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Indiana DCS receives federal approval for prevention funding

INDIANAPOLIS (June 30, 2022) – Indiana Department of Child Services received approval from the Administration for Children and Families of its Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year plan, which allows the state to use federal funding for the first time to deliver prevention services to families with the goal of keeping children safely with their families and out of foster care.

The prevention plan is a requirement of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), a federal law that was adopted in 2018 and focuses on keeping families together as well as ensuring that children who do have to be removed are placed in family settings whenever possible and not in congregate-care placements. It outlines how the department will utilize the funding on evidence-based practices to try to safely preserve more families, which, whenever possible, is better for kids and their families.

“The Family First Act opened the door for child welfare agencies to use federal funds in a very different way,” Indiana DCS Director Terry Stigdon said. “We are eager for the opportunities this will present to support the children and families we serve.”

DCS implemented the congregate-care requirements of [FFPSA](#) in the fall of 2021. States may claim Title IV-E prevention services funding dating back to the quarter they first submitted an approvable plan.

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About Indiana DCS: *The Indiana Department of Child Services leads the state’s response to allegations of child abuse and neglect and facilitates child support payments. We consider the needs and values of all we serve in our efforts to protect children while keeping families together whenever possible. Indiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 800.800.5556. Child Support Customer Service Kidsline: 800.840.8757 or 317.233.5437.*

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