


**Transforming Child Welfare: Prevention and Support—Building Sustainable Prevention to Promote Family Well-Being in California**  
 CAP Webinar, April 1, 2026

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**AGENDA**

- Setting the Stage – Why Move to Prevention and Support?
- Transformation of Mandated Reporting
- State Systems and Funding to Promote Prevention and Family Empowerment
- Harm Reduction
- Proactive Local Support

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**"My daughter was born medically fragile. I had no support from my family, and I didn't know where to go for help or even what to ask for. The domestic violence in our home got worse because of the stress of being parents of a child with significant needs. When the police called CPS, I had no idea that my child could be removed because I was a victim of domestic violence. How could they take her away? I believe my experience—and my daughter's life—would have been different if we had support and had known about the "failure to protect" laws. Even though my daughter was in foster care for less than a year, she continues to suffer from the experience."**

— Shelley Lopez, MRCS Task Force and Lived Experience Group member, parent, and advocate

**"Students learn best in safe and supportive school environments. We must re-examine our training and support for mandated reporters, as well as our policies and practices to ensure that we are centering child safety and strengthening families through prevention. We need to better understand and address over-reporting and over-surveillance, especially around general neglect, and critically examine how bias contributes to harm experienced by our historically underserved students and families."**

— Dr. Debra Duanilo, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

**"We can do so much better, and the time is now. Maybe 20 years ago the time wasn't right, but the time is now. Communities are strong and ready to do this work. The Task Force is made up of transformers who must continue to do the work, no matter how scary. It takes all of us living in the uncomfortable zone to push."**

—Janay Eastman, President & CEO, The Child Abuse Prevention Center




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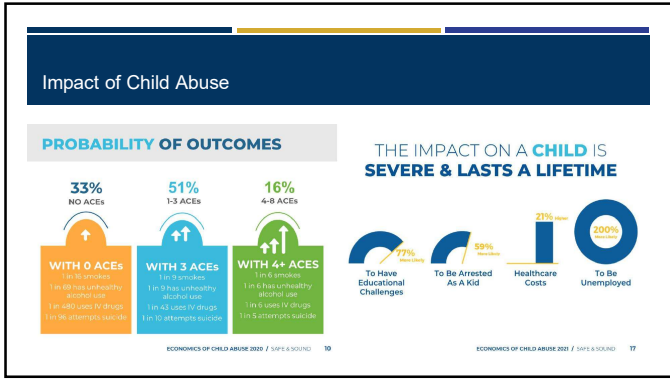
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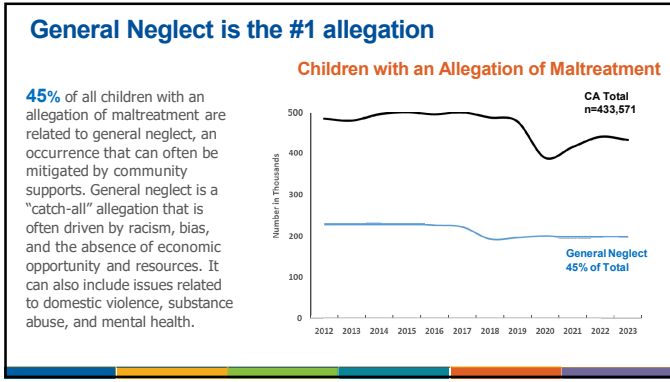
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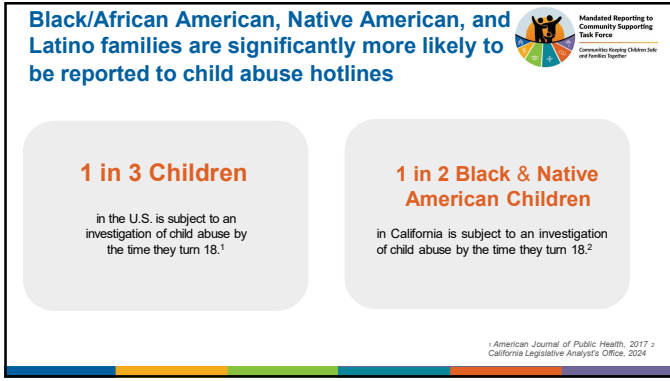
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**Additional Harms of Mandated Reporting**

