

## Highlighting Culturally Relevant Services and Supports for Tribal Child Welfare Programs

### What Is Prevention?

The term “prevention” is typically used to represent activities that stop an action or behavior from occurring in the first place. It can also refer to activities that promote a positive action or behavior. While prevention looks different throughout child welfare jurisdictions, tribal nations are each unique and sovereign in their engagement with federal, state, and local governments.

The immersive experience of tribal communities means prevention is built into the community’s values, traditions, and beliefs and that the tribal values of considering the next seven generations are aligned with prevention efforts. A tribe’s ability to work interdepartmentally among their social-serving, behavioral health, and health systems allows integrative and collaborative spaces to provide an intergenerational protective circle of care around the children and families within their communities.



### Why Develop a Prevention Program?

Prevention-centered practices are rooted in the belief that a child’s connection to their family and tribal communities keeps the community whole. Honoring our stories, ways of knowing, and belief systems when developing prevention practices can guide programs to decrease trauma, increase protective factors, and create connectedness for children and families.



# Center Services and Supports for Prevention Programs and Practices

## Introduction

The Capacity Building Center for Tribes (the Center) provides training and technical assistance for tribal child welfare programs (TCWPs) in developing and implementing prevention programs and practice. The Center supports TCWPs in identifying, developing, and delivering prevention services based on cultural beliefs, which helps to support tribal sovereignty and preserve cultural practices. The Center works with tribal nations to assess needs and design, implement, and evaluate prevention services for families to strengthen children, families, and communities; reduce risk factors; and increase protective factors.

The Center believes that every child is sacred in tribal communities and belongs in the circle of protection of their tribal nations and communities. Honoring this belief, the Center's services and supports are available to tribal programs that have, or are developing, Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) title IV-E prevention plans and for title IV-B-funded programs to strengthen prevention services for families aimed at all levels of prevention.



## The Levels of Prevention

### Primary

The focus of primary prevention is preventing child abuse or neglect. The primary levels of prevention help strengthen protective factors and build awareness of prevention measures with all members of a community to stop child maltreatment before it happens.

### Secondary

Secondary prevention provides targeted supports to families who are vulnerable to child abuse or neglect. Restoring a healthy family dynamic and providing early intervention services fall under secondary prevention efforts.

### Tertiary

Intensive supports for children and families who have experienced child abuse or neglect are provided through tertiary prevention. Direct supports help soften the effects of maltreatment and prevent recurrence.

# Center Services and Supports for Prevention Programs and Practices

## Where Can I Find Tribal Prevention Resources?

The Center's website, the [Tribal Information Exchange](#), hosts multiple resources, with [a webpage dedicated to prevention resources](#), including:

- Understanding levels of prevention of child abuse and neglect ("[Levels of Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect: Strategies and Resources for Tribal Communities](#)")
- Strategies and resources for tribal communities to build their prevention program including:
  - Incorporating tribal culture as prevention efforts ("[Culture is Prevention Resource List](#)")
  - ICWA active efforts ("[ICWA Active Efforts as Prevention Webinar](#)")



There are also several resources outside of the Center that can provide helpful tips and tools for tribal programs that are looking into creating or expanding their prevention programs, such as:

- SAMHSA Native Connections' "[Culture Is Prevention](#)"
- "[Connecting Prevention Specialists to Native Communities: Culture Is Prevention](#)," written by Cindy Sagoe, Sarah Murray, and Sean A. Bear
- Children's Bureau's "Protective Factors Toolkit"

## Contact Us to Find Out More

Would you like to find out more about how the Center can help your tribal child welfare program to enhance your prevention services? Send us an email or give us a call!

Email: [info@cbc4Tribes.org](mailto:info@cbc4Tribes.org) | Phone: 1-800-871-8702


## Title IV-B Tribal Supports

The Center supports tribes that are funded by title IV-B, a Children's Bureau grant open to all federally recognized tribes. The Center supports tribal programs in their development and implementation of prevention services within their programs. Services include the following activities.

### Identifying Prevention Needs

The Center offers support to TCWPs in developing services by assessing needs for prevention, developing plans, and identifying resources that can support their program:

- Tribal Organizational Assessments
  - Identifying organizational capacity by assessing agency partnerships, workforce capacity, community needs, and providing organizational insight to inform planning, developing, and implementing a prevention program
- Pathway to Change
  - Bringing community together to identify a shared vision to meet the community's needs and strategies to achieve that vision
- Organizational Eagle Mapping
  - Using a cultural design to understand the operating environment of TCWPs
  - Identifying community connections and supports for prevention efforts
  - Developing a landscape of services specific to the program's community
- Building Prevention Resource Guides
  - Developing a visualization of prevention resources in the community and integrating information into a geographical information system (GIS) as a helpful tool for developing a comprehensive prevention program



