

THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT IN GEORGIA



Because Kids Deserve to Grow Up in Families



The Family First Prevention Services Act is centered around the policy themes of safely preventing unnecessary placement and promoting family-based care. Family First is not about removing options or services from Georgia’s child welfare system. Rather, Family First opens up a path to federal Title IV-E funding that can be used for evidence-based services to help safely support children and youth to remain with their families or kin caregivers.

In 2021, the Family First Section at the Department of Human Services’ Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) convened the Prevention Services Workgroup. This workgroup was open to representatives from all child- and family-serving providers across Georgia and included DFCS staff from every region in the state as well as representatives from sister agencies. The Prevention Services Workgroup members worked with the Family First Section and our technical assistance providers at Chapin Hall to recommend a list of evidence-based prevention services that can best support eligible children and families. The final list of five services were then selected by DFCS leadership and included in Georgia’s draft Title IV-E Prevention Plan submitted in fall 2021.

Evidence-Based Prevention Services Included in Georgia’s Title IV-E Prevention Plan

- Functional Family Therapy
- Multisystemic Therapy
- Healthy Families America
- Parents as Teachers
- Brief Strategic Family Therapy

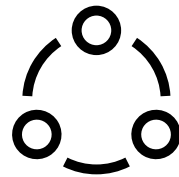
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Georgia is planning an intentionally phased approach to Family First services. As of this writing in spring 2022, we are anticipating the listing of the first opportunity on the Georgia Procurement Registry. While we celebrate the excitement of approaching the first phase of Family First services here in Georgia, we ask all our stakeholders to remember that this is only the first of what will be multiple waves of Family First service rollouts. This will allow us to thoughtfully build Family First services over time and in a manner that is conducive to serving the needs of our various regions, counties and communities.

In 2022 and beyond, we look forward to continuing this work with a wide range of partners to advance the spirit and goals of Family First. We will continue to convene our Leadership Advisory Council and work with Chapin Hall and the Carl Vinson Institute of Government for technical assistance. To connect with us, please reach out to support@blueprintfamilyfirst.org.



Resources

Keep up with Family First progress in Georgia & sign up for our newsletter at <https://www.blueprintfamilyfirst.org/>



Learn about evidence-based prevention services on the federal Title IV-E Clearinghouse: <https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/>