



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Building Community Partnerships to Serve Families

October 15, 2025

Icebreaker

Why is ensuring families have access to services in attempt to prevent child abuse and neglect important to you?



Family First Prevention Services Act

The vision for Family First is to keep children safe, strengthen families, and reduce the need for foster care whenever it is safe to do so.



Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- **FFPSA (Feb 2018):** Historic reforms to child welfare funding through Title IV-E prevention funding.
- **Focus:** Emphasizes family preservation by funding evidence-based, trauma-informed programs.
- **Target:** Provides services to children who are at risk of entering foster care, as well as parents and kin caregivers.
- **Eligibility:** Services must be listed in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse and align with Virginia's Federal Prevention Plan.



Virginia's EBPs

Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

Virginia Prevention Plan

Multisystemic
Therapy

MST

Functional Family
Therapy

FFT

Parent-Child
Interaction
Therapy

PCIT

Brief Strategic
Family Therapy

BFST

Family
Check-Up

FCU

Homebuilders

HB

High Fidelity
Wraparound

HFW

Motivational
Interviewing

MI

Benefits of Family First EBPs

Focused on family preservation and keeping families together

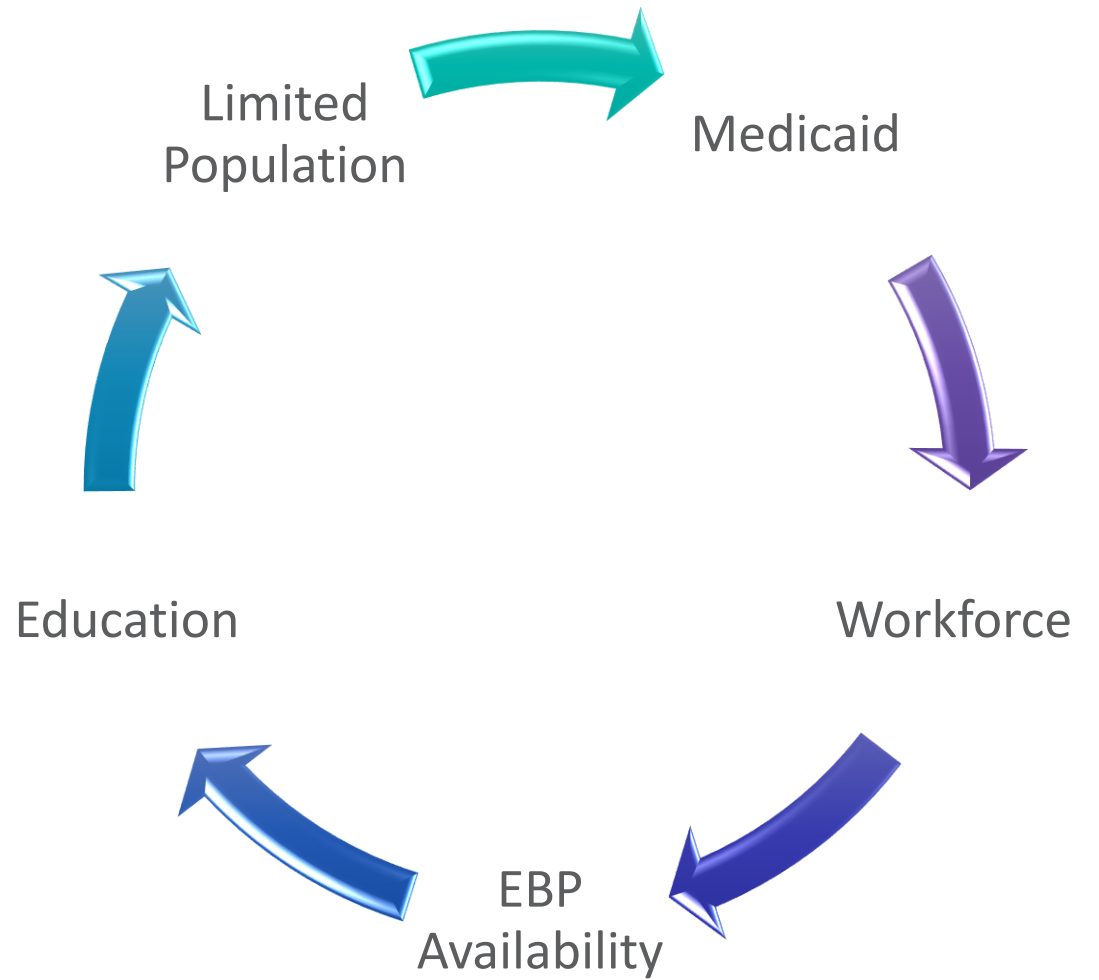
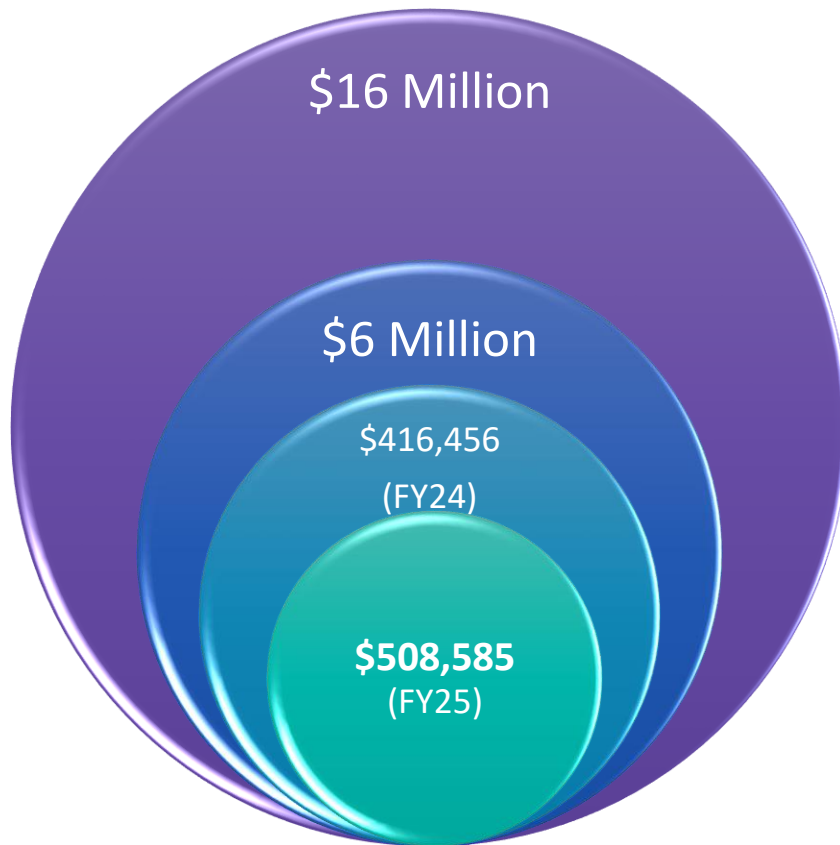
Reduces need for congregate care

