



# Child Welfare and Early Childhood: Cross-Systems Collaboration to Improve Outcomes for Young Children and Their Families

## Webinar #5: Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Opportunities for Early Childhood Programs

Moderator: Cynthia L. Tate, Ph.D.  
BUILD Initiative  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022



# Objectives of the Series

- *Raise awareness about young children and their families encountering or involved with the child welfare system*
- *Educate participants about the racial disparities in family separation from child welfare involvement*
- *Promote opportunities and strategies for prevention for families and communities*
- *Provide examples of cross-systems collaboration on behalf of our youngest children*

# Objectives of Webinar #5: FFPSA and Early Childhood

- To learn about the FFPSA and how it is being used nationally to expand Home Visiting programs.
- To take a focused, “on the ground” look at one state’s (Illinois) expansion of Home Visiting under FFPSA.

# Presenters

- Clare Anderson, MSW, Senior Policy Fellow, Chapin Hall
- Pfeffer Eisin, Director, Erikson/ DCFS Early Childhood Program
- Thay Giurgius, Manager, Erikson/ DCFS Home Visiting Program
- Andria Goss, Associate Vice President, Clinical and Community Services

# How to Participate

1

Introduce yourself in the chat

2

Answer the poll questions

3

Put your questions for the panelists in the chat or Q&A

4

Complete the survey at the end



# Family First & Home Visiting: Emerging Considerations in Early Implementation

Clare Anderson, MSW  
Senior Policy Fellow

May 18, 2022

BUILD Initiative Panel



# FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Two Inter-Related Strategies Emerging

- Home Visiting as Central to State Family First Approaches
- Community Pathways as Structural Redesign of Child Welfare

