

CREATING AND IMPLEMENTING SUCCESSFUL FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION PLANS

Third Sector and Evident Change are partnering to support child welfare agencies to create and implement successful Family First Prevention Services Act prevention plans. Drawing on deep experience in child welfare and system improvement, Third Sector and Evident Change will help jurisdictions develop plans that maximize federal revenue; meet Family First requirements; and create the robust data infrastructure, responsive contracts, and intensive community engagement needed to improve client outcomes.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Too often, there is a disconnect between the needs of families and the services and resources available to meet those needs. Services may be inaccessible, ineffective, or inappropriate to address needs, and needs may be poorly understood. To move the needle on child welfare outcomes, services should be evidence based and tailored to local context and needs.

With implementation of Family First, states and counties face one of the most substantial changes in federal funding for child welfare in the last 40 years. To receive funding, jurisdictions must submit prevention plans that identify candidacy criteria, meet stringent evaluation and continuous quality improvement requirements, include evidence-based practices according to



new standards, and propose prevention services to reduce the need for out-of-home care.

The challenge of fulfilling requirements can be used as an opportunity to better align needs and services and improve outcomes.

HELPING AGENCIES IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND MEET FAMILY FIRST REQUIREMENTS

Using intensive community engagement, data-driven practices, and rigorous and responsive evaluation, Third Sector and Evident Change can help child welfare jurisdictions take advantage of the opportunity presented by Family First and leverage federal resources to reimagine their prevention service array. By working with Third Sector and Evident Change, jurisdictions can expect to create and implement a plan that:

- Complies with Family First requirements.
- Maximizes federal support.
- Realigns services to focus on evidence-based prevention services that meet the needs of families, thereby reducing the need for out-of-home care.
- Implements outcome-driven contracts with community providers to improve results.
- Incorporates intensive community engagement to tailor the plan to local context.
- Effectively evaluates services to identify what works and what needs to change.
- Uses rigorous, sustainable evaluation design that satisfies federal requirements and builds the evidence base for the field.
- Includes independent technical reviews of prevention services that have not yet been rated by the Prevention Services Clearinghouse. If the evidence is supportive, these services can be federally funded.

Evident Change and Third Sector also can support jurisdictions that have already submitted Family First plans as they develop amendments and implementations. Evident Change and Third Sector's ongoing implementation support includes technical and adaptive solutions such as:

- Ongoing community engagement
- Data consulting to track client outcomes and manage ongoing Family First evaluation requirements



- Continual data-driven assessment and adjustment of the service array to family needs.

EXPERIENCE, EXPERTISE, AND ACTION

Third Sector and Evident Change have partnered to offer an unparalleled combination of skills and expertise to states and counties as they implement Family First. Evident Change brings deep experience and expertise with child welfare funding and evidence-based practices, while Third Sector brings a broad range of experience partnering with state and county agencies to develop and implement outcomes-oriented contracts and Pay for Success projects. Evident Change was the first Family First independent reviewer to submit a successful independent review, resulting in a program's successful eligibility for federal reimbursement.



LEARN MORE

For more information about the Family First Prevention Services Act, its requirements, and how Third Sector and Evident Change can help, contact Cynthia Burnson, PhD, Senior Researcher at Evident Change (cburnson@evidentchange.org), or Debra Solomon, Director of Client Services at Third Sector (dsolomon@thirdsectorcap.org).