Strengthens family functioning and reducing risk factors

Improves mental health and reduces substance use

Enhances child well-being

IV-E Prevention Funds



Funding

- 50% Federal Match
- 50% State Match

Title IV-E
Prevention
Funding

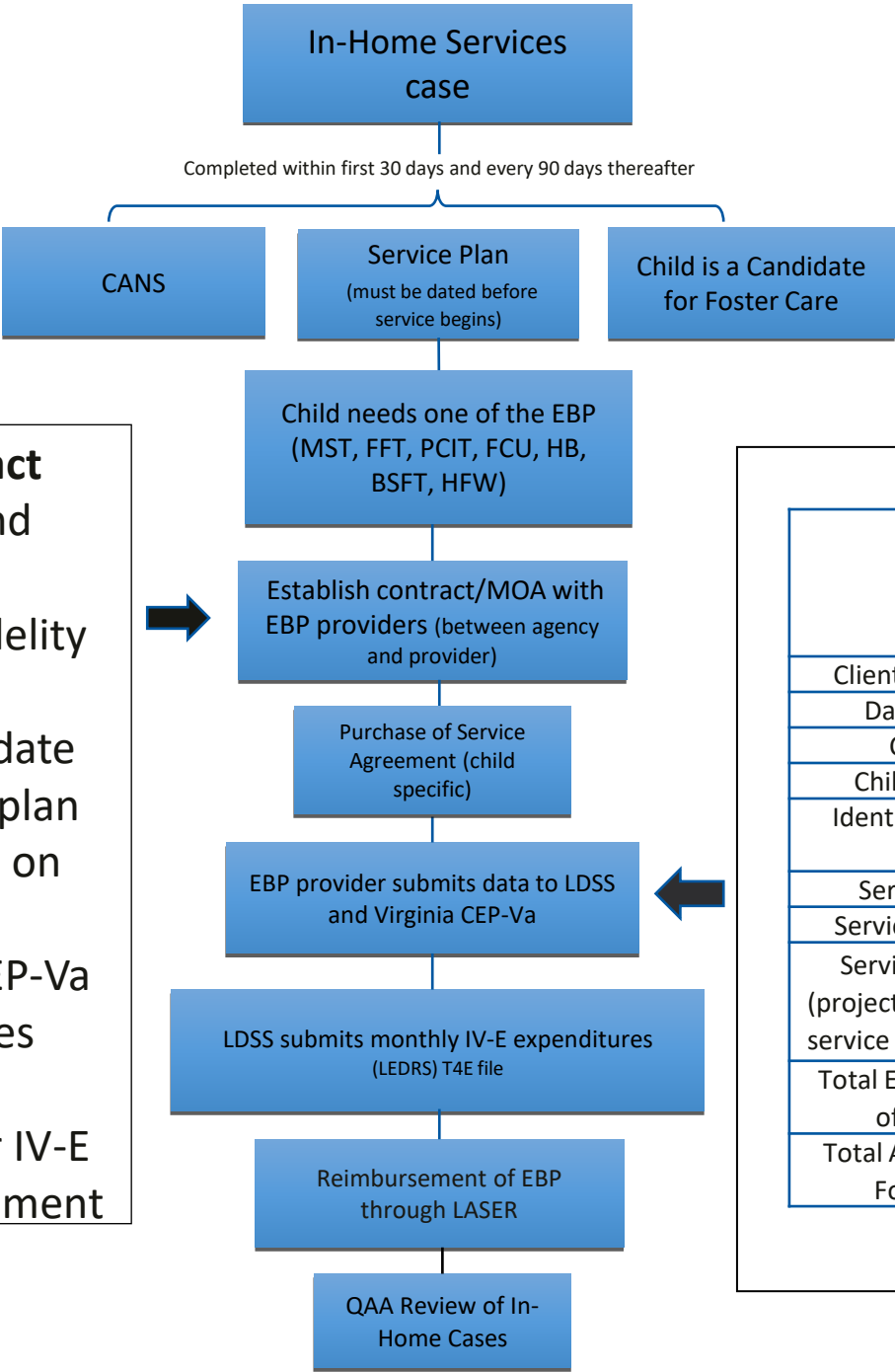


- % State Funding
- % Local Funding

CSA Funding



EBS Data and Funding Flow Chart



All three items are required to document IV-E eligibility in the child welfare information system

- Requirements of MOA/Contract**
- Maintain EBP certification and training
 - Maintain CQI process and fidelity monitoring
 - Identify child client as Candidate for Foster Care in treatment plan
 - Monitor and provide reports on progress
 - Work with VDSS, OCS and CEP-Va to monitor outcome measures and data
 - Abide by established rate for IV-E Prevention funding reimbursement

Client-Level Information and Spending		
	Child Welfare Information System (OASIS/Compass Mobile)	LEDRS
Client's Full Name	x	x
Date of Birth	x	x
Client ID	x	x
Child's Case ID	x	
Identified Referral Reason	x	
Service Name	x	x
Service Start Date	x	x
Service End Date (projected end date of service is still ongoing)	x	x
Total Estimated Cost of Services		x
Total Amount Billed For Service		x

Family First Workgroup

Purpose: To engage community partners and LDSS to assist with ongoing Family First implementation efforts and build out Community Pathways. The workgroup will review implementation efforts, discuss barriers/challenges, brainstorm solutions, identify next steps and ongoing supports.