# Family First Prevention Plans: *National Landscape*

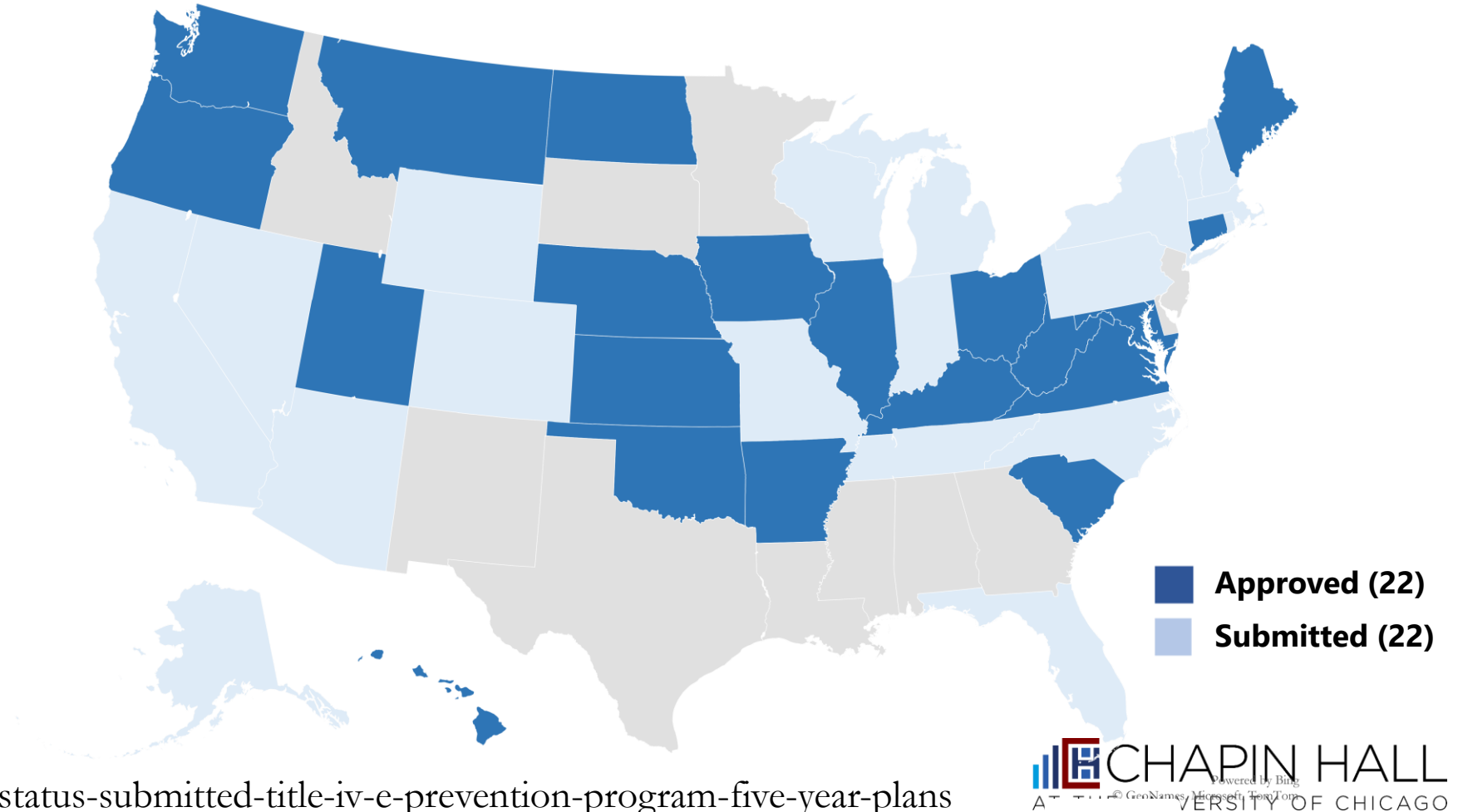
## Additional Plans

### **Approved:**

- Washington, DC
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

### **Submitted:**

- Aleut Community of St. Paul Island
- Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data/status-submitted-title-iv-e-prevention-program-five-year-plans>



# Intersection of MIECHV & Family First

| MIECHV Home Visiting Program        | Family First Clearinghouse Rating | Number of States Including Model in Family First Plan | States<br>(Bold indicates approval)   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Child First</b>                  | Supported                         | 0   | N/A   |
| <b>Family Check Up for Children</b> | Well-Supported                    | 2   | - California<br>- New York  |
| <b>Family Spirit</b>                | Promising                         | 1   | - Michigan  |
| <b>Healthy Families America</b>     | Well-Supported                    | 21  | - Arizona - <b>Hawai'i</b> - Michigan - <b>Ohio</b><br>- California - <b>Illinois</b> - <b>Montana</b> - <b>Oklahoma</b><br>- Colorado - Indiana - <b>Nebraska</b> - Pennsylvania<br>- <b>Connecticut</b> - <b>Kansas</b> - New Hampshire - <b>South Carolina</b><br>- Georgia - <b>Maryland</b> - New York - <b>West Virginia</b><br>- <b>North Dakota</b>   |
| <b>Nurse Family Partnership</b>     | Well-Supported                    | 14  | - Alaska - <b>Connecticut</b> - New York - <b>South Carolina</b><br>- Arizona - <b>Maryland</b> - <b>North Dakota</b> - <b>Washington State</b><br>- California - Michigan - <b>Oklahoma</b><br>- Colorado - <b>Montana</b> - Pennsylvania  |
| <b>Parents as Teachers</b>          | Well-Supported                    | 25  | - Alaska - <b>Illinois</b> - New York - <b>South Carolina</b><br>- Arizona - Indiana - <b>North Dakota</b> - <b>Utah</b><br>- California - <b>Kansas</b> - <b>Ohio</b> - <b>Washington DC</b><br>- Colorado - <b>Maine</b> - <b>Oklahoma</b> - <b>Washington State</b><br>- <b>Connecticut</b> - Michigan - <b>Oregon</b> - <b>West Virginia</b><br>- Georgia - <b>Montana</b> - Pennsylvania<br>- <b>Hawai'i</b> - <b>Nebraska</b> |

