

Waiver Fiscal Considerations and Family First

Key Points

1. Always start with your vision and goals.
2. What are your key lessons learned under the waiver?
3. What is your fiscal pathway from now to the end of the waiver period?
4. What gap will exist between waiver funding and traditional IV-E funding?
5. How will Family First impact that gap?

Family First Impact - Congregate Care Provisions

1. To what extent can your group homes become family foster homes?
2. To what extent is the setting providing prenatal, post-partum or parenting support for youth?
3. To what extent is the setting providing high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who have been found to be, or are at risk of becoming, sex trafficking victims?
4. To what extent will current congregate care settings meet (or can be made to meet) QRTP criteria?
5. For current congregate care settings that do not fall into one of these categories, what is the capacity of these settings that will not qualify for federal match for maintenance?

Family First Impact - Prevention Services Provisions

1. What is your experience with candidacy? What changes to your systems and processes do you need to make to maximize identification of children at imminent risk of entry or reentry into foster care.
2. How extensively do you use kinship? What opportunities are there are providing prevention services in these settings? (Note that federal guidance will be an important factor in assessing opportunities in this area).
3. What prevention-related interventions do you want to include in your plan? How has your waiver experience informed these choices? To what extent are they known to be evidence-based?
4. What is your preliminary calculation of your maintenance of effort for prevention services?
5. What system changes will be necessary to implement prevention plans and to meet the new reporting requirements?

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New Opportunities Prior to October 1, 2019

1. How can you use the Kinship Navigator provision to improve services to kin caregivers?
2. How can you use the provision for children residing with a parent in a substance abuse treatment facility to support these families?
3. With changes to Regional Partnership Grants and increased funding for substance use disorders (including opioid-related funds), how can you improve the service integration between the child welfare and substance abuse systems?

Key Decisions Going Forward

1. Based on your analysis of the congregate care provisions and the prevention services provisions of FFPSA, do you anticipate delaying implementation of these provisions?
2. If you anticipate delay, how will you manage the transition from waiver to traditional IV-E to FFPSA? How can your fiscal capacity for the remaining waiver period help you in this transition?
3. If you do not anticipate delay, how can your fiscal capacity for the remaining waiver period help you to be prepared for implementation of these provisions on October 1, 2019?
4. Do you anticipate changes to licensing requirements due to federal definitions of Family Foster Homes and Child Care Institutions or in response to model licensing standards (when they are developed)?

Some Important Questions (Among Many)

1. How does the new definition of candidacy for prevention services relate to the definition in current law?
2. When is a child in a kin placement a candidate for prevention services?
3. What is a prevention service?
4. What is the prevention services maintenance of effort and how is it calculated?
5. How will the model licensing standards be developed? Are there current model standards that will be the basis for these standards?