

**NAWRS Virtual Workshop**

The Family First Prevention Services Act:  
A Two-Part Series from Introduction to Implementation

*Part One: An Overview of Family First Requirements*

Sponsored by






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## Our Vision

Thriving Communities Built on Human Potential

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## Our Mission

American Public Human Services Association advances the well-being of all people by influencing modern approaches to sound policy, building the capacity of public agencies to enable healthy families and communities, and connecting leaders to accelerate learning and generate practical solutions together.

*Because We Build Well-Being from the Ground Up*

Washington DC Metro Area




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## We Aim to:

INFLUENCE  
BUILD  
CONNECT

**Influence** integrated and outcome-focused policy and practice to advance system-level transformation in H/HS.

**Build** knowledge and capacity in the field that enables Value Curve Progression and fosters the desired outcomes.

**Connect** members, peer communities, and partners with each other to accelerate learning and generate solutions together.

Washington DC Metro Area

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## Presenters





**CHRISTINE FORTUNATO**  
Senior Social Science Analyst, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, HHS



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Child Welfare Program Specialist, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Administration for Children and Families, HHS



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**MEG DYGERT**  
Policy Associate, Child Welfare and Family Well-Being, American Public Human Services Association

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*a little about...*

## NAWRS



NAWRS is a non-profit association whose purpose is to promote the exchange of ideas on how research and statistical analysis can contribute to the development and administration of effective human services programs.



Get Involved! Sign up for the [NAWRS Mailing List](#) at [nawrs.org](#)

Follow us on Twitter @NAWRWorkshop

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## Polling Question

What type of organization do you represent?

- Local government
- State/Tribal government
- Federal government
- Nonprofit/community-based organization
- Research firm
- University



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# Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) & Title IV-E Prevention Program

Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), Children's Bureau (CB),  
ACYF, ACF, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

July 14, 2020



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**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

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## Children's Bureau Mission

The Children's Bureau partners with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies to improve the overall health and well-being of our nation's children and families. The Children's Bureau provides financial support, technical assistance and guidance to programs that focus on the following:

- Strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect
- Protecting children when abuse or neglect has occurred
- Ensuring that every child and youth has a permanent family or family connection



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Children's Bureau's  
Vision for Changing  
National Child Welfare Practice

**STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES:**  
THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU'S VISION FOR CHANGING NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE

**Change our work's focus to**

- Preventing maltreatment
- Preventing unnecessary placements

**1**

**Prioritize the importance of families**

- Children must be kept in their communities and schools
- Foster parents must become resources to help support birth parents

**2**

**3**

**Focus our interventions on the well-being of children and their parents**

- Address both parent and child trauma
- Don't cause additional trauma through unnecessary removal

**4**

**Build the capacity of communities to support their children and families**

- Locally based resources and services
- Supports families need must be located where families live

**5**

**Develop and support a healthy and stable child welfare workforce**

- Competent, skilled, and informed
- Capable and visionary leadership

**STRONG FAMILIES**



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## Family First Prevention Services Act

**Family First is Part of Broader Vision for Changing National Child Welfare Practice**



- ❖ focuses on strengthening families and communities
- ❖ recognizes the importance of working with children and families to prevent unnecessary foster care placements
- ❖ **focus on prevention of child maltreatment as a primary goal, rather than foster care placement as our main intervention**
- ❖ provides an opportunity for states to envision and advance a vastly improved way of serving children and families



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## Family First Prevention Services Act Overview

### Brief Overview of Major Provisions of Family First Prevention Services Act

**Revised and reauthorized title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2 of the Social Security Act (Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families programs).**

**Within title IV-B, subpart 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families:**

- Revised the definition of “family support services” to include supporting and retaining foster families so they can provide quality family-based settings for children in foster care.
- Revised and renames “time-limited family reunification services” to “family reunification services” to allow 15 months of family reunification services for children who return home from foster care, and removes the 15-month limitation for a child in foster care to receive reunification services.



