

Families First: Revolutionizing Child Welfare in Kentucky for a Bright Future

The Kentucky Families First initiative is an extensive program aimed at transforming services for children and youth. It is designed to guarantee that those with significant needs receive timely care and support. By enhancing access to services, building stronger provider networks, and implementing innovative funding strategies, we are reimagining child and youth services to prioritize family-centered care, personalized support, and long-term stability.

What is Families First?

Families First is a statewide initiative spearheaded by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to improve child and youth services across Kentucky. Our mission is to ensure that every child and youth receives the appropriate support at the right moment, whether they require in-home care, foster placement, therapeutic services, or specialized residential treatment.

With expanded service networks, increased accountability among providers, and Medicaid-supported waivers, we are working to eliminate lengthy wait times, enhance placement options, and provide sustainable care solutions that emphasize the well-being, safety, and development of Kentucky's children and youth.

FAMILIES FIRST GOALS

- Immediate access to comprehensive child and youth services.
- Individualized care plans tailored to each child's unique needs.
- Stronger partnerships with providers, families, and communities.
- More funding opportunities for child welfare programs.
- Enhanced accountability and provider standards.

Families First seeks to create a unified, integrated, and child and youth centered care framework that addresses the diverse needs of Kentucky's young population. By enhancing coordination across health, education, social services, and other key sectors, Families First aims to ensure that every child and youth receives the necessary support to achieve their full potential.



Email: familiesfirst@ky.gov