Goals:

- Assist in finalizing the new Candidate for Foster Care definition
- Discuss and map Community Pathways (though new candidacy definition)
- Identify additional EBPs to implement
- Create steps/vision for writing new Prevention Plan

Family First Workgroup Efforts

» Identified opportunities for growth and innovation

- Communication
- Community Collaboration
- Training
- Expansion of EBPs
- Exploration of new EBPs

» Prioritized activities for EBP expansion

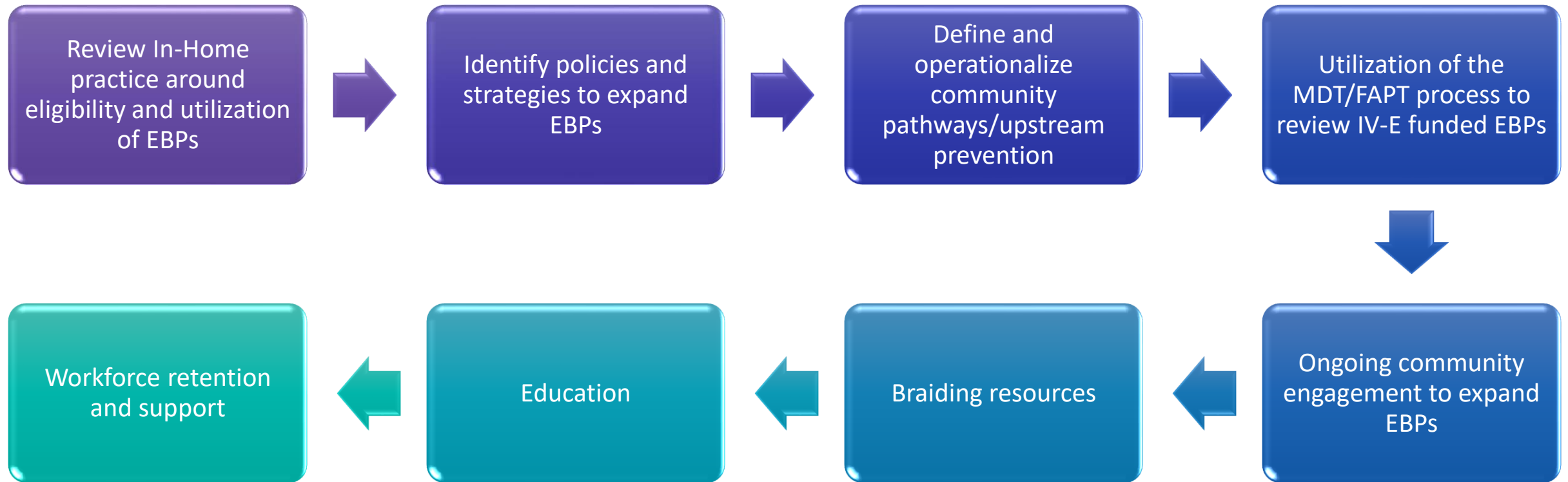
- Provide education to both providers and LDSS
- Simplifying and clarifying to increase EBP usage
- Community involvement
- Community pathways/upstream prevention

» Explored opportunities/pathways to serve families with IV-E funded EBPs upstream

- Identified touch points of families before they become involved with child welfare
 - Discussed potential barriers, referrals sources and funding streams

