Healthy Families America

Family First Prevention Services Act

FFPSA will provide federal funding for prevention services to families of children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care. It underscores the importance of children growing up in families and seeks to avoid the traumatic experience of children being separated from their families when entering foster care.

Specifically, federal reimbursement will be available for trauma-informed and evidence based mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and in-home parenting skill-based training to safely maintain children in their homes.

Eligible services must be included in South Carolina’s approved Title IV-E Prevention Plan and be rendered by a qualified provider who is participating in the Department’s qualified provider listing and provided to eligible populations (i.e. defined candidates for care).

The Department plans to implement its prevention program in October of 2021 and will begin partnering with our provider partners early in 2021 to assist in capacity building for select interventions and network development.

For updates on FFPSA implementation please visit: https://dss.sc.gov/family-first-prevention-services-act/

Program Type: Parenting Program
Rating: Well-Supported

Service Description

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a home visiting program for new and expectant families with children who are at-risk for maltreatment or adverse childhood experiences. HFA is a nationally accredited program that was developed by Prevent Child Abuse America. The overall goals of the program are to cultivate and strengthen nurturing parent-child relationships, promote healthy child growth and development, and enhance family functioning by reducing risk and building protective factors.

Proximal Outcomes

- Reduction in child maltreatment
- Improved parent-child interactions and children’s social-emotional well-being
- Increase school readiness
- Promote child physical health and development
- Increase access to primary care medical and community services

HFA includes screening and assessments to identify families most in need of services, offering intensive, long-term and culturally responsive services to both parent(s) and children, and linking families to a medical provider and other community services as needed.

Each HFA site can determine which family and parent characteristics it targets. Enrollment begins prenatally and continues up to three months after birth.

Targeted Populations
Families with children 0-5

QUESTIONS? Email us at: FamilyFirstPSAinfo@dss.sc.gov or call The Office of Child Health and Well-Being at (803) 898-7788. We are here to help.