Connecticut Launches Addiction Treatment Pay-For-Success Project

In September 2016, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) launched a pay-for-success project intended to promote family stability and reduce parental addiction and substance use among DCF-involved families. The Connecticut Family Stability Pay for Success Project is funded by $11.2 million in investments. The project expands Family-Based Recovery to an additional 500 families across the state.

The key project goals are as follows:

- Create long-term and lasting results for families statewide, by supporting parents in substance use recovery and improving parent-child interactions.
- Prevent out-of-home placements and re-referrals to DCF and reduce substance use by parents and caregivers.
- Use an independent evaluation to understand the efficacy of the Family-Based Recovery model, providing important insight on how to best scale this program.
- Bring an added level of government accountability for results for the families served.

There are a number of paths to trigger lender repayment; Connecticut's project does not set minimum outcome thresholds. A spokesperson for the project said payment could be triggered by good performance on any of the four metrics. However, significant outcomes must occur across all four metrics in order for original principal plus a modest return to be repaid. If no outcomes are achieved, no payments to lenders will be made.

Repayments will accrue gradually to the lenders. As the program achieves outcomes, the portion of payments that have accrued to the lenders will be repaid.

About 70% of the total available outcome payments to lenders are linked to long term evaluated outcomes for out-of-home placements and reduction in re-referrals. The long-term outcomes will be measured in the latter half of the project as the difference between treatment and control groups in a randomized controlled trial. Reduction in re-referrals will be measured annually starting in month 33, and reduction in out of home placements is measured one time, at month 69.


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