» Assisted in drafting a vision of prevention

Family First Priorities



Targeted Outreach Update

Northern
Fairfax

Piedmont
Lynchburg
Roanoke City

Eastern
Newport News
Norfolk
Virginia Beach

Western
Carroll
Washington
Tazewell

Central
Chesterfield-Colonial
Heights
Richmond City

- Opening of In-Home cases
- Clarifying misconceptions between LDSS and CSA
 - DSS manages IV-E
 - Services can begin before FAPT/MDT process
 - Consultative FAPT process
- Focus on MDTs and establishing a consultative FAPT process
- Prioritization of funding streams- IV-E can/should be utilized before CSA
- Identifying available providers in the area through the ebpfinder.org
- Recruitment of additional providers

Family First Subgroups

In-Home

- Review IV-E practice elements and identify opportunities for improvement

EBP Support

- Identify strategies to provide education to providers, LDSS and families
- Establish ongoing supports

Upstream Prevention

- Build out potential pathways to serve families upstream

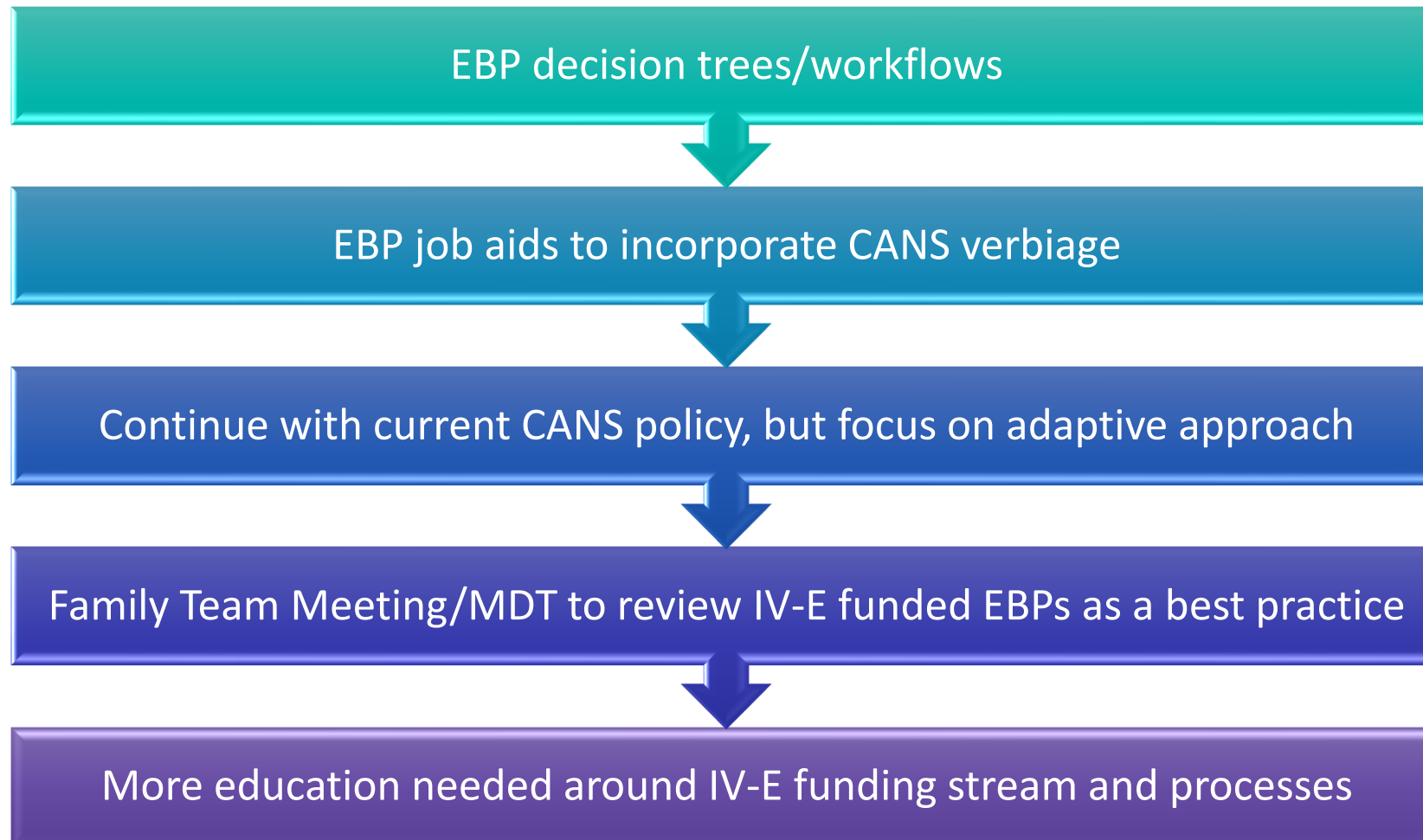
Family First In-Home Subgroup

Purpose: Identify strategies to increase the use evidence-based programs (EBPs) and title IV-E funding.

Goals:

- Identify strengths, challenges and opportunities for practice changes around:
 - Understanding of EBPs and educating families about EBPs
 - Assessing the family's appropriateness for an EBP
 - Accessing title IV-E funding for EBPs
 - Incentivizing LDSS to utilize IV-E and EBPs
- Propose enhanced or new practices to increase utilization of IV-E funding and EBPs

In-Home Subgroup Outcomes/Recommendations



In-Home Services and Family First

The primary goal of In-Home Services is to support families to safely maintain children in their own homes or with relative/fictive kin caregivers in their own communities, by addressing identified safety and risk concerns and reducing the reoccurrence of child maltreatment.

This is achieved through engagement of the family, support systems, and other service providers.

Currently Family First Title IV-E Prevention Funding can only be utilized with families being served through In-Home Services.



