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/

Service Description

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is a program for two to seven-year old children and their parents or caregivers that aims to decrease externalizing child behavior problems, increase positive parenting behaviors, and improve the quality of the parent-child relationship. During weekly sessions, therapists coach caregivers in skills such as child-centered play, communication, increasing child compliance, and problem-solving.

Proximal Outcomes

• Decreased externalizing child behavioral problems.

• Increased positive parenting behaviors

Targeted Populations

Children 2-7 years of age, and their parents or caregivers

Therapists use “bug-in-the-ear” technology to provide live coaching to parents or caregivers from behind a one-way mirror (there are some modifications in which live same-room coaching is also used). Parents or caregivers progress through treatment as they master specific competencies. Most families are able to achieve mastery of the program content in 12 to 20 one-hour sessions. Services may be provided in either a clinic, office, or in-home setting.