

Family Preservation Programs Report

(FY 2020 Appropriation Act - Public Act 67 of 2019)

February 15, 2020

Sec. 523. (1) By February 15 of the current fiscal year, the department shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the families first, family reunification, and families together building solutions family preservation programs. The report shall provide population and outcome data based on contractually required follow-up evaluations for families who received family preservation services and shall include information for each program on any innovations that may increase child safety and risk reduction.

(2) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for youth in transition and domestic violence prevention and treatment, the department is authorized to make allocations of TANF funds only to agencies that report necessary data to the department for the purpose of meeting TANF eligibility reporting requirements.

(3) By October 1 of the current fiscal year, from the funds appropriated in part 1 for family preservation services, the department shall allocate \$1,000,000.00 of state general fund/general purpose revenue and \$1,075,000.00 of TANF and any eligible federal matching funds to increase rates paid to family preservation service providers by at least 5.5% for the families first, family reunification, and families together building solutions programs.



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Families First of Michigan

Families First of Michigan serves families that have at least one child at imminent risk of placement in out-of-home care. Families with children in out-of-home care are eligible for referral to the program when it is determined that reunification is not appropriate without intensive services and the Family Reunification Program is not available. In FY 2019, 2,960 families completed Families First of Michigan services. Of the families who could be located for follow-up contact 12 months after completion of services, 86% remained intact.

The Child Abuse and Prevention Act (P.L. 114-198, The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act) required states to implement provisions regarding substance affected infants. Contracted providers of Families First of Michigan were required to complete an Infant Plan of Safe Care when working with substance affected families with infants. In addition to standard planning for safety, the Infant Plan of Safe Care provides steps and contingencies to ensure treatment for the substance affected parent and safety for the infant. The Family Preservation Training Unit integrated plans of safe care into its regular training modules and program office has assisted by providing vignette examples and case monitoring for quality assurance.

During fiscal year (FY) 2019, Families First of Michigan providers assisted 443 families in creating their Infant Plans of Safe Care.

Family Reunification Program

The Family Reunification Program provides services to families when a plan for return of the children has been established and the foster care worker has initiated reunification with the family and the court. During FY 2019, 750 families completed Family Reunification Program services. Of the families located for follow-up contact, 87% maintained reunification within 12 months of completion of services.

The Family Reunification Program is also subject to the Child Abuse and Prevention Act and providers were required to complete an Infant Plan of Safe Care with substance affected families with infants. The Family Preservation Training Unit included plans of safe care in its training modules and program office conducted case reviews for quality assurance.

During FY 2019, Family Reunification Program providers helped substance affected families create 399 Infant Plans of Safe Care. This meant at least 53% of families with infants receiving Family Reunification Program services were substance affected.

Families Together Building Solutions

The Families Together Building Solutions program provides services to families with moderate to low risk of child maltreatment. Families Together Building Solutions is a short-term, in-home service utilizing strength-based, solution-focused techniques. During

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FY 2019, 1,472 families completed Families Together Building Solutions services. Two-hundred-thirty-five families served were from Pathways to Potential schools. Of the families who could be contacted, 89% remained intact within 12 months following services.

In FY 2019, a comprehensive data tracking tool was implemented for Families Together Building Solutions providers. The tool requires providers to submit monthly statistical reports which include the number of Infant Plans of Safe Care and corresponding follow-up data. The tool has allowed providers and analysts the ability to track and analyze outcome data more readily.