The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) changes the child welfare system by allowing states to use federal funds under Title IV of the Social Security Act to support families and prevent foster care placements. Georgia plans to implement FFPSA by September 30, 2021.1 There are two main components of the act:

1) optional foster care prevention services and programs
2) required changes to congregate care

### Foster Care Prevention Services and Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHO IS ELIGIBLE?</th>
<th>SERVICES AND PROGRAMS that are eligible for reimbursement for Title IV-E funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children who are candidates for foster care, but who can safely remain at home</td>
<td>Mental health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children in foster care who are pregnant or parenting</td>
<td>Substance abuse prevention and treatment services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents or kin caregivers of the children</td>
<td>In-home parenting programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligibility is not dependent on family income

For more details on who is eligible for these services and programs, see the definition for candidacy on [Blueprint for Family First](#).

#### How does a state obtain funding for services or programs?

- State must maintain a **written** prevention plan for each eligible child and collect data on programs and services administered.
- Services or programs must be **trauma-informed and evidence-based**.
- Services or programs must be based on promising, supported, or well-supported practices.

Half of the cost of prevention services, training, and related administrative tasks can be covered by Title IV-E funds.

**If Georgia postpones the effective date of congregate care changes, it must also delay requesting prevention funds until the same date.**
Congregate Care

Starting September 30, 2021, FFPSA limits foster care payments for group homes for up to two weeks only. Children will have to be placed in foster homes for all placements longer than two weeks UNLESS the child is placed in one of the following:

- A Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).
- A setting specializing in providing prenatal, postpartum, or parenting supports for youth.
- If a child is 18, a supervised setting in which child is living independently.

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs

QRTPs must meet the following requirements:

- Use a trauma-informed treatment model
- Have a registered or licensed nursing and clinical staff onsite
- Facilitate family outreach and participation
- Document family integration into the treatment process
- Provide discharge planning and family-based supports for at least 6 months after discharge

Be licensed and accredited by one of the following:

- Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities
- Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
- Council on Accreditation
- Other nonprofit accrediting organization approved by the Secretary

Sources available at: https://tinyurl.com/FFPSAinGA
Sources for Family First Prevention Services Act

1  “2. When is Georgia implementing Family First?” Blueprint for Family First, accessed September 24, 2020., https://support.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/hc/en-us/articles/360034019292