

Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast
A Guide to Implementing Family First TRANSCRIPT

Presenters: Female Narrator; Tom Oates, Child Welfare Information Gateway; Stefanie Sprow, Children's Defense Fund; Rebecca Robuck, ChildFocus; Zach Laris, American Academy of Pediatrics

[00:00:00]: [Music Introduction]

FEMALE NARRATOR [00:00:02]: This is the Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast, a place for those who care about strengthening families and protecting children. You'll hear about the innovations, emerging trends and success stories across child welfare direct from those striving to make a difference. This is your place for new ideas and information to support your work to improve the lives of children, youth, and families.

TOM OATES [00:00:33]: Hello everyone and welcome into the Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast. Tom Oates here - always pleased to bring the Information Gateway podcast to you and grateful you've chosen to spend your time with us. And of course, a reminder, you can find the Information Gateway Podcast on Apple Podcasts, GooglePlay, Stitcher, SoundCloud and Spotify. We bring new episodes to you each month, so, hey, subscribe and collect that information right there on your smartphone or however you listen to podcasts. Now, today's episode dives into the Family First Prevention Services Act - not necessarily breaking down the act or the various provisions, but how agencies can approach implementing the act and helping to answer some of the most common questions that come up along the way. For a quick background, the Family First Prevention Services Act has become law. Arguably, it includes some of the biggest changes to funding child welfare since Title IV-E was established in 1980. Now, while states have started to develop and submit their implementation plans to the Children's Bureau, questions have risen about exactly how to implement some of the provisions.

[00:01:44]: So to help agencies work their way through Family First, an implementation guide has been developed. It's called "Implementing The Family First Prevention Services Act – A Technical Guide for Agencies, Policymakers and Other Stakeholders". It was put together by a coalition of organizations led by the Children's Defense Fund. And, we'll make note the work was funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Redlich Horwitz Foundation, and the ZOMA Foundation. So, when you first look at the guide, you will notice it is big. And it's actually growing as new information is gathered and new questions arise. Now, the guide is available at <http://www.childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first>, that's [childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first](http://www.childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first).

[00:02:35]: So you're gonna hear from members of three of the seven organizations who came together to develop the guide. We talked about how agencies can best use the guide, common questions the entire group wanted to address in the guide, and exactly how they're working to keep the guide relevant over time. We spoke with Stephanie Sprow, the director of child welfare policy for the Children's Defense Fund; Rebecca Robuck, Child Focus' policy director; and Zach Laris, the director of federal advocacy and child welfare policy with the American Academy of Pediatrics. Really important stuff here as states and agencies work their way through Family First - it's all right here on the Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast.

[00:03:19]: Rebecca, Stephanie and Zach, welcome into the Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast.

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And guys, let's just start right here from the top because in opening up the guide, it's big, it's robust and Family First itself is big and robust and brings up a lot of questions for a lot of different folks who touch child welfare. And so, when the guide was developed, give me a sense of who the guide was primarily developed for and what you hope that they'll be able to do with it.

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:03:51]: Sure. So, this is Stephanie with the Children's Defense Fund and I think it's important to first provide context as to why we all came together to work on this important project. When Family First was signed into law on February 1st, 2018, it set into motion some of the most sweeping, long sought after reforms for child welfare system in more than a decade. Family First makes historic and long overdue steps toward correcting the misalignment between federal child welfare funding and the better outcomes for children and families who are involved with the child welfare system. And, while the opportunities for jurisdiction under this new law are enormous, so are the complexities and challenges around successful implementation.

[00:04:35]: And so, in order for these historic reforms to be realized, we really need to ensure that states and tribes and other stakeholders are fully aware of the various provisions in the law, understand all of the new requirements and are thoughtfully planning and preparing their systems for these new requirements and reforms. And so, as jurisdictions are getting underway for these new requirements, we thought this guide would be a critical tool in helping them understand the law and make sure it's working for children and families. And so, the guide is intended to provide answers and questions posed about Family First and some questions are about specific provisions of the new law, others require interpretation of the language in Family First and others are suggestions about ways, various ways specific provisions could be implemented.

[00:05:27]: And so, the guide is really intended, primarily, for those in states and tribe agencies who are implementing Family First, but we also hope that this guide can be used for other stakeholders who are impacted by the law or trying to make this law a success. So, that includes alumni from the foster care system, birth parents, kinship caregivers, foster parents, adoptive parents, other advocates, private child welfare agency leaders, line workers, program providers, judges and other court personnel - pretty much anyone who is really working to improve outcomes for children and families who are in or at risk of entering the child welfare system. But, this was primarily geared toward those state and tribe agencies who are really the ones who are going to be making this law work for children and families.

