



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Administration on Children, Youth & Families | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
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October 4, 2023

Terri Ricks
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
P.O. Box 3318
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Secretary Ricks:

Thank you for submitting Louisiana's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan for fiscal years (FYs) 2023-2027. The title IV-E prevention program is authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), enacted as part of Public Law (P.L.) 115-123, which amended titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act (the Act). The FFPSA is an important tool that, if utilized effectively, will help move child welfare in the United States to a more preventative system that works to strengthen families and reduce unnecessary family disruption.

Plan Approval

Louisiana submitted a title IV-E prevention program five-year plan to the Children's Bureau (CB) Regional Office on 10/31/2022. We completed a review of this submission and identified areas requiring further documentation to support compliance with state plan requirements. On 6/30/2023, Louisiana provided a final revised plan that addressed all the identified provisions.

We are pleased to notify you that we reviewed Louisiana's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan submitted 6/30/2023 and find it to be in compliance with applicable federal statutory and regulatory requirements. Louisiana's title IV-E prevention program five-year plan for FYs 2023-2027 is approved as outlined below. An amendment must be submitted any time there is a substantial change to information in the approved plan.

The effective date of Louisiana's plan is 10/1/2022. Please maintain this approval letter as a part of the final, approved plan.

Approval of Services under the Title IV-E Prevention Program

Pursuant to sections 471(e)(1) and 471(e)(5)(B)(iii) of the Act, only services and programs provided in accordance with promising, supported, or well-supported practices as rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. In addition, section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) of the Act requires the state to describe how each program and service will be evaluated through a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy (unless waived for a well-supported practice rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse). The title IV-E agency must also provide an assurance each program or service will be continuously monitored to ensure fidelity to the

practice model, to determine outcomes achieved, and that the state will use information gleaned from the continuous monitoring efforts to refine and improve practices. CB has approved the following allowable programs and services as part of Louisiana’s plan:

Intercept Child First

Title IV-E prevention program federal financial participation claims must be for allowable costs on behalf of eligible program participants and may be submitted for applicable periods beginning no earlier than the above listed plan effective date. Additionally, all program costs other than payments for provision of prevention services directly to program recipients must be identified in an approved public assistance cost allocation plan as per federal regulations at 45 CFR §1356.60(c). This cost allocation plan may have an effective date that is the same or later than the title IV-E prevention program five-year plan, depending on when submitted and the approval granted. For state title IV-E agencies, a public assistance cost allocation plan (PACAP) amendment must be submitted addressing title IV-E prevention program administrative costs in accordance with applicable regulations at §95.509(a)(3).

Approval of Request for Waiver of Evaluation Requirements

Pursuant to section 471(e)(5)(C)(ii) of the Act, the requirement for a well-designed and rigorous evaluation of any well-supported practice rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse may be waived if the evidence of effectiveness of the practice is deemed compelling and the continuous monitoring requirements of Section 471(e)(5)(B)(iii)(II) are met. CB approves Louisiana’s request for waiver of the evaluation requirement for the following approved service:

Intercept

Data Collection and Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to Section 471(e)(4)(E) of the Act, states electing the title IV-E prevention program are required to collect and report on child-specific data to HHS for each child who receives title IV-E prevention services. Louisiana has provided an assurance that the state will collect and submit information and data as the Secretary may require with respect to title IV-E prevention and family services and programs, including information and data necessary to determine the performance measures. Data element details are provided in [Revised Technical Bulletin #1](#). Title IV-E agencies may choose to begin collecting data at any point after the agency’s title IV-E prevention program plan is approved. However, agencies are not required to begin collecting data until the beginning of the federal fiscal year (FFY) after the FFY in which the CB approved the title IV-E agency’s prevention plan. Based on Louisiana’s title IV-E prevention plan approval date, Louisiana’s first data collection period starts FFY2026 October 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026, and the first data transmission period (date data is due to CB) is April 1, 2026 - May 15, 2026. Title IV-E Prevention Program Data submission timelines are provided in [Technical Bulletin #2](#).

Payer of Last Resort

In approving the title IV-E prevention program five-year plan, we remind states that section 471(e)(10)(C) of the Act requires that title IV-E is the payer of last resort for services allowable under the title IV-E prevention program. This means that if public or private program providers

(such as private health insurance or Medicaid) would pay for a service allowable under the title IV-E prevention program, those providers have the responsibility to pay for these services before the title IV-E agency is required to pay.

The title IV-E prevention program is part of the CB's broader vision of advancing national efforts that strengthen the capacity of families to nurture and provide for the well-being of their children. We look forward to working together with you to implement the title IV-E prevention program as part of the broader vision, and to meet our shared goal of keeping families healthy, together and strong.

For any question or concerns you may have, please contact Janis Brown, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager in Region 6, at (214) 767-8466 or by e-mail at janis.brown@acf.hhs.gov. You also may contact Lara Phillips, Children and Families Program Specialist, at (214) 767-9380 or by e-mail at lara.phillips@acf.hhs.gov.

We wish to thank you and your staff for your work and wish you all the best in implementing your important plan.

Sincerely,



Aysha E. Schomburg, Esq.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Enclosures: Plan Submission Certification, Program Reporting Assurance, Request for Waiver of Evaluation Requirements, Assurance of Trauma Informed Delivery

cc: Myrna Amanda Brunson, Child Welfare Assistant Secretary; Louisiana DCFS; Baton Rouge, LA;
Karla Venkataraman, Deputy Assistant Secretary 3; Louisiana DCFS; Baton Rouge, LA;
Janis Brown, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region 6; Dallas, TX;
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