



**Center *for the*
Study of
Social Policy**

Ideas into Action

Family First Prevention Services Act: Alignment and Opportunities to Support Young Children and their Families

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Pronouns: she, her, hers

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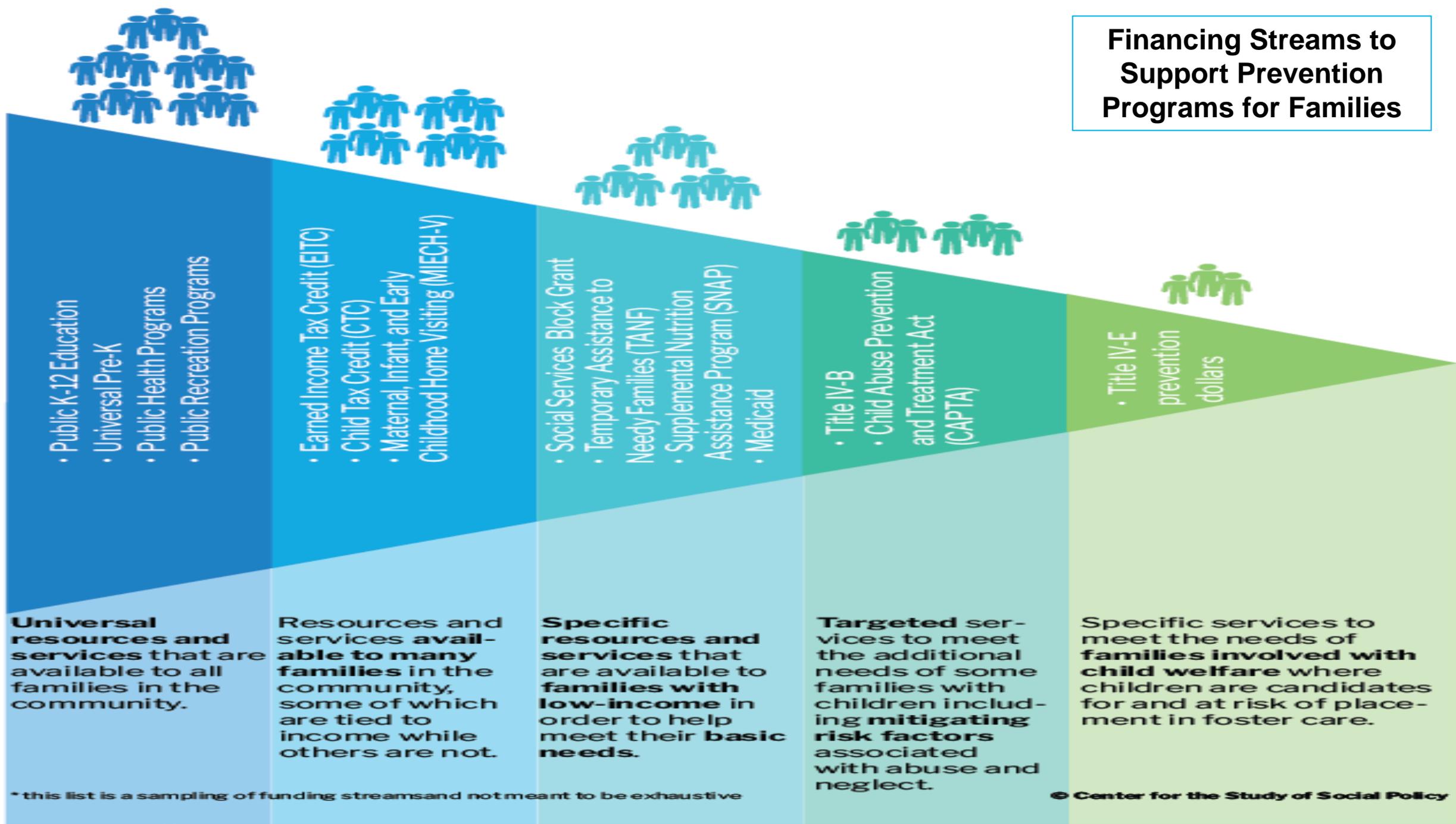
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Objectives

- Refresh/Intro on the basics of Family First
- Understand how Family First can be leveraged to support young children and their families
- Engage with colleagues to identify next steps within your own community