- **Fear of Asking for Support:** Families share that they often do not ask for help due to fear of how their situation will be perceived, and that they could lose their child.
- **Trauma and Stigma:** Families talk about being traumatized by child welfare investigations and stigmatized by allegations that follow them, even if the outcome of the investigation did not result in formal system involvement
- **CWS System Overburdened:** Majority of reports to the child welfare hotline do not need formal system involvement; as a result, the child welfare workforce is overburdened and unable to focus on referrals that do require formal attention

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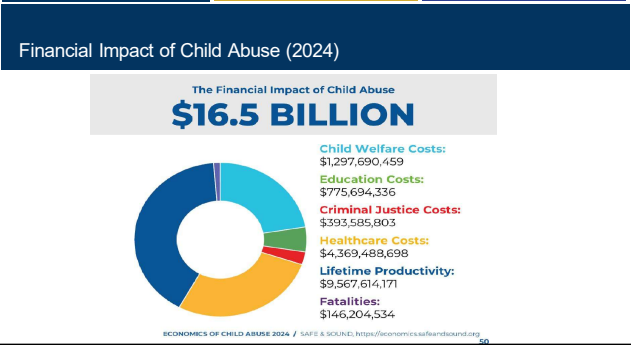
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**Shifting the Mindset**

- Shifting the mindset from a reactive approach to a proactive approach
- From services to improving the conditions
- From preventing maltreatment to holistic well-being
- Equity and community engagement
- Lifting the voice of those with lived expertise

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**CDSS: Vision for Prevention**

**VISION**

An integrated Kin-First, statewide system that supports families to provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for their children and youth.

Achieved by focusing on:

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tribal Engagement & Support       | Trauma-Informed Caregiving                              |
| Racial Equity                     | Proactive Local Support & Workforce Development         |
| Prevention and Family Empowerment | Coordination and Partnerships                           |
| Harm Reduction                    | Monitoring Integrity and Continuous Quality Improvement |

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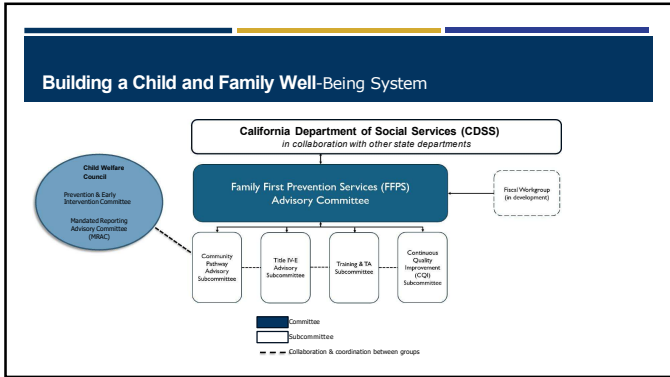
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**How does CDSS Achieve its Vision?**

**Policies & Guidance for Programs**

**Monitoring Funding**

**Cross-Sector Collaboration**

**Shared Goals**

**Technical Assistance Support**

**Continuum of Services**

**Value**  
 - Increase client, caregiver, and provider satisfaction  
 - Increase program effectiveness  
 - Increase program efficiency

**Steady**  
 - Program supported by funding and staff  
 - Program supported by funding and staff

**Priority/Mixed**  
 - Program supported by funding and staff  
 - Program supported by funding and staff

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## Shifting from Reporting to Supporting

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### Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee

- Established the Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC): Body responsible for guiding the implementation and oversight of the Mandated Reporting to Community Supporting (MRCS) Task Force recommendations. Committed to sustaining the MRCS transformation and working to eliminate disparities in the child welfare system. The committee was officially launched on May 20, 2025. Codified into law under the Child Welfare Council (CWC) through SB 119.
- Workgroups formed July 17, 2025, with CDSS providing project management support.
  - Tri-chair leadership and 36-member committee are advancing implementation across five levers of change:
    - Data
    - Policy
    - Training
    - Community Pathways
    - Narrative Shift

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### SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE

#### Narrative Shift (Recommendation 14)

- 25+ presentations statewide
- National CWLA and BUILD Conference proposals
- Presenting at statewide conferences: CWDA and Beyond the Bench
- Support from Rally Communications secured by Casey Family Programs

- Workgroups have met numerous times since June to develop comprehensive implementation plans for all recommendations for consideration by the Child Welfare Council, of which CDSS is a member.

- First bi-annual report completed December 2025.



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**A BIG WIN: ADVANCED IN LEGISLATION**



**SB 119, signed into law in July 2025**

- MRAC established: It is the intent of the Legislature that the MRAC ensure the transformation of mandated reporting to community supporting continues and disparities in the child welfare system are eliminated. (Recommendation 1)
- The new statewide mandated reporter training will incorporate content identified in the Task Force recommendations. (Recommendation 9)
- When counties update their Comprehensive Prevention Plans, the update shall include information for mandated reporters regarding the resources available to support families in their communities. (Recommendation 12)

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**Building Statewide Prevention and Support**

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**Overview of Prevention Initiatives**

| FEDERAL  | STATE  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)</b></p> <p>On February 9, 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 - Public Law (P.L.) 115-123 which includes the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law.</p> <p>For California, opting into FFPSA involved opting into a comprehensive prevention program.</p> <p>FFPSA allowed for IV -E funding for evidence -based programs for parenting skills, mental health and substance use treatment.</p> | <p><b>FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES (FFPS) PROGRAM</b></p> <p>Assembly Bill 153 (Chapter 86, Statutes of 2021) implemented the FFPSA into State law and created California's opt-in FFPS Program for local Title IV-E agencies and Tribes to develop a comprehensive prevention program, including prevention services funded by Title IV-E, as outlined by federal law.</p> <p>FFPS Program expanded FFPSA law to establish non -IV-E funded Community Pathway services.</p> <p>Included the investment of \$222.4 million to expand beyond federal law for comprehensive prevention services.</p> |

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**Goal of the California FFPS Program**



To provide services and supports to families with an aim to reduce trauma and address complex care needs early and effectively in a community-based setting prior to crisis occurring that may lead to any system involvement.

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**California's Five-year State Prevention Plan**

California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan details the state's prevention strategy to include:

- Equity, Inclusion, and Disproportionality
- Candidacy/Eligibility for Services
- Pathways to Prevention Services
- Delivery of Trauma-Informed Evidence-Based Services
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Workforce Training and Development

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**Prevention and Family Empowerment**

**Community Pathway**

- FFPS Program expanded FFPSA law to establish non-IV-E funded Community Pathway services.
- A community provider develops and monitors the Family Well-Being Plan in collaboration with the family.
- Receiving community-based prevention services from a community-based provider with no child welfare involvement.
- NO interaction with the IV-E Agency other than approval of candidacy for IV-E funded prevention services.

