

Family First Prevention Services Act: A Key Lever in Kentucky's Child Welfare Transformation

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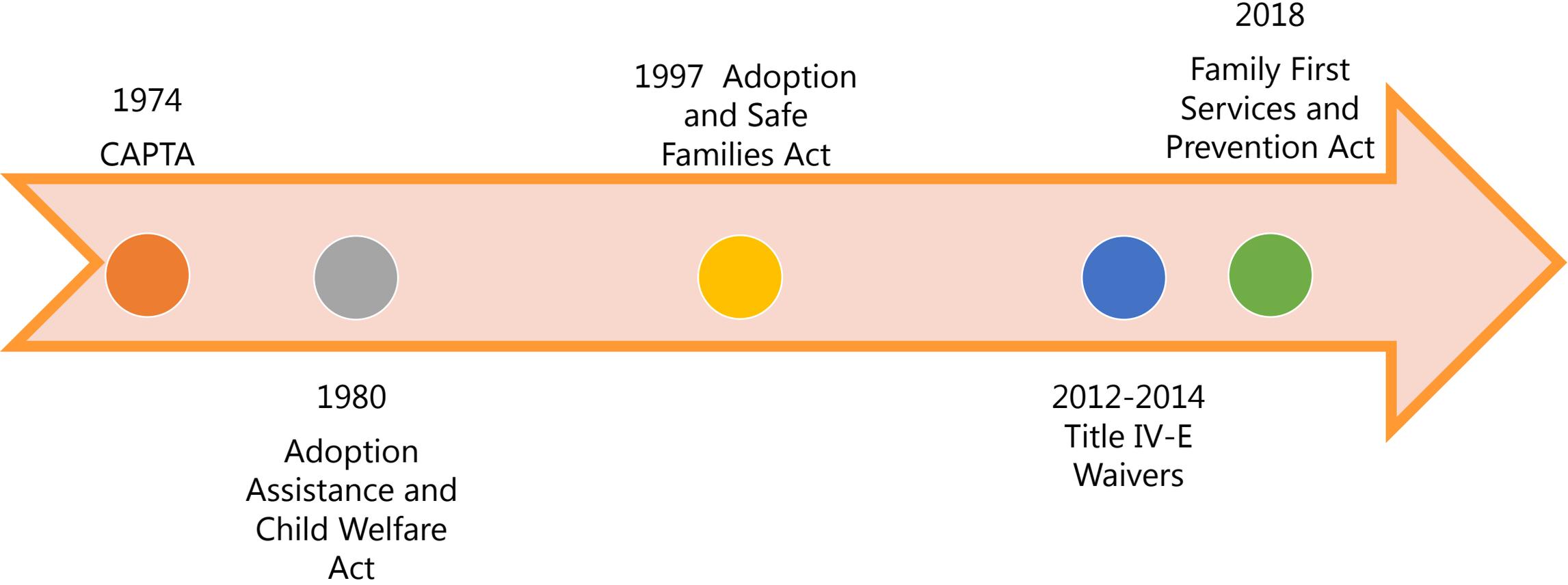
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Family First Prevention and Services Act

- Landmark legislation: Most significant child welfare law to pass in 20 years.
- Dramatically alters the federal financing structure for child welfare programming (title IV-E).
- Provides the legislative foundation for states to:
 - Reorient their child welfare systems around prevention
 - Increase family-based placements for children and youth who enter foster care
 - Right size congregate care.

Timeline of Major Federal Child Welfare Laws



Reorientation around prevention



Major provisions: Prevention

- October 1, 2019: States gain the option to use federal title IV-E funding for prevention services for children, parents and/or kin caregivers.
- 3 categories of prevention services:
 - 1) *In-home, skill-based parenting programs*
 - 2) *Substance abuse treatment and prevention*
 - 3) *Mental health treatment*
- All prevention services must be provided within a trauma-informed organizational structure and treatment framework.

Major provisions: Prevention

- Levels of evidence for the prevention programs:



- HHS will publish eligible services and their level of evidence via an Evidence-Based Clearinghouse.

Major provisions: Prevention

- **No income/AFDC test** for child, parent or kin recipients of prevention services.
- Preventive services can be federally funded for up to **12 months** at a time; additional 12 month periods are allowable.
- **At least 50%** of state's funded prevention services/programs must be at the **well-supported** level.

Prevention Opportunities

- ✓ **Transforming** the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention, increased family stability and well-being.
- ✓ **Investing** in evidence-based interventions.
- ✓ **Applying** a trauma-responsive lens to the continuum of prevention services.
- ✓ **Partnering** across systems (mental health, substance use disorder, juvenile justice, early childhood, health, etc.) to align prevention efforts.

Right-sizing congregate care



Major provisions: Congregate care

- Applies significant restrictions to federal reimbursement for children and youth placed in congregate care.
 - ✓ Facilities that meet the *Qualified Residential Treatment Program* (QRTP) criteria (for any child's stay beyond 2 weeks.)
 - ✓ Children whose assessment indicates their clinical needs are best met in a residential treatment setting.

