

# Prevention of Foster Care Services

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 trauma-informed care with robust services that will create more meaningful interventions with families. The FFPSA will require vast changes and commitment to coordinated efforts in order to implement them by the Oct. 1, 2019 deadline.

By providing up-front services to families with children at serious risk of entering or reentering foster care we can keep more families safely together in their homes.

## WHAT ARE THE CHANGES?



Starting Oct. 1, 2019, families with children at serious risk of entering or reentering foster care will have access to certain federally approved, evidence-based services when they cannot be covered by other sources (Medicaid, insurance, private pay). Services will be federally reimbursable up to 12 months. Eligible services will fall into three categories:

- Substance use disorder treatment
- Mental health care
- In-home parent skill-based training



Prevention services will be available to qualifying children and their parents, including:

- Children who are identified as at serious risk for entering foster care who are able to safely remain at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services or programs
- Parents or kin caregivers where services are needed to prevent the child's entry into care
- Pregnant and parenting foster youth
- And/or children whose adoption or guardianship is at risk of disruption



To be eligible to receive federal funding for prevention of foster care services, Utah must:

- Be compliant with the FFPSA congregate and residential treatment requirements
- Use services that have been proven effective through research (evidenced-based) according to the new federal clearinghouse
- Have at least 50 percent of expenses for services meeting the highest level of evidence (well-supported)