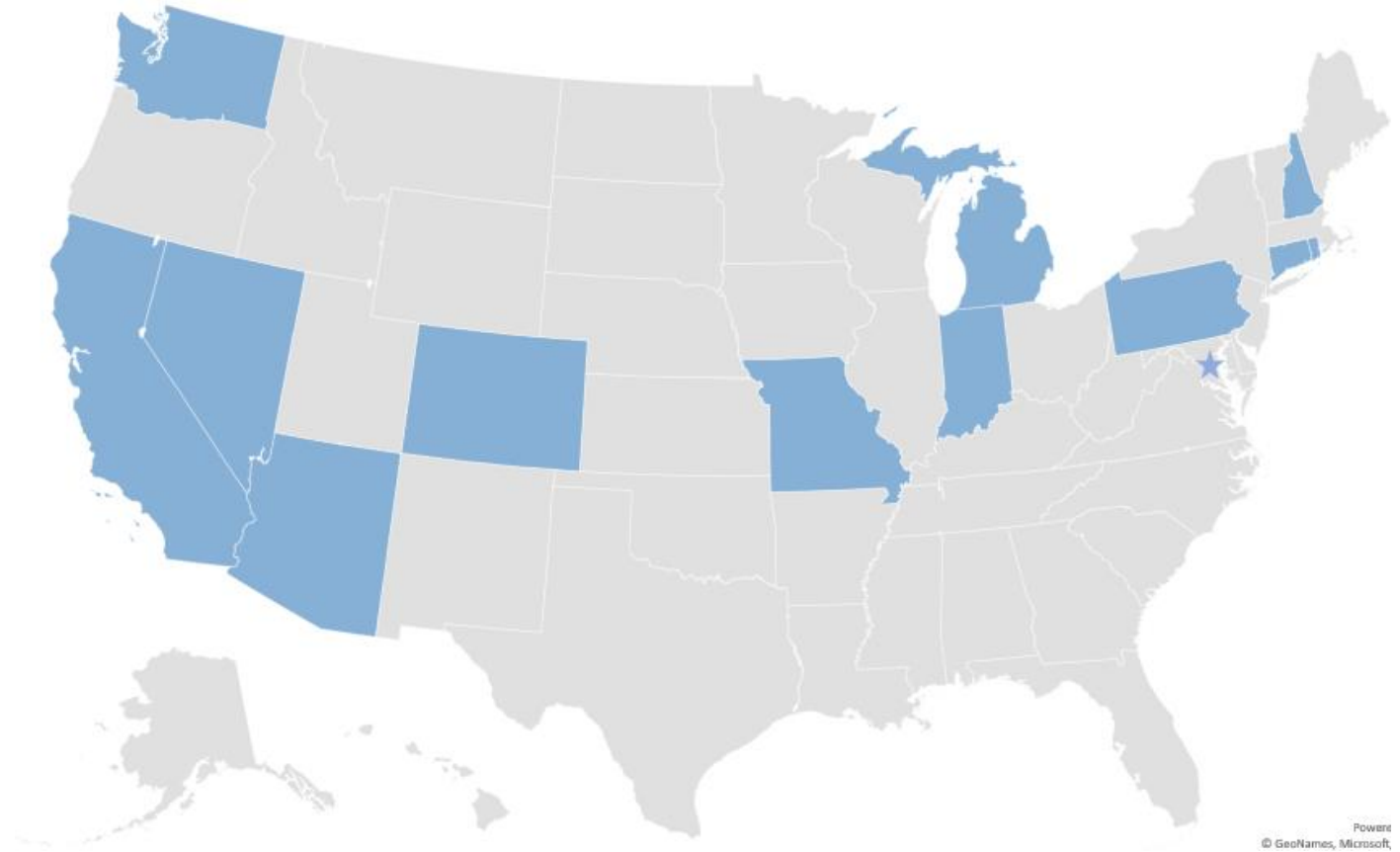
# COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

Redesign of the front end of child welfare and the family user experience

- Family First Prevention Plans
- Facilitated Dialogues
- Policy Considerations
- Workforce Considerations
- Elevating What's Possible

**13+ States**

*have proposed prevention plans that involve community pathways for prevention and amendments from states underway*