Find out more about title IV-B by visiting the Children's Bureau's Tribal Toolkit webpage: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/programs/state-tribal-cfsp/tribal-toolkit>

### Designing and Implementing Prevention Programs

The Center's technical assistance providers partner with TCWPs in a reciprocal relationship to create prevention programming that honors each tribe's unique culture, values, and beliefs by:

- Using assessment data to select and develop prevention strategies informed by the community and based on lived experience, community feedback, youth engagement, and cultural practices

# Center Prevention Supports for Tribes with Title IV-B Funding

- Creating work plans and teaming structures to support implementation through defined goals, timelines, and roles and responsibilities
- Providing technical assistance, training, and coaching to support implementation
- Fostering community and partnership that:
  - Strengthens relationships and involves the tribal nation and community in the creation of shared definitions, vision, expectations, and beliefs around prevention
  - Develops communication and dissemination strategies for the community
- Developing a culture of prevention that:
  - Deepens collaborative processes as the cornerstone of culture as prevention, increasing protective factors for resilience
  - Fosters community support for prevention practices from child welfare staff, tribal leaders, community members, community partners, foster care providers, and families



## Ensuring Program Success and Sustainability

- Developing continuous quality improvement (CQI) frameworks for prevention programs that look at the process and progress made in increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors
- Creating evaluation frameworks for gathering, analyzing, and understanding data about prevention service delivery and outcomes for families
- Planning for sustainability to ensure that prevention programs and practices are delivered with consistency and efficacy
- Creating a space for evaluating and adjusting goals to meet the evolving community needs

## Contact the Center for More Information

Would you like to find out more about how the Center can help your title IV-B-funded tribal child welfare program to build and sustain your prevention services? Send us an email or give us a call!

Email: [info@cbc4Tribes.org](mailto:info@cbc4Tribes.org) | Phone: 1-800-871-8702

# The Family First Prevention Services Act and the Center for Tribes

## FFPSA and Title IV-E

In 2018, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law, providing families access to services that help prevent the removal of children from their homes. With this fundamental shift toward keeping families together, programs were able to redirect resources and develop and implement programs that provide foundational supports to communities and families across the United States. FFPSA is available for TCWPs that are funded by title IV-E, funding that is provided by the Children's Bureau.

Children's Bureau PI-18-10 states that the title IV-E prevention program is part of a much broader vision of strengthening families by preventing child maltreatment, unnecessary removal of children from their families, and homelessness among youth. The Children's Bureau strongly encourages all tribal title IV-E agencies to take this opportunity to not only use the title IV-E prevention program to fund these important services but also to envision and advance a vastly improved way of serving children and families, one that focuses on strengthening their protective and nurturing capacities instead of separating them and builds on, rather than competes with, tribal norms, customs, and practices that promote healing and overall well-being. The eligible populations under the title IV-E prevention program are candidates for foster care, pregnant or parenting youth in foster care, and the parents or kin caregivers of these two groups.

For more information on FFPSA, check out the PI on the Children's Bureau's website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/pi-18-10>



Tribal programs with direct title IV-E funding may claim partial reimbursement for the following program components that they deem culturally appropriate and meet the unique needs and context of the tribal community:

- Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services provided by qualified clinicians
- In-home parent skill-based programs that include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling

All of these time-limited services must be delivered in an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to all types of trauma and is in accordance with recognized principles of a trauma-informed approach.

# The Family First Prevention Services Act and the Center for Tribes


## Prevention Supports for Tribes with Direct Title IV-E Funding

The Center offers support to direct title IV-E-funded TCWPs in developing and implementing a FFPSA 5-year title IV-E prevention program plan. Center specialists will work with TCWPs to develop, implement and evaluate a culturally responsive prevention program that reflects the values and beliefs of the tribal community and meets the needs of families. Key components include trauma-informed care, developing a prevention service description, development of an evaluation strategy, monitoring for child safety, consultation and coordination, child welfare workforce support, child welfare workforce training, prevention caseload management and prevention program reporting. Walking alongside TCWPs, content experts will collaboratively create actionable work plans specific to the federal guidance for FFPSA and provide support as needed to implement plans and evaluate outcomes. Specifically, the Center can offer guidance and support for the areas below.