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## Family First Prevention Services Act Overview

**Amended Chafee Program (independent living services for youth aging out of foster care)**

- Changed the name from the John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program to the **John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee Program)**.
- Revised Chafee program eligibility. Makes independent living services available to youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older, and to make education and training vouchers (ETV) available to youth ages 14-26, but for no more than 5 years total.
- Permits states and tribes with extended foster care programs to provide the Chafee program up to age 23.



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## Family First Prevention Services Act Overview

### Amended Title IV-E Foster Care Program

- Revised the definition of foster family home to limit a home to six children (with exceptions)
- Allows title IV-E foster care payments for up to 12 months for eligible children with parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse. No AFDC income-based eligibility applies.
- Places title IV-E payment limits on child care institutions
- Revised background check requirements for employees of child care institutions.



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## Family First Prevention Services Act Overview

### Created New Title IV-E Prevention Services Program

- New optional prevention funding under title IV-E
- Provides title IV-E funding for certain time-limited (1-year) prevention services for mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services and in-home parent skill-based programs

### Created New Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program

- New optional funding under title IV-E for kinship navigator programs meeting “promising practice” evidence standard.



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## Title IV-E Prevention Services Program



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## Title IV-E Prevention Services Five-Year Plan

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### New Optional Title IV-E Prevention Services Program

- Beginning October 1, 2019, states and tribes with an approved title IV-E prevention plan may claim title IV-E for a portion of trauma-informed mental health services, substance abuse services and in-home parent skill-based programs for up to one year.



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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans: Eligible Population and Service Categories

### Who can receive services?

- The state or tribe may provide services and programs to the following:
  - A child who is a “candidate for foster care”.
  - A child in foster care who is a pregnant or parenting foster youth.
  - Parents or kin caregivers of the above.

### What are the allowable services categories?

- Mental health and substance abuse prevention, and treatment services provided by a qualified clinician
- In-home parent skill-based programs that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling

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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plan

### FIVE-YEAR PLAN MUST DESCRIBE

|                               |                                   |                                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Eligibility                   | Implementation                    | Coordinate with Part B Services    |
| Identify Target Population    | Continuous Quality Improvement    | Consultation for continuum of care |
| Service Selection             | Well-Designed Rigorous Evaluation | Enhance Child Welfare Workforce    |
| How Services Improve Outcomes | Monitor Child Safety              | Determine and Manage Caseload Size |

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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans: Continuous Monitoring

### Monitoring and Implementation

- Describe the implementation plan within the state; and
- Plan to ensure fidelity to the model

### Outcomes

- Include processes used to identify outcomes achieved; and
- Mechanisms for gathering, organizing, and tracking information

### Feedback Loop

- Describe how information will be used to refine and improve practice

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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans: Well-Designed and Rigorous Evaluation

### Well-Designed and Rigorous Strategy

- Specific to each program or service
- Comprehensive strategy

### Evaluation Components

- Specific research questions, target population, and outcomes
- Research design and logic model/theory of change
- Specificity about data collection procedures, sampling, and analysis plans
- Discussion of potential weaknesses or study limitations

### Alignment

- The proposed evaluation strategy should align from beginning to end
  - Research Questions, Design, Data Collection, Analytic Strategy

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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plans: Independent Systematic Review Process

### Independent Systematic Review Resources

- Provides a time-limited opportunity for states to claim transitional payments for services and associated costs until the Prevention Services Clearinghouse can review and rate a program or service.
- HHS has available resources to support the request for transitional payments through the independent systematic review process
  - Program Instruction, [Title IV-E Clearinghouse Manual](#)
  - Status of Submitted Independent Systematic Reviews to Claim for Transitional Payments, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/title-iv-e-independent-systematic-reviews>

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## Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plan Updates

### State of Prevention Plans

#### Approved

- Washington, D.C., Utah, Maryland, Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky

