Family First Prevention Services Act

TRANSFORMING WISCONSIN'S CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

As Wisconsin's strategic child welfare transformation was evolving, the federal government boosted these efforts by passing the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in 2018.

This legislation restructures how the federal government allocates funds to the child welfare system to improve outcomes for children and families.

Family First is a great opportunity for county stakeholders, tribes, and the courts/legal partners to work together in shifting our system to be even more family focused.

DCF is enacting Family First initiatives by:

• Phasing in learning map discussions and trainings on change management to transform the child welfare system at large.

• Implementing specialized training programs to focus on serving more children + families in home.

• Engaging with individuals and organizations to ensure that these efforts meet the needs of children and families in the child welfare system.

To learn more about Family First in Wisconsin, visit: dcf.wisconsin.gov/family-first.

Changing the Foster Care Landscape

Investing in preventative services

States will be able to access federal funding for certain service costs, such as trauma-informed mental health services, substance use treatment and in-home parenting skills training, that help families whose children are at risk of being removed from their parents to build safe, loving and supportive homes where their children can grow and thrive.

Building family-based environments

When a child cannot safely remain in their home, every effort will be made to place a child with a relative or like-kin caregiver. When that is not possible, the next preference is to place children with foster families.

High quality group care

Use of group care settings will be limited to short-term placements of children with complex behavioral health and medical needs. Wisconsin is leveraging the opportunity provided by FFPSA to transform group care into a trauma-sensitive and child-centric system with high-quality, community-based placement settings.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families