TOM OATES [00:06:16]: You know, one of the things when you open up the guide, one of the first things you see as the pages open up is you see all of the partner agencies that went into this. Give me a sense and give our listeners a sense of that this isn't just the Children's Defense Fund - who are the other organizations that made up this team that went in and developed the guide and give me a sense of why all of these different teams were brought on board.

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:06:46]: Well, first, this was a huge undertaking by several partners, this really was a wonderful joint effort and we thank everyone who was involved in developing this guide. The guide was intentionally developed by a group of diverse partners that were very active in the development and passage of Family First with the goal of bringing together our unique expertise and perspectives on the different provisions of the new law. So, the collaborating partners were the

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Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Pediatrics, ChildFocus, Foster Club, Generations United, Juvenile Law Center and the National Indian Child Welfare Association. And these organizations were involved in the initial drafting of the guide. Each organization was assigned the leading and development of a specific chapter or subsection that reflected their area of expertise.

[00:07:38]: So, for example, Generations United, an organization that is really leading the way and promoting policy and practice reforms that best support grandfamilies or kinship families where a relative has stepped in to care for a child took the lead on the chapter and questions that were relative to the investments made in Family First around new supports for relatives caring for children. Our partners at the National Indian Child Welfare Association, for example, developed the chapter on the requirements and opportunities for tribal nations under Family First. They also helped review the guide overall to make sure the questions we had were relevant to tribes.

[00:08:14]: And so, we purposely divided up the work and content this way to ensure that the partners and advocates that were most familiar with the details of the specific provisions in the background as to why those reforms were necessary were the ones crafting the questions and answers to those pieces. And this approach, I think, worked well and not only did it help us ensure that we had those expertise in those relevant areas providing their input and knowledge about how a jurisdiction should be implementing these different requirements, but it also allowed those leading organizations to include the types of questions that they were hearing from their partners about those specific provisions.

[00:08:55]: In addition to those seven leading collaborating organizations I just listed, we also worked with several other organizations who provided their review and additional expertise and thoughts as we developed and finalized the guide. And, those organizations were the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Center for the Study of Social Policy, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Children and Family Futures, First Focus, Georgetown Center for Children and Families, True North Group and Youth Villages. Again, we worked with those partners who were very active in Family First and wanted the additional review and level of knowledge as we were finalizing that piece.

[00:09:35]: And finally, I just wanted to mention that we worked closely with Dennis Blazey who worked for 24 years as a budget fiscal office for the Office for Children and Family Services in Ohio. He has a vast knowledge and experience within the child welfare agency and we wanted to help ensure that his perspective was there to ensure that the answers to our questions rung true to those who would be in charge and reading this guide and also providing us with that great guidance to some of the very nuanced technical fiscal pieces of our answers and questions.

TOM OATES [00:10:10]: You know, you bring up a good point and actually, you're putting something that we'll address later about having so many different organizations that not only can come together and provide their expertise, but also have their ears out to the various, you know, constituency groups or stakeholders that are gonna turn around and say, wait, how do I do this or what else is coming in? Because the questions that then come up from the field - and just a teaser for those listening, stick around for a little bit later when we start talking about how those questions then still help the guide continue to grow and continue to be relevant.

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[00:10:47]: So, you, I guess parcel out the chapters for those who are in the know and with the most understanding about the needs of, you know, agencies that are gonna implement Family First. You know, for Rebecca and Zach and all of these groups, when you guys come together, talk to me about, not only how the recommendations were developed, but then also when everybody's at the table, how they're agreed to by such a large, diverse group.

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:11:16]: Well, it was a long process and, I think, to Children's Defense Fund's credit, Stephanie and her team who led us the whole way, I mean they were wonderful about bringing us together in person so that, particularly for the trickier questions that came up that there wasn't consensus on, we were able to talk through as a group and when necessary get clarification from staff on Capitol Hill and other experts, you know, to the extent that we weren't able to answer a question collectively as a group. But, in several cases, we had repeated conversations about the intent of the law, how we imagined a provision playing out, the pros and cons to various interpretations and then, ultimately, you know, I think in most cases were able to land on an answer that we felt would be most useful for the field. In some cases that was we don't know the answer yet, but in any case, there were multiple conversations to help ensure that what we were putting out to the field was as accurate and useful as possible.

