

Family First Prevention Services Act: Candidacy by Jurisdiction

Jurisdictional Packs

Included in these state packs is information related candidacy as submitted in the Prevention Plan:

- Candidacy Criteria
- Candidacy Considerations

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Arkansas

Status: Submitted to the Children's Bureau for Approval – Pending Approval

Candidacy Criteria

1. Garrett's Law investigation that did not result in removal.

*All children in the home will be considered a candidate.

- Important criteria: Vulnerable age of the child, inconsistency with which DCFS handles these cases, and frequency with which they come into care or are subsequently abused.

2. A Protection Plan was put in place.

- Important criteria: Children who have protection plans in place are at imminent risk for coming into care.

3. A TDM was held that did not result in removal.

- A team decision meeting was held that did not result in removal or children were returned to their families/home.

4. High or intensive risk assessment.

- Child is at high risk upon administration of a risk assessment. If a child goes from being low-risk to high-risk, they will be designated as a candidate.

5. Risk of adoption or guardianship disruption.

- Children whose adoptions or guardianships fail (and who therefore fall (back) into foster care) are included as candidates.

6. SS case opened to prevent removal.

- Children are at high risk of coming into care due to judicial oversight
- Children are at risk of being entered into foster care if their caretakers are unable to receive services/assistance. Such support would be preventative.
- Provision of resources to families (DR/NFA) who need more intensive and longer involvement. Also preventative; can prevent removals and maltreatment.

7. A Less Than Custody petition has been filed.

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- Restriction of the rights of one or more parents, but allowing the child to stay in the home of a relative or one of the parents.
8. A 30-day petition has been filed.
- Child is at substantial risk of harm or removal without intervention. Court/judicial oversight is necessary.
9. Child is living with a relative caregiver (Does not include provisional or relative foster care)
- Encompassing children who are not living with either of their parents, but rather a relative or fictive kin/caregiver.
10. A CACD investigation with a true finding and an in-home or unknown offender.
- Encompasses severe abuse and neglect cases such as sexual abuse and babies with broken bones.
11. Reunification has occurred, and the case remains open.
- Ensures that strategies are put in place to help families and children immediately prior to, during, and post-reunification. Addressing this could allow some children to return home earlier than they otherwise would.
12. A sibling is in foster care.
- A sibling being in foster care heightens the risk of other kids coming into care.
13. The parent or caregiver was in foster care as a child.
- Important to consider that parents or caregivers being in foster care as children is correlated with their children coming into care. Keeping this in mind helps us keep in mind emerging adults who have a child who might have left care at 18 or 21.
14. Failure to Thrive (FTT)
- Infants and young children (three or younger) who fail to grow physically/mature based on growth standards for age and gender. FTT can trigger long-term physical and cognitive developmental issues and therefore puts the kids who suffer from it at higher risk.
15. Medical Neglect if the child is 5 or under
- Neglect could cause serious and long-term harm to the child, so those who have exposed medical neglect are candidates.

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16. Inadequate Supervision with a child in the home who is 5 or under

- Inadequate supervision could result in the child being left in a dangerous situation that puts them at risk of harm. Such neglect therefore makes the child vulnerable to future harm.

17. Domestic Violence in the home

- Domestic violence is in some ways tied with child abuse and is a complicating factor. Knowledge and awareness of DV can help us categorize appropriate services for children and families experiencing this.

Candidacy Considerations

- The legal definition of candidacy in Arkansas.
- Who and how DCFS in Arkansas already serves clients.
- Pulling data from CHRIS, Arkansas' current SACWIS system.
- Looking at known risk factors for youth in Arkansas.
- Only one factor has to be present for a child to be determined a candidate; however, multiple reasons may apply.
- Once a child is designated as a candidate, they will remain a candidate for the length of the case, until the end of the month in which they turn 18, or until exactly a year has passed.

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Kansas

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Candidacy Criteria

- . A child(ren) or youth placed with a parent who PPS determines is at imminent risk of foster care and out of home placement but can be safe at home with prevention services.
- . A child(ren) or youth who exited foster care to adoption or permanent custodianship or guardianship, or who was reunified with parents is at risk of entering foster care and out of home placement.
- . A child(ren) or youth in placement with relative caregivers.
- . A child(ren) or youth living with parents but needs to be with a relative caregiver as a guardian with prevention services
- . Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care and out of home placement.
- . Siblings of youth already in foster care.

Candidacy Considerations

Initial reports are made to the Kansas Protection Reporting Center (KPRC). An intake specialist completes an assessment of the report using Structured Decision Making (SDM). If the report meets criteria of Abuse and/or Neglect or Family in Need of Assessment, it will be assigned to the regional DCF Service Center. An assigned PPS practitioner within the region will then locate and assess the family. The PPS practitioner completes an initial assessment of the family, using the research-based Family-Based Assessment tool, to determine if they meet criteria for services. If answers to questions 1-3 below are “yes”; and questions 4-7 are either “yes” or “NA,” they are deemed eligible for services:

- The family is at risk of having a child(ren) removed; and
- A parent/caregiver is available to protect the child; and
- A parent/caregiver is willing and able to participate in services.
- A family with chronic problems has experienced a significant change which makes them able to progress.
- A parent/caregiver with mental/emotional health issues has been stabilized.
- A parent/caregiver with limitations demonstrates an ability to care for self and children.
- A parent/caregiver with substance abuse issues functions adequately to care for children.

