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About Us

FFTA works to advance best practices and advocate for policies that support families in their care and treatment for children.

MOVING BEYOND TREATMENT FOSTER CARE TO TREATMENT FAMILY CARE

Since the 1980s we have focused on defining and promoting best standards in Treatment Foster Care to advance the field's understanding of effective methods for serving families, always with a goal of safety, permanency & well-being for all children.

Key components of Treatment Foster Care such as advanced training for care providers, trauma-informed care principles, small caseloads, & intensive behavioral health services provided in a home setting are effective in an array of family-care settings, such as with kinship, biological and adoptive parents.

Today, we work to advance Treatment Family Care as a vital resource in the continuum of child welfare and child behavioral health services across North America.

Kinship care is known to have multiple benefits for children and youth in foster care, including greater stability, a stronger feeling of family belonging, better permanency outcomes, and greater odds of having siblings placed together. Federal and state policy affirms a preference for placement with kin when children are removed from their parents. Treatment foster care is an intervention that provides foster parents with specialized training and support to care for children and adolescents, for those with emotional, behavioral, or social issues and/or medical needs. TFC is an important alternative to residential treatment and affords children and youth the opportunity to be in a family setting with the full range of services and supports to address the trauma they've experienced, promote permanency, and ensure their well-being.

When combined, we believe that kinship care and treatment foster care is a win-win for children and families. Children and youth remain in their family network with adults who receive the hands-on support they need to meet social, emotional and behavioral needs. Kinship treatment foster care can help states and counties meet their federally mandated performance outcomes. It is also a critically important option for children in foster care in consideration of FFPSA that limits the use of federal funds for residential treatment if children can remain safe and stable in families.

North Carolina Kinship TFC Pilot Program

In 2019, FFTA was awarded a \$950,000, three-year grant from The Duke Endowment to work in partnership with public and private partners in North Carolina to address the therapeutic needs of children and youth being cared for by kinship caregivers. FFTA has selected 3 private agencies and 3 county agencies to partner together in the development and implementation of this pilot. The demonstration project is comprised of staff training in kinship care and family search and engagement and developing a kinship caregiver curriculum for use by the agencies in their training and support of kinship caregivers.

In addition, FFTA is developing and supporting a Learning Community for participating agencies to reinforce the knowledge acquired in training, and provide support, technical assistance and coaching throughout the pilot. FFTA is partnering with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work's Family and Children's Resource Program, and Child Focus, to help enhance the competencies of the pilot agencies through these initiatives. The demonstration project is being evaluated by Child Trends, a leading research organization focused on improving the lives of children and families.

Over the last 10 years, FFTA has worked to advance Kinship & Treatment Family Care Services through a series of Summits, across multiple states throughout the US. The learning from those Summits not only served as a foundation for collaborative growth & expansion of Kinship services in those states, but also served as the catalyst for FFTA's current KTFC Pilot Project in North Carolina.