# SCENARIO FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY: FAMILY HAS CONTACT WITH IV-E AGENCY

Family

Reporting  
Sources

IV-E Agency  
CPS Hotline

Family  
Diverted

Family  
AR/DR/  
FAR

Family  
Investigated

Family  
Diverted

Family to  
External  
Provider

Family  
In-Home  
Services

Child to  
Foster Care

Family  
Resource  
Center

Community  
Agency

Private  
Agency  
Provider

Sister Public  
Agency

## Example Administrative & Service Functions

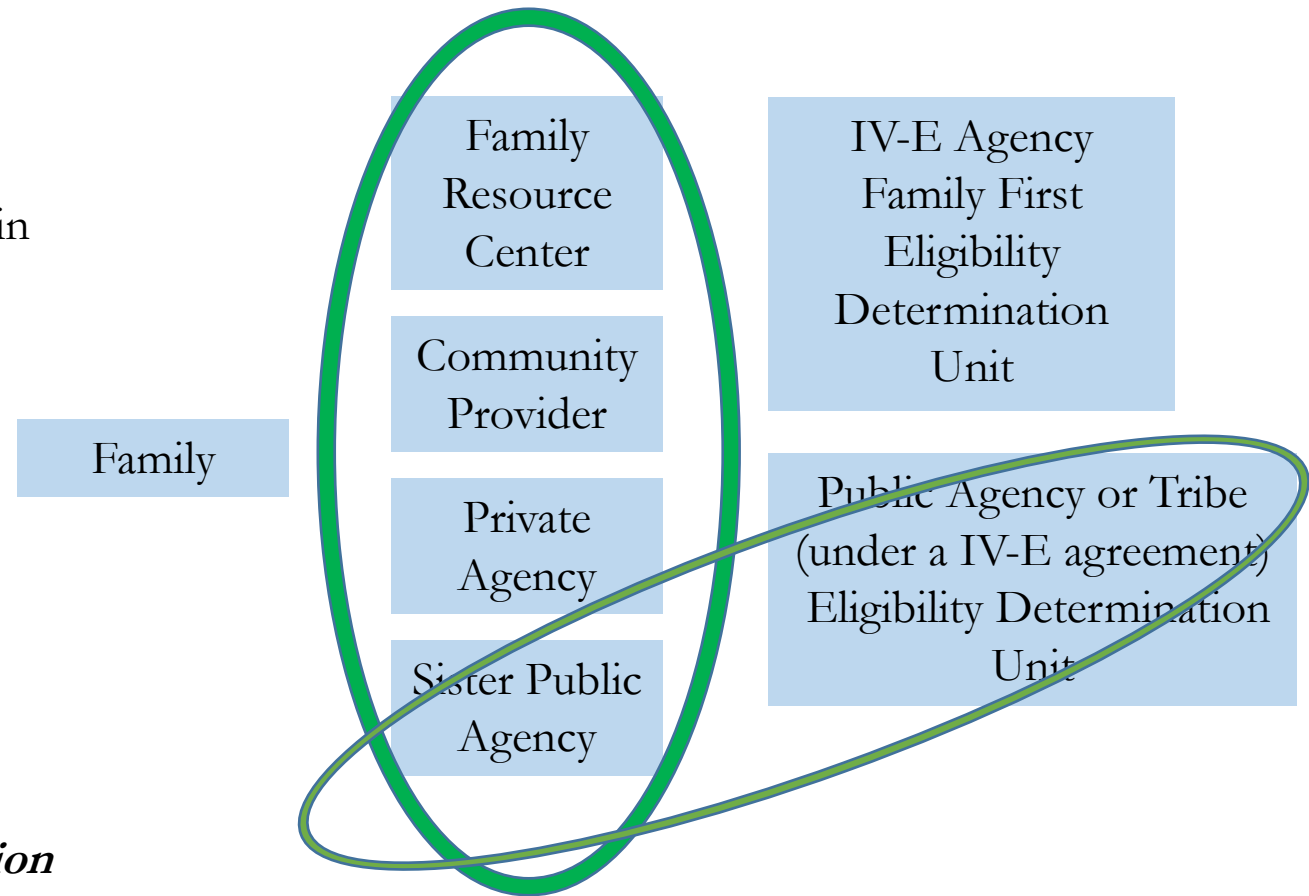
- Prevention Plan Development
- Safety and Risk Monitoring
- Case Management if indicated
- Referral for Services & EBPs
- Provision of Services & EBPs (including MI)
- Data Reporting
- Supporting Redetermination

