

Family Support NEWS BRIEF

A publication of



CENTER FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



The Families First Prevention Services Act Of 2019

Family First Approach

The Families First Prevention Services Act of 2019 (FFPSA) was created to provide services to children and families that prevent child abuse and neglect and prevent entry into the foster care system. The vision of this initiative is to strengthen families through access to quality services that support the family's needs. The vision is also to provide services that are trauma-informed, responsive, and evidence-based. FFPSA is federal funding that states can receive for evidence-based programs that are part of a comprehensive plan. These programs include home visiting, mental health, parent education, and substance

use services, among others. Each state prepares its own plan. The programs provide parents and families supports to build skills and access services that make their family strong.

Funding

The funding is allotted to the county Children, Youth and Families Agency (CCYA), that can decide to use the funding to partner with community-based services and evidence-based providers. The counties identify needs and refer out to the community partners that will provide prevention services.

State Organizational Structure

Through a collaborative effort, state agencies will provide oversight, support, and assistance to counties and their community service providers. The structure includes the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Council, Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), and the Department of Human Services executive team. To ensure fidelity of this approach, the team will focus on prevention efforts, developing an alternative response system, improving the quality of foster care, determining the most appropriate placement for children, and exploring data and information on adoption.

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How Families Qualify

Candidacy for the programs will be determined based on family situations that involve children who are at risk of entering the foster care system. CCYA will determine the candidacy through risk assessments, observations, and discussions with families. The eligible populations are children under 18 who are a candidate for foster care, pregnant/expecting or parenting youth in foster care, and defined as a dependent child. Children over 18 but under 21 may be considered based on employment and education conditions.

Parents as Teachers Alignment with Family First

The Family First prevention plan has several requirements that community programs must meet. Parents as Teachers' (PAT) design aligns with the Family First prevention program conditions by emphasizing the four model components—personal visits, group connections, screenings, and a resource network. The Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework and the PAT curriculum line up with the Family First trauma-informed approach, which helps meet the needs of the families that are served.

Resources

[Download The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services OCYF Families First Prevention Fund Keep Kids Safe PDF.](#)

Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago uses research to generate evidence about programs, services, and systems. Their primary areas of work are child welfare, community capacity, and youth homelessness. The [Chapin Hall website](#) features information about prevention services and the Family First Prevention Services Act.

[Visit Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\) website](#) to view resources that include Title IV-E Prevention Services.

[Visit Pennsylvania Department of Human Services website](#) for FFSPA resources.

References

Barbara H. Chaiyachati, Julie R. Gaither, Marcia Hughes, Karen Foley-Schain, John M. Leventhal, Preventing child maltreatment: Examination of an established statewide home-visiting program.

"Putting Families First: Implementing The Family First Prevention ..."
www.papartnerships.org, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, Sept. 2021, <https://www.papartnerships.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Putting-Families-First-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

"Resources." Department of Human Services, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Apr. 2022, <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Resources/Pages/default.aspx>.

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/Resources/Documents/PA%20Title%20IV-E%20Five%20Year%20Prevention%20Services%20Plan%20v.%202%20April%202022.pdf>



PENNSYLVANIA
Parents as Teachers.

Welcome to our monthly article to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Pennsylvania PAT. This month we will focus on the potential for growth of PAT through telehealth technology.

Here is a research article that you may find helpful in demonstrating the connection between PAT, evidence-based home visiting programs, and telehealth technology.

Advancing Home-Based Parenting Programs Through the Use of Telehealth Technology

Findings indicate that fidelity to Parents as Teachers standards related to supervision, training, and curriculum delivery were maintained using telehealth technology.

Source: Journal of Child and Family Studies, Jan. 2020

[Read Advancing Home-Based... research article](#)

Parents as Teachers Online Courses

Foundational and Model Implementation

For new parent educators and new supervisors of affiliate programs

Monday, Nov. 7 – Friday, Nov. 18
Monday, Dec. 5 – Friday, Dec. 16

Foundational 2: 3 Years Through Kindergarten

Monday, Nov. 28 – Friday, Dec. 2

Register for courses at the National Parents as Teachers' [training website](#).

Questions regarding registration for PAT trainings?

Contact [Jennifer Esposito](#).

Family Support Webinar



**Supporting Healthy Families:
Group Events that Promote
Health, Nutrition and
Physical Activity**

**Wednesday, Dec. 7
10-11:15 a.m. (EST)**



Family Support Team

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities provides training and technical assistance to Parents as Teachers providers, Children's Trust Fund grantees, and the Strengthening Families Leadership Team.

Karen Shanoski

Family Support and Community Engagement Director
(717) 763-1661, ext. 139

Rijelle Kraft

Family Support Managing Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 221

Jennifer Esposito

Family Support Data Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 161

Julia Mallory

Family Support Project Specialist
(717) 763-1661, ext. 169

Alexia Brown

Family Support Technical Assistance Coordinator
(717) 763-1661, ext. 146

Christine Felicetti

Family Support Coordinator
717-763-1661, ext. 104

Pennsylvania Parents as Teachers

at Center for Schools and Communities

Children's Trust Fund

Strengthening Families

Family Support at Center for Schools and Communities

275 Grandview Avenue
Suite 200, Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717) 763-1661

centerforschoolsandcommunities.org

Safe Kids Corner



Railroad Safety

Trains are exciting and fun for many reasons: The size, the speed, the sounds. But railroad tracks and train crossings can be dangerous as well. Here are some train and railroad safety tips to help keep your family safe near tracks and trains.

Hard Facts about Safety around Railroad Tracks

In 2017, there were 2,106 collisions reported at rail crossings in the U.S.

Top Tips about Railroad Safety

- Only cross train tracks at a designated crossing. Designated crossings are marked by a sign, lights, or a gate.
- If lights are flashing or the gate is down at a railroad crossing, wait for the train to pass completely, the gates to lift, and the lights to stop flashing before crossing. It is never okay to rush across and try to beat the train. Trains may be closer and faster than you think.
- Allow enough space for your vehicle to completely clear the entire railroad crossing, not just the tracks, before you attempt to cross. Remember, trains are at least 3 feet wider than the tracks on either side, so even though you clear the tracks, you may still get hit by the train.
- If you are using a cell phone, headphones, or playing a game on your mobile phone, remember: Heads Up, Devices Down when you cross the tracks. Once a train starts to brake, it can take a mile for the train to stop. So, when you see a train, it's already too late for it to stop for you. Headphones should be removed, so you can hear an approaching train.
- Don't be tempted to walk along the train tracks. It might be a shortcut, but it is dangerous and not worth the risk. It is also against the law to walk on the track and the land around it because it is private property.

Source: [Safe Kids Worldwide](http://SafeKidsWorldwide)