

# Position Statement

2020

[Families First Transition Action S.2777/H.R. 4980 ]

## Proposal

**Issue:** Support Congressional efforts to pass the Families First Transition Action (FFTA). This act offers transitional funding to assist states and Tribes with implementation of Families First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA).

**Implementation Strategy:** The Association will use this position statement to elevate and discuss the operational and financial needs of counties during implementation of Families First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA). MACSSA will use the position in any outreach to federal and state lawmakers in coordination with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) efforts. AMC and MACSSA will pursue a joint letter to be shared with the Minnesota Federal Delegation asking for their support and for them to sign on to the legislation.

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

Equity       Service Integration       Fiscal Framework

**Comments:**  
Upon passage of FFTA, funds will be made available to the state of Minnesota to assist with the implementation of Families First (FFPSA). Implementation areas where funds may be allocated include the county share of Title IV-E prevention, residential programming and demonstration projects., all of which have implications for equity and service integration in delivery of services.

## 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:**

**Ask Matt**

## Rationale/Background:

Introduced on November 5, 2019, the Families First Transition Act is bipartisan legislation that aims to assist states in the implementation of Families First Prevention and Services Action. The Family First Transition Act presents a bold plan to help states, tribes and territories meet the unique fiscal and statutory requirements of implementation. Once enacted, it will provide critical tools to help states, tribes and territories take advantage of the opportunities contained in Family First, so that more children and families can thrive.

Specifically, the Family First Transition Act would:

- Provide one-time flexible funding to states, tribes and territories to meet the financial requirements inherent in Family First implementation.
- Offer a short-term funding guarantee of 500 million for states and tribes facing cutbacks due to the expiration of Title IV-E waivers.
- Delay the 50 percent well-supported requirement in Family First to give states the opportunity to build a more robust array of prevention services and give the Children’s Bureau a chance to build up the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse.
- Renaming of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program in honor and memory of MaryLee Allen

As Minnesota works to implement Families First, the capital and flexibility in programming offered by the Families First Transition Act is expected to directly benefit counties through transitional funding for Title IV-E programs, the opportunity to work with partners and the state to build up a Minnesota services array, while also giving the national Clearinghouse time to expand its portfolio of approved programs and services. The “space” that FFTA allows will provide opportunity for Minnesota to engage in important planning and resource alignment to work towards a vision of prevention that meets the unique needs of their families and communities, while also stabilizing the financial impact of transforming the state’s child welfare infrastructure – both in accordance with the MACSSA policy statement on the Families First Prevention and Services Act. Per DHS, early estimates of FFTA dollars that Minnesota may realize are over 7 million, representing a significant fiscal opportunity for Minnesota and counties.

As of November 25, 2019, S. 2777 had 5 co-sponsors; with H.R. 4980 have 26 cosponsors including Rep. Paulsen and Rep. Kline of Minnesota.

At this time opposition to the legislation is not known. The recommendation is that MACSSA and AMC continue to monitor and collaborate with DHS and additional stakeholders regarding movement and passage of the legislation.

[S.2777 link](#); [H.R. 4980 link](#)

#### Additional Information:



Submitted by: [Angie Thies, MACSSA Foster America Fellow]

Approved on: [insert date position was approved]