**State Block Grant**

- \$224.2 Million one-time funds, over three years
- Any primary, Secondary or Tertiary Services, including concrete supports
- Allocated to FFPS Opt In Counties to support capacity building, Prevention Plan development and bridge service delivery until October 2026 implementation
- Authorized in 2022, reappropriated for additional 3 years
- Expires June 30, 2028

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### Comprehensive Prevention Planning

**To opt-in, counties were required to develop a Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPPs) that included:**

**Comprehensive Prevention Services**

This includes Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary prevention services

- Must include at least 1 FFPSA-eligible prevention service

**Required & Recommended Partners**

- This includes how they would include a comprehensive set of required child- and family-serving partners

Brief Strategic Family Therapy Family Check-Up  
 Functional Family Therapy  
 Healthy Families America  
 Homebuilders  
 Motivational Interviewing  
 Multisystemic Therapy  
 Nurse Family Partnership  
 Parent-Child Interaction  
 Therapy Parents as Teachers

Tribes  
 Child Welfare  
 Probation  
 Behavioral Health Agency  
 Office of Education  
 Community-based providers  
 Family Resource Centers  
 Child Abuse Prevention Council  
 Lead Experts  
 Regional Centers

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### Supporting Family Empowerment along the Community Pathway: Funding

| Name of Funding Source                           | Allowable Expenditures  |
|--|---|
| Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) | <p>Funding from CAPTA is being used by the State to fund improvements statewide in areas such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improving risk and safety assessments and assessing families' needs for services;</li> <li>2. Strengthening linkages between child welfare services, public health, mental health, and developmental disabilities agencies</li> <li>3. Enhance the capacity of family resource centers and family support programs to provide services to strengthen families</li> </ol> <p>CBCAP-funded activities are those designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect.</p> |
| Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)   | <p>Funds should be used to support primary prevention (a.k.a., universal) programs and strategies which are available to all families, as well as secondary (a.k.a., targeted) prevention efforts, which target children and families at risk for abuse or neglect.</p>   |
| Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)        | <p>The four PSSF Program components: (1) family preservation, (2) community-based family support, (3) family reunification and (4) adoption promotion and support, are intended to provide coordinated services for children and families across the continuum from prevention to treatment through aftercare.</p>  |
| State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF)               | <p>Funding of large-scale dissemination of information that will promote public awareness regarding the nature and incidence of child abuse and neglect and the availability of services for intervention including but not limited to, the production of public service announcements, well-designed posters, pamphlets, booklets, videos, and other media tools.</p> <p>Currently supports: Strategies TA, Economic Empowerment, Department of General Services for Kids Plate license plates, and Public Awareness Campaigns</p>   |

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## FFPSA Implementation Process & Progress

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### State Prevention Program Accomplishments

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|---|---|---|
| <b>July 2020 – December 2022</b><br><small>Community Engagement, Focus Groups, and Learning Collaborative</small> | <b>September 2021</b><br><small>ACIN 173-21 FFPSA Overview</small>  | <b>March 2022</b><br><small>ACL 22-23: Opt-in for FFPS Program &amp; State Block Grant Allocation</small> |
| <b>February 2023</b><br><small>ACL 23-23: Comprehensive Prevention Plan Requirements &amp; Submitters</small>     | <b>July 2023</b><br><small>County Comprehensive Prevention Plans Submitted</small>                        | <b>November 2023</b><br><small>FFPS Advisory Committee and Subcommittees Formalized</small>               |
| <b>March 2024</b><br><small>Federal Approval of CA Five-Year State Prevention Plan</small>                        | <b>December 2024</b><br><small>ACL 24-90: Small County Exemption for FFPS Evidence-based Programs</small> | <b>May 2025</b><br><small>ACL 25-12: Payer of Last Resort Guidance for FFPS Program</small>               |

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### Program Resources

- Evidence Based Practice Briefs
- California Comprehensive Prevention Plan Map
- FFPS Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Plan
- FFPS Tier 1 Training Series
- FFPS Implementation Brief #1: Roles, Requirements & Responsibilities
- FFPS Community Pathway Framework Brief

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### What's Coming Next?

**Motivational Interviewing within the FFPS Program**

Information will be shared regarding the training and fidelity requirements for Motivational Interviewing in order to claim for Title IV-E funding as part of the FFPS Program

**Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Implementation Plan**

The CQI Implementation Plan will guide the specific activities that counties, Tribes, and providers will engage in to conduct ongoing CQI within the FFPS Program.

