

Family First Prevention Services Act Overview

Moving Toward a Comprehensive Prevention System

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law on February 9, 2018, and changed the landscape of Social Security Act Title IV-E funding distribution, which historically funded child welfare services and juvenile probation for placement of youth in care for families who met the Aid to Families with Dependent Children income criteria.

The goal of FFPSA Part I is to strengthen families by:

- ◆ Ensuring a prevention-focused infrastructure to keep children safely at home using evidence-based practices
- ◆ Eliminating income criteria, creating opportunities to provide prevention services to more families
- ◆ Providing funding to prevent the entry or return of youth into the foster care or probation systems

This new form of funding distribution allows jurisdictions to provide more services to families in need. Eligible services include those focused on **substance use disorder, mental health, in-home parenting, and kinship navigation**. Services can be provided for up to 12 months, with the potential to extend based on the family's needs. Children, youth, parents, and both relative and non-related extended family members who have guardianship or custody of the children are all eligible recipients. Medi-Cal recipients will continue accessing services primarily through their insurance provider and Behavioral Health Services, with FFPSA funding supplementing after primary resources are used.

Evidence-Based Services

California has identified the following evidence-based practices in its plan:

Brief Strategic Family Therapy	Motivational Interviewing
Family Check-up	Multisystemic Therapy
Functional Family Therapy	Nurse Family Partnership
Healthy Families America	Parents as Teachers
Homebuilders	Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

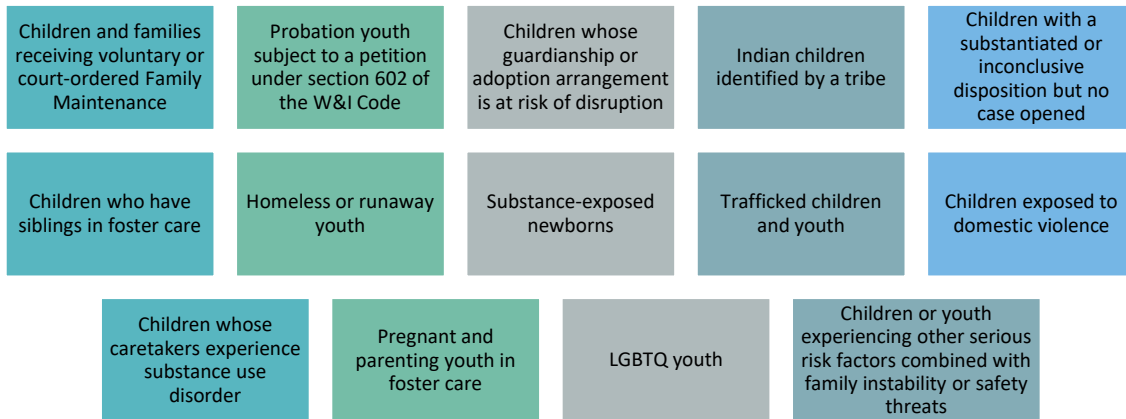
At this time, California's prevention plan includes only well-supported practices as defined by the [Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/) (<https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/>). Advocacy across the state aims to include a broader range of practices and ensure practices are culturally relevant and appropriate to serve the state's diverse populations.

The provision of evidence-based services will ensure children, youth, and families across diverse backgrounds have more equal opportunities to effectively overcome barriers to providing safety. Providers in the County of San Diego are currently providing Functional Family Therapy, Healthy Families America (First Five, First Steps), Motivational Interviewing, and Parent-Child Interaction Therapy. There are many more prevention-focused practices provided to children, youth, and families in the county. Therefore, the County of San Diego is taking steps to expand the use of evidence-based practices from California's state plan and is working with agencies to add more practices to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. FFPSA is part of the larger

Comprehensive Prevention Plan for families that will include additional concrete supports and supportive services.

Candidacy Eligibility

Based on the FFPSA's definition of candidacy, California has identified the following population of children as potentially eligible for meeting the "at imminent risk of removal" criteria. A separate strengths and needs assessment will be conducted with the family to determine candidacy for services.

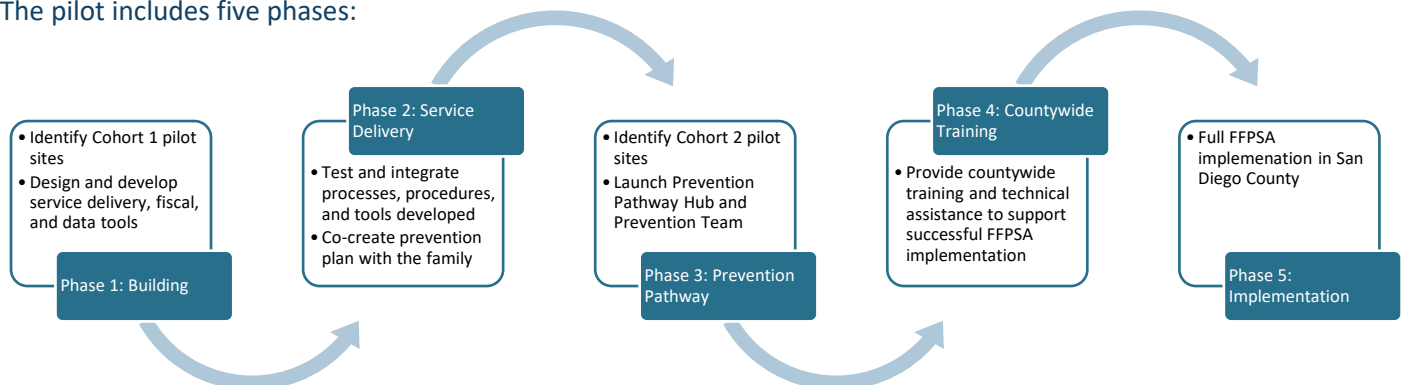


San Diego County Child Welfare Services and the Juvenile Probation Department are the authorizing entities to verify candidacy. A strengths and needs assessment is conducted with the family to assess if the child or youth meets the criteria of imminent risk of removal but can remain in the home of the parents or relatives as long as prevention services are put in place.

