

# Evaluating Accreditation Options

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Harrisburg, PA



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**PCCYFS**

Pennsylvania Council of Children,  
Youth and Family Services

- Welcome and Introductions



- **Family First Prevention Services Act**

On February 9, 2018, President Trump signed into law the Family First Prevention Services Act, as part of Division E, in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Family First amends:

- Title IV-B to reauthorize and make other revisions; and
- the Title IV-E Foster Care program to create new optional prevention funding and place limits on Title IV-E payments for congregate care settings.

Family First has various effective dates and potential delay opportunities.



By October 1, 2018:

- HHS will:
  - Release guidance on practice criteria required for prevention services or programs, including a pre-approved list of services and programs that meet the requirements.
  - Identify model licensing standards for foster family homes.
    - Comments to the FR are due October 1, 2018 so this is unlikely.



By November 9, 2018, the state must submit a request to delay (up to two years) the following provisions effective October 1, 2019:

- Policy to prevent increases to Juvenile Justice
- Congregate Care limitations
- Limitation on the number of foster children in a foster family home
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs



Effective October 1, 2019:

- Federal reimbursement available for certain prevention services for candidates.
  - Provides optional Title IV-E funding to support trauma-informed and evidence-based prevention efforts for:
    - Mental Health and substance use prevention and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician; and
    - In-home parent skill-based services that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling.
  - Services are limited to 12 months for children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care (candidates), their parents and relatives, and pregnant or parenting youth in foster care.



## Effective October 1, 2019:

- Federal reimbursement limited for non-foster family placement expenses.
  - Restricts Title IV-E placement maintenance reimbursement to first 14 days each time a child is placed in congregate care except when placed in these settings:
    - Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)
    - ***Specialized*** treatment settings:
      - In which a youth age 18 or older lives independently; or
      - That provides prenatal, post-partum, or parenting supports for youth; or
      - That provides high-quality residential care and supportive services to children and youth who are, or are at risk, of being victims of sex trafficking (to be defined by the state).



Effective October 1, 2019:

- Federal reimbursement limited for non-foster family placement expenses.
  - Children and youth placed in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility limited to 12 months.
- Limitations apply to new placements in these settings made on or after the effective date of the provisions.
- Delay permitted for no more than two years, but prevention service funding would also be delayed.





- Q RTPs must:
  - Be licensed as a child care institution and accredited by any HHS approved organization, including, but not limited to:
    - Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF); or
    - Joint Commission on Accreditation of HealthCare Organizations (JCAHO); or
    - Council on Accreditation (COA).
  - Provide a trauma-informed treatment model to meet the serious emotional or behavior needs or disturbances of the child identified through assessment.
  - Have licensed nursing or clinical staff available onsite 24/7.
  - Provide discharge planning and at least six months post-discharge family-based aftercare services.
  - Is inclusive of family in treatment and aftercare, when appropriate.



- **CARF, The Joint Commission and COA**
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