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## PURPOSE OF FAMILY FIRST

To provide enhanced support to children and families and prevent foster care placements through the provision of mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment services, in-home parent skill-based programs and kinship navigator services.

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## CANDIDACY

In Colorado, for the purposes of Title IV-E Prevention Services, a child/youth is a candidate for foster care when at serious risk of entering or re-entering foster care and who is able to remain safely in the home with provision of mental health, substance use disorder, or in-home parenting services for the child/youth, parent, or kin caregiver. Foster youth who are pregnant and/or parenting are also candidates. A child may be at serious risk of entering foster care based on circumstances and characteristics of the family as a whole and/or circumstances and characteristics of individual parents or children that may affect the parents' ability to safely care for and nurture their children.

<https://co4kids.org/family-first-implementation-guide-county-directors/implementation-guide-prevention-services/colorado%E2%80%99s-family-first-prevention-candidacy-definition>

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## FAMILY FIRST SERVICES

Colorado Proposed Service Array:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1trNCaA8pPwjHjg27ly1fj9LEgFm73ZVN/view>

Federal FFPSA clearinghouse:

<https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>

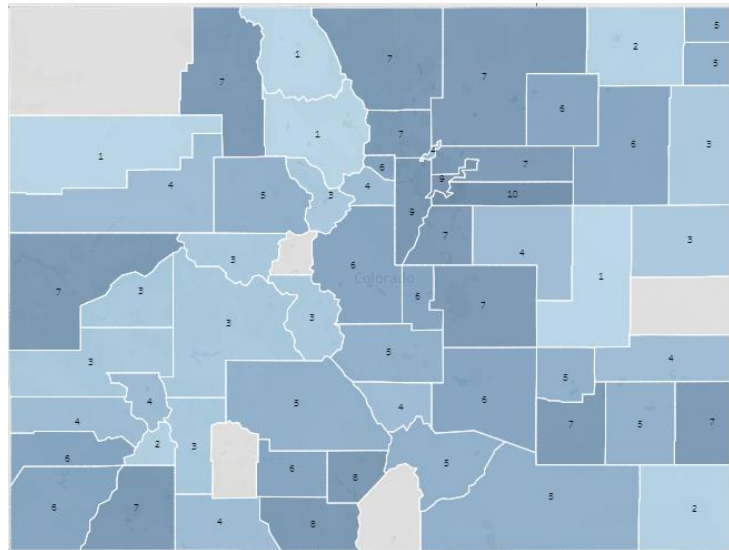
Colorado Initial Proposed Service Array:

1. Nurse Family Partnership
2. SafeCare
3. Parents as Teachers (PAT)
4. Healthy Families America
5. Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
6. Fostering Healthy Futures
7. Multi Systemic Therapy (MST)
8. Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

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## SURVEY OF CLEARINGHOUSE SERVICES IN COLORADO

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/colorado.lab/viz/FamilyFirstPreventionServices/Dashboard1>



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## SERVICES: OPEN D&N CASE

- Children/youth who remain at home or in custody of kin meet the definition of candidacy.
- Pregnant and parenting teens in foster care are also considered candidates.
- Seek services from county DHS.
- Search for services/programs listed in the clearinghouse.

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## SERVICES: NO D&N CASE

- Children/youth we work with in other case types often meet the definition of candidacy.
- Search for services/programs listed in the Colorado plan.
- Also search the clearinghouse.
- Connect families with county DHS, community partners or providers.

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## SERVICES & REASONABLE EFFORTS

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Prior to Removal

Maintaining  
placement

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# LITIGATION/ROLE OF THE GAL

Holding System Accountable

Safety Planning at Return Home decision points

Placement advocacy

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## PLACEMENT ADVOCACY

- Family/Kin Supports
- Least Restrictive Placements
- Lack of Resources
- Eligibility and Purpose of Q RTP
- Alternative Placements to Q RTP

In-Home	Family-Like Settings	Specialized Group Settings	Short-Term Stabilization	Treatment-Focused Settings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based, prevention-focused services aimed at keeping families together</li> <li>• Services include mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and parent skill-based</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kin (non-certified)</li> <li>• Traditional foster homes</li> <li>• Therapeutic foster homes</li> <li>• Treatment foster homes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervised independent living settings</li> <li>• Residential care and support services to survivors or those at risk of sex trafficking</li> <li>• Settings providing prenatal, postpartum or parenting supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and stabilization</li> <li>• Respite, foster</li> <li>• Respite, transitioning from facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (Q RTPs)</li> <li>• Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (P RTFs)</li> <li>• Division of Youth Services facilities</li> </ul>

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- Youth Voice
- Participation
- Family and Permanency Meeting
- Accountability to the process

## INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT - GAL ROLE

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## DELINQUENCY

- Candidacy and Prevention Services
  - Required Findings
  - QRTP Process

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# EFFECTIVE USE OF CASE CONSULTANTS

Enhanced GAL Investigation and thinking outside the box

Information to Inform the  
Independent Assessment

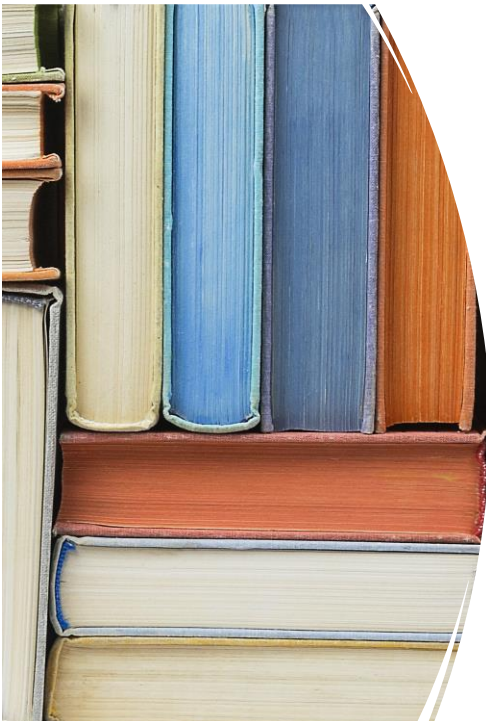
Placement  
solutions

Finding Community  
Resources

Finding family  
connections

Ongoing communication  
with the youth

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## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

CDHS Hub:

<https://co4kids.org/judicial-and-legal-community>

QRTF Benchcard: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1q5Z90SQyopKQdKoLBZ3FVWFQLCd9td5/view>

Independent Assessment-QRTF Toolkit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nwJHWHlkPhmdw4Ehzuqo-qUw6lk3dj5R>

ABA Center on Children and the Law Legal Guide:

[https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child\\_law/ffpsa-tool-legal-community-engagement.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/ffpsa-tool-legal-community-engagement.pdf)

*Family First Prevention Services Act in Colorado: An Implementation Guide for County Directors*

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