



Issue Brief

TEXAS ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



Future of Family Preservation and Post-Permanency Services in Texas

Family preservation services aim to support families at risk of entering the child welfare system, keeping children safe at home and addressing underlying challenges such as substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues. Post-adoption and post-permanency services extend this support, ensuring stability for families after reunification, adoption, or guardianship. Since the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) in 2018, Texas has made strides toward implementing evidence-based prevention services but remains one of only three states without an updated Title IV-E Prevention Program Five-Year Plan. The Texas Family First (TFF) pilot programs launched in 2022 provide valuable insights into improving family preservation and post-permanency efforts across the state.

Current Landscape

Texas Family First Pilots:

- Implemented by four Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs), TFF pilots serve families in 95 counties using nine evidence-based interventions.
- Eligibility is limited to families with child protective involvement and court-ordered services to address risks of removal.
- Families participating in services often experience transformative outcomes, including improved safety and stability.

Post-Adoption and Post-Permanency Services:

- Families that have finalized adoptions or established guardianships face unique challenges, including trauma, attachment issues, and behavioral health concerns.
- Current services and funding are limited and vary widely across the state, leaving many families without adequate support to prevent re-entry into the child welfare system.
- Programs such as counseling, respite care, and peer support are critical to maintaining family stability and ensuring successful long-term outcomes.

Key Considerations for Improvement

Expand Target Populations:

- Include families with finalized adoptions or guardianships at risk of disruption as a priority for services.
- Extend eligibility to families with high-risk factors, such as substance exposure at birth, severe mental health concerns, and domestic violence.

Leverage Administrative Structures:

- Utilize the established SSCC framework under community-based care to efficiently manage and expand both family preservation and post-permanency services.
- Maintain and expand performance-based contracts to monitor outcomes and ensure accountability independent of court oversight.

Enhance Post-Adoption and Post-Permanency Support:

- Develop specialized programs to address attachment and trauma-related challenges for adoptive and guardianship families.
- Increase access to respite care, support groups, and trauma-informed counseling.
- Provide concrete supports to address immediate needs that may prevent long-term disruptions.

Recommendations



Expand and Sustain Funding:

- Allocate \$15 million in General Revenue to sustain existing TFF pilot programs.

- Increase funding to build service capacity, prioritize FFPSA-eligible interventions, and expand geographic reach.
- Include dedicated funding for post-adoption and post-permanency services to address gaps in the continuum of care.



Submit a Prevention Services Plan:

- Expedite the submission of Texas' Title IV-E Prevention Plan to seek federal funding and reimbursement for state-funded services.

- Include a robust strategy for eligibility determination, capacity building, and data-driven monitoring of outcomes.



Strengthen Post-Permanency Services:

- Develop a comprehensive post-adoption support network, including access to specialized therapy and peer mentoring.
- Prioritize interventions that address trauma and behavioral challenges unique to post-permanency families.



Family preservation and post-permanency services are critical components of Texas' child welfare strategy. The TFF pilots provide a strong foundation for expanding evidence-based, community-driven interventions, while post-adoption support ensures families remain stable after permanency. By addressing barriers, enhancing engagement, and securing sustainable funding, Texas can build a robust continuum of care that keeps families together and reduces reliance on foster care. Strategic action now will ensure that children and families have the resources they need to thrive.

Learn more at tacfs.org/89th.
Contact us at policy@tacfs.org for more information.