TOM OATES [00:12:32]: Yeah, let's keep in mind, folks, this is a guide to help implementation, not a policy of how it will be done, because, we know throughout agencies and really at the beginning of this we're talking about a system and system that deals with people and there's different geographies and different laws and policies and all of that kind of comes into play into a word that was brought up, I think maybe in the first sentence when we started talking - complexity. And so, that's kind of where we do find ourselves. So, underneath this idea of guidance, talk to me about those most common concerns, those most common issues that you guys wanted to address when you were developing the guide.

ZACH LARIS [00:13:16]: This is Zach with AAP, I know one of the things that we've had a lot of questions about from the field around the requirements in Family First for group care. So, the new qualified residential treatment program requirements, all of the new rules around financing of non-family based settings. So, that was one in which we knew that we were getting a lot of questions in jurisdictions from service providers, there was a lot of misunderstanding in the field just from all the various iterations of Family First and precursor legislation that had been out there, and so there's a huge need and opportunity to make sure that folks really understood what was actually in the law.

[00:13:54]: And so, to Rebecca's point earlier, a big part of what we were doing was not only trying to layout very methodically and clearly exactly what's in there, but also to provide some additional context, because this is a really, you know, a significant shift in the incentive structure for how we financed foster care placements and so beyond just the sort of rules of the road and the granular questions around how to comply with, you know, serving as a qualified residential treatment program, it's also helpful to understand what was congress thinking when they put this law together, what was the underlying approach here and why, so that we could help provide some understanding to jurisdictions that are, for examples, the prevention and group care requirement pieces, there's a reason that they're both in the same law, that they're very connected to each other and that there's an opportunity here to really change the whole continuum of care to move more children out of group care into family foster care,

keep more kids safely at home with families.

[00:14:52]: And so, that was a chance for us as we worked through the complexity of that section of the guide to explain both the technical ramifications of the policy to really give a clear and cogent explanation about that but also provide some explanation of the underlying approach there to give some context to help support jurisdictions that are implementing and stakeholders who are part of that process.

TOM OATES [00:15:15]: Rebecca, Stephanie - other thoughts on those popular concerns, 'cause as the questions came up about Family First, the questions kept coming. What were some of those other popular, kind of common concerns you guys wanted to address with the guide?

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:15:30]: I think there were many. I'm happy to take a stab at a few. I think it would take us probably an entire conversation just to talk through some of the misunderstandings and confusing aspects of Family First because it is so complex. There are a couple that came to my mind most immediately, which actually don't have to do with the two major aspects of the law, prevention services or QRTPs. The first is that - I guess this is related to the prevention elements, but - we wanna ensure that pregnant and parenting teens aren't forgotten as an eligible population. Much of the conversation related to Family First implementation right now has to do with candidacy and what that means and we intentionally dedicated a section of the guide to pregnant and parenting teens because they are singled out as a population that is eligible for prevention services, as well as an exemption under the QRTP requirements.

[00:16:34]: We know that young people in foster care are more likely to become parents at an early age than their peers in the general population and that they don't get nearly enough support to care for their children and in many cases, their kids end up in foster care themselves. So, given what we know about the intergenerational cycles of children and families in the foster care system, this population is really essential when we talk about preventing children from entering foster care and preventing maltreatment across the board.

[00:17:06]: I think the other, sort of, technical detail that I wanted to point out, which again it perhaps not what listeners were hoping to hear about but, just wanted to point out that Family First allows Title IV-E maintenance payments to be used for the placement of kids already in foster care with a parent and family-based residential treatment center. These centers are truly amazing places where children can stay with their parents while their parents are receiving treatment for substance use disorders that they have and they provide comprehensive and really holistic and wraparound supports to children and families. We know that there are many children in foster care already who could be placed with a parent in this type of treatment setting and that could be maintaining really important family connections that aren't happening right now.

[00:18:03]: In that provision of Family First, it's super important and it went into effect October 1st of 2018. And it's actually disconnected from the prevention provisions in the sense that you don't have to implement them together. We have heard some confusion in the field about, number one, whether just folks considering that as part of the prevention bucket and of course, the two are complementary but

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you certainly don't have to be moving forward with implementation of the prevention provisions in order to get started on that opportunity. I think the other confusing element, or something that we've heard about is that this provision might create a disincentive to place kids in foster care. So, to bring them into foster care in order to place the child with their parent in a family-based residential treatment center. And that really wasn't the intent of the law - again, we know that there are kids already in foster care who could be benefiting from this provision, it's just a different point of intervention along the continuum.

