



FAMILY FIRST HAWAI'I: KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

What is FFPSA?

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First, or FFPSA) provides the Hawai'i Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services Branch (CWS) with an exciting opportunity to strengthen families so more children can remain safely at home with their parents and relatives.

When will FFPSA be in effect?

Implementation will begin in October 2021.

How does FFPSA support the CWS goal of strengthening families?

FFPSA recognizes that families can often provide safe and loving care if they have the support and services they need. Through new FFPSA funding, families, including expectant and parenting youth in foster care, can access evidence-based services in the areas of:



- Parenting skills and supports
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse treatment

How does FFPSA fit in with what CWS is already doing?

The Hawai'i FFPSA prevention plan builds on successful initiatives like the IV-E Waiver and 'Ohana Nui and expands our statewide partnerships. Through work groups and community meetings, we are collaborating with state agencies, social service providers, and families, teens, and young adults with lived experience to identify qualifying prevention services that best meet the needs of the families of Hawai'i.



Why is CWS embracing FFPSA?

- Strengthening families keeps children safe at home and prevents them from entering the foster care system.
- CWS strives to put families first and wants to do right by our community — children have better outcomes when they remain with their parents, relatives, and hānai families.
- Expanding prevention services will relieve pressure on the overburdened child welfare system so families will receive more individualized and higher-quality services.



How you can help:

Statewide collaboration with community partners and individuals with lived experience is essential to keeping families together. As we create a FFPSA prevention plan we welcome your input on how to attain the goal of strengthening families in Hawai'i.



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For more information about FFPSA:

<https://familyfirstact.org/>