

Los Angeles County Comprehensive Prevention Plan

Executive Summary

Background

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the County of Los Angeles Probation Department (Probation Department), along with other family serving Departments such as Departments of Mental Health (DMH), Health Services (DHS), Public Health (DPH), Social Services (DPSS), are committed to promoting well-being, preventing child abuse and neglect, and implementing a far-reaching Care-First, Jails Last system. The Los Angeles County family serving departments, in collaboration with community and faith-based partners, have a long history – going back to the early 1990s of providing prevention resources, supports and services for families, youth, and children to prevent child abuse and neglect. This serves as a strong foundation to opt-in and integrate into the Family First Prevention Services Program (FFPS).

The federal [Family First Prevention Services Act](#) (Family First) became law in 2018 and the [FFPS was established in California](#) in July of 2021. **California Department of Social Services (CDSS) requires each county that desires to utilize federal Family First funding to develop a Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) which describes the full array of prevention services and resources available for families to prevent child welfare involvement.** The CPP also responds to each of the required elements by CDSS including the Family First candidacy populations, evidence-based programs (EBP’s), primary prevention pilots, and Los Angeles County’s planned use of the State block grant (SBG) funding available from the CDSS through June of 2025.

Los Angeles County family serving departments, along with stakeholders, took the opportunity in the development of the CPP to embark on a transformative vision to right size prevention and promotion services in all communities. Additionally, in September 2021, in recognition of the need to prioritize the overall well-being of all residents, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed Board Motion 21-3530 to recommend programs and services that are consistently delivered upstream to all Los Angeles residents. The Board directed the Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) within the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to facilitate and support the convening of a Prevention Services Task Force (Task Force).

The Task Force, the first of its kind in California, is leading the way to create a framework that serves to unite all family serving departments and those with lived expertise in developing a prevention and promotion plan to meet the needs of residents in Los Angeles. The Task Force is charged with providing recommendations on a governance structure for a comprehensive community-based prevention services delivery system that will deliver upstream interventions to address life course outcomes, improve the social determinants of health, improve overall well-being, and reduce racial disparities for all residents of Los Angeles. The development of the Prevention Services Task Force at the County level further supports the commitment of the family serving departments in Los Angeles to a well-rounded and functioning prevention services continuum at all levels of the County.

Engaging Los Angeles County Partners

Over the last several months, Los Angeles County family serving departments have engaged the following stakeholders across the County to build a vision for enhancing prevention services.

Casey Family Programs with Navajo Nation

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

CDSS Office of Tribal Affairs

Children’s Law Center

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Los Angeles County Office of Education
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Program Manager	Los Angeles County Superior Court
Community Based Service Providers	Los Angeles County Thriving Families, Safer Children
Community-Based Organizations	Los Angeles County Youth Commission
Court Appointed Special Advocates	Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Department of Children and Family Services	Los Angeles Unified School District
Department of Health Services	Native American Indian Commission (NAIC)
Department of Mental Health	Navajo Nation
Department of Public Health	Non-Profit Community Leadership
Department of Public Social Services	Office of Child Protection
Dependency Court	Office of Education
Domestic Violence Council	Opportunity Youth Collaborative
Eliminating Racial Disproportionality and Disparity Community Advisory Workgroup	Parents and youth with lived experience
Family Court	Parents in Partnership
Family Preservation Network	Plan of SafeCare Workgroup
Family Resource Centers	Poverty Alleviation Initiative
First 5 LA	Prevention and Aftercare Stakeholders
Indian Tribes	Prevention Services Task Force
Indigenous Circle of Wellness	Probation Department
Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect	Pukuu Cultural Community Services
LA County DMH American Indian Counseling Center	Racial Equity Program Manager (Office of Equity)
LGBTQ+ Program Manager (Office of Equity)	Southern California Indian Center (PFF)
Local Child Abuse Prevention Council	System of Care Executive Advisory Team
Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils	System of Care Interagency Leadership Team
Los Angeles County Child Abuse Prevention Councils	Torres Martinez Tribal TANF
	United American Indian Involvement
	Workforce Development

Stakeholders uplifted themes of anti racism, engagement, prevention, safety, collaboration, parent choice among many others. The themes informed the development of a transformative vision to lead the work outlined in the CPP.



Transformative Vision

Led by children, families, and individuals, Los Angeles County commits to radically reimagining our prevention services continuum into one where power and resources are distributed equitably. In this future, supportive services are:

*Easy to navigate,
Inclusive,
Comprehensive, and
Anti-Racist.*

All Angelenos will proactively receive the support they need to live safe and healthy lives, through connection to accessible and effective services that are provided by trauma-informed professionals in their own neighborhoods and Tribal communities.