Major provisions: Congregate care

- A QRTP must be a program that:
 - ✓ is licensed and accredited
 - ✓ has a trauma-informed treatment model
 - ✓ facilitates outreach to and participation of family members in the child's treatment program;
 - ✓ has nursing staff and other licensed clinical staff, on-site in accordance with their treatment model, and are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week

Major provisions: Congregate care

- Exceptions to QRTP requirements are:
 - ✓ Facility for pregnant and parenting youth
 - ✓ Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
 - ✓ Specialized placements for youth who are victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking
 - ✓ Residential family based substance use disorder facilities

Congregate care opportunities

- ✓ **Right-sizing** congregate care for kids with a clinical need.
- ✓ **Building** an effective and appropriate array of family-based placements and community supports to meet treatment needs and promote placement stability.
- ✓ **Preventing** inappropriate increases to the juvenile justice population; inappropriate clinical diagnoses.
- ✓ **Expanding** the business model of placement providers beyond congregate care.

Family First: Expanding access to services

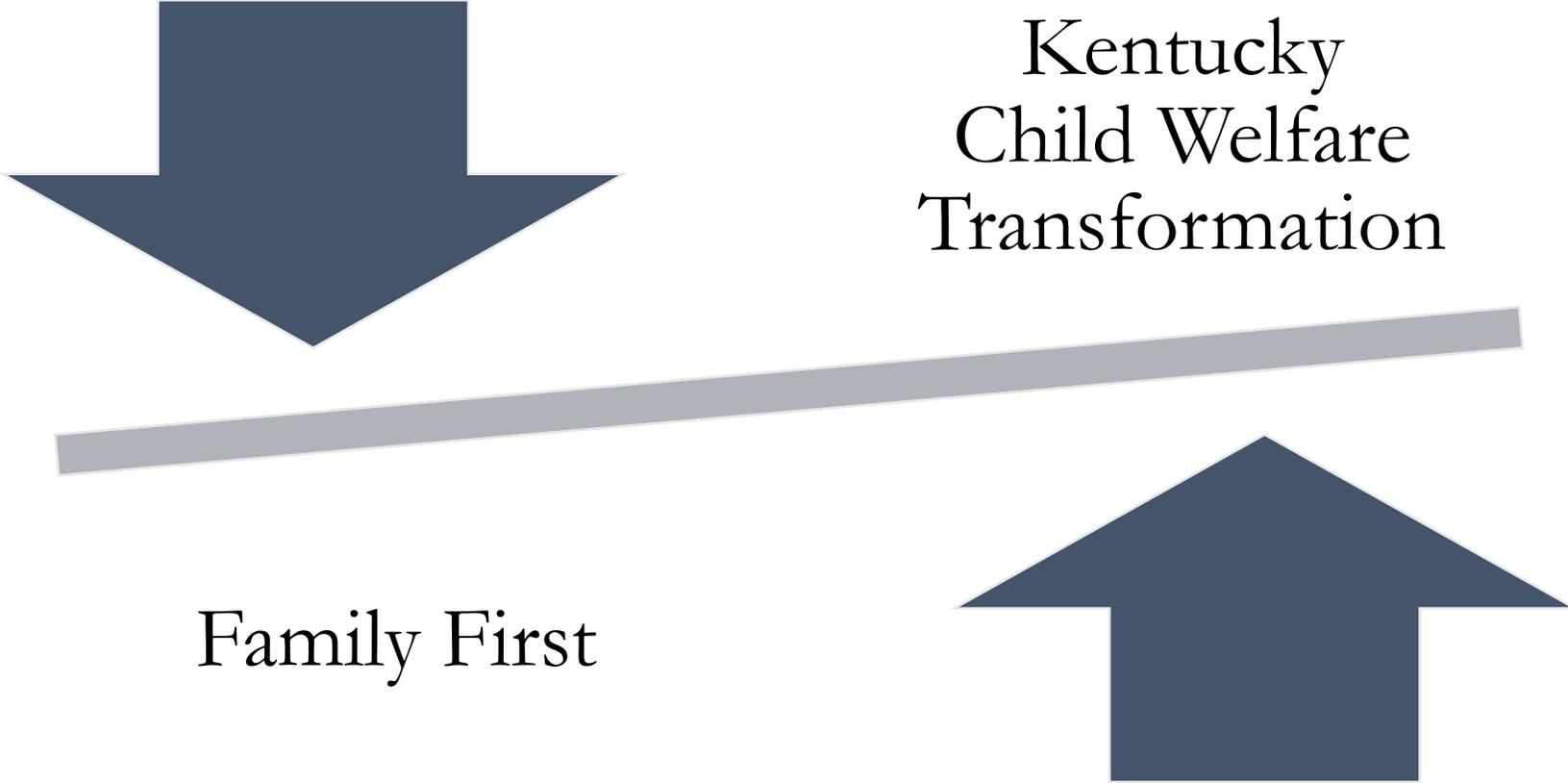
- Provides title IV-E dollars for evidence-based kinship navigator programs
- Allows Title IV-B dollars to support reunification services while children and youth are in care, and up to 15 months post-reunification.
- Revises Chafee program to allow services to youth who have aged out up to age 23
- Allows 5 years of eligibility for Education and Training Vouchers up to age 26.

Kentucky's priority outcomes



- Safely reduce the number of children entering out-of-home care
- Improve timeliness to appropriate permanency
- Reduce caseloads

Family First: A lever for transformation



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