

WRAPAROUND EVIDENCE AND ENDORSEMENTS, AND THE *FAMILY FIRST PRESERVATION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)*



From the National Wraparound Initiative

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With states working toward implementation of the new federal law, the *Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)*, there are new opportunities for using Wraparound to avoid placing children in foster care, to prevent placement disruption for children in adoption and kinship guardian homes, and to meet the mental health, substance use and related needs of at-risk children and their families/caregivers. A [recent publication from Casey Family Programs lists Wraparound](#) among the interventions and programs that could be considered “well supported” by research (the highest classification) under the *FFPSA* (page ix in the linked document).

We now have a reasonable basis for concluding that, when implemented well, and for an appropriate population, Wraparound is likely to produce positive youth, system, and cost outcomes.

The most current thorough review of the evidence for Wraparound can be found in this peer-reviewed article, [“A Comprehensive Review of Wraparound Care Coordination Research, 1986 – 2014,”](#) which appeared in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies* in 2017. A [short summary of key findings from that review](#) is also available. Highlights from the review include:

- » Fifteen of the 22 studies showed positive results of Wraparound compared to the control or comparison condition.
- » Cost-effectiveness studies make a compelling case for Wraparound’s ability to dramatically shift service use patterns toward more community-based care and reduce use of congregate care, which are key goals of *FFPSA*, and to reduce overall costs of services.
- » We now have a reasonable basis for concluding that, when implemented well, and for an appropriate population, Wraparound is likely to produce positive youth, system, and cost outcomes.



The Washington State Institute for Public Policy includes Full Fidelity Wraparound on its [list of evidence-based programs and interventions for children's mental health](#) (pages 9 and 17 in the linked document).

The [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare shows Wraparound](#) as having “promising research evidence” for improving placement stabilization and behavioral health for children in child welfare systems.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, together with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, have [endorsed Wraparound](#) as a key component of the benefit

package that will meet the needs of children, youth, and young adults with significant mental health conditions. *FFPSA* dollars could be used to fund Wraparound if it is not a covered Medicaid benefit; or, if your state is seeking Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval to cover Wraparound, *FFPSA* can be used until it is approved as a Medicaid benefit.

If Wraparound is included in your *FFPSA* Prevention Services Plan, you could also use *FFPSA* training dollars to build provider capacity to deliver fidelity Wraparound and use *FFPSA* administrative dollars to support data systems, fidelity monitoring, quality and outcomes tracking.

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