By uplifting the voice of community, embracing equity, and focusing on the overarching transformative vision for residents, the Los Angeles County Prevention Services Logic Model was developed. This model came about from the ongoing partnerships between all the family serving Los Angeles County agencies. The logic model connects all activities to the goals of:

- Increasing the provision of upstream interventions,
- Increasing partnership with community
- Increasing access to comprehensive, community-based, promotion-oriented, prevention services that are distributed equitably across the county
- Increasing trust in the continuum of prevention services in the County,
- Decreasing the number of children and youth entering and re-entering foster care,
- Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionalities in the County, and
- Ensuring the well-being of all Los Angeles County adults, children, youth, and families.

To measure the goals, departments will review available administrative and outcomes data and consult with the DCFS Research Section to refine the outcomes and develop measures where needed.

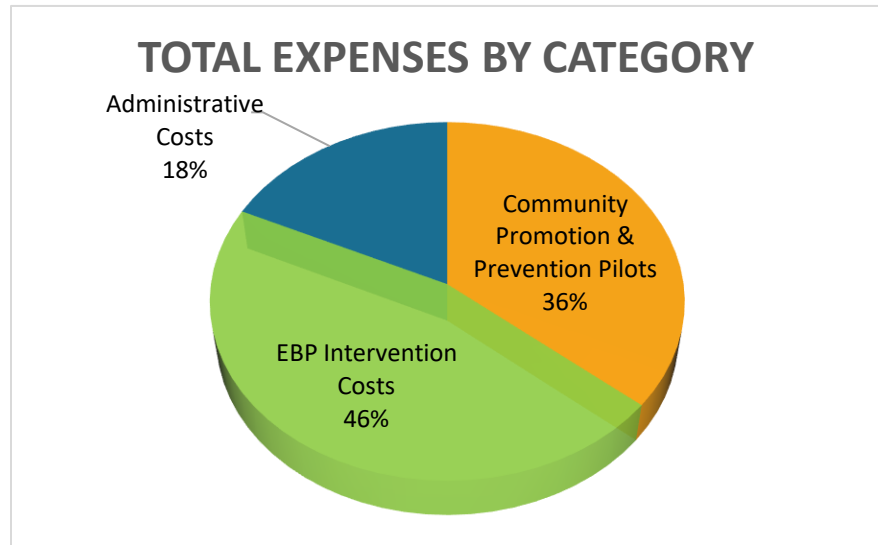
	Inputs	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Services Task Force Vision & Framework ARDI Framework Policy identifying Family First processes IT capacity to identify, track and monitor Family First candidates CQI prevention infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures and standards for each of the inputs for providing and accessing prevention services CWS-CARES capacity to monitor Family First cases Data to inform need for course corrections Fidelity monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment of policy & practice Data driven decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los Angeles County's prevention services system is easy to navigate, accessible, comprehensive, community-based, promotion-oriented, and distributed equitably Increased provision of upstream interventions Decreased social determinants that negatively impact health and well-being for adults, children, youth, and families. Promotion of positive outcomes across the life course of children, youth, and families Decreased racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionalities in Los Angeles County Increased trust in the continuum of
Child Welfare and Juvenile Probation Department / Family Stability Practice Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated Core Practice Model Coaches CFTM process SDM & CANS (DCFS assessments) EIRRC & LARRC (Probation Department assessments) Pre-service and veteran staff training Model of Supervision (in development) CFSR Wellbeing Measures Protective Factors Motivational Interviewing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear vision, values, guiding principles, and skills Network of support engagement Comprehensive assessment of needs & strengths Ability to match services to needs Prepared workforce with ongoing supports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individualized and strength-based prevention plans Professional workforce trained to utilize each of the inputs 	
Collaboration & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) Prevention Services Task Force Prevention Alignment Framework, Coordination and Integration, and Addressing Disproportionality Working Tables Thriving Families Safer Children Title IV-E Agreements UCLA partnership (MI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDSS, CWDA, CPOC, Board of Supervisors, community providers, family resource centers, advocacy groups, philanthropy, and persons with lived child welfare experience contributing to planned implementation A set of guiding prevention metrics for the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared vision and prevention plan for LA County children and families County-wide equity vision; deeper understanding of disproportionality and its drivers Reduced racial inequities in Los Angeles County. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First Leadership Team; Advisory Committee; Strengthening Families Collaborative • Practice, Fiscal/Contracts, Communications, & HV Community Pathway Implementation Teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive Countywide funding streams analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency collaboration and integration that leverages supports beyond what child welfare systems alone can provide 	<p>prevention services across the County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased partnership with community-based and faith-based organizations
<p>Services/ Interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic and concrete family supports, including public benefit programs, supportive and affordable housing, childcare, child support, transportation, medical care (including Indian Healing Centers), legal assistance, credit repair, and paid family leave • Resource navigation assistance • Family Resource Centers • Educational services for children, youth, and adults, including Indian education • Cultural Brokers for Black/African American families & exploration of expansion for American Indian and Native American families • DCFS Prevention Programs: Family Preservation (FP) Services; Alternative Response Services (ARS); Partnership for Families (PFF); Adoption Promotion and Support Services (APSS); Prevention and Aftercare Services (P&A); Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention (CAPIT) • Countywide Safety Net Programming (Department of Mental Health, Department of Public Social Services, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of economic instability at all touchpoints of child welfare system • Evidence-based prevention service array • Matching of services to needs • Integrated data collection and management across prevention services offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention Services recipients experience improved life course outcomes • As the number of children and families served by community providers and prevention programs increases, the number of children entering foster care decreases. • Family First candidates improved mental health, decreased substance use, and strengthened parenting skills based on identified needs • Improved service capacity Statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced foster care entry • Reduced foster care re-entry • Fewer juvenile detentions and petitions filed • More services will be provided by community organizations

