



Evidence-Based Programs: Frequently Asked Questions

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What is considered an evidence-based program under FFPSA?

As created by FFPSA, The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse rates programs and services as well-supported, supported, promising, *or* does not currently meet criteria as an evidence-based intervention. More information about the Clearinghouse and programs that are currently rated or under reviews can be found on their website at <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>. Please note that programs may have been identified as evidence-based by other organizations, however only the programs and findings listed on the above website may be utilized for purposes of FFPSA.

How do Evidence-Based Programs intersect with Wisconsin's 5-Year Prevention Plan?

States are required to submit a 5-Year Prevention Plan to the Children's Bureau outlining the evidence-based services that will be provided and how these programs and practices will be evaluated and monitored. States can amend their 5-Year Prevention Plan at any time as evidenced-based services are added to the Title IV-E Clearinghouse. Wisconsin intends to submit the 5-Year Prevention Plan by the Summer of 2021 with implementation in the Fall 2021.

How is Wisconsin evaluating evidence-based services for inclusion in Wisconsin's 5-Year Prevention Plan?

Wisconsin is evaluating evidence-based services across a variety of domains, including the following key considerations:

- efficacy with the targeted child welfare population, including the program's ability to serve a wide range of the target population (model serves children 0-18 v. children 0-2);
- targets the whole family for intervention, not a subset of the family;
- meets the complex needs of families who experience a CPS intervention;
- ability to integrate service easily with Wisconsin's Safety Model and aligns with Wisconsin's Child Welfare Model for Practice; particularly in ensuring culturally relevant and trauma-informed services;
- current use of the program in Wisconsin, and;
- implementation and cost criteria.

What evidence-based services are currently being evaluated in Wisconsin?

Several evidence-based services are currently being evaluated for inclusion in the first submission of our state's 5-Year Prevention Plan including, Homebuilders, Motivational Interviewing, Healthy Families of America, Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers.

In addition, in consultation with the Intertribal Child Welfare Committee, potential models identified specific to meeting the needs of tribal families include: Family Spirit, Motherhood is Sacred, Fatherhood is Sacred, Positive Indian Parenting and Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships. These models have yet to be reviewed by the federal Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse but continue to be monitored by DCF for potential future inclusion in Wisconsin's 5-Year Prevention Plan.

How should child welfare agencies begin thinking about evidence-based services and in-home planning at the local level?

There are still many unknowns related to evidence-based services in Wisconsin and at the federal level. DCF remains committed to keeping agencies updated regarding information as it becomes available. Below are some aspects agencies can consider in preparing to support our Department's efforts to achieve Wisconsin's strategic shift to serve more children who enter our state's child welfare system in their family homes.

- Local child welfare agencies are encouraged to have conversations with their local stakeholders about ways to support children and families in home.
- It is important to note that because of the variations across the state, the most pressing need for some communities may not be evidenced-based services, but may be related to more concrete needs.
- DCF encourages local child welfare agencies to consider ways to align existing funding to better support the unique needs of children and families in their communities.
- DCF currently provides some flexible funding opportunities (Promoting Safe and Stable Families and Targeted Safety Support Funds to counties in the balance of the state or Intensive In-Home Safety Services in Milwaukee county) for local child welfare agencies to focus their services and supports based on unique community needs.

Will there be any additional financial resources to support evidence and non-evidence-based services at the local level?

DCF has requested additional funds as part of the of Wisconsin's biennial budget process to support state and local evidenced-based services. Due to the uncertainty of the state budget process, options for implementation are being evaluated both with and without additional funding.

While FFPSA does alter how states are able to *claim federal reimbursement* when families receive an evidence-based service that is on the Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse, there is not federal funding, e.g. grant programs or other direct funding, for service delivery. Also, it is important to consider that reimbursement requires that 50% of the allowable costs are matched by non-federal funds in order to be claimed under Title IV-E prevention claiming.

Will local child welfare agencies be required to shift all current programming to evidence-based services?

- No; local child welfare agencies will not be *required* to shift current programming to evidence-based services.
- DCF is continuing to explore ways to support evidence-based services and other child welfare innovations across the state. This may be through financial support of certain evidence-based interventions, dependent on the pending budget request.
- As mentioned above, local child welfare agencies are encouraged to have conversations with their local stakeholders about ways to support children and families in home.
- DCF recognizes that because of the variations across the state, the most pressing need for some communities may not be evidenced-based services but may be related to more concrete needs.

I'm a community provider, and I'm interested in providing evidence-based services. How can I become more involved?

Wisconsin is continuing to evaluate evidence-based and non-evidence-based services for inclusion in the state's 5-Year-Prevention Plan and as part of the state's strategic shift in child welfare practice to better support serving child in their family homes. Information about future opportunities and updates will be provided via Wisconsin's Family First webpage. Additional information regarding potential Requests for Proposal will be released as details become available.