#### Submitted

- 13 States, 2 Tribal Jurisdiction

#### Independent Systematic Review Checklists Under Review

- 3 Approved, 0 Under Review

CB Title IV-E Prevention Program website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/title-iv-e-prevention-program>



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## Title IV-E Prevention Program

### Opportunities for Knowledge Building

- FFPSA is a lever to build knowledge within the child welfare system and larger communities.
- Prevention Plans – continuous monitoring requirements to ensure fidelity to the models CQI systems in place for implementation
- Program evaluation particularly for promising or supported programs and services



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## Family First Prevention Services Act

### RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

#### Children's Bureau Title IV-E Webpage

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/title-iv-e-prevention-program>

#### Child Welfare Capacity Building Collaborative

<https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/>

#### National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

<https://ncsacw.samhsa.gov/default.aspx>

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## Family First Prevention Services Act

### RESOURCES

**ACYF-CB-IM-18-02:** Informs states and tribes of the enactment of the Family First Prevention Services Act and provides basic information on the new law.

**ACYF-CB-PI-18-06:** Provides new information and instructions for the Annual Progress and Services Report, as a result of passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

**ACYF-CB-PI-18-07:** Provides Instructions for: 1) changes to the title IV-E plan requirements as a result of the Family First Prevention Services Act that are effective as of January 1, 2018 and later; and 2) delayed effective dates for title IV-B/E plan requirements.

**ACYF-CB-PI-18-09:** Provides instructions to state title IV-E agencies on the title IV-E prevention program requirements.

**ACYF-CB-PI-18-11:** Provides instructions to title IV-E agencies on the requirements for participating in the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program, as amended by the FFPSA.

**ACYF-CB-PI-19-06:** Provides guidance on conducting an independent systematic review to claim transitional payments for services not yet rated by the Clearinghouse.

**ACYF-CB-IM-19-04:** Provide an Evaluation Plan Development Tip Sheet to assist with developing an evaluation plan

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## The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

Overview of the Evidence Review  
Process and Tour of the Website

National Association for Welfare  
Research and Statistics Webinar  
July, 2020



Title IV-E Prevention Services  
CLEARINGHOUSE

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## Overview

- Describe the **review process** for the Prevention Services Clearinghouse
- Provide an overview of the **ratings**
- **Tour** of the Prevention Services Clearinghouse website

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## Brief Background and Purpose

- Prevention Services Clearinghouse
  - Objective and transparent source of information on evidence-based programs and services that may be eligible for funding under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, as amended by the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018
- Handbook of Standards and Procedures, Version 1.0
  - Details the Clearinghouse's systematic review process
  - Created in collaboration with stakeholders & experts
  - Publically available on the Clearinghouse website

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## 1. Identifying Additional Programs and Services for Review

- **Programs and services are identified from sources including:**
  - Public calls for recommendations (at least annually)
  - Federal partners
  - Environmental scans or inventories of the literature
- **Particular consideration is given to programs and services:**
  - Recommended by State or local government administrators and tribes;
  - Rated by other clearinghouses;
  - Recommended by federal partners; and/or
  - Evaluated as part of grants supported by the Children's Bureau.

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Title IV-E Prevention Services CLEARINGHOUSE

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## 2. Select & Prioritize Programs and Services



- **Program or service areas:**
  - mental health prevention and treatment services,
  - substance abuse prevention and treatment services,
  - in-home parent skill-based programs, and
  - kinship navigator services
  
- **Clearly defined and replicable:** book, manual or writings available

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### Prioritization Criteria



- **Target outcomes**
  - Child Safety, Child Permanency, Child Well-Being, and Adult Well-Being
  - *For Kinship Navigator only:* Access to Services, Referral to Services, and/or Satisfaction with Programs and Services
  
- **In use/active**
  
- **Implementation and fidelity supports**
  
- **Representation** of programs and services across the four program or service areas.

