

Family First Delay



On Tuesday, December 1, 2020, the Administration for Children and Families approved Pennsylvania's request to delay full implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act until October 1, 2021.

This delay provides an additional three months to prepare for successful implementation of the remaining provisions and reduces the Title IV-E funding loss anticipated with implementation for the current fiscal year. The decision to lessen the financial impact associated with implementation comes at a time when every level of the child welfare system faces budget uncertainties.

RCPA continues its work with the Pennsylvania Family First Work Group to collaboratively build the infrastructure needed to support the remaining provisions in the law. Between now and implementation, the goal remains to support, through guidance and technical assistance, the child welfare system's shift to trauma-focused and evidence-based preventative services to keep children safely at home whenever possible and in family-like or specialized settings when placement must occur.

If your agency has any Family First implementation questions, please contact RCPA Children's Division Director [Jim Sharp](#).