Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

Investing in Prevention and Supporting Families
Agenda

Child Welfare Funding

Nebraska Families Served

FFPSA

Nebraska’s Child Welfare Funding

- Federal Funds
- State Funds
- Cash Funds
FFPSA: Monumental Shift in Child Welfare Funding

- Most significant federal child welfare legislation in decades
- Substantial changes to federal child welfare financing
- Currently, States can only receive federal foster care funding for children placed in foster care who were removed from very low income families and to support adoption/guardianship
2016 Nebraska Federal Money Received

- Casey Family Programs: 2016 Nebraska State Fact Sheet

- Foster Care Services: $19,411,324
- Prevention Services: $2,825,316

2016 Nebraska Federal Child Welfare Spending

$19,411,324
Approximate amount of federal money spent on foster care services

757 children received federal foster care dollars

$2,825,316
Approximate amount of federal money spent on prevention and permanency services

22,845 children involved in reports of maltreatment or other issues where timely interventions are important

- Casey Family Programs: 2016 Nebraska State Fact Sheet

Nationally

In 2016, most states used the bulk of the $7.3 billion in dedicated federal child welfare funding only for services related to foster care.

States can now begin to rebalance their investments and shift their focus from foster care services for some children...

to prevention and permanency services for all children.

- Casey Family Programs: 2016 Nebraska State Fact Sheet
Child Welfare Funding

Nebraska Families Served

FFPSA
Approximate Number of Nebraska Families Served Annually

- Children involved in an investigation: 22,845
- Children who received services: 11,246
- Children who entered foster care: 2,454

*Casey Family Programs: 2016 Nebraska State Fact Sheet*
Nebraska: Children living in foster care

*Excludes youth placed in YRTC's
Nebraska: Children living in foster care

The FFPSA will substantially assist Nebraska in continuing its efforts of serving more families in the home.

- 2017: 3,478
- Jan 2019: 2,959
- Decrease 15%

Excludes youth placed in YRTC's

What do we know from Nebraska data?

- The majority of children enter foster care due to neglect.
- Annually approximately 45% of children who enter out-of-home care are ages 0-5.
- Approximately 46% of children who enter out-of-home care ages 0-5 have at least one parent who was also a state ward.
- 50% or more of children who enter out-of-home care in Nebraska is due to parental substance use.
- As of January 2019, approximately 60% of all children served are in out-of-home care and 40% are in-home.
Children in Out-of-Home Care: Placement Type

Children in Foster Care Placed in a Relative/Kinship Foster Home

- 2014: 48%
- 2019: 60%

Children in Out-of-Home Care Placed in a Congregate Setting

- 2014: 8.3%
- 2019: 5.4%

2.9%
Child Welfare Funding
Nebraska Families Served
FFPSA

Enacted into law February 9, 2018

New federal funds to increase, not replace, state funds for prevention

Purpose is to provide support to children and families to prevent foster care placements

All of the provisions have different effective dates.
Goals of FFPSA

- IV-E Funded Prevention Services
- Quality Evidence-Based Services
- Promote Family-Based Placements
- Reduce Congregate Care Placements

Title IV-E Prevention Program

Effective date: 10/1/2019
Optional for states: Nebraska opting in
Prevention Program

Allows federal funds to cover the cost of prevention programs to prevent children from entering foster care.

- Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment
- Mental Health Services
- In-home Parent Skill-Based Program

Evidence-Based Trauma-Informed

Title IV-E Prevention Program

Eligible:

- Candidates for foster care who can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement
- A child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is at risk of a disruption or dissolution
- A child/youth in foster care who is pregnant or parenting

The parents or kin/relative caregivers of these children

FFPSA Modifications Related to Placements
Placement Limitations

Limitations on title IV-E foster care payments for placements that are not foster family homes

Effective date: 10/01/2019
Required for all states

Title IV-E foster care payments are limited to two weeks unless it is an approved placement (see next slide)
Approved Placements that are not foster family homes

- Family-based residential substance abuse treatment facility
- A setting specializing in providing prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth
- Supervised independent living for youth over 18
- Specialized placements for survivors of sex trafficking
- A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
Placement with Parent in a Treatment Facility

Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance Payments for Children with Parents in a Licensed Residential Family Based Treatment Facility for Substance Use

Optional for states: Nebraska opting in

Allows foster care payments for up to 12 months for an eligible child placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based substance abuse treatment facility

Treatment facility must provide parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling under a trauma-informed framework
Components of a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for 6 months post discharge
- Registered or licensed nursing or clinical staff
- Family outreach & facilitate family participation in child’s treatment
- Trauma-informed treatment model
QRTP

30 day assessment
- To determine what placement setting best meets the child’s needs
- Develop short-term and long-term mental health and behavioral health goals

60 day court review
- Court must approve placement in QRTP in order for State to continue to claim federal funding
Other FFPSA Placement Modifications

Foster Care Licensing

- HHS must identify and implement national model licensing standards for foster family homes
- Required for all states; Effective 4/01/2019

Limit Foster Home to six children

- Exceptions to this limit are: to allow parenting youth to remain with their child, siblings to stay together, a child with a meaningful relationship with a family to stay with that family, and family with special training or skills to care for a child with severe disabilities
- This provision is completed in Nebraska

Proof of Foster Care

- Provide official documentation to prove the child was in foster care to the child
- This provision is completed in Nebraska
Additional FFPSA Modifications
FFPSA Modifications: Services

Kinship Navigator Program

- To assist kinship caregivers in learning about, finding, and using programs/services to meet the needs of the children they are raising and their own needs.
- Effective 10/1/18
- Optional for States: Nebraska opting in

Chafee Foster Care Program

- Extend this program to youth who were in foster care at age 14 up to age 23 for Nebraska
- Youth may still be eligible if they aged out before age 18
- Effective 2/9/18
- Required for states
### Additional FFPSA Modifications

#### Preventing Inappropriate Diagnoses
- Plan procedures to ensure that children in foster care are not diagnosed inappropriately with mental illness and other disorders leading to inappropriate non-foster family home placements
- Required for all states; Effective 01/01/2018

#### Child Maltreatment Deaths
- Describe the steps taken to track and compile complete information on child maltreatment deaths from several specified sources and steps to develop and implement a statewide plan to prevent fatalities
- Required for all states; Effective 01/01/2018

#### Criminal Record & Registry Checks
- Requires fingerprints, national crime information databases & child abuse/neglect registry checks on any adult working in a child care institution
- Required for all states; Effective 10/01/2018
FFPSA: Continuum of Prevention

- **Primary Prevention**
  - Prevent child welfare involvement

- **Secondary Prevention**
  - Prevent foster care placement

- **Tertiary Prevention**
  - Prevent generational child welfare involvement
Rethinking Foster Care

“Efforts to build protective factors and prevent initial acts of harm are less expensive and less intrusive in the lives of families than formal system involvement and foster care placement.”

- US DHHS Children’s Bureau
For more information:

http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Family-First.aspx

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