# SCENARIO FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY: FAMILY HAS NO CONTACT WITH IV-E AGENCY

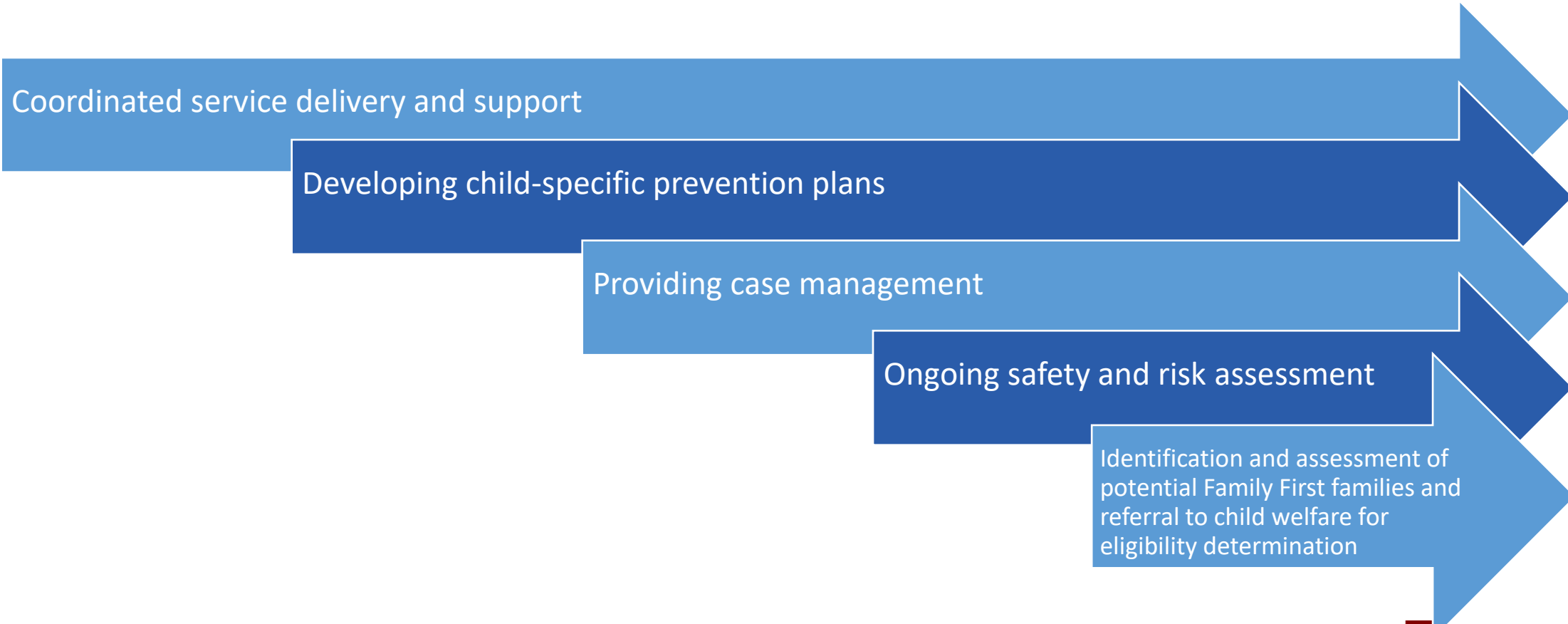
## Example Administrative & Service Functions

- Assessment of Need for Family First Services
- Information sharing with IV-E Agency to assist in eligibility determination
- Prevention Plan Development
- Safety and Risk Monitoring
- Case Management if indicated
- Referral for Services & EBPs
- Provision of Services & EBPs (including MI)
- Data Reporting
- Supporting Redetermination

***Public Agencies & Tribes under a IV-E Agreement can also make the determination that a child is a candidate for foster care.***

