**Strengthening Families and Supporting [INSERT STATE]’s**

**Response to the Substance Abuse Crisis through the**

**Federal Family First Prevention Services Act**

*In 2018, the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was signed into law as part of the federal Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The Family First law has the potential to dramatically shift [INSERT STATE]’s ability to strengthen families and build child well-being. [INSERT STATE} has the opportunity to use the Family First Act provisions as part of its overall plan to address major issues related to mental and behavioral health, including parental substance abuse.*

**Beginning as early as October 1, 2019, Family First allows the use of federal Title IV-E funds to keep families together and safely prevent the placement of children into foster care, by providing the following services to eligible children, their families, and pregnant and parenting foster youth:**

* Mental health services
* Substance abuse prevention and treatment services
* In-home parent skill-building services, including individual and family counseling

**Services under Family First must be trauma-informed, and meet evidence-based requirements that follow promising, supported, or well-supported practices.**

* Programs approved by the national IV-E Prevention Program Clearinghouse are eligible for the available federal reimbursement
* Fifty percent of the state’s expenditures must be for well-supported practices

**[INSERT STATE] can improve the lives of children and families, help address the substance abuse crisis, and decrease the strain on our foster care system** by opting to choose FFPSA prevention services.

* Children’s brain development can be improved; families can parent more effectively and independently, and behavioral health challenges in youth can decrease
* By safely diverting children from foster care, the strain on our limited foster care home capacity can be reduced, improving placement services for children who remain in foster care
* We can reduce our State General Fund expenditures on foster care placements by investing in effective evidence-based practices.

**Federal funds will reimburse [INSERT STATE] at 50% for its administration, training, and program investment for Family First prevention services.**

* Beginning In FY2026, the *federal match will equal the [INSERT STATE’s] FMAP rate, currently [*[*XX*](https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/federal-matching-rate-and-multiplier/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D) *– click hyperlink to access your state’s data]%*
* [INSERT STATE] must maintain state foster care prevention spending at the same level as the state’s 2014 spending using federal guidance to calculate the required Maintenance of Effort.

