

Family Resource Center & Child Welfare Collaboration Continuum



Across the country, Child Welfare jurisdictions partner with, leverage, and fund Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to provide support for families along all points of the prevention continuum.

	Primary Prevention	Differential Response	Open Child Welfare Case	Post-Reunification
Family Resource Center Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support families to build the Strengthening Families 5 Protective Factors Provide parenting support, including parenting education utilizing evidence-based curricula Provide access to resources Support families to identify and address their goals Provide child development activities Support healthy marital and couples relationships Promote family economic success Provide parent leadership development opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all of the services and supports in the Primary Prevention column for families who have been screened out of the child welfare system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all of the services and supports in the Primary Prevention column for families who have been mandated to participate in them by the child welfare system Coordinate support of individual families with their child welfare worker Participate in child welfare team decision making Host supervised visitations Support kinship care providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all of the services and supports in the Primary Prevention column for families who have been reunified
Child Welfare Agency Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding for Family Resource Centers Provide funding for training FRC staff Provide funding for or coordinate Network of FRCs 	<p>In addition to the investments in the Primary Prevention column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and utilize a differential/alternative response system to identify families who do not rise to the level of needing an open child welfare case, but might benefit from support and resources Refer those families for voluntary services at the FRC in their community 	<p>In addition to the investments in the Primary Prevention column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer families for mandated services at the FRC in their community Coordinate support of individual families with FRC staff Welcome FRC staff to participate in team decision making Provide relevant training for FRC staff as needed Leverage FRCs for kinship navigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide all the investments in the Primary Prevention column.
Federal Child Welfare Funding That Can Be Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Title IV-B, Promoting Safe and Stable Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Title IV-B, including Promoting Safe and Stable Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family First Prevention Services Act Title IV-B, including Promoting Safe and Stable Families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title IV-B, including Promoting Safe and Stable Families
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhoods with Family Support Centers had a 26% lower rate of child abuse and neglect investigations than similar neighborhoods without them.¹ Since Teller County, Colorado moved to a differential response model in 2016 that utilizes a Family Resource Center, its child abuse rate has had a 63% reduction.² 			

¹University of Chicago Chapin Hall. (2015). Do Family Support Centers Reduce Maltreatment Investigations? Evidence from Allegheny County.

² OMNI Institute (2021). Return on Investment of a Family Resource Center to the Child Welfare System.



Family Support and Strengthening Networks & Child Welfare

Networks of Family Resource Centers partner with and child welfare agencies to support children and families by:

- Establishing linkages and relationships to leverage Family Resource Centers in relation to child welfare
- Collaborating with multiple systems to promote a coordinated system of support for child welfare-involved families
- Leveraging FRCs to implement Kinship Navigator programs by providing support to kinship care providers
- Participating in state Family First Prevention and Services Act planning and implementation

Family First Prevention Services Act & FRCs

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018 includes reforms to help keep children safely with their families and avoid the traumatic experience of entering foster care. It calls on states to radically rethink their approach to child protection and family support.

- Family Resource Centers (FRCs) can support FFPSA implementation by providing up to 12 months of in-home parent skill-based programs for parents or relatives caring for children who are “candidates for foster care.” Note that “in-home” means that the child has not been removed from their family, not that the services need to be provided in their home.
- If FRCs are providing parenting supports such as counseling, home visiting, or parenting education using an approved program on the [Title IV-E Prevention Services \(Family First\) Clearinghouse](#), those services are reimbursable. The Clearinghouse includes the Incredible Years, Healthy Families America, Motivational Interviewing, Parents as Teachers, and Triple P, which many FRCs are already using.
- FRCs can also be leveraged to implement Kinship Navigator programs by providing support to kinship care providers, as has been done in New Hampshire.
- Networks of FRCs can support successful implementation of FFPSA by participating in state planning.



NATIONAL
Family Support
NETWORK