



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Safe Families for Children Earns Family First Approval

The Family First Prevention Services Act focuses federal and state dollars on family services to prevent foster care placements.

July 23, 2025 – Chicago, IL – Safe Families for Children (SFFC) announces its official recognition as a support program by the Prevention Services Clearinghouse, making the non-profit organization eligible for potential Title IV-E reimbursement under the Family First Prevention Act (FFPSA). With this approval, SFFC joins a select group of evidence-based prevention programs to advance the mission of keeping children safe and families together.

“This designation affirms that we’ve long known that our model is a trusted and effective solution for keeping children safely with their families during times of crisis,” said Dr. Dave Anderson, Founder and Executive Director of SFFC. The FFPSA aims to reduce the number of children entering foster care by investing in prevention services for families at-risk. This redirection of funds seeks to keep families together by addressing the root causes of child welfare involvement.

In 2013, SFFC initiated the Family First IV-E process in conjunction with the launch of SFFC’s Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT). The trial concluded in 2018, affirming SFFC’s effectiveness, with 78% of families who received SFFC care being deflected from foster care, compared to the 47% for families receiving prevention services as usual. This community-driven model focuses on creating supportive relationships, not separation, and it’s working: with 97% of families who engage with Safe Families remaining safely together.

Under traditional Title IV-E requirements, child welfare dollars were only available once a child was removed from their home, sparking concern among child welfare providers. “The child welfare system is reactive, only responding after bad things happen. Why do we have to wait?” explained Dr. Anderson. “Someone should change the way families are supported—before child welfare involvement.” Dr. Anderson did just that.

Safe Families for Children is a nationwide volunteer-driven movement that has supported over 65,000 vulnerable children and isolated families. SFFC has 98 chapters providing prevention services in 214 counties across 30 states. Their unique advantage lies in mobilizing entire communities under a shared vision: protecting children and building resilient families is everyone’s responsibility.

A special recognition goes to the tireless work of Dr. Mark Testa, Dr. Steve Buddy, and Dr. William Schneider, whose research and dedication made this accomplishment possible. SFFC looks forward to expanding its reach and commitment to underserved and under-resourced families nationwide. The goal is to make prevention a priority!

To view the federal government’s announcement, please use this [LINK](#). For more information or to schedule an interview, contact Cheri Jimenez, Director of Communications, at cjimenez@safefamilies.net.