

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s):

11.325

Program Name: Family First Prevention Services

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Family First Prevention Services

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Enhance families access to vital services, substance use treatment, and/or improved parenting skills.

1b. What does this program do?

The Children's Division implemented requirements of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) on October 1, 2021, to ensure children in care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to the child's special needs when foster care is needed. The requirements implemented on October 1, 2021 included the Individual Assessment (IA) process and Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). FFPSA requires an independent assessment by a qualified clinician or trained person to determine if placement in a family setting or in residential treatment is the most effective and appropriate option to meet the needs of youth in foster care. FFPSA also identified requirements for quality, trauma-informed, short term residential treatment services, which are permitted for federal reimbursement. The Children's Division is continuing planning efforts for future implementation of prevention services, as part of FFPSA, to adequately meet the needs of children and families by offering preventative services to assist children to remain safely in their homes. For the purposes of Title IV-E Prevention Services, children identified as being candidates for foster care are those at imminent risk of entering foster care; however can remain safely in the home with family engagement in supportive services to address mental health, substance use, or in-home parenting services. Eligibility for Title IV-E Prevention Services must be defined in each child's prevention plan.

The following target population groups for Family First Prevention eligibility may include:

- Children identified as needing services through an active investigation or assessment, or are already receiving services by the state agency, to include non-court and court-involved cases
- Children involved in a newborn crisis assessment where the mother or child had a positive toxicology screening during pregnancy or at the time of birth
- Children, including pre or post-natal infants, of pregnant or parenting youth currently in foster care or who have exited foster care within the past five years
- Children who have exited foster care through reunification, guardianship, or adoption within the past five years and are at risk of disruption
- Siblings of children in foster care who still reside in the family home with identified safety concerns and are at risk of entering foster care

FFPSA was passed and signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. The FFPSA provides support to the child welfare system by providing the tools needed to help children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system. FFPSA allows for federal reimbursement of money under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to be used toward prevention services allowing children to remain safely with their families and out of the foster care system. When foster care is needed, it permits federal reimbursement for care in family-based settings, as a major focus of the act is to place children with relatives or in foster family homes, and certain residential treatment programs for children with demonstrated clinical need. The intent of FFPSA is to ensure that children whose needs cannot be met in a family setting receive high-quality residential treatment services, for only as long as needed, that allow them to successfully transition back to family care.

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2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

Number of children and families served by FCS Family First Prevention Services cases

Implementation of FCS Family First Prevention Services cases will begin in pilot sites after completion of the procurement process for contracting.

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

Number of FCS Family First Prevention Services cases closed successfully

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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Percentage of families served through FCS Family First Prevention Services cases that do not experience repeat maltreatment through a substantiated child abuse and neglect report within six months post-intervention

Implementation of FCS Family First Prevention Services cases will begin in pilot sites after completion of the procurement process for contracting.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

Percentage of families served through FCS Family First Prevention Services cases remaining intact/child or children have not entered alternative care within six months post-intervention

Implementation of FCS Family First Prevention Services cases will begin in pilot sites after completion of the procurement process for contracting.

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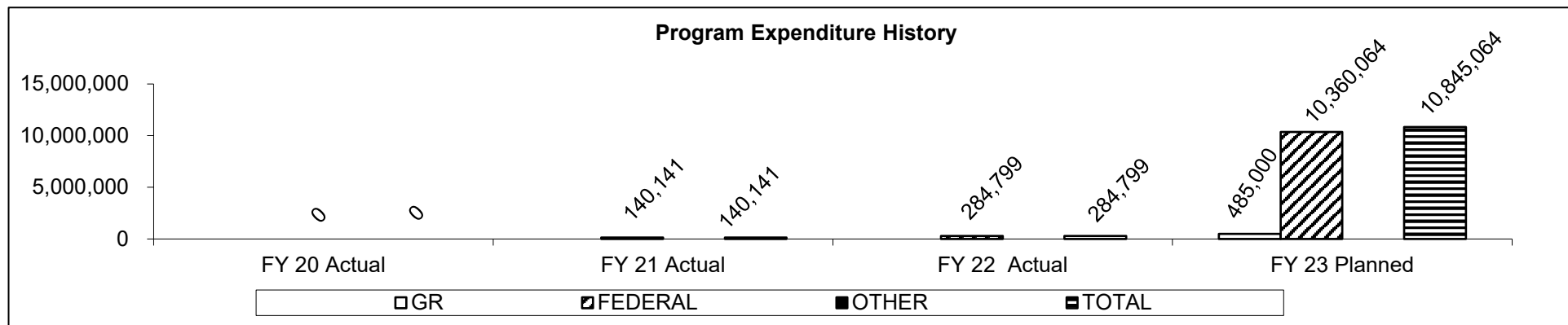
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



Planned FY 2023 expenditures are net of reverted and reserve.

4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

Public Law (P.L.) 116-94, Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020; the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) within Division E, Title VII of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123); Sections 421, 423, and 1130 of the Social Security Act.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

N/A

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

The mechanism to utilize transition funding for states to move towards implementation is not mandatory; however, the changes set forth in P.L. 115-123 are. Additionally, The federal Child Welfare Act and the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act obligate Missouri to care for children who have been abused and neglected.