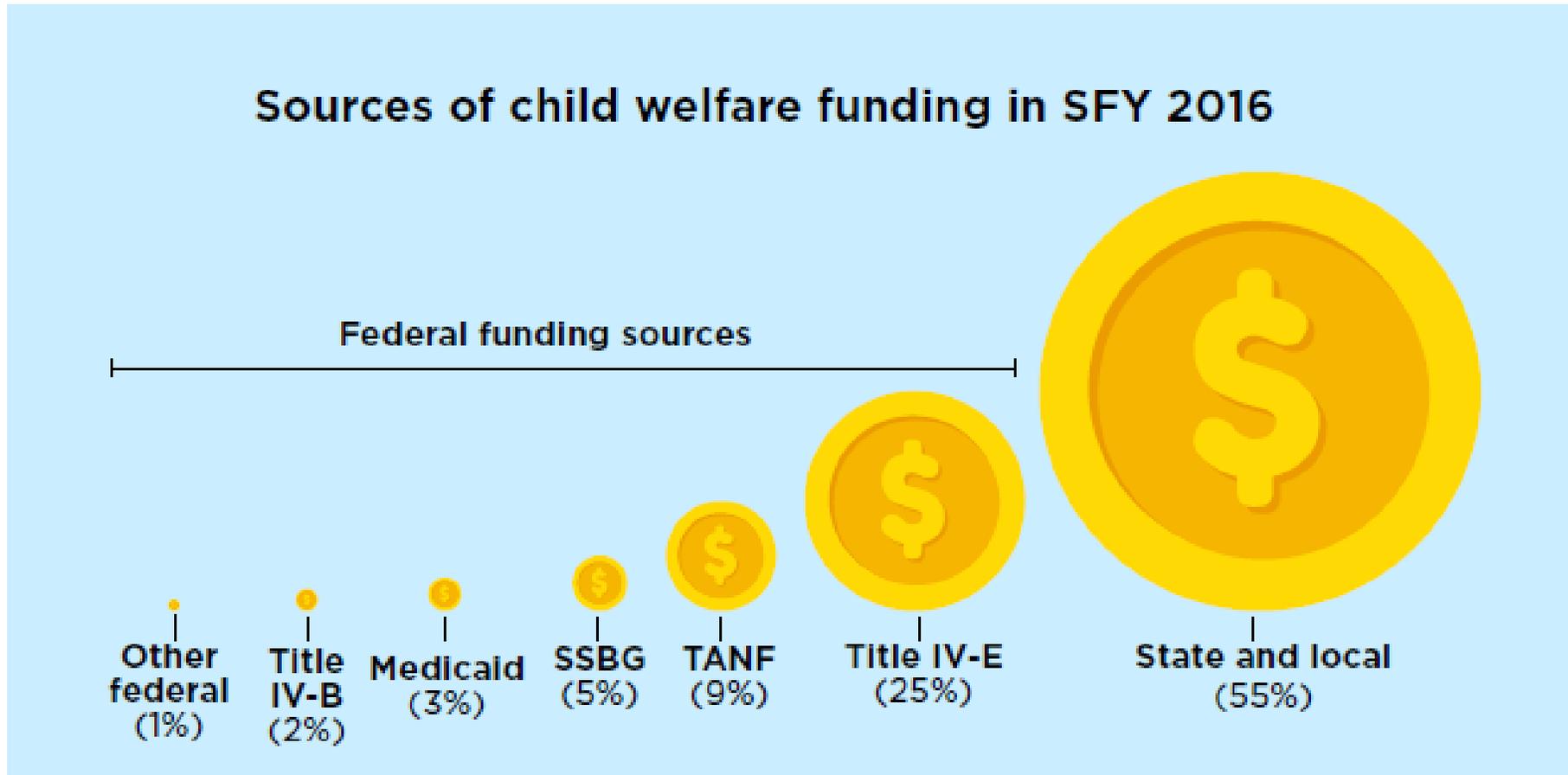
Financing Streams to Support Prevention Programs for Families



* this list is a sampling of funding streams and not meant to be exhaustive



Federal Financing



Note: Each state reported data based on its SFY 2016, which for most states is July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. Of the 50 participating states, only six (AL, DC, MI, NY, TX, and WY) reported a different SFY calendar.

Citation: Child Trends. (August 2019). *Child Welfare Financing 101*. Available at <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Child-Welfare-Finance-101-Infographic-8.23.pdf>



The Family First Act: Overview



Overview

- Supports keeping children at home with their families when safe
- Does not advance equity on its own; implementation is key
- New Title IV-E prevention funding must support and not supplant existing investments in prevention (available beginning October 1, 2019)
- Prioritizes family-based placements and provides new model foster home licensing standards
- Emphasizes important role of kin
- Requires focus within Title IV-B plan to focus on children 0-5





FFPSA: Prevention Services



- **Eligibility:**
 - Children who are **candidates** for foster care
 - Parents and caregivers of children who are candidates
 - Pregnant and parenting youth in foster care
- **Services:**
 - Mental health, substance abuse, and in-home parent skill-based programs
 - Delivered within Trauma-Informed organizational framework
- **Evidence Criteria:**
 - Well-supported, supported, promising
 - Clearinghouse continuing to rate programs
 - Guidance for tribes operating IV-E systems
- **Requires states to submit a Title IV-E Prevention Plan to use dollars**



Developing an Array of Prevention Services



Develop a broad range of prevention services that can meet the unique needs of families



Analyze data and disaggregate by race, sexual orientation, gender identity, other needs.

