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Ohio Administrative Code

Rule 5180:3-25-03 Reimbursement for Title IV-E candidate for family first prevention services program.

Effective: October 29, 2026

(A) When may a Title IV-E agency claim reimbursement related to family first prevention services (FFPS)?

The Title IV-E agency may claim reimbursement only if FFPS are a direct responsibility of the Title IV-E agency. The Title IV-E agency is to:

(1) Ensure proper administration of funds, allocated or reimbursed.

(2) Determine eligibility for the FFPS program.

(3) Maintain a family or prevention services plan which clearly indicates at least one trauma-informed, evidence-based service for each eligible child. For the purposes of this chapter, an "evidence-based service" refers to mental health, substance abuse, and parenting skills programs that are rated by the Title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse and approved through Ohio's prevention services plan.

(4) Make available documentation which supports the child's eligibility for FFPS. Documentation can include hard copy files, electronic files or a combination of both.

(5) Facilitate service planning and provision of services under the FFPS program.

(6) Claim administrative costs in the same month that the agency determines and documents a child is a candidate for FFPS through the random moment sample (RMS) time study. RMS is a statistically valid time-study methodology used by Title IV-E agencies, including juvenile courts and department of youth services to document staff activities.

(B) What are the reimbursable types of family first prevention services (FFPS)?

FFPS are to be at least one of the following reimbursable types:

(1) Mental health services.

(2) Substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

(3) In-home parent skill-based programs, which include parenting skills training, parent education, and individual and family counseling, which do not have to be delivered in the home.

(C) What requirements do the reimbursable types of FFPS need to meet?

The services are to meet the following:

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(1) Rated and approved by the Title IV-E prevention services clearinghouse↗

(2) Identified in the state's five - year Title IV-E FFPS plan.

(3) FFPS provider approved by the Ohio's department of children and youth (DCY).

(4) Utilize a trauma-informed approach and trauma-specific interventions.

(5) Be specified in the child's family case plan or prevention services plan.

(D) What is the federal reimbursement rate for FFPS beginning in FFY 2027?

Beginning in FFY 2027, FFPS are reimbursable at the applicable federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) rate for the state.

(E) What are the requirements regarding evidence-based services for FFPS spending?

As of FFY 2027 states are to meet the fifty per cent "well-supported" practice criteria.

(F) Are costs for the proper and efficient administration of the Title IV-E FFPS program reimbursable, and what activities can a Title IV-E agency claim?

Costs are reimbursable at fifty per cent federal financial participation (FFP). Allowable activities that a Title IV-E agency may claim include, but are not limited to:

(1) The development and maintenance of the child's family case plan or prevention services plan.

(2) Case management activities such as verification and documentation of program eligibility.

(3) Referral to services.

(4) Training costs.

(G) What is the Title IV-E eligibility ratio and will FFPS program administrative reimbursement be discounted by the eligibility ratio?

FFPS program administrative reimbursement will not be discounted by the eligibility ratio. The Title IV-E eligibility ratio is the percentage of children in foster care who meet federal Title IV-E eligibility requirements. States use this ratio to determine how much of their allowable administrative and training costs can be claimed for federal reimbursement.

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(H) When can FFPS and administrative costs be claimed for an allowable evidence-based service?

FFPS and administrative costs may be claimed for an initial twelve-month period, beginning the first day of the month in which the child is identified in a prevention plan approved by the Title IV-E agency supervisor, with at least one approved evidence-based service.

(I) Can services be claimed beyond the initial twelve months?

An agency may claim services beyond twelve months, including consecutive twelve-month periods, if the child remains eligible and eligibility is documented in the family case plan or FFPS plan.

(J) When does claiming for FFPS end?

(1) The Title IV-E agency assumes legal responsibility for the care and placement or custody of the child.

(2) Twelve months from the date of initial eligibility which may be redetermined for an additional twelve months.

(3) The child is no longer a pregnant or parenting youth in foster care who needs FFPS, including youth in extended foster care.

(K) Does the Title IV-E agency need to fully incur the costs for FFPS in order to receive FFP?

The Title IV-E agency needs to fully incur the costs for FFPS in order to receive reimbursement.

(L) What is the Title IV-E agency's role in paying for FFPS?

The Title IV-E agency is the payor of last resort and is not considered a legally liable third party for costs that would otherwise be covered by a public or private source. Balance billing is not allowed. Title IV-E agencies are not to seek payment from families.

(M) Where are FFPS and associated costs to be recorded?

Each Title IV-E agency is to enter all FFPS and associated costs into Ohio's comprehensive child welfare information system (CCWIS).

(N) What is a Title IV-E agency do to receive reimbursement?

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To receive reimbursement, a Title IV-E agency is to:

(1) Determine prevention services eligibility in Ohio's CCWIS.

(2) Record prevention plan and FFPS to be delivered for each person eligible for FFPS activities.

(3) Record FFPS, service authorization and cost information in Ohio's CCWIS.

(4) Disburse payments at any point during a month and record the disbursement in Ohio's CCWIS. These payments will be reimbursed during the monthly reimbursement process conducted by the Ohio's department of children and youth (DCY) on the first business day of the following month.

(5) Caseworker-led FFPS will be reimbursed based on the RMS percentage for the FFPS applied to the RMS cost pool multiplied by the applicable federal financial participation (FFP) rate.

(O) Who is eligible to receive reimbursement for FFPS?

Reimbursement will be payable to the Title IV-E agency responsible for paying for the FFPS. The payment amount will be calculated based on the completed reimbursement processing at the applicable FFP rate.

(P) Which children and caregivers qualify for FFPS reimbursability?

FFPS reimbursement is available for a child who meets the eligibility requirements and for the child's parent(s) or kinship caregiver(s), as defined in section 5180.50 of the Revised Code.

(Q) Does documentation of FFPS payments need to be maintained?

Documentation of payments for FFPS, including receipts or invoices for the payment, is to be maintained and made available upon request of DCY, the Ohio department of job and family services, the Ohio office of the auditor of state or the U.S. department of health and human services. For a period of five years past the last date of expenditure or audit.

(R) When does FFPS reimbursability end?

Reimbursability ends when:

(1) There is no longer an identified approved, trauma-informed, evidence-based service on the family case plan or FFPS plan.

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(2) There is no longer family involvement in the identified approved, trauma-informed, evidence-based service.

(3) The identified candidate to the plan, who prompted the FFPS case and is over the age of fourteen, does not want to be involved.

(4) The Title IV-E agency receives legal responsibility for the care and placement/ custody of the child.