SELECTING EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS & SERVICES FOR FAMILIES FIRST

Implementation Science & Parameters Under FFPSA
02-20-2020
Our current matching focus

Children and Families to Target for Prevention Efforts

Children and families in need of support (not necessarily a service) to safely parent their children

Family First Eligible

Children at imminent risk of removal w/o Family First prevention services

Allowable services must be:
- Related to mental health, substance abuse, and in-home parenting skills
- Evidence-based and trauma-informed
- In federal clearinghouse & CT’s approved Prevention Plan
Typical standards for “Evidence-Based” status:

- **INTERVENTION IS “MANUALIZED”**
  - CLEARLY DEFINED AND REPLICABLE PARAMETERS FOR PRACTICE (TOOLS, SEQUENCES, EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PROVIDER OF THE SERVICE)
  - BEST PRACTICE INCLUDES MECHANISMS/RESOURCES FOR TRAINING, ONGOING COACHING AND FIDELITY MONITORING

- **TARGET POPULATION IS WELL DEFINED**
  - INCLUSIONARY AND EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- **INTERVENTION HAS MET RIGOROUS RESEARCH STANDARDS DEMONSTRATING EFFECTIVENESS**
  - GOLD STANDARD FOR EVIDENCE: TWO RANDOM ASSIGNMENT CONTROL STUDIES
PARTICULAR STANDARDS OF THE FFPSA CLEARINGHOUSE

- Requirement of an independent, systematic evidence review
- Allows for review of publicly available research studies, not just those from peer reviewed journals
- Allows for randomized or rigorous quasi experimental group design
  - At least one intervention condition and at least one comparison condition
  - Intervention and comparison condition can be formed through either randomized or non-randomized procedures, but not a pre and post test of same individuals
  - Comparison can be of individuals or groups of individuals (e.g. families, providers, centers)
FOCUS OF PROGRAM AND SERVICE REVIEW OF THE FFPSA CLEARINGHOUSE

AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Mental Health Prevention and Treatment
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
- In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs and Services
- Kinship Navigator Programs

REQUIRED OUTCOME DOMAINS:

- Child Safety
- Child Permanency
- Child Well-Being
- Adult Well-Being

ABOVE DOMAINS AND:

- Access to Services
- Referral to Services
- Satisfaction with Programs and Services
FUTURE FFPSA CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW

- Continued review of programs and services submitted for review in 2018 that met established eligibility standards for review
- Call for program and service recommendations at least annually
- Particular consideration will be given to programs and services
  - Recommended by State or local government administrators and tribes
  - Rated by other clearinghouses (e.g. CEBC or HomVEE)
  - Recommended by federal partners
  - Evaluated as part of any grants supported by the Children’s Bureau
MATCHING CONSIDERATIONS INFORMED BY IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE:

■ DEFINE YOUR CANDIDACY GROUP CLEARLY

- What are key characteristics of the families you want to serve? (e.g., primary risk factors and/or behaviors of concern, age of children, etc.)
- What are the desired outcomes for families, their communities and other stakeholders?
- What risk and protective factors may affect achieving desired outcomes?
- What current programs or services in your state or system address the needs of these families?
- What gaps are there in our current service system?

■ Are there evidence-based programs that address those unmet needs?

Adapted from the Child and Family Evidence-Based Practice Consortium
NEXT STEPS FOR OUR CANDIDACY – SERVICE ARRAY MATCHING:

Review summary grids:

- *Are the needs for intervention and desired outcomes for our group*  
  - Well defined? 
  - Aligned with FFPSA requirements for  
    - intervention focus (mental health, substance use, in-home parenting or kinship navigation) 
    - Necessary outcomes (child safety, permanency and/or wellbeing, parent wellbeing) 
- *Are there programs or services that can be matched to those needs and yield those outcomes? (in current CT service array or that could be added)*  
  - With sufficient current or anticipated research support for FFPSA Clearinghouse designation and potentially title IV-E funding? 
- *Are there gaps in our desired service array that we would want to try to find an EBP or promising practice for potential inclusion in our Title – IV-E funding request*
Review of the emerging plans developed from last meeting’s breakout workgroups
Connecticut continuum of services that strengthen families

- Coordination of care across systems and agencies
  - Community resources
  - Safe after-school activities
  - Faith-based supports
  - Employment opportunities

- Safe neighborhoods
  - Stable, affordable housing
  - Food security

- Advocacy
  - Good schools

- Financial stability

- Early detection and screening
  - Linguistic capacity of service providers
  - Assistance programs
  - Early education opportunities
  - Access to healthcare
  - Quality childcare
Our current matching focus:

What programs or services do we have or need to reduce risk of child removal from families in our candidacy groups that have a level of research support that could potentially qualify for consideration for Title IV-E reimbursement?

AREAS OF FOCUS:
- MENTAL HEALTH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
- IN-HOME PARENT SKILL-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

REQUIRED OUTCOME DOMAINS:
- CHILD SAFETY
- CHILD PERMANENCY
- CHILD WELL-BEING
- ADULT WELL-BEING