[00:19:09]: We also hope that family-based residential treatment centers will be providing evidence-based services and programs that are eligible to receive or for reimbursement under the IV-E prevention services option. So, in that way family-based treatment centers can be, and children and families can be benefiting from the prevention provision, as well, in order to support that type of substance use disorder treatment.

TOM OATES [00:19:39]: You know, I want to pull on something a little bit here, because you guys have mentioned the idea of - or not the idea of, but, there is confusion. Confusion in interpreting how provisions should be implemented or how they could be implemented, but also, misperceptions. And so, I'd like to pull away from, maybe, the confusion toward questions of how do I do this versus what are some of the misperceptions that you guys have found yourself, you know, trying to mitigate or, kind of, clear the air and let folks know this is really what we're talking about over here. What are some of those common misperceptions that you've come up with in talking with stakeholders about, not only developing the guide, but Family First in general?

ZACH LARIS [00:20:23]: This is Zach -

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:20:24]: Zach, do you maybe wanna talk about the QRTP misconceptions?

ZACH LARIS [00:20:28]: Yeah, so, definitely that's been an area with a lot of misperceptions. I'd say a great example of that is the law is quite clear that all of the requirements around QRTP are focused on eligibility to receive federal Title IV-E funds. So, that means that states have the capacity to continue to do whatever they would like to do with their state and local dollars, that's been an area where there's been a lot of confusion whether the law is creating new requirements that prohibit states from being able to do anything outside of what's funded through IV-E as they would so choose to do. So, there's been a lot of confusion there, for instance oh does this mean I'm going to have to close down all of my group homes or that I'm no longer going to operate this particular facility.

[00:21:21]: And so, a lot of what we've been trying to explain in the guide is this law is around federal financing. So, this is the rules of the road for what the federal government will fund at the state level in terms of group care and beyond that, certainly, you know, localities and states are able to do with their own dollars what they so choose to do, so it's really more of a shift in incentive for federal government offerings. That's certainly been one, there, in terms of group care. And I'd say, additionally, a big area where there's been a lot of confusion has been around the intersection of Family First with the Medicaid program, really trying to understand how do these interact, what kind of new requirements are there in terms of which entity is paying for what services - there's a lot to unpack with that. So through the guide

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we've been trying to help explain, that, for example, in a very unusual twist for folks that are used to Medicaid rules that Title IV-E prevention services are their last resort and not Medicaid program.

[00:22:21]: So, that's an area where through the guide, we really tried to provide in that chapter on the Medicaid program a good set of structured questions for states to look at to think about the ways their program might intersect with their Medicaid program and to think about how to best leverage the complementary impact of the two together.

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:22:41]: I also wanted to add, Tom, 'cause I'm not sure we fully answered your question about common concerns and issues that we were hoping to address - I think, you know, largely what we were trying to do is demystify the details of the law. It is super big and complex as we've mentioned a few times now and it's really easy to get bogged down in the details and get bogged down in the legislative text and so, what we've tried to achieve here was a layperson's translation of what all of this means for child welfare agencies and for anyone else who's working to implement the law.

[00:23:25]: So, various aspects of the law that I think we really broke down in detail were the provisions related to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, which as your listeners probably know is gonna be reviewing and rating many, many programs that may or may not qualify under the evidentiary standards under the law, breaking down how the standards under Family First are different from the evidentiary standards in other clearinghouses, for example the Title IV-E, or I'm sorry, the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse, which is another super common clearinghouse in child welfare.

[00:24:07]: Also, some confusion related to maintenance of effort, which, you know, our group also found confusing and tried to explain it in a way that was helpful for us, as well. And, you know, many other elements of the law like that that I think are really easy to feel, they're just very confusing, and so hopefully, what we have achieved here is something that helps folks understand them a little bit better and helps folks to move forward.

TOM OATES [00:24:41]: So, you're leading me right to the, you know, the use of the guide and where it stands right now is well more than 200 pages, but we understand, clearly, you guys have broken down into chapters. How should someone, you know - and you guys mentioned this is for a layperson to understand and help implement - how should somebody use the guide to help them, kind of, meet the provisions, or you know, change their actions when it comes to aligning to Family First?

