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/](https://dss.sc.gov/family-first-prevention-services-act/)

Service Description

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a method of counseling clients designed to promote behavior change and improve physiological, psychological, and lifestyle outcomes. MI aims to identify ambivalence for change and increase motivation by helping clients progress through five stages of change: pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation, action, and maintenance. It aims to do this by encouraging clients to consider their personal goals and how their current behaviors may compete with attainment of those goals. MI uses clinical strategies to help clients identify reasons to change their behavior and reinforce that behavior change is possible.

**Proximal Outcomes**

- Promotes behavior change
- Decreases substance use and addiction disorders

These clinical strategies include the use of open-ended questions and reflective listening. MI can be used to promote behavior change with a range of target populations and for a variety of problem areas.

MI is typically delivered over one to three sessions with each session lasting about 30 to 50 minutes. Sessions are often used prior to or in conjunction with other therapies or programs. They are usually conducted in community agencies, clinical office settings, care facilities, or hospitals.

**Targeted Populations**

Range of target populations varies