**Additional Guidance**

A variety of FFPS Implementation Briefs and letters are underway within the FFPS Advisory Committees to share additional guidance and resources on specific program components.

**CARESGo Live**

All current activities are working towards the deadline of October 2026 to establish an infrastructure for claiming federal Title IV-E dollars for prevention services.

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Proactive Local Support and Workforce Development

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Proactive Local Support/Supporting Workforce

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| <p><b>Proactive Local Supports</b></p> <p>Alignment of Continuous Quality Improvement activities and technical assistance across CWS services to include Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FFPS CQI and Implementation Plans</li><li>• Peer CQI Collaborative (PCCs)</li><li>• CDSS Technical Assistance</li><li>• Community of Practice</li><li>• Cal Prevents</li></ul> | <p><b>Align Workforce with Prevention Goals</b></p> <p>Analyze and adjust "front end" activities to align with Prevention goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prevention mindset</li><li>• FFPS Program Training</li><li>• Mandated Reporter Training</li><li>• CQI Training</li></ul> |
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Harm Reduction, Trauma-Informed Care, Prioritizing Equity

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### Prioritizing Equity And Inclusion

Focus on addressing disproportionality among BIPOC, Native American, and LGBTQ+ children and youth

Adapted to the Integrated Core Practice Model to ensure authentic engagement and partnership

Ensure a Trauma-Informed Approach and incorporate cultural adaptations to eligible Evidence-Based Programs

Include a Community Pathway to provide access to services prior to the creation of a referral

Ensure application of the Indian Child Welfare Act in each service pathway

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### Harm Reduction

#### Leveraging Harm Reduction to Promote Family Preservation

**Draft Definition**

"Harm reduction" is a strengths based, pragmatic approach that gradually decreases the harmful impact of an unsafe behavior or situation, rather than attempting to immediately end the unsafe behavior or remove the child from the unsafe situation. Harm reduction is used when conventional interventions such as abstinence or removal may increase risk, retraumatize the youth, or undermine trust. The goals of harm reduction include, but are not limited to, enhancing youth autonomy, agency, and engagement; fostering trust and healing; reducing re-traumatization, and supporting lasting change towards increased safety and stability.

**Goals:**

- Build on the Harm Reduction Series developed for the state's CSEC program and expand
- Consistent guidance across the Division and Department partners
- Focus on alignment with existing department initiatives to keep families together at home

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### Access FFPS Resources

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| California Department of Social Services   | California Training Institute ( CalTrin )   | Child and Family Policy Institute of California (CFPIC)   |
|  |   |   |
| Find all of the policy and program guidance pertaining to the FFPS Program including the CA Five-Year State Prevention Plan. | Find resources for implementing Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPPs) along with a list of all approved CPPs. | Find additional resources, guidance, contacts, and more for the FFPS Program, including the Community Pathway Framework Brief and FFPS Implementation Brief shared today. |

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**OCAP Resources**

- [OCAP Funded Programs](#) – List of current grants
- [OCAP Grant/Contract Opportunities](#) – includes information on the Request for Application (RFA) process and commonly required forms
- [Funding Sources](#) – Fact Sheets for CBCAP, CAPIT, and PSSF

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**Stay Connected!**




**CalPrevents Statewide Connect**

**Request to Join the Conversation!**

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) and Casey Family Programs are proud to present **CalPrevents**, an online community of practice that aims to build child, family, and community well-being.

**Statewide Connect** is a space on CalPrevents designed to bring together individuals and teams working on prevention efforts throughout California's Tribes and Counties.



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**COMMENTS?**  
**QUESTIONS?**

Other comments and/or questions? Reach out to:  
[FFPSAPREVENTIONSERVICES@DSS.CA.GOV](mailto:FFPSAPREVENTIONSERVICES@DSS.CA.GOV)

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