	<p>Department of Public Health, home visiting services, First5 LA/LA Best Babies Network)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatherhood Initiatives • FFPSA EBPs: Motivational Interviewing as adjunctive and standalone; Multisystemic Family Therapy; Functional Family Therapy; Nurse-Family Partnership; Healthy Families America; Parents as Teachers; Parent Child Interaction Therapy • Multidimensional Family Treatment (MDFT) 			
<p>Candidates & Families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children, youth, parents/caregivers, families, and individuals in Los Angeles County • Family First Candidates: Children aged 0-18 and their parents/caregivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Served by Family Maintenance or Voluntary Family Maintenance ○ Siblings in-home ○ Adoption at risk ○ Guardianship at risk ○ Youth subject of 602 petition ○ Substantiated or inconclusive disposition • Community Pathway • Foster youth expectant or parenting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of service need by candidacy population and number accessing services • Analysis of candidacy population service completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Engagement in prevention services • Improved access to evidence-based practices for all Family First candidate subgroups • Families experience a reduction in material and economic hardships 	

State Funding

CDSS articulated in an All County Letter No. 22-23 the requirements of the CPP and describes how the state allocated funds can be spent to build child and family prevention services, implement evidence-based practices (EBP), and infrastructure while the state seeks federal approval for the Family First California Prevention Plan. The proposed planned expenditures include



community promotion and prevention pilots (36% of available funds), EBP costs included in the CA Prevention Plan (46%) and administrative costs (18%) to support the vision of right sizing prevention and promotion services throughout the County.

Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) will begin in two locations over the next three years: Service Planning Area (SPA) 2, which includes the San Fernando Valley and Santa Clarita, and SPA 6, which includes South Los Angeles. SPA 2 was selected based on organizational readiness, including infrastructure and capacity to implement. SPA 6 was identified as having some of the greatest needs in the County and would therefore potentially demonstrate the greatest impact of Family First on prevention of involvement in child welfare and the Probation Department.

All family serving departments are committed to work towards proactively providing the supports families need to live safe and healthy lives, through connection to accessible and effective services that are provided by trauma-informed professionals in their own neighborhoods and Tribal communities. Departments will utilize the next three years to learn from the implementation of Family First and non-Family First services in SPAs 2 and 6 to inform the implementation across all of Los Angeles County.

EBP Interventions (46% of State Funds)

To inform the populations and services initially prioritized for Family First services, feedback from stakeholders and an extensive data analysis of children and youth served over the last five years was conducted. The Evidence Based Programs (EBP's) in the CPP are already available in Los Angeles County. **To access the state funds, counties must identify which of the EBPs they will implement.**

Candidacy Populations Eligible for Family First EBP's

- Expectant and Parenting Youth in Care (EPY)
- Children in families receiving voluntary or court-ordered family maintenance services (FM/VFM)
- Probation Department youth subject to a petition under section 602 of WIC (602 Probation Department youth)
- Children whose guardianship or adoption arrangement is at-risk of disruption (post-guardianship/post-adoption)
- Children with a substantiated or inconclusive disposition of a child abuse or neglect allegation, but no case opened (substantiated/inconclusive disposition)
- Children who have siblings in foster care (siblings in foster care)
- Homeless or runaway youth
- LGBTQ+ youth
- Substance-exposed newborns
- Trafficked children and youth
- Children exposed to domestic violence
- Children whose caretakers experience a substance use disorder
- Children or youth experiencing other serious risk factors that when combined with family instability or safety threats would be assessed to be at imminent risk of entering care