Title IV-E Prevention Eligibility Requirements



CANS



In-Home Service Plan



Candidate for Foster
Care



Title IV-E Evidence-
Based Program is
Available



Multidisciplinary
Approach

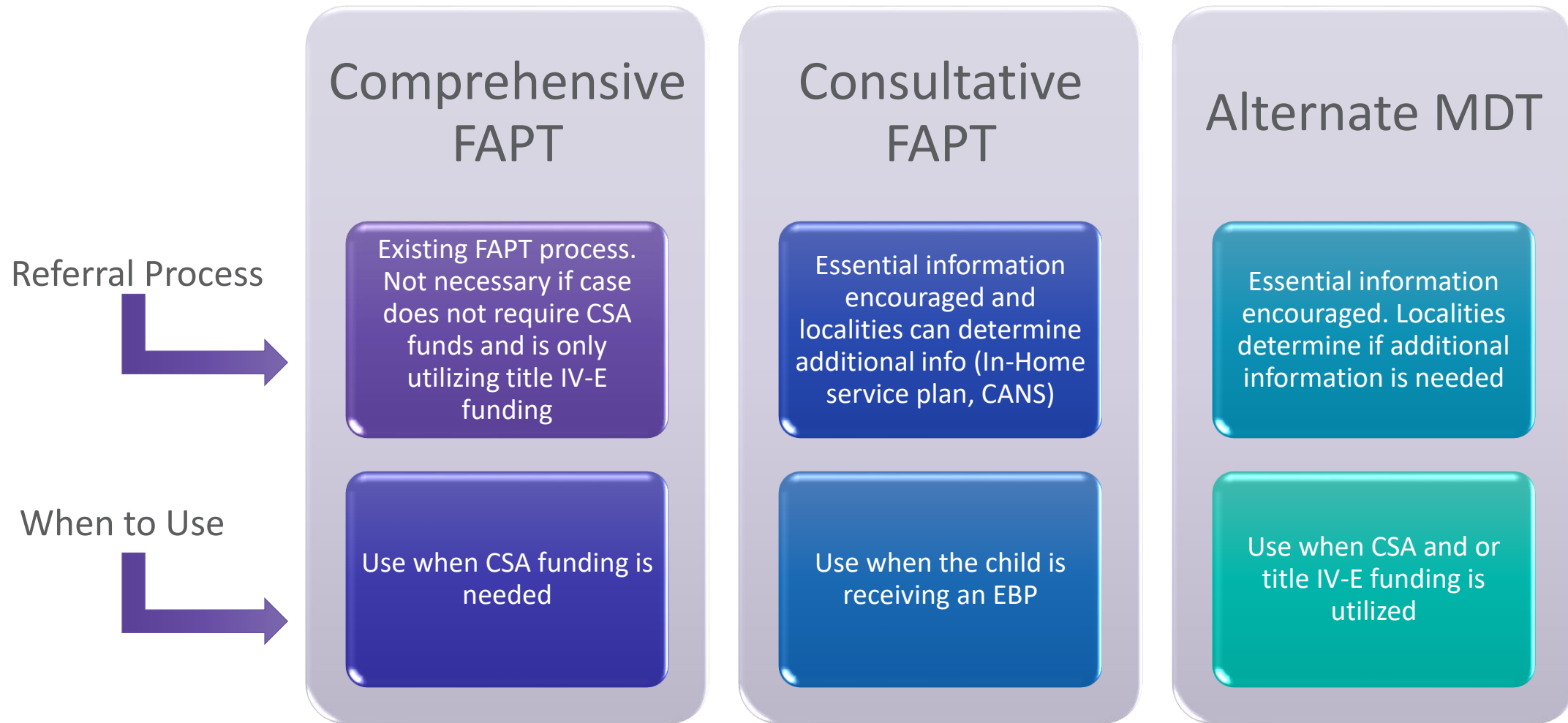
Quiz

- » **True/False: FAPT must take place before the IV-E funded EBP can begin**
 - False: The EBP can begin immediately

- » **True/False: FAPT team members may disagree with the recommendation for a specific EBP and not approve the IV-E funded service**
 - False: FAPT review for IV-E funded EBPs is a curtesy review. They are providing a consultation and can recommend additional services if needed. If the FSS believes the EBP is needed, then the service can begin

- » **True/False: IV-E prevention funds are managed the same way as CSA funding**
 - False: CSA may or may not manage the IV-E funds depending on the LDSS business practices. The goal of IV-E funding is to be provided to the LDSS for families to quickly access services. LDSS can monitor and manage this funding

Current Multidisciplinary Teams



Question

How are these processes working within your agency?



Panel Discussion

Kelly Myles: In-Home Supervisor, Stafford DSS

Stephanie Ball: CSA Coordinator, Stafford DSS