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:25:09]: Yes, the guide certainly is comprehensive and long - it's 220-some pages - but, you know, there was a lot in there, a lot in the law and a lot that we had to unpack and we were very strategic in trying to, for each individual chapter of the guide, trying to have several subsections that would make it easier for a person or a reader to go through and narrow down the specific area of interest that they were coming to the guide for. So, for example, in the prevention chapter, we have subsections that are based on questions referring to the eligible prevention programs, a section on the duration of the services, a section on who is eligible for the services, a piece on the candidates for foster care, a subsection on the administrative and training costs, the MOE.

[00:26:04]: So again, we were trying very hard to make sure that we weren't just throwing a lot of

questions at our users and were trying to break it down in a way that we thought was logical if you were coming to this guide with a specific lens. And so, we hope that readers find that useful, but we do know that there is a lot in here, but we also tried to include where we could, some boxes that have overviews. For example, we have a wonderful box in the chapter on the maintenance of effort requirement where we really lay out the steps that a jurisdiction could use as they're trying to make that calculation of the expenses that would count towards their MOE. So, we hope that folks get creative in how they are skimming through this large document.

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:26:53]: I would also add that, you know, largely our focus in this guide was on the minutiae of Family First and all of its complexities and breaking that down in a way that's understandable and hopefully helpful for the field, to serve as a go to resource if you have a question about the details about the law. But, I think at the same time we really want to encourage readers to think about the details and Family First implementation overall much more broadly in terms of what they want for their child welfare systems. Family First is obviously an amazing and historic opportunity in the child welfare system and it's a real opportunity for child welfare systems to think about what they want for children and families who they touch the system, the kind of system that they want to create and the type of services that should be available for these families.

[00:27:48]: Family First is a tool to help them get there and I think the more that they can think about, the more that they can approach this and use this guide to help them think in those broader terms, the more visionary terms, the more helpful and the more effective their implementation efforts will be.

ZACH LARIS [00:28:07]: I think that perspective on the vision is so important, Rebecca. I think so much of, you know, our groups have been working so closely together on the set of policies for years now and so I think we've had so many conversations and have poured over all of details of the law, of all of the guidance that's come out of the agencies and we have in our heads a very expansive idea of what jurisdictions could do with all of these opportunities if they really did use them to their maximum potential. And so, what we wanna make sure doesn't happen is folks walk away from implementation of Family First, or as clipboard implementation mindset of okay, here's the set of things that I need to do to check all these boxes to move forward. We really wanna make sure that there's an understanding of just how much there is on offer here for jurisdictions to both do the best possible practices for children and be able to make their systems more sustainable and more effective and more efficient.

TOM OATES [00:29:02]: I like that talk of the mindset, because, far too often we can get caught up in well, do the tools support the mission or has my mission somehow changed to align to what the tools will or will not allow me to do. And, if your systems then, you know, do you have mission-led systems or is your mission to, you know, fit the systems and just keeping that idea in mind, because implementation and new policy kind of can bog down our thinking. You know, Rebecca, you brought up the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. How can the guide itself be used in conjunction with that or with, as you mentioned, the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse when they're trying to, you know, find the right programs with the evidence backing behind it?

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:08:40]: So, I would definitely consider them complementary but I think they serve really different purposes. Our guide, of course, is more comprehensive and the clearinghouse is much

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more focused on programs and services that will be eligible to receive Title IV-E prevention dollars. I think you should always go look on the prevention services clearinghouse website to be sure that you're looking at the most up to date list of programs and services that have been approved. And they also have a lot on there of programs and services that are in the queue that they expect to be reviewing next, so that might be a helpful resource for folks, too.

[00:30:38]: Additionally, on their website they have a whole handbook that explains how they are going about their review process. It is definitely dense and probably best suited to researcher types, but nonetheless, it's super helpful just with getting a sense for what would even make the cut of programs and services that they'd be willing to review. Our guide, I think, does a really good job - like, to Steven Olander at CDF, to his credit, he did a really excellent breakdown of kind of what that handbook says in layperson's terms. So, I would consult that if you're looking for a more just simple version of and what you really need to know from the handbook if you're not somebody who's gonna be digging into the nitty gritty of the evidentiary standards. That's a long way of saying I think they are complementary but very different.

TOM OATES [00:31:37]: You know, so, this now pulls on something that I think is really neat about what this entire group has done with the guide, because you're not done and the questions will keep coming and we keep learning more. And so, the idea of a living document is really coming into play with the guide that's been created. I'd love, you know, Stephanie and team, love for you to tell me and really tell the audience, what's being done to ensure the guide stays relevant and stays accurate?