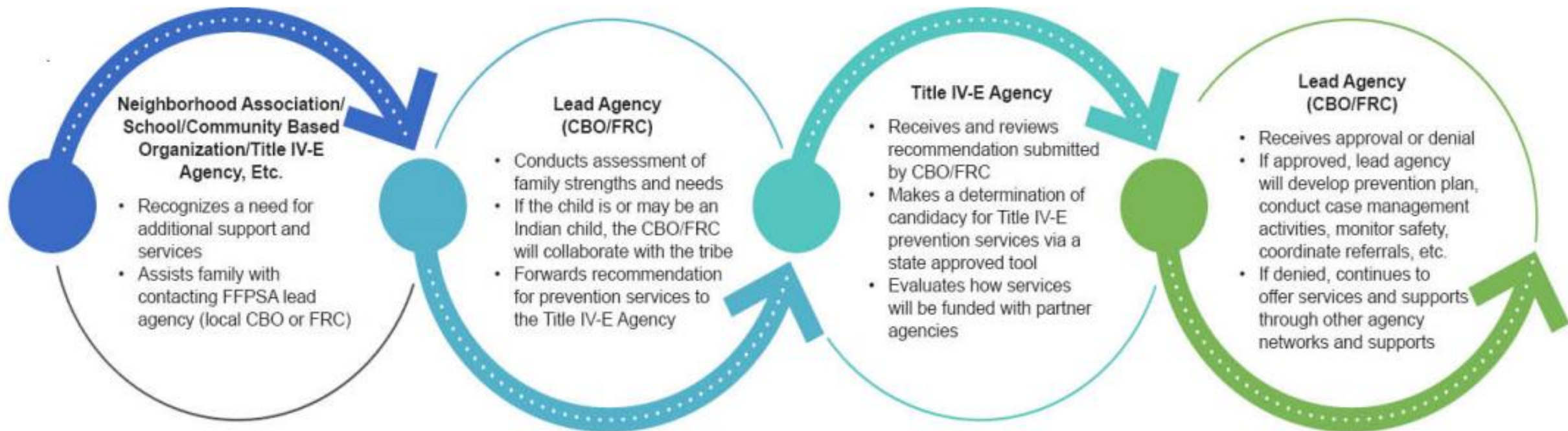


# FAMILY FIRST POSSIBILITIES: A CONTINUUM OF ENGAGEMENT IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING EBP



# California

***Allows eligible families to be served through trusted community-based organizations and Family Resource Centers with the benefit of Title IV-E funds and no on-going direct child welfare involvement.***



## BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- *Increased investment* in community and home visiting capacity to engage and serve families
- Prevention services provided to families through *trusted community entities and home visiting*
- Family prevention service experience *outside* of the traditional child welfare paradigm
- *Flexibility* in how community pathways can be conceptualized and implemented toward a reduction in the CPS footprint in families' lives
- *Stronger partnerships* between child welfare agencies, community entities, and providers of evidence-based services like HV



## CHALLENGES AND TENSIONS

- *Optimizing flexibility* within the Family First legislative framework
- Increasing access to home visiting as a voluntary program
- Increasing access to prevention services *without* increasing surveillance or facilitating unnecessary child welfare system involvement
- *Balancing* data reporting requirements and family consent and privacy
- *Maximizing community agency* while maintaining required functions of the state title IV-E agency
- *Building community infrastructure and capacity* to perform required care, coordination and data functions



# Family First & Home Visiting: Emerging Considerations in Early Implementation

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# Erikson Institute DCFS Early Childhood Project







# Erikson DCFS Early Childhood Project addresses needs of young children who are involved with DCFS

## **The B. H Consent Decree- 1998**

Identified the need for Illinois DCFS to identify young children in care in need of Early Intervention Services and assure they received those services

## **Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act Reauthorization- 2003**

Congress amended the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) to require that maltreated infants and toddlers be evaluated to determine if they are eligible to receive early intervention services.