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### 3. Literature Search



- Comprehensive search for all potentially eligible studies of prioritized programs and services
  - **Sources:** other evidence reviews and registries, electronic bibliographic databases, and federal, state, foundation, and private agencies who sponsor or conduct relevant research

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### 4. Study Eligibility Screening & Prioritization



- **For a study to be eligible, it must assess one or more eligible target outcome:**
  - Child Safety
  - Child Permanency
  - Child and Adult Well-being
- **Studies must also be:**
  - Published or prepared in or after 1990
  - Publicly available and published in peer-reviewed journals or in research reports
  - Available in English
  - Randomized or quasi-experimental group designs

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## 5. Evidence Review



- Eligible, prioritized studies reviewed by two trained reviewers
- Design and execution standards focus on assessing the causal (or internal) validity of the findings reported in the research
  - Reviewers evaluate whether the study produces credible evidence about the causal impact of the intervention on the outcomes

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## Design and Execution Standards



- Applying the design and execution standards to eligible studies results in one of three ratings:
  1. High Support of Causal Evidence
  2. Moderate Support of Causal Evidence
  3. Low Support of Causal Evidence
- Both randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs are eligible for review
- Only randomized designs with low attrition can achieve the highest rating because these designs produce the most credible evidence

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## General Requirements

- Both randomized controlled trials and quasi-experimental designs must meet the general requirements to receive a moderate or high design and execution rating
- Studies that do not meet all of these requirements receive a low rating



### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Absence of confounding factors?
- Accounts for missing data?
- Reliable, valid, and systematically administered measures?
- Appropriate statistical models?

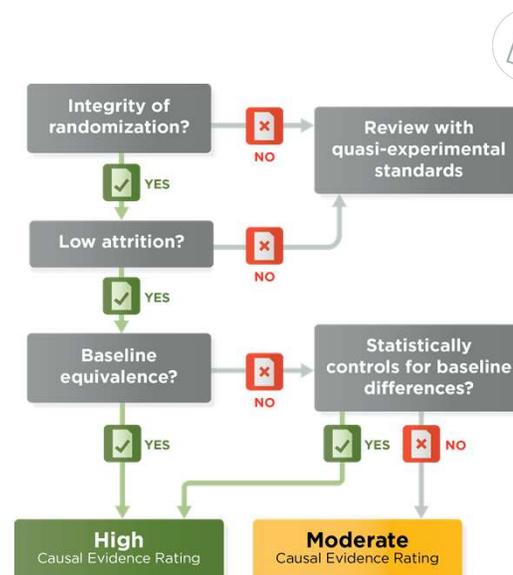


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## Design and Execution Standards for RCTs

- Integrity of randomization
- Attrition
- Baseline equivalence
- Statistical controls for baseline differences



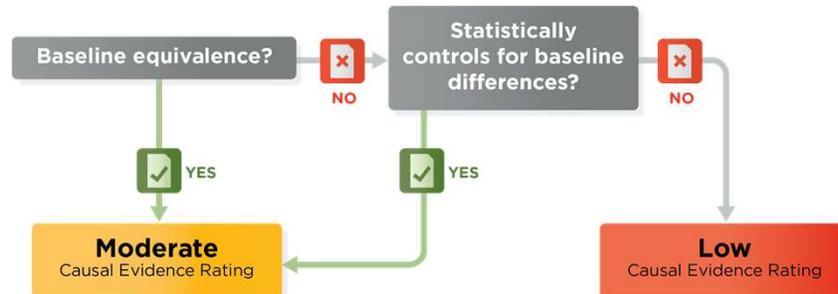
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## Design and Execution Standards for QEDs

Reviewers evaluate the following features for QEDs and RCTs with high attrition:

- Baseline equivalence
- Statistical controls for baseline differences



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## 6. Program and Service Ratings

### “Well Supported”

- At least two studies with non-overlapping samples carried out in usual care or practice settings that achieve a rating of moderate or high on design and execution
- Demonstrate favorable effects on a target outcome
- At least one study must show a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment

\*A program or service cannot be rated as well-supported if there is sufficient evidence of risk of harm

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## “Supported”



- At least one study achieves a rating of moderate or high on design and execution and is carried out in a usual care or practice setting
- Demonstrates sustained favorable effects for at least 6 months beyond the end of treatment

\*A program or service cannot be rated as supported if there is sufficient evidence of risk of harm

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## “Promising”



- At least one study that achieves a rating of moderate or high on study design and execution
- Demonstrates a favorable effect on a target outcome

\*A program or service cannot be rated as supported if there is sufficient evidence of risk of harm

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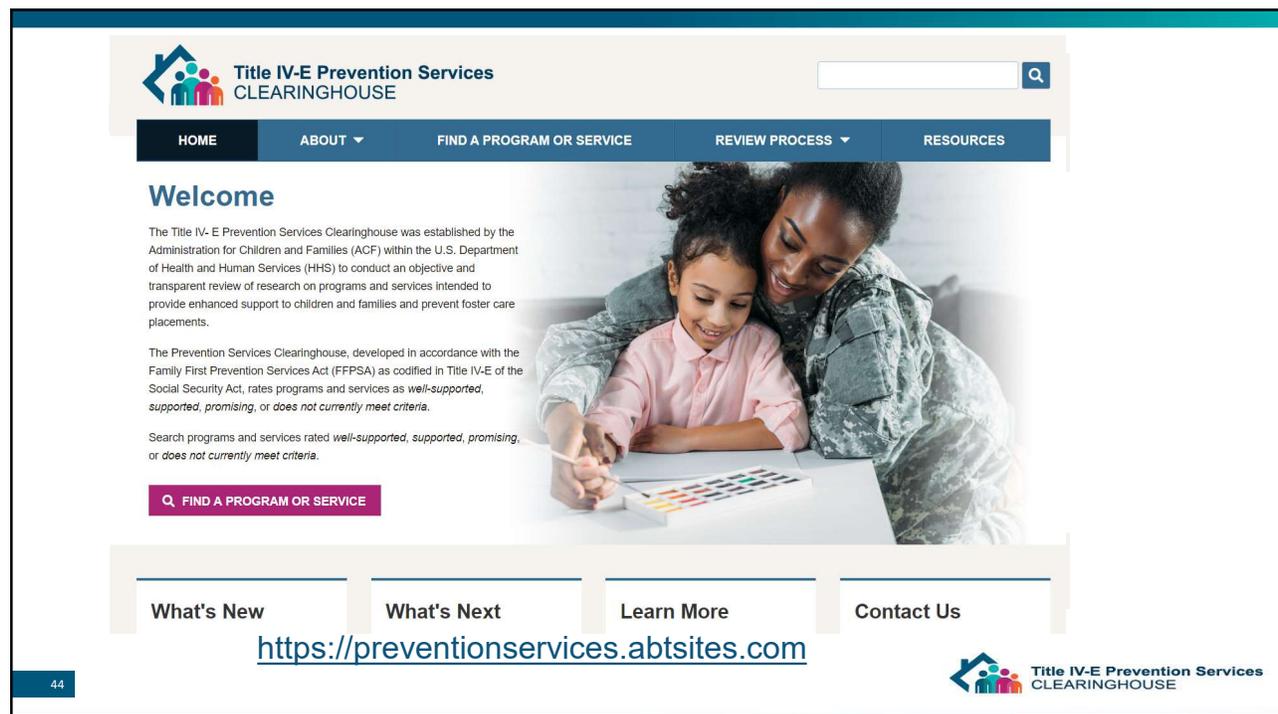
## “Does not currently meet criteria”



- No studies of the program or service received moderate or high design and execution ratings
- OR
- No studies with moderate or high design and execution ratings exhibited any statistically significant effects on target outcomes

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a stylized house icon with three human figures inside, followed by the text "Title IV-E Prevention Services CLEARINGHOUSE". To the right of the logo is a search bar. Below the logo and search bar is a navigation menu with five items: "HOME", "ABOUT", "FIND A PROGRAM OR SERVICE", "REVIEW PROCESS", and "RESOURCES". The main content area features a large image of a woman in a military uniform hugging a young girl who is sitting at a table and coloring. To the left of this image is a "Welcome" section with the following text:

**Welcome**

The Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse was established by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to conduct an objective and transparent review of research on programs and services intended to provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements.