Consider promising approaches that have a **strong fit** for your children and families.

Include targeted services for pregnant and parenting youth, post-reunification, guardianship and adoption.



Developing an Array of Prevention Services



- Identified needs of parents and families currently being served through in-home cases
- Reviewed existing evidence-based programs in the community and associated outcomes
- Analyzed programs implemented through the Title IV-E Waiver Program





Engaging the Community



Colorado



- Conducted focus groups of parents who have received or are receiving prevention services
- Conducted focus groups of direct service providers
- Created public-facing websites for transparency
- Created workgroups (and subcommittees) to engage non-child welfare employees



Invest in Growing the Evidence



Only a small number of evidence-based programs have been normed on children and families disproportionately involved with child welfare – and for whom the greatest disparities exist

- Identify local interventions that work to achieve positive outcomes for children and families
- Utilize maintenance of effort dollars (MOE) to support innovation
- Identify public-private partnerships
- Invest in communities of color implementing promising and effective approaches
- Look to tribes operating Title IV-E systems
- Look to National Quality Improvement Centers
- Document adaptations and share this information



FFPSA: Promoting Family-Based Placements



- **Prevention Services**
 - Kinship Navigator Services
- **Promoting appropriate placements:**
 - Array of placements
 - Model Licensing Standards
 - Support for kin
 - Judicial oversight





Title IV-B Requirements

- Grants for programs directed at keeping families together either through prevention services or reunification activities when a child has been temporarily placed in foster care.
- Grants are intended to “promote state flexibility” in providing services to children and families that:
 - Protect and promote the welfare of all children;
 - Prevent abuse, neglect or exploitation of children;
 - Permit children to remain in their homes, or to return to those homes, whenever it is safe and appropriate;
 - Promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children in foster care or those in adoptive families; and
 - Provide training, professional development, and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce, and:





FFPSA: Title IV-B Requirements

- “Describe activities to **reduce the length of time to permanency** for children under age five...”
- Describe “the activities the state undertakes to **address the developmental needs** of all vulnerable children under age five.”





Questions



- Where else is there alignment?
 - Which components?
 - Other funding streams?
- What do you see as the top three opportunities for alignment?





Takeaways

- Opportunity to better align prevention services across the continuum
- Implementation is key to system change
- No “silver bullet”; every state is different
- Cross-systems work if essential
- Braiding and bundling is necessary
- Creativity is key





Actionable Next Steps

- Engage with the child welfare system to support development and implementation of Title IV-E preventions services to support young children who are candidates for foster care and their families
- Build partnerships with the child welfare system to develop and strengthen prevention strategies throughout the continuum – including before children become known to child welfare, for children who are known to child welfare but are **not** at imminent risk for placement in foster care, and for children who are in foster care





Resources from CSSP

- *10 Ways to Advance Equity and Well-Being through FFPSA:* <https://cssp.org/resource/seizing-the-opportunity/>
- *Advancing Healthy Outcomes: Eight Ways to Promote the Health and Well-Being of LGBTQ+ Youth Involved with Child Welfare:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Policy-AdvancingHealthyOutcomes-Website.pdf>
- *Responsibly Defining Candidacy within the Context of FFPSA: Five Principles to Consider:* <https://cssp.org/resource/responsibly-defining-candidacy/>
- *Supporting All Families: Financing Streams to Support Prevention Programs:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Policy-Financing-a-Comprehensive-Prevention-Continuum.pdf>
- *Integrating DULCE into a State Child Welfare Prevention Continuum:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Policy-DULCE-and-FFPSA.pdf>
- *FFPSA: Pregnant and Parenting Youth FAQs:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Family-First-FAQs.pdf>
- *Opportunities for Progress: Better Serving Families with Domestic Violence through FFPSA:* <https://cssp.org/resource/opportunities-for-progress-domestic-violence-ffpsa/>
- *Implementing the Family First Prevention Services Act (led by Children's Defense Fund):* <https://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/policy-priorities/child-welfare/family-first/implementing-the-family-first-prevention-services-act/>



Resources from CSSP

- *Achieving Racial Equity: Child Welfare Policy Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children of Color:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/achieving-racial-equity-child-welfare-policy-strategies-improve-outcomes-children-color.pdf>
- *Expanding the Evidence Universe: Doing Better by Knowing More:* <https://cssp.org/resource/expanding-the-evidence-universe/>
- *Placing Equity Concerns at the center of Knowledge Development:* <https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Putting-Equity-at-the-Center-of-Knowledge-Development.pdf>