# **Erikson DCFS Early Childhood Project**

Parent-Child Centered

Family Engagement

Empathic Responsiveness

Informed Recommendations

Relationship Based Referrals

- Based in knowledge systems of service are confusing for families
- Collaboration with case managers to offered assessment and/or EI referral
- Ongoing work with DCFS/POS teams and early intervention to assure engagement

# Collaboration with the Case Manager and Supervisor Around Urgent Concerns



©Kathy Richland Photo, 2004

# **Erikson Institute DCFS Early Childhood Project: Intact Family Services**

- Receives notice of all young children Birth to Three in newly opened Intact Family Services cases
- Offers individual outreach to case managers for all young children Birth to Three
- Collaborates with case managers to assure developmental assessment and/or direct linkage for early intervention
- Offers relationship based referrals to early childhood home visiting programs across the state



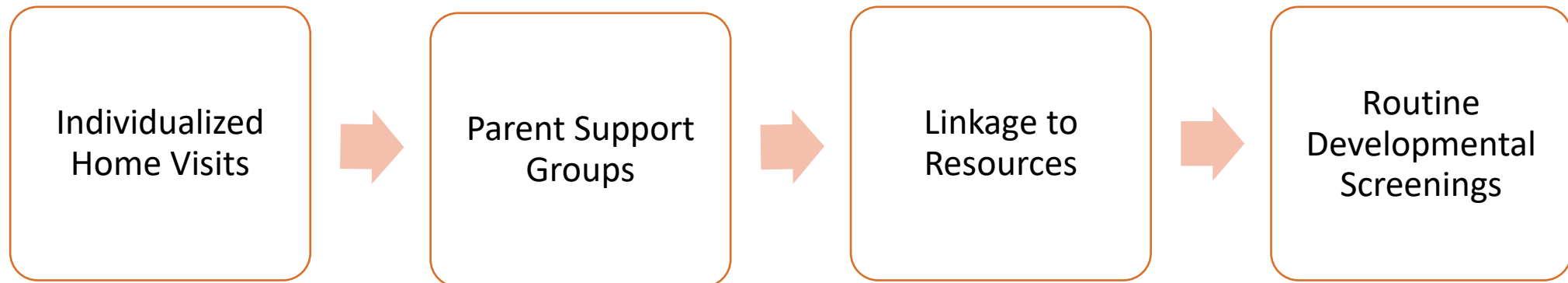
# Early Childhood Home Visiting



# Home Visiting

- Families can enroll during pregnancy up to the child being 3 years old.
- Home Visiting services are free, voluntary long term supportive program.

## How home visiting supports families:





# Questions & Concerns Expressed by Home Visiting Programs

- What's our mission? — is this moving home visiting from prevention to intervention?
- Training gaps – we aren't equipped to serve these families
- We don't receive enough funding to be asked to do this.
- Relationships with case workers are difficult to develop and maintain
- Expectations of what home visitors will do and role clarity
- Families involved with child welfare are too high risk
- Staff resistance/past disappointing experiences
- It's too much for families to manage having a home visitor and a case worker involved



