendment was April 1, 2019.

### **Tracking and Preventing Child Maltreatment Deaths**

MDHHS is in the process of finalizing a Comprehensive Statewide Plan to Prevent Child Fatalities. The final draft of the plan has not been approved as of the date of this report.

### **Extending John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Programs Up to Age 23**

On October 1, 2018, MDHHS extended the age of Chafee eligibility to age 23. MDHHS messaged the change in a Communication Issuance, CI 18-094, issued September 17, 2018. The update was completed in foster care policy, FOM 950, The Youth in Transition Program, effective November 1, 2018.