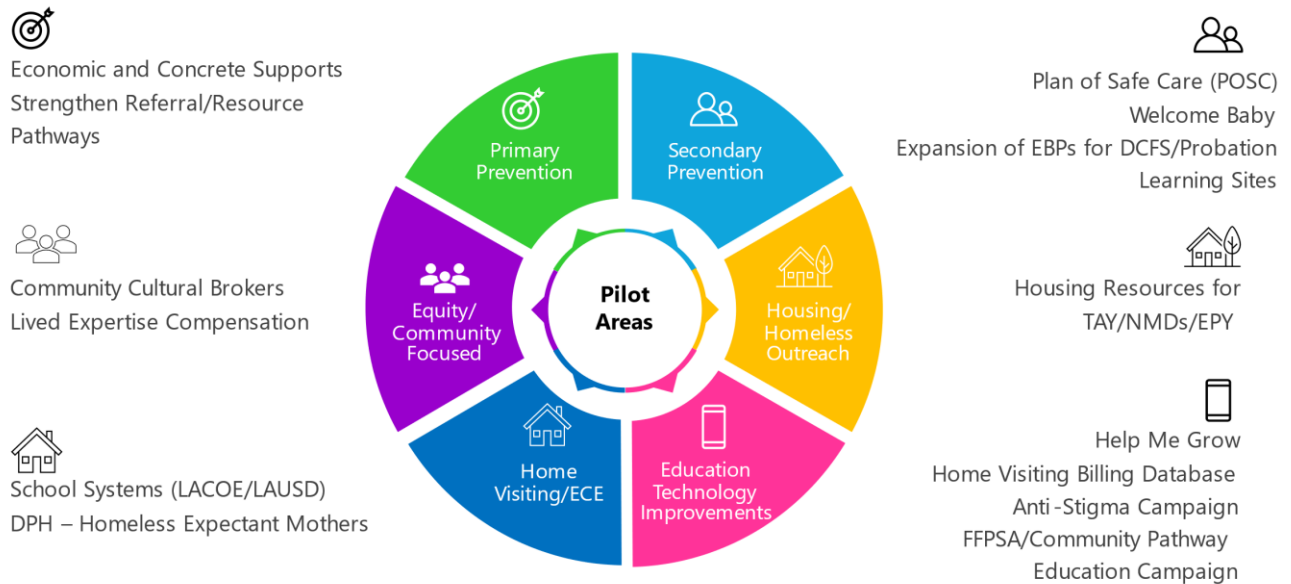
Selected Family First EBPs

- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Healthy Families America (HFA) (child welfare protocol)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)
- Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

Community Promotion & Prevention Pilots (36% of State Funds)

In keeping with the Los Angeles County transformative vision of inclusion, equity and community, the family serving departments of Los Angeles County will lean into community partners who also serve families to ensure supports and services are available through community promotion & prevention pilots. There is broad commitment to align and coordinate multiple prevention-focused initiatives such as Thriving Families Safer Children (TFSC), Family First, the Prevention Services Task Force, the Poverty Alleviation Initiative (PAI) and others with a specific focus on community-led primary and secondary prevention efforts. Additional pilots and demonstration projects for non-Family First services will be tested over the next three years.

Community Pathway



Community Promotion and Prevention Pilots	
Community Capacity Building	Description
SPA-Based Community-led Projects	Funding will be provided to each SPA for an identified community need based on grassroots community input and other factors. Research will also be conducted to track identified outcomes
Thriving Families Safer Children (TFSC)	Description
Project Allocation	Funding to support five TFSC projects
TAY Guaranteed Income	Description
Transition Age Youth	Guaranteed income to support long-term self-sufficiency of transitional age youth
HOSPITALS	Description
Pilots integrating community pathways referrals and Plan of Safe care planning into the post-partum birthing environment	Two pilots testing hospital-based referrals to community pathway and FFPSA resources for families with substantial risk factors, including but not limited to integrating with Plan of Safe Care implementation for positive tox screens at birth. One pilot will test bridges in the DHS environment and another at a non-DHS hospital.
SCHOOLS	Description
Pilots in partnership with LAUSD, LACOE and other early childhood entities that will test pathways for families from the school environment to community resources, including but not limited to FFPSA resources.	Testing community pathway referrals from the school environment for: 1) families with at-risk children 0-5 years old participating in ECE programs, 2) homeless families, and 3) pregnant Head Start parents.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS/FRCs	Description
Cross-system Navigator/Service Linkage Specialist	Community based (P&A) navigator(s) co-located in SPA 2 & SPA 6 to support access to community-based resources.
Enhancing Community-based Resource Sustainability	Description
Developing and piloting FFPSA billing/plan integration into HFA, PAT, NFP, Welcome Baby systems	Developing and piloting FFPSA billing/plan integration into HFA, PAT, NFP, Welcome Baby systems