## Questions and Concerns Expressed by DCFS workers

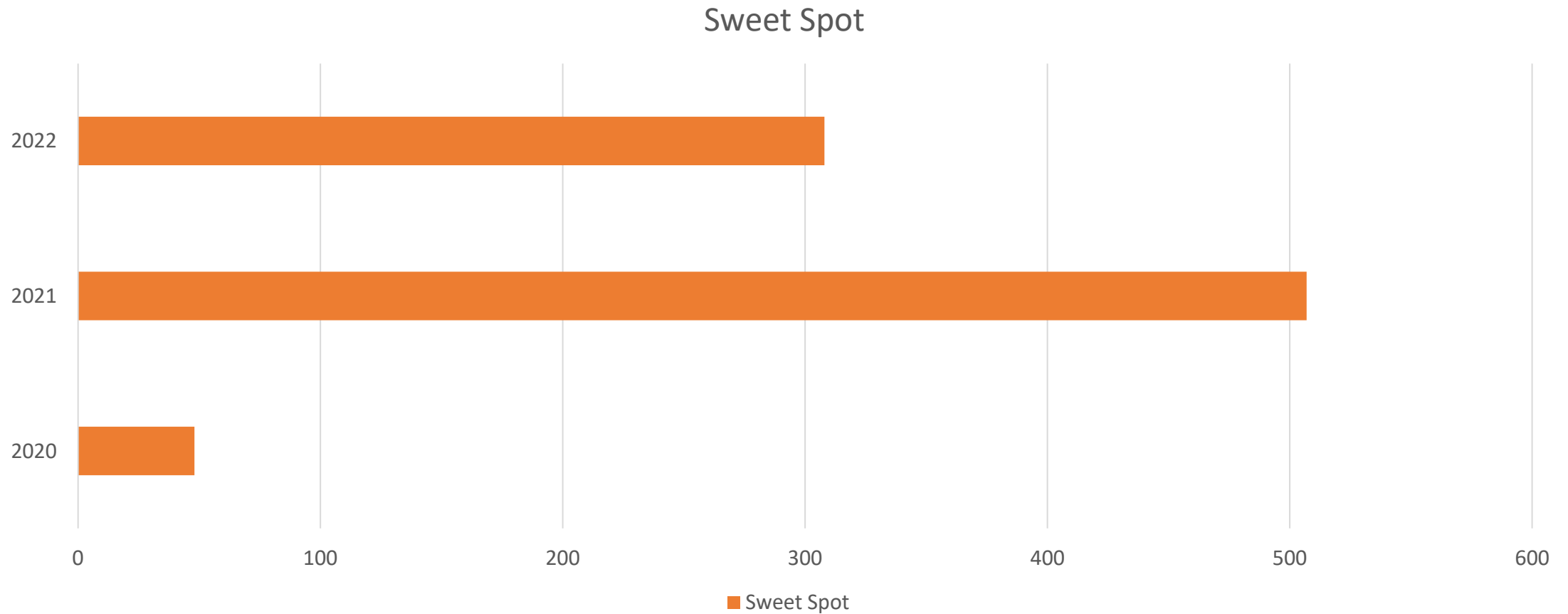
- It is hard to think about prevention rather than intervention.
  - Shouldn't a child be assessed before deciding a service?
  - There aren't any concerns for this child, so we don't need to make a referral.
- What does home visiting do? How is this really different from a parenting class?
- If this is voluntary, what do we do when a parent declines home visiting?
- Can home visiting fit with the family's service plan? There needs to be some proof of completion.
- How do we consider parenting support when we also have to figure out so many other risk factors and interventions for the parents?
- We need to make a referral to home visiting when the Intact case is closing to monitor the child's well-being.



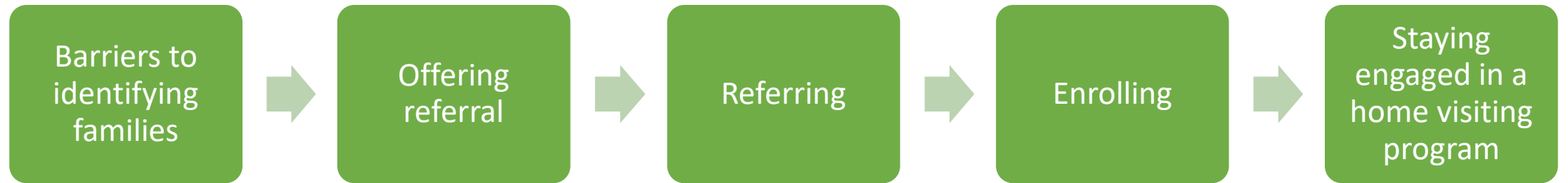
# The sweet spot

[DCFS.HomeVisiting@Illinois.gov](mailto:DCFS.HomeVisiting@Illinois.gov)

# How to get to the “sweet spot” – pregnant mothers and families with children 6 months and younger



# Encourage families to connect and stick with home visiting beyond the life of Intact services



# Identification of 691 families led to 242 referrals in 2021

## Identification



## Considerations

- Initiating outreach for families that are pregnant and with newborns
- Home visiting in the context of other needs and interventions
- Voluntary nature of home visiting



# Enrollment Challenges



A grayscale photograph of a woman with glasses and a striped shirt holding a baby. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The baby is wearing a white onesie with a small graphic. The background is bright and out of focus.

# Engagement

67 % of families enrolled are staying engaged