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:32:10]: Absolutely. We do not want this document to be a static guide that after a year or a few months is already a bit outdated and so, this group is closely monitoring any updates including guidance from the Children's Bureau, legislative updates and changes in the field and tweaking the answers to any relevant questions or adding new questions as they come up. We recently put out a new update to the guide that included changes from the recently passed Family First Transition Act, as well as updates to the Child Welfare Policy Manual. Along with the guide update, we include a list of detailing changes so that when people want to refer back to the guide, they have a list of what we edited or added rather than going through the entire guide to see what changes were made.

TOM OATES [00:32:59]: So that's a big thought there for folks, it's not something to just download and print off copies, or download and have on your desktop, because it can be changed, it has changed, it is evolving. So, with all of the questions that come in and with all the changes, where is the decision making to say, okay, this is an idea or this is a need that needs to be included in an update - how is that decision made towards, you know, what do we update versus, nope, this is not relevant. How is that made by, again, such a diverse group?

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:33:36]: So we are following updates to statute and guidance through the Children's Bureau, but we also continue to solicitate questions from the public about things that should be added. And so, if people have questions that were not covered in the guide, we really encourage listeners to go to our website at the Children's Defense Fund, sorry, www.childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first where we have an area where you can submit your questions or comments there that could be added to the guide for us to consider.

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:34:07]: I would also add if anyone who's listening and is reading the guide, too - which we hope you'll do - feels confused by any of the questions, that is a great place to send us a comment, as well, and that'll help us understand how useful our answers are and we're always open to making revisions to the extent that the field doesn't feel like we've sufficiently answered a question.

TOM OATES [00:34:32]: And we'll make sure that we put links to that within the show notes here for this episode so folks can go in and, you know, kind of hey, bookmark it if that's the best way to make sure that you've always got the right update. So, guys, just give me that again, I wanna make sure that folks have the most recent and most up to date guide, one more time, Stephanie, if you could just pass along the contact information.

STEPHANIE SPROW [00:35:00]: Sure. The website is www.childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first and so, we recommend that everyone access the guide through our website on that webpage instead of, as you mentioned, downloading the guide so that we, so that people are sure they have the most updated version. There's also space on that webpage where people can go and sign up to get emails so that as soon as there is a new version, that they get an alert that the guide's been updated and detailing the changes that were made.

TOM OATES [00:35:31]: Well, I really appreciate just the teamwork and the ability to collaborate and work together on this knowing that it started well before the idea for the guide but just in working with Family First and having this group of experts together and all the folks who aren't able to join us but were a big part of, a huge part of that roundtable. Rebecca and Zach and Stephanie, I truly appreciate you guys coming in and sharing both what this guide can do, but also, everything that went behind it and I guess that is going to continue being behind it as this guide continues to evolve. I really appreciate your time, really appreciate your effort and thank you guys so much for being part of the Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast.

REBECCA ROBUCK [00:36:19]: Thanks, Tom, it was great being here.

[00:36:23]: A reminder about where you can find the guide. It is available online at <http://www.childrensdefense.org/implementing-family-first>. So, if you go to www.childwelfare.gov, we'll have link to the guide along with links to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse, the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse, along with links to other prevention and group and residential care resources, including the Prevention Resource Guide. They're all together on this episode's webpage again at www.childwelfare.gov. Of course, Information Gateway is your place for child welfare related resources - information you can share with clients and families, information on laws and policies - including our deep list of State Statutes - there you can see the statutes from your state or any other state related to adoption, foster care and child welfare. So, if you'd like a little help in your information search, no problem - reach out to our Information Support Services team - they'll help you find what you need. They are available at info@childwelfare.gov or if you're online visiting Child Welfare Information Gateway, you can use our live chat feature, or reach out via telephone at 1.800.394.3366.

[00:37:39]: Thanks so much for Stephanie, Rebecca & Zach's time, they're able to spend that energy and

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that insight with us to discuss Implementing The Family First Prevention Act, and thanks to you as always for listening and spending your time with us here on the Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast. I'm Tom Oates – have a great day!

FEMALE NARRATOR [00:38:02]: Thanks for joining us for this edition of the Child Welfare Information Gateway podcast. Child Welfare Information Gateway is available at www.childwelfare.gov and is a service of the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families. The views and opinions expressed on this podcast do not necessarily reflect on those of Information Gateway, or the Children's Bureau.