Shelly Catterton: In-Home Supervisor, Shenandoah Valley DSS

Andrea Jones: CSA Coordinator, Shenandoah Valley DSS

Family First Locality Planning



QAA In-Home Services Team Supports

Established to assess and ensure compliance with federal regulations, identify and enhance best practices, and to ensure the accuracy of data related to the use of Title IV-E Prevention funding for evidence-based programs.

5 Regional reviewers

Email: dssqaainhome@dss.virginia.gov

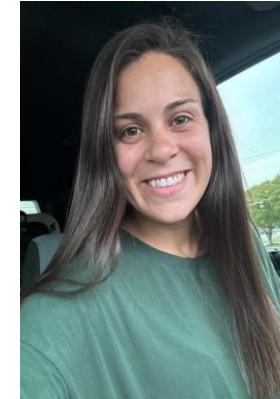
Technical Support

- "Spotlight on In-Home" Newsletter
- Tips, Tools, and Job Aids
- LDSS Title IV-E Prevention Reviews - monitoring and review findings
- Lifelines
- Support in T4E file submissions-monthly uploads
- QAA In Home Services FUSION page

Meet the QAA In-Home Services Team



Ivey Tupponce
Supervisor



Lydia Limox
Data Analyst



Central Consultant
Cynthia McCray



Eastern Consultant
Toby Floyd-Hursey



Piedmont Consultant
Vanessa Alonso



Northern Consultant
Victoria Tidman



Western Consultant
Donille Robinson

Thank you!

For additional questions please contact:

FamilyFirst@dss.virginia.gov

Or

dssqaainhome@dss.virginia.gov

To locate EBPs in your area:

ebpfinder.org