## Identifying Prevention Needs

The Center supports TCWPs in developing services by assessing needs around prevention, developing plans and identifying resources that can support their program. Center products include:

- Tribal Organizational Assessments (TOAs)
  - Identifying organizational capacity by assessing agency partnerships, workforce capacity and community needs and providing organizational insight to inform planning, developing and implementing a prevention program
- Pathway to Change (PTC)
  - Bringing partners together to identify a shared vision to meet the community's needs and strategies to achieve that vision
- Organizational Eagle Mapping
  - Using a cultural design to understand the operating environment of TCWPs
  - Identifying community connections and supports for prevention efforts
  - Developing a landscape of services specific to the program's community
- Building Prevention Resource Guides
  - Developing a visualization of prevention resources in the community and integrating information into a geographical information system (GIS) as a helpful tool for developing a comprehensive prevention program
  - Identifying prevention services and programs for the FFPSA plan



The Center for Tribes has a comprehensive list of tribal prevention practices in [the Center for Tribes Prevention Brief](#) on the TIE

# The Family First Prevention Services Act and the Center for Tribes

## Designing and Implementing Prevention Programs

The Center's technical assistance providers partner with TCWPs in a reciprocal relationship to create prevention programming that honors each tribe's unique culture, values, and beliefs by:

- Using assessment data to select and develop prevention strategies informed by the community and based on lived experience, community feedback, youth engagement, and cultural practices
- Creating work plans and teaming structures to support implementation through defined goals, timelines, and roles and responsibilities
  - Developing service descriptions for FFPSA plan
  - Developing work plans that incorporate key components of the FFPSA plan
- Providing technical assistance, training, and coaching to support implementation
- Fostering community and partnership
  - Strengthening relationships and involving the tribal nation and community in the creation of shared definitions, vision, expectations, and beliefs around prevention
  - Developing communication and dissemination strategies for the community
- Developing a culture of prevention
  - Deepening collaborative processes as the cornerstone of culture as prevention, increasing protective factors for resilience
  - Fostering community support for prevention practices from child welfare staff, tribal leaders, community members, community partners, foster care providers, and families



# The Family First Prevention Services Act and the Center for Tribes

## Ensuring Program Success and Sustainability

The Center will work with TCWPs interested in pursuing title IV-E prevention and understanding the requirements, benefits and supports available for:

- Implementing a culturally responsive FFPSA prevention plan
- Implementing prevention plans with staff, community and family engagement
- Building capacity to evaluate program outcomes

## Learn More About Title IV-E and FFPSA

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides funds for states and tribes to provide foster care, transitional independent living programs for children, guardianship assistance, and adoption assistance for children with special needs. To find out more, review the “Pathways to Tribal Title IV-E” or visit the Children’s Bureau’s website.

FFPSA, like many other legislations, was not designed with tribal communities in mind, which can make it difficult for tribal programs to navigate. To find out more about FFPSA, visit the web page “[Family First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\)](#).”

Center staff are familiar with the requirements for title IV-E and FFPSA funding, and they are eager to provide training and technical assistance to guide you in your journey.



## Reach Out to the Center to Find Out More About Our Services

Center staff are ready to help your title IV-E-funded tribal child welfare program develop your prevention program. Send us an email or give us a call!

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# Capacity Building Center for Tribes Prevention Services Menu

From conception to implementation to sustainability, the Center works with TCWPs to develop prevention services in their programs and communities through targeted activities that build foundational capacity and resources.

## Implementation Supports

Center specialists work with TCWPs to develop, implement, and evaluate culturally responsive prevention programs that reflect the tribal community's values and beliefs and meet the needs of families. The Center and TCWPs collaboratively create actionable work plans specific to the federal guidance for FFPSA to meet Title IV-E funding requirements.

## FFPSA Prevention Program Supports

Center staff support activities that catalog the program's resources by the three levels of prevention (primary, secondary, and tertiary) and help identify gaps in prevention and ways to build supports at each level.

## Prevention Program Assessment

The Tribal Organizational Assessment is an in-depth review of the TCWP and the community context in which it operates, done through on-site interviews. It provides insights about the strengths and challenges of the program and feedback from numerous community members who interact with the program.

## Tribal Organization Assessment

Eagle mapping originated out of the child welfare practice of eco-mapping. Organizational eagle mapping helps programs take an eagle's view of their organization and catalog the resources that their program has within their tribal nation, community partners, and state/federal partners, which can be leveraged for prevention efforts.

## Organizational Eagle Mapping

The Pathway to Change tool helps TCWPs design the pathway to get from where they are now to where they want to be. Center staff will walk program staff through the Pathway to Change process. The program can then map the actions they wish to take to the outcomes they hope to achieve, identifying resources and barriers along the way.

## Pathway to Change

Peer engagements bring together two or more TCWPs to share and collaborate. The Center arranges peer engagements, facilitates relationship-building, and guides discussions. The Center also offers peer groups where participants from multiple TCWPs come together and learn new ideas and skills.

## Peer Engagements

The Center manages a library of over 400 resources designed for TCWPs, including resource lists and webinars to support the development and implementation of prevention programming. Center staff can also build customized resources for TCWPs, such as a prevention resource guide.

## Resources



This resource was created by the  
Capacity Building Center for Tribes,  
and has been updated by NTCWCIA.



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