



Supporting All Families: Financing Streams to Support Prevention Programs

All families need support at different times and intensity from family, friends, and neighbors. Additionally, many families access public resources and services at some point. These programs range from public education and community recreation programs to family supports like home visiting, subsidized child care, and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Some families also may need to access programs designed to assist them in times of greater need like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and health coverage through Medicaid. A smaller number of families come into contact with intervening public systems—like child welfare—as a result of additional unmet needs, unique circumstances, or safety concerns related to their child’s well-being.

Historically, public child welfare systems have had limited and insufficient resources available to prevent the conditions that precede entrance into foster care. Further, it is widely understood that some children who enter foster care may have been able to remain in their homes safely if their families had access to the right supports and services. The need for prevention has vastly outstripped the public resources devoted to it. However beginning October 1, 2019, child welfare systems will have the opportunity to implement a new vision of child welfare, one grounded in prevention, by using federal funds to support select evidence-based prevention services as a result of the [Family First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\)](#). The specific evidence-based services that are newly reimbursable under FFPSA must be for families whose children are at risk of entering foster care ([defined as “candidates for foster care”](#)) and used to fund either an in-home parent

skill-based program or focused on the prevention and/or treatment of mental health issues and/or substance use.

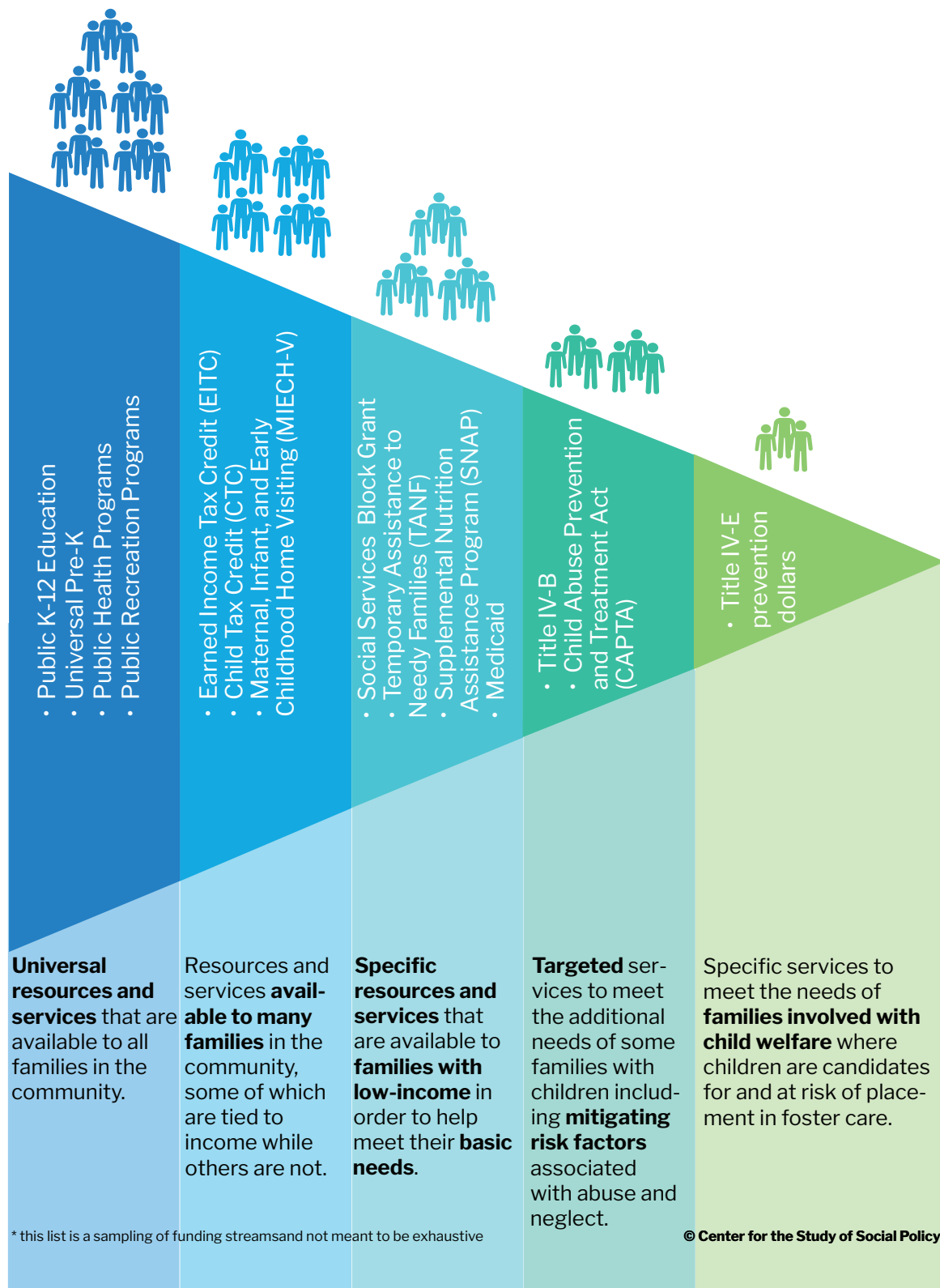
While there are needs outside of mental health, substance use, and parenting that bring children and families to the attention of child welfare, FFPSA is an important step in realigning Title IV-E financing to support what we know is best for children and youth—to be able to remain with their families and in their homes and communities whenever safe and possible. For FFPSA to be truly effective and transformative, services within the Title IV-E Prevention Plan must be aligned with and integrated into a broader prevention continuum that is able to meet the diverse and unique needs of children and families. Specifically, states need to ensure children and families are able to access comprehensive prevention services prior to and without requiring child welfare involvement. As a result, FFPSA services should contribute to a continuum of prevention supports that is supported by multiple financing streams.

Visualizing Financing Streams to Support All Families

The graphic on the following page, depicts the different kinds of programs and resources available to children and families including those that are directed at mitigating risk and preventing the need for foster care. As states move forward with planning and implementation of FFPSA, it is essential that child welfare systems work closely with other public agencies to understand and maximize a broad range of preventions services and to determine how and where FFPSA dollars can most effectively be leveraged.



Financing Streams to Support Prevention Programs for Families *



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