# Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators
# Position Statement
## 2020

### Family First Transition Act - Allocation

**Proposal**

**Issue:** The federal supplemental budget bill passed on December 20 of 2019 included the Family First Transition Act provisions.  Family First Transition Act has two key provisions – it provides for an estimated $7.8 million dollars in Minnesota and program flexibility to assist the state in planning and implementing implementation the Family First Prevention and Services Act.  The FFTA allows states flexibility in the utilization of these dollars, with anticipated action needed at the state legislature to authorize the allocation of the monies. This is likely to take the shape of a budget amendment, though no specific information is available.  Many organizations, including the Department of Human Services are expected to lobby for an allocation of the monies and thus MACSSA needs to be positioned to proactively and defensively make decisions that are in line with members priorities.

Potential ideas for utilization of the funds, based on the values laid out in the MACSSA Families First white paper:

Develop a prevention-focused practice model
- Broaden the process of intake* to allow for a process that will facilitate the ability to activate the most appropriate sector for a response, thus providing an individualized response – aka "diversion"
- Fund local prevention planning at the community level for community engagement with stakeholders including the courts, mental and physical health providers, educational systems and law enforcement

Create a sustainable array of prevention services statewide
- Identify and build out a core group of prevention services that addresses a county or regional approach and begins to identify and address root cause risks
- Ensure sustainability of a core group of prevention services by dedicating resources to developing capacity and training
- Build out an evaluative component to prevention service programming in the planning stages of program implementation

Assist current congregate settings in meeting QRTP standards
- Consider utilization of FFTA funds in helping counties establish systems of compliance re: background requirements under FFPSA
- Support residential facilities becoming a QRTP through:
    - Financially support the pursuit of accreditation by existing facilities
    - Development and training of facility staff in implementing services and programs that are evidence informed and meet the standards of a QRTP
    - Develop cohort of qualified individual assessors
    - Collaboratively promote development of family and permanency teams
    - Collaboratively support trauma responsive model rollout

Integration of work from multiple child- and family-serving agencies, particularly in service delivery at the point of intake for services and service planning, and in developing data collection, sharing and reporting infrastructure.
- Support data integration efforts across systems through funding potential pilot projects or other avenues that further this work

|                              |                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              | Support development of an interdisciplinary team to guide and implement the MACSSA recommendations                                               |
| **Implementation Strategy:** | Upon approval, MACSSA will use the FFTA position to seek legislative opportunities and align our work with county and state stakeholders.          |

## Systemic Priority Alignment
### (check all that apply and explain why)

☑ Equity      ☑ Service Integration      ☑ Fiscal Framework

**Comments:**

## Operational Priority Alignment
### (check all that apply and explain why)

☐ Behavioral Health      ☐ Case Management      ☑ Child Well Being      ☐ Community Based Settings & Services

☐ Health Care      ☐ Housing & Transportation      ☐ Modernization      ☐ Self Sufficiency

**Comments:**

## Rationale/Background:

This issue demonstrates an opportunity for counties to lead in the development of child welfare innovation and infrastructure, while also establishing components of the Minnesota Family First Prevention and Services Plan.

## Additional Information:

Submitted by: Angie Thies
Approved on:  [insert date position was approved]