

 <p>Children's Services Agency</p> <p>Communication Issuance</p> <p>20-085*</p> <p>Revised on 7/1/20 Previous Versions Obsolete</p>	Subject/Title	COVID-19 Response: Families First of Michigan - Temporary Eligibility Criteria Modification
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	Contact Name	Family Preservation Program Office
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<i>Distribution</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS BSC and County Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MDHHS Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Workforce Development and Training <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Abuse/Neglect Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residential Juvenile Justice Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Family Preservation Providers	

This communication replaces the prior versions of communication issuance 20-085.

In some jurisdictions, referrals to family preservation services have decreased as a result of COVID-19, leaving some service providers with excess service capacity. To enable more families to utilize these services, we have temporarily expanded the eligibility criteria as outlined below:

Until September 30, 2020, Families First of Michigan (FFM) may accept Category III cases when Families Together Building Solutions – Pathways (FTBS-P) or the local office traditional FTBS are full, as capacity allows.

- Families will receive a minimum of five hours of face-to-face contact per week.
- After 28 days of service, risk, safety and concrete needs will be re-assessed. If ongoing services are needed, the family may be referred to FTBS-P or traditional FTBS if there is an opening.
- If FTBS-P or traditional are not available and it is determined that the family has ongoing service needs to prevent removal, the case may be extended up to 28 additional days; however, the need for continued services will be assessed weekly.
- The FFM provider does not need an exception from program office to take the Category III referral.
- The specialist will provide consultation to providers to troubleshoot safety concerns and challenging or unusual cases.
- Disputes between service providers and referring staff regarding eligibility, extensions or case terminations will be reviewed and decided by program office.
- Experienced FFM workers may carry a caseload of three families. The providers have the discretion to manage the logistics of case assignments.
- Services cannot remain open for the sole purpose of monitoring if the risk of removal has been reduced, the family has substantially completed case goals, and no significant new goals or concrete needs have been identified.