Casey Family Programs

- The nation's largest operating foundation focused on safely reducing the need for foster care and building Communities of Hope for children & families.

- We work to influence long-lasting improvements to the safety and success of children, families and the communities where they live.
  - We operate in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands
  - We have direct agreements with 16 tribes
  - We operate 7 field offices providing direct services to youth in care
After years of decline, the number of children in foster care has steadily risen in recent years.

Number in foster care on September 30 of Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2008</td>
<td>459,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2009</td>
<td>423,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2010</td>
<td>408,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2011</td>
<td>399,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2012</td>
<td>397,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2013</td>
<td>402,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td>414,643</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>427,506</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>436,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>442,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)

Children enter foster care overwhelmingly due to neglect

% of children entering care for each removal reason*
(note: multiple reasons may be selected for a single child, Federal Fiscal Year 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Substance Abuse</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caretaker Inability to Cope</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Behavior Problems</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Housing</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Incarcerated</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Substance Abuse</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Disability</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Death</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relinquishment</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY2016
Children Exiting Foster Care

What happens to children who end up in foster care? Most are safely reunited with their own parent or extended family. A significant number are adopted. Communities across America have shown that they can help more children to grow up in safe, stable families by providing appropriate and timely services after they return home.

Among children who exited foster care in 2016:

- 51% were reunited with their families
- 23% exited to adoption
- 17% exited to live with relatives or guardians
- 8% aged out
- 2% other

*Other* includes transferred to another agency, ran away or died. Numbers may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Data source: AFCARS Report 2016

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Child Welfare: What do we know is best for children and families?

- The goal in child welfare should be to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children and their families.
- We know to support child well-being, it is important to intervene as early as possible.
- We know that the act of removing children from their families and homes creates emotional distress and trauma that should be avoided whenever possible.
- We know some children can be better served by remaining safely at home while their parents receive the community services and support they need.
Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018

- Groundbreaking law that will provide communities across America the opportunity to strengthen families, keep children safe and build hope in their lives.

- Culmination of years of discussion among key Congressional leaders who share a vision and are passionate about keeping children safely with their families.
  - Over 500 organizations supported this Act

What are some of the challenges Family First hopes to address?

- An inflexible funding structure where the majority of federal funding is only available once children are removed from their home.
- Consensus about the need for upfront services to strengthen families.
- An over-reliance on inappropriate congregate care with negative outcomes.
- Ending of child welfare waivers on September 30, 2019.

Source: Presentation on the Family First Prevention Services Act prepared by staff for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance and the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means.
New Funding for Prevention Services

- Beginning October 1, 2019, states may receive open-ended entitlement funding for evidence-based prevention services for candidates for foster care.

- *How does Family First define who is a candidate for foster care?*
  1) Children at imminent risk of placement in foster care
  2) Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
  3) Their parents or kinship caregivers also are eligible.

  - No income test for eligibility.
  - States will determine who are candidates.
New Funding for Prevention Services

- Prevention services eligible for up to 12 months of federal reimbursement:
  - substance abuse prevention services
  - mental health services
  - in-home parenting skills
- Services must be evidence-based and trauma informed.
- There is no limit on how many times a state can receive federal reimbursement for these prevention services.

New Funding for Prevention Activities

- **Federal reimbursement rates** for prevention activities are:
  - Beginning October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2026, Federal Financial Participation (FFP) is 50%.
  - Beginning October 1, 2026, FFP is the state's FMAP (Medicaid) rate.
  - At least 50% of the spending in every fiscal year must be for well-supported practices.
Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

- Beginning October 1, 2019 there will be new requirements on what placements in foster care receive federal reimbursement.
  - Goal is to encourage placement in family settings.
  - To address concerns around an overreliance on congregate care, the law creates “qualified residential treatment programs” with a number of requirements.
Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

The following placement options already are allowable and will continue to be eligible to receive federal reimbursement:

- Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
- Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
- Specialized placements for youth who are victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking
- Foster Family Home (defined) – no more than 6 children in foster care, with some exceptions

Ensuring Appropriate Placements in Foster Care

- Beginning as early as October 1, 2019, after 2 weeks in care, Title IV-E federal support will be available for foster care maintenance payments for eligible youth placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).

- States may opt to delay this provision for up to 2 years. However, delays in implementation of these provisions requires a delay in when the state may receive federal prevention services funding.
What is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)?

- Has a trauma informed treatment model and a registered or licensed nursing and other licensed clinical staff onsite, consistent with the QRTP’s treatment model.
- Facilitates outreach and engagement of the child’s family in the child’s treatment plan
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least 6 months
- Licensed by the state and accredited

There are no time limits on how long a child can be placed in a QRTP and receive federal support as long as the placement continues to meet his/her needs as determined by assessment.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Big Opportunities for Child Welfare</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-2018 federal law</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most federal $$ for foster care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal $$ for services only for the child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income test to qualify</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$$ for children placed in group homes with little oversight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No $$ for child placed with parent in residential treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What opportunities does Family First provide to improve outcomes for children and families?

1. Funding to help all at-risk children and their families

- 7.4 million referrals
- 3.5 million children
- 1.3 million children received services
- 273,500 children entered foster care

2. Supports to find families for children
Select Outcomes for children who age out of foster care

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH
• 39.0% have at least one past-year mental health diagnosis
• 44.1% have had any substance abuse or dependence in their lifetime
• 30.3% have experienced PTSD in their lifetime

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
• 48.4% have a high school diploma

EMPLOYMENT, FINANCES, AND ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS
• 46.9% are currently employed
• 29.2% have been unable to pay their rent or mortgage during the past year

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION
• 37.7% have been homeless since leaving foster care
• 43.7% of those who were homeless have been homeless four or more times


3. Supports to keep children safe
Child Maltreatment Fatalities are Increasing

Most maltreatment-related fatalities involve very young children

Many (44%) are babies under the age of 1. Most (77%) are children under the age of 4.


Shifting Resources to Support What Works

De-scaling what doesn’t work

Investing in what does work

Evidence-Based Interventions for Permanence and Child Well-Being
Evidence-Based Interventions for Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
Evidence-Based Child Maltreatment Prevention Strategies
Evidence-Based and Promising Community-Based Family Support such as ACEs and NASE

IN EFFECTIVE APPROACHES

RESEARCH-BASED APPROACHES

Investing savings to bridge from ineffective to effective practices.

Source: Casey reinvestment brief: http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/ShiftingResources.pdf
Contact information:

Christine Calpin
ccalpin@casey.org
202-728-2001