

# Ensuring the Necessity and Quality of a Placement that is not a Family Foster Home

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) offers unprecedented federal support for the prevention of foster care services, and creates opportunities to affect change through making available evidence-based services for mental health, substance abuse, and in-home parent skills training to support families. The FFPSA will require vast changes and commitment to coordinated efforts in order to implement prevention services and congregate care/residential treatment changes by the initial Oct. 1, 2019 deadline.

The Family First Prevention Services Act establishes and defines a Qualified Residential Treatment Program, or QRTP

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?



Limits IV-E reimbursement for group home settings with timelines including:

- 2 weeks for non-Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), such as shelter care
- Department approval to continue placement in a QRTP according to the age of the youth, e.g., if age 13+, must receive approval beyond 12 consecutive months or 18 non-consecutive months of treatment



Ensures the necessity of a QRTP placement through:

- An objective assessment completed within 30 days of placement
- A judicial review within 60 days of a child's placement to verify the appropriateness and need for residential treatment



Establishes requirements for a QRTP including:

- Accreditation
- A trauma-informed treatment model
- Licensed nursing and clinical staff onsite according to the treatment model and available 24/7
- Family involvement in the child's treatment and efforts to maintain connections to family/siblings throughout treatment
- Discharge planning improvements
- Six months of family-based aftercare supports