



Mendocino County
Department of Social Services
Healthy People, Healthy Communities
Bekkie F. Emery, Director
Kelsey Rivera, Acting Asst. Director



Family & Children's Services (FCS) is pleased to announce our Family First Prevention Services Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP), developed in collaboration with the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria, has been approved by the California Department of Social Services! We are now working with the Cahto Tribe's Executive Committee to develop contracts to implement the plan. A copy of the plan can be found on the Mendocino County Children's Services website at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/home/showpublisheddocument/61714/638367530677312923>

Funding for this plan is one time State General Funding which currently expires June 30, 2024, although it is anticipated that the State may extend the time frame for use of the funding for an additional fiscal year. The State's Family First Prevention Services program provides counties the opportunity to prepare for California's implementation of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Part 1, which will allow counties to use funding that is currently reserved for services only once a child is in foster care, to be used for evidence-based prevention and trauma-informed services for children and youth who are at imminent risk for entry into foster care. It is anticipated California will be able to implement FFPSA Part 1 around October 2026.

Mendocino County's CPP development started in the fall of 2022 by reviewing data regarding youth who touch multiple systems including FCS, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Probation and reviewing populations which are disproportionally represented in Mendocino County's child welfare system to identify potential primary focus populations. Our data reflects Native American children and youth are most significantly disproportionately represented in our system and engagement began with representatives from our local tribes to determine interest in one or more tribes being focus populations. The Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria was the only tribe who expressed an interest and FCS moved forward with extensive planning and engagement with the Cahto Tribe gathering input from tribal members and individuals with lived experience on their perspectives and input on what is needed to support the ability of Cahto parents and families to provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children and that is reflective of the Cahto Tribe's local and cultural environment. In addition, many community-based organizations were invited to participate in discussions about what services they could provide or expand/enhance to meet the priority needs identified by the Tribe. The areas prioritized by tribal participants and included

in the plan are transportation to services not delivered at the tribe, tribal staff to oversee the families receiving services, job skills training/employment readiness, therapeutic services, social/emotional support for youth, parenting support, short-term childcare and respite for families participating in services and evidence-based Motivational Interviewing training for staff and providers delivering services.

The California Department of Social Services stated the following in their approval of our plan:

We are pleased to inform you that the Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) submitted by Mendocino County has been approved after a thorough review by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). We appreciate the hard work and dedication invested in developing this plan.

We would like to acknowledge and commend Mendocino County in their commitment to engaging prevention partners from across disciplines in developing the comprehensive prevention plan specifically the exceptional engagement and collaboration with the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria. Also, we applaud Mendocino County for leveraging systems already in place such as the AB 2083 Interagency Leadership Team and information from the county self-assessment to make decisions about primary and secondary prevention services that will improve outcomes for the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria.

We look forward to this partnership with the Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria in this one-time opportunity to support Cahto kids and families in preventing child abuse and neglect and entry into the child welfare system.