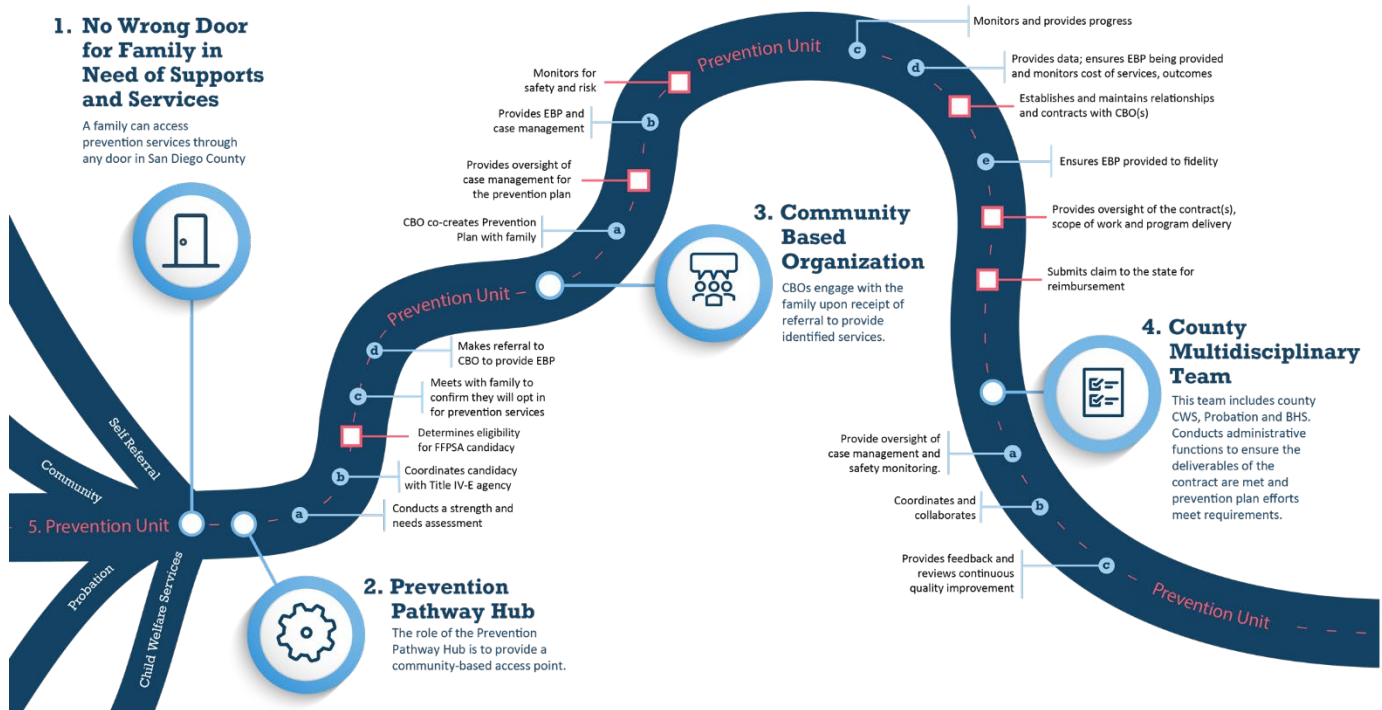
Status of FFPSA in the County of San Diego

FFPSA was launched in the County of San Diego through the collaborative efforts of Child Welfare Services, Juvenile Probation, and Behavioral Health Services, along with representation from the community including, but not limited to, the following partners: community-based organizations, Interagency Leadership Team, District Attorney's Office, tribes, those with lived experience, and Partners in Prevention Network. The County of San Diego engaged community-based organizations and tribal partners in a readiness assessment to gain a better understanding of the span and depth of services being provided to better serve children, youth, and families in the community. It also identified some opportunities, with the hope of bringing more culturally responsive services to all children, youth, and families who would benefit from prevention services. The next steps include piloting the service delivery connections. Pilot sites were chosen based on the readiness domains: motivation, general capacity, and intervention-specific capacity.

The pilot includes five phases:



The County of San Diego has developed the following Prevention Pathway to demonstrate the ways in which a family can access prevention services through “No Wrong Door.” The “No Wrong Door” approach is intended to provide an opportunity for families to access comprehensive prevention services in the county. Recognizing that FFPSA prevention services may not be a match for all children and families, there will be “off-ramps” that families can use to access other prevention services to best meet their needs.



What Can You Do to Stay Informed?

Be engaged and active in local, state, and federal workgroups to:

- ◆ Research the federal clearinghouse at <https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov>
- ◆ Invite the San Diego implementation team to a meeting with your group to learn more
- ◆ Participate in County engagement meetings
- ◆ Discuss any necessary changes to promote smooth, lasting implementation
- ◆ Provide outcome data on the efficacy of this legislation
- ◆ Share expertise for interventions that could be reviewed and added to the clearinghouse
- ◆ Assist with communicating to families about opportunities to access additional resource and supports

For more information or to address questions,
contact Krystal Glowack at krystal.glowack@sdcounty.ca.gov