

# Position Statement

2019

## Child Wellbeing: Infrastructure Investment for Families First Act

### Proposal

**Issue:** Minnesota faces both a significant challenge and an opportunity to strategically position itself for dynamic changes coming from the *Federal Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA)*. Foundational decisions need to align both *programmatically tenets* and *funding priorities* at the *state level*. Our convictions for *quality care* must be evidenced by *key investments* in *direct services* and *resources* based on *our stated mission* in Children and Family Services. Our mission must be focused on supporting, preserving and strengthening families while keep children safe. This can only be achieved through the integration of services at all levels (e.g. Child Welfare, Public Health, and Education) and the leveraging of funding from Medicaid, federal, state and counties.

**Implementation Strategy:** A *multi-dimensional roadmap* needs to be strategically developed under the core philosophies of the FFPSA. In order for Minnesota to be prepared for these *systemic-level changes*, this framework needs to be constructed with *respect to federal, state, and local duties and fiscal responsibilities*. Roles need to be *clearly and proactively defined*. This effort needs to *begin immediately with realistic targets for planning and implementation* including both direct and indirect *cost projections*.  
The Association will use this initial position as a reference guide to develop a framework as more specific legislation is proposed.

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

Equity       Service Integration       Fiscal Framework

**Comments:**

Equity: Addressing clear and known disparities with regard to race and income for Child Wellbeing.

Service Integration: The full continuum of care must demonstrate an observable correlation of priority statements with % of national, state, and local investments in the identified priority areas for child protection, children's mental health, family support services, etc.

Fiscal Framework: Definition of roles and duties must be directly correlated with budgetary priorities (federal, state, local fiscal notes)

### 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: As detailed in narrative above.**

### **Rationale/Background:**

- The Families First Act is coming forward at the same time Minnesota is experiencing a significant loss of federal funding for Children’s Residential Treatment Facilities newly classified as IMDs. This reality sets up a difficult fiscal environment that is even more pressurized than usual.
- Minnesota has gone through a significant remodeling of the Child Protection system. The positive changes need to be preserved and mainstreamed as statewide practice standards. The remaining gaps, inefficiencies, and unfunded improvements that have already been identified, must be transparently included in the next priority-setting process as this next wave of change is already upon us.
- Related “pilot projects” for cost-effective innovation (i.e. Hennepin County’s Child Protection Framework) should be supported as a critical part of systemic improvements. For the foreseeable future, “pilot projects” need to be budgeted as ongoing fundamental strategies to build healthy infrastructure.

Summary Statement: As the Federal Families First Act takes shape, Minnesota needs to prepare proactively and strategically in order to consider and align our priority services with our budgetary priorities.

### **Additional Information:**



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Approved on: [insert date position was approved]