The Prevention Services Clearinghouse, developed in accordance with the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) as codified in Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, rates programs and services as *well-supported*, *supported*, *promising*, or *does not currently meet criteria*.

Search programs and services rated *well-supported*, *supported*, *promising*, or *does not currently meet criteria*.

Below the text is a purple button with a magnifying glass icon and the text "FIND A PROGRAM OR SERVICE". At the bottom of the page is a footer with four columns: "What's New", "What's Next", "Learn More", and "Contact Us". Below these columns is the URL <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com>. In the bottom right corner is the same logo and text as in the top right of the page.

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### Parents as Teachers

In-home Parent Skill-based Programs and Services
Well-supported

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a home-visiting parent education program that teaches new and expectant parents skills intended to promote positive child development and prevent child maltreatment. PAT aims to increase parent knowledge of early childhood development, improve parenting practices, promote early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase school readiness and success. The PAT model includes four core components: personal home visits, supportive group connection events, child health and developmental screenings, and community resource networks. PAT is designed so that it can be delivered to diverse families with diverse needs, although PAT sites typically target families with specific risk factors. Families can begin the program prenatally and continue through when their child enters kindergarten. Services are offered on a biweekly or monthly basis, depending on family needs. Sessions are typically held for one hour in the family's home, but can also be delivered in schools, child care centers, or other community spaces. Each participant is assigned a parent educator who must have a high school degree or GED with two or more years of experience working with children and parents. Parent educators must also attend five days of PAT training.

PAT is rated as a well-supported practice because at least two studies with non-overlapping samples carried out in usual care or practice settings achieved a rating of moderate or high on design and execution and demonstrated favorable effects in a target outcome domain. At least one of the studies demonstrated a sustained favorable effect of at least 12 months beyond the end of treatment on at least one target outcome.

**Sources**  
The program or service description, target population, and program or service delivery and implementation information was informed by the following sources: The California Evidence-based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare, the program or service developer's website, the program or service manual, and the studies reviewed.

This information does not necessarily represent the views of the program or service developers. For more information on how this program or service was reviewed, visit the [Review Process](#) page or download the [Handbook](#).

Target Population ^

Program or Service Delivery and Implementation ^

Extent of Evidence ^

Summary of Findings ^

Individual Study Findings ^

Studies Reviewed ^

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Title IV-E Prevention Services  
CLEARINGHOUSE

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# Thank you!

Visit the Clearinghouse website online:

<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>

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Title IV-E Prevention Services  
CLEARINGHOUSE

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# Questions?



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## Upcoming Workshops

### ***Part Two: Moving To Application***

Thursday, July 16 | 1:00-2:00 PM EST [Register Now!](#)

Speakers:

- Dori Sneddon, Child Welfare Program Specialist, The Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Christine Fortunato, Senior Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, ACF
- Lauren Antelo, Associate Director for Strategic Initiatives, ACF
- Leanne Heaton, Senior Researcher, Chapin Hall
- Latisha Young, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services
- Veronica Burroughs, Project Manager, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Sarah Kaye, Principal Investigator, Kaye Implementation and Evaluation
- Meg Dygert, Policy Associate, Child Welfare & Family Well-Being, APHSA

### **Coming later this Summer**

**A Conversation with SNAP Directors in the time of COVID-19**

**Machine Learning in Human Services Contexts**

**Cross-System Collaboration to Serve Justice-Involved Clients**



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