

# THE FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)

## – An Introductory Look –

Family First was born out of historic federal legislation that aims to transform child welfare systems by preventing out-of-home placement for children when safe to do so. Family First supports at-risk families through evidence-based prevention supports in mental health, substance abuse prevention, treatment, and in-home, parent skill-based services.



In Washington State, Family First and the Keeping Families Together Act of 2023 build strong alignment and intent to safely reduce the number of children placed in foster care by providing resources to activate the power of families.

### Key Information

Washington is building the infrastructure to support prevention services through the work of DCYF leadership and staff, community partners and providers, legislators, and Tribal partners. Family First provides allocable funds to support this infrastructure along with building additional innovative and community driven support services.



Family First is focused on the implementation of culturally responsive services to ensure that all families in Washington have access to relevant community-based services that meet their long-term needs.



Family First aligns with research that shows that children achieve better outcomes when they can be safely at home with their own families.

Family First supports true partnership with families, empowering them to choose the best path forward to keep their children safe and well.

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a central principle of Family First implementation in Washington. It is a communication tool that helps professionals partner with families by honoring their own internal desires and personal agency to change. MI is an Evidence-Based Practice that embodies true partnership with families.



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## How Claiming Works:

By providing a Family First approved Evidence-Based Practice service to families, DCYF can reclaim a percentage of the service cost from the Children's Bureau through an approved federal match. This allows us to infuse federal funding into our expansion of accessible, high-quality services and supports, leading to improved prevention focused outcomes for children, youth, and families.



Family receives a service



Reimbursement claim is sent to the Children's Bureau



DCYF is reimbursed for service



Expansion of Accessible, High-Quality Services and Supports



Family First service participation is based on eligibility standards approved by the Children's Bureau. Services provided for families participating in Family First will not change based on the ability for DCYF to claim federal reimbursement.

For more information, contact us at [dcyf.familyfirst@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:dcyf.familyfirst@dcyf.wa.gov)

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