

FAQ on Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs)

Does Families First require an elimination of residential treatment?

It does not. Family First creates a new model called a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). A QRTP is a high quality treatment setting. This is an environment that:

- Is designed to be treatment-focused and short term.
- Provides access to 24-hour nursing and clinical staff.
- Provides at least six months of family focused aftercare.
- Is accredited by a national accrediting entity.

What are the requirements for a QRTP?

A QRTP is defined as a treatment setting that:

- Has a trauma-informed treatment model designed to address the needs, and clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional or behavioral disorders or disturbances, and can implement the necessary treatment identified in the child's assessment;
- Has registered or licensed nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff who can provide care, who are on-site consistent with the treatment model, and are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. The QRTP does not need to have a direct employee/employer relationship with required nursing and clinical staff;
- Facilitates family participation in the child's treatment program (if in the child's best interest);
- Facilitates family outreach, documents how this outreach is made, and maintains contact information for any known birth family and fictive kin of the child;
- Documents how the child's family is integrated into the child's treatment, including post-discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained;
- Provides discharge planning and family-based aftercare supports for at least six months post-discharge; and,
- The program is licensed and nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the Council on Accreditation (COA), Educational Assessment Guidelines Learning towards Excellence (EAGLE) or others approved by the Children's Bureau.

What are some timeframes for QRTPs in FFPSA?

- DCF can receive Title IV-E reimbursement for the first 14 days of treatment.
- Title IV-E eligible children must receive an assessment within 30-days of placement. A child must receive an assessment from a qualified individual using an appropriate functional

assessment tool to determine whether they need care in a QRTP and whether the particular QRTP can meet their specific treatment needs. ACF has not defined what constitutes a qualified individual further than requiring that the person be a trained professional or licensed clinician unaffiliated with the QRTP.

- As part of the 30-day assessment DCF is required to convene a meeting of family members and others with significant relationships with the child in order to gain their perspective on the needs of the child and the appropriateness of the placement in a QRTP.
- A review of the youth's placement by a court or administrative body must occur by day 60. If the court or administrative body finds that continued placement in the QRTP beyond 60 days is not in the child's best interest DCF has up to 30 additional days to facilitate another placement.

If a youth moves to a new QRTP setting the above timeframes re-start.

What is the limit on QRTP placement length?

Family First does not create a firm deadline for moving youth out of a QRTP. It does require a higher level of review for a child younger than 13 after six months in placement and a higher review for youth over 13 after 12 consecutive months or 18 non-consecutive months. For children in placement over 1 year the Commissioner of DCF must certify to HHS that the placement is appropriate.

Who makes the determination of whether a service provider qualifies as a QRTP?

It is the responsibility of DCF to determine whether a facility meets the QRTP standards.

What does the six months of family focused after-care services mean and who determines what services are appropriate?

The intention is for aftercare support is to be tailored to the needs of the youth and family.

What is the Definition of a “Child Care Institution?”

- Per 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1355.20, a “child care institution means a private child care institution, or a public child care institution which accommodates no more than 25 children and is licensed by the licensing authority responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type as meeting the standards established for such licensing”
- “The licensing authority must be a state authority in the state in which the child care institution is located, a tribal authority with respect to a child care institution on or near an Indian reservation, or a tribal authority of a tribal Title IV-E agency with respect to a child care institution in the tribal Title IV-E agency's service area. This definition must not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.”

Does this 25-bed limit apply to private child care institutions?

- No. The 25-bed limitation applies to public child care institutions.