

Family Preservation in Oregon

Frequently Asked Questions

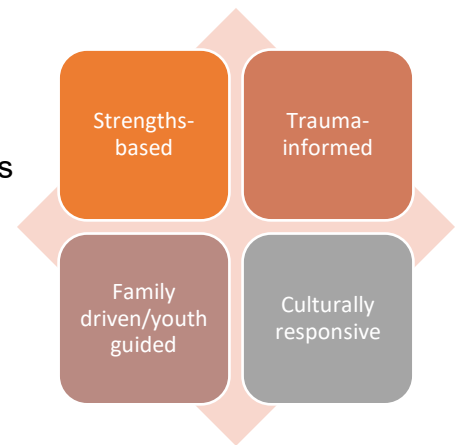
What is Family Preservation?

Through collaborative efforts between community agencies, families, Tribes, Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency Programs, we want to support families by meeting needs to increase family stability and well-being. We will do this using values-based engagement, concrete supports and connections, and tailored services across the continuum.

Family Preservation is an approach that also intentionally refocuses on and prioritizes equitably serving families and children in their homes and communities, instead of foster care.

What are the values of Family Preservation?

- **Strengths-based:** Everyone has strengths to build upon
- **Trauma-informed:** Our histories impact how we react to others
- **Culturally responsive:** Where we come from matters
- **Family driven and youth guided:** What families and children need is the priority



What are the long-term goals of Family Preservation?

Driven by families and communities we will:

- With community, develop a well-being support and service array designed to help families thrive
- Serve and support children and families together in their homes and communities
- Stabilize families by meeting concrete needs and supporting connections to community and family
- Achieve positive outcomes for all families, particularly families of color

What are the desired long-term outcomes for Family Preservation?

Outcomes for families and communities

- Mentally, physically and emotionally healthy families
- Strengthened natural supports that counter/prevent adversity
- Fewer families separated with more children served in-home
- Increased protective factors and child safety
- Resilience and healing of intergenerational trauma
- Improved well-being

Outcomes for agencies and systems

- Increased partnership and collaboration across agencies and community-based organizations
- Lived experience experts serving alongside other professionals
- Repurposed funds invested in communities (less money spent on foster care)
- Programs and supports that honor the culture and values of the people served
- Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency staff connected to their communities on an individual and agency level
- Decision-making and accountability shared with families and communities
- Reduced racial disproportionality and disparities in Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency
- Higher staff retention

Is Family Preservation a new program?

No. Family Preservation is an approach to the work of Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare that prioritizes serving children and families together in their homes and communities. All Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare staff are part of Family Preservation, including family coaches, child protective service workers, permanency workers, social service assistants, certifiers, engagement specialists, supervisors, office managers, program managers, central office and district managers.

What is the difference between Prevention, Family Preservation and Family First Prevention Services Act?

All these efforts align around supporting families getting supports and services when they need them.

- **Prevention:** Stopping something **before** it happens, such as child abuse, neglect and family separation

- **Family Preservation:** Serving families in their homes and communities
- **Family First Prevention Services Act:** Expanding access to services to support serving families in their homes and communities

What is Family Preservation work and what is a Family Preservation case?

Work: Engaging with families to support stability and well-being by offering and providing the concrete supports, connections and services families need, when they need it.

Case: At this initial phase of implementation, a Family Preservation case is one where:

- A safety threat has been identified and the **in-home criteria** are met.
- Family Support Services cases where the child or youth remains in the home are also Family Preservation cases. These may include post-adoption and post-guardianship cases.

What are the in-home criteria that need to be met?

1. There is a **home-like setting** where parents and children can live.
2. There are **no barriers in the home** to allowing safety service providers and activities to occur.
3. At least **one parent is willing** to cooperate with an in-home safety plan.
4. There are the **necessary resources available** to implement the in-home safety plan.

What are NOT Family Preservation cases?

- Cases where a child or youth has been placed outside their home due to a safety threat are not Family Preservation cases.
- Family Support Services cases for Independent Living Services only or Family Support Services cases for placement are also not Family Preservation cases.

Will there be a new process at screening or Child Protective Services for Family Preservation cases?

No. Calls will come to the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline, be assigned to the local office as usual, and Child Protective Services will begin the assessment. If it is determined that the in-home criteria are or may be met with additional supports, it will become a Family Preservation case. The transfer process will then begin.

What are the roles of Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare?

During the **work**

Continue supporting and engaging all families and programs along the spectrum of needs and **thinking big** about innovations to move as far upstream as we can in our ability to assist families with their goals.