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In addition to the questions above, the regional PPS practitioner will utilize risk and safety assessment decisions to help guide the decision for candidacy for care and service referral. Families with the following risk level and safety decisions are deemed eligible for service:

- Risk Level = High to Intense (SDM in pilot counties = High to Very High)
- Safety Decision = Conditionally Safe (SDM in pilot counties = Safe with immediate safety plan)

The PPS practitioner and the family will decide on which program(s) best meets the family's needs. The PPS practitioner will upload the required documentation into Kansas Initiatives Decision Support (KIDS). KIDS is a web-based system to record, maintain, and report assigned abuse/neglect and non-abuse neglect intakes. Key milestones and the family's services are also tracked in the Family and Child Tracking System (FACTS), the DCF-PPS system for maintaining data and reporting to legislature, federal government, internal management, department budget, and the general public.

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Kentucky

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Candidacy Criteria

- A child who is a victim of substantiated maltreatment in which safety and risk factors can be mitigated by provision of in-home services.
- Child exhibits moderate to severe risk factors and services are necessary to prevent subsequent maltreatment and foster care entry.
- A child who has been recently reunified and services can be provided to the child and family to mitigate risks and re-entry.

Candidacy Considerations

- Children who are determined to be candidates for foster care
- Pregnant and parenting youth
- Determination of being at imminent risk for removal, but the risk and safety issues can be addressed through a prevention plan that is customized to each child.

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Nebraska

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Candidacy Criteria

Children and youth identified as being a candidate for foster care are those at imminent risk of entering foster care, as defined by Nebraska Revised Statute 71-1901, but can remain safely in the child's home or kinship/relative home as long as Title IV-E prevention services are necessary to prevent entry into the foster care system are provided. This includes but is not limited to those children and youth who are:

1. residing in a family home accepted for assessment, or with an , ongoing services case including non-court and court involved families where the child may be a state ward;
2. reunified following an out-of-home placement;
3. the subject of a case filed in juvenile court as being mentally ill and dangerous as defined by Nebraska Revised Statute 43-247 (3)(c);
4. pre- or post-natal infants and/or children of an eligible pregnant/parenting foster youth in foster care;
5. at risk of an adoption or guardianship disruption or dissolution that would result in a foster care placement;
6. with extraordinary needs and whose parents/caretakers are unable to secure assistance for them; and/or
7. involved with juvenile probation and living in the parental/caretaker home.

Candidacy Considerations

- Nebraska's approach to candidacy is to define the families currently served meeting the requirements of FFPSA.
- Nebraska's candidacy definition, allows a child to transition between traditional IV-E eligibility and FFPSA IV-E eligibility.

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Utah

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Candidacy Criteria

There are some key populations that are eligible for services under the Title IV-E Prevention Program:

- Children under 18 who are at imminent risk of entry into foster care, but is able to remain safely in their home or kinship placement as long as mental health, substance use disorder, or in-home parenting skill-based programs/services are provided for the child, parent, or kin caregiver.
- A child in foster care who is a pregnant or parenting youth.

Circumstances or characteristics that could put children at risk of entering foster care include:

- Child maltreatment, including abuse or neglect
- Substance use or addiction
- Mental illness
- Lack of parenting skills
- Limited capacity to function in parenting roles
- Parents' inability or need for additional support to address serious needs of a child related to the child's behavior
- Developmental delays
- Physical or intellectual disability
- Adoption or guardianship arrangements that are at risk of disruption

Candidacy Considerations

- Usage of a functional assessment tool, The Utah Family and Child Engagement Tool (UFACET), to assess the unique dynamics of each family/substitute caregiver(s).
- Risk assessment tools to identify youth's risk of entry into foster care, as well as youth and family needs.
- Usage of the Protective and Risk Assessment (PRA) tool to determine the risk of youth involved in the juvenile justice system reoffending and whether they have a need for services.
 - A youth is considered a candidate for foster care if they score "moderate" or "high" on the PRA and/or have one or more risk factors that identify the need for services.
- Candidate status is confirmed through the creation of a child's prevention plan.

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Washington, D.C.

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Candidacy Criteria

Washington D.C.'s Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) identifies their target population for prevention services under three main categories: Front Door, Front Porch, and Front Yard. These three groups are at different stages of risk of entry into foster care and are part of a continuum of service interventions designed to meet the needs of these different types of families and prevent child abuse and neglect throughout D.C.

- Families in CFSA's Front Yard are not involved with CFSA but may demonstrate potential risk factors for involvement. Primary prevention efforts are designed to ensure children and families in the CFSA's Front Yard are supported in their communities.
- Families at CFSA's Front Porch may have engaged with CFSA, but have been able to safely remain, or reunify with their families, and receive community-based prevention services offered by our partnership with DC's Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives.
- Families engaged at CFSA's Front Door have an open case with CFSA. Whenever possible, CFSA prioritizes keeping families together and working with parents and children in their communities.

Target Sub-Population Groups

Front Porch

1. Children served through the Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives following a CPS investigation or closed CFSA case.
2. Children who have exited foster care through reunification, guardianship, or adoptions and may be at risk of re-entry.
3. Children born to mothers with a positive toxicology screening.

Front Door

4. Children served through CFSA's In-Home Services program, which offers intensive case management and service referrals to families.
5. Pregnant or parenting youth in/recently exited foster care with eligibility for services ending five years after exiting foster care.

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6. Children of pregnant or parenting youth in/recently exited foster care (non-ward children) with eligibility for services ending five years after exiting foster care.
7. Siblings of children in foster care who reside at home and have assessed safety concerns.