During a **case**

- Initial contact: Child Welfare will connect with Self-Sufficiency to determine if the family is already working with Self-Sufficiency.
- Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency staff will connect so Child Welfare can better understand family dynamics and plan a trauma-informed, intentional approach with the family.
- Self-Sufficiency may go with Child Welfare at initial contact and offer families supports and resources as a follow-up.
- If the case moves forward and becomes a Family Preservation case, Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency staff will continue to work together to support and stabilize the family along with community and family supports.



What will be the caseload for Family Preservation workers?

During the initial phase, the ideal caseload for Child Welfare will be one worker serving 12 children. The caseload for Self-Sufficiency is still being determined.

What happens if we need to place a child in foster care from a Family Preservation case?

If placement is being considered, a staffing (like the process for children at risk of temporary lodging) will occur to ensure all options have been explored to keep the family together. If it is determined a child must come into care, the family will most likely begin working with a Child Welfare permanency worker. The Self-Sufficiency family coach will remain with the family as a consistent support.

Will Family Preservation services available to families be limited to those services included in the Family First IV-E Prevention Plan?

No. Families will have access to all services currently available. How a service is funded is secondary to the priority of getting families the right services at the right time.

When the demonstration starts will we be moving current in-home cases to the Family Preservation worker?

No. The Family Preservation worker will take new in-home non-court-involved, and court-involved in-home cases to build a caseload. We know changing workers is not trauma-informed for families and we don't want to disrupt established relationships between workers and families.

What areas are part of the Family Preservation demonstration?

Cohort 1: Alberta Branch in Multnomah County (D2), Douglas Branch (D6), Klamath Falls Branch (D11), Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde

Cohort 2: Gresham Branch in Multnomah County (D2), Polk County (D3), Coos and Curry Counties (D7), Jackson and Josephine Counties (D8), Washington County (D16)

What is the timeline for the demonstration?

Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency are taking a phased approach to developing, implementing, evaluating and rolling out a Family Preservation approach. This is occurring in collaboration with people with lived experience, agencies and communities in three demonstration sites: Douglas County, Klamath County, and the Alberta Branch in Multnomah County. True transformation takes time, and we want to do this right and sustainably with communities.

Phased approach

Phase 1 is developing and implementing a Family Preservation approach with a narrow set of cases in three demonstration branches and two tribes across both Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency. These sites are engaging with families and serving them in their homes with an in-home safety plan. Phases 2 and 3 will encompass expanding the scope of eligible families and developing, revising and standardizing the fidelity model with a statewide rollout during Phase 4.

Phase 1: Launch and Learn (2022-2023)

- **Population served:** Families (parents and children) in their homes with an in-home safety plan in place (non-court-involved and court-involved), Family Support Services for post-guardianship and post-adoption families, expecting/pregnant/parenting teens
- Select demonstration sites
- Implement a practice approach with families focused on keeping children in-home
- Learn and adjust: what works and why?

- Develop readiness criteria for additional sites
- Develop new partnerships with communities and agencies
- Support community resource capacity building and collaborations
- Understand resources available in communities and community needs/gaps
- Build a data dashboard and data sharing across agencies and decide on outcomes/goals
- Learning about implementation of evidence-based practices

Phase 2 and 3: Learn and Land (2023-2024)

- **Additional populations served:** Children reunified with their parents after being in foster care, Tribal Nations with IV-E agreements, and Juvenile Department IV-E
- Continue to solidify partnerships with communities and agencies
- Continue to support community resource capacity building and collaborations
- Create and share readiness guide
- Expand the focused practice approach with families
- Continue to learn and adjust
- Select additional sites
- Develop structure for Family Preservation Practice and Community Engagement
- Continue to share data across agencies and understand impacts
- Explore how to invest fiscally in communities

Phase 4: Landed and Lasting (2024-2027)

- Statewide phased rollout
- Continued community building and support for a collaborative system
- Continued evaluation regarding impact and outcomes
- Adjust the preservation criteria to serve risk, not just imminent risk, of foster care
- Invest fiscally in communities

What can areas not in the demonstration do now to prepare for Family Preservation?

- Understand the **relationship between Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare** in the district. A strong, supportive and collaborative relationship is key to being able to holistically support families.

- **Step out into your communities** to establish, build and strengthen relationships. This may involve some repair work and acknowledgement of harm done to communities, particularly communities of color, by ODHS (Child Welfare and Self-Sufficiency) both historically and currently. Lots of listening will need to occur.
- Look at **who is at the table** regarding planning and decision-making in your area. Who is missing? What voices have historically been left unheard? Remember: those closest to the problem are also closest to the solution.
- Continue the **anti-racism work** going on in your area. Actively engage and understand how organizations and institutions such as ODHS contribute to oppression when they are built to benefit the system and not the people who need the support.
- Strengthen skills around **engagement of families and in-home criteria**.