

Introduction

This glossary promotes language equity and supports language justice for all participants engaged in the development and implementation of local Title IV-E funded prevention service arrays. Because language shapes how people understand systems, access services, and participate in decision-making, differences in terminology can create confusion and limit meaningful engagement. To address this, the glossary establishes a shared foundation of terms that supports more accessible, consistent, and transparent communication across community members, community pathway providers, Tribes, system partners, individuals with lived expertise, and Title IV-E agency staff.

By fostering clarity and alignment in how key concepts are understood and used, the glossary strengthens collaboration, coordination, and collective action. It is intended to support a common understanding as partners work to align Title IV-E funded prevention services with existing community pathways. In doing so, it helps reduce barriers, reflect diverse perspectives, and grow prevention strategies that are culturally responsive and accessible to the communities they serve.

Glossary 1

This glossary has terms related to FFPS development and implementation in alphabetical order. Use Glossary 2 (see page 22) if you are searching based on an acronym or initials.

TERM	DEFINITION
2083 Interagency Leadership Team (ILT)	See AB2083 Interagency Leadership Team.
AB2083 Interagency Leadership Team (ILT)	A county-level leadership body established under California AB 2083 that brings together senior representatives from child welfare, behavioral health, probation, education, Tribal partners, and community organizations. The 2083 ILT guides cross-system coordination to support early intervention and prevention services, align service delivery across agencies, address systemic barriers, and ensure trauma-informed, strengths-based approaches for children and families at risk of foster care placement.
ACEs Screening	Assessment tools for identifying adverse childhood experiences.

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Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, responsible for federal programs which promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.
Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)	An office of the ACF within the U.S. the Department of Health and Human Services. ACYF is the federal sponsor for Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) program.
Administrative Costs	Costs associated with the planning, management, administration, and oversight of programs (distinct from direct service costs). Under Title IV-E, administrative costs that are “necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the Title IV-E plan” (e.g., case management activities) can be claimed for federal financial participation (FFP) at established match rates. These costs are allocated and claimed through an approved cost allocation methodology.
All County Information Notice (ACIN)	A formal notification from CDSS providing information on program operations, reporting requirements, or clarifications that may not require formal policy changes.
All County Letter (ACL)	A guidance document issued by CDSS to inform counties and providers about policy changes, implementation instructions, or program updates.
Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT)	BH-CONNECT is comprised of a new five-year Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration, State Plan Amendments (SPAs) to expand coverage of evidence-based practices (EBPs) available under Medi-Cal, and complementary guidance and policies to strengthen behavioral health services statewide.
Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)	California’s voter-approved behavioral health funding framework (formerly the Mental Health Services Act) that provides dedicated state funding to counties for mental health and substance use disorder services, including prevention and early intervention programs designed to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective supports for children, youth, and families.
CalAcademies	California’s regional partnerships that provide standardized training and workforce development for child welfare staff, supervisors, and managers.
California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)	A statewide initiative by the California Department of Health Care Services designed to transform the Medi-Cal system by delivering more coordinated whole person care through enhanced care management, population health management, and community supports. CalAIM emphasizes care coordination for high-need

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	populations with the goal of improved health outcomes and cross-system alignment.
California Automated Response and Engagement System (CARES)	See Child Welfare Services - California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS CARES).
California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)	A statewide membership organization for county behavioral health directors. It provides policy guidance, technical assistance, and advocacy for mental health and substance use services, including coordination with child welfare and prevention programs.
California Child and Youth System of Care (CYSOC)	California's coordinated, cross-agency framework for delivering integrated, family-centered services to children, youth, and families across child welfare, probation, behavioral health, and education systems. Also sometimes called the System of Care or SOC.
California Child Welfare Council	A statewide advisory body established by the Child Welfare Leadership and Accountability Act of 2006. The group is tasked with improving the quality, coordination, and outcomes of child welfare and foster care services across the state. Its membership includes representatives from state departments, county agencies, nonprofit providers, courts, advocates, parents, and youth with lived experience.
California Department of Education (CDE)	The California Department of Education is an agency within the Government of California that oversees public education. The department oversees funding and testing, and holds local educational agencies accountable for student achievement. Its stated mission is to provide leadership, assistance, oversight, and resources so that every Californian has access to a good education.
California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	The agency overseeing Medi-Cal and behavioral health financing, including services that may intersect with Family First Prevention Services (FFPS) prevention eligibility.
California Department of Social Services (CDSS)	The state agency responsible for administering California's child welfare system and FFPS prevention plan.
California Tribe with a Title IV-E Agreement	A federally recognized California Tribe that has an approved Title IV-E agreement authorizing the Tribe to administer Title IV-E foster care, guardianship assistance, adoption assistance, and/or prevention services. A Tribe with a Title IV-E Agreement may develop and implement a Tribal Title IV-E Prevention Plan that includes

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	determining candidacy for prevention services, delivering or contracting for evidence-based prevention services, and claiming federal reimbursement for eligible prevention expenditures.
California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)	A statewide membership and advocacy organization for county human services and child welfare directors. It represents counties in policy discussions, provides technical guidance, and supports implementation of statewide child welfare programs, including FFPSA prevention services.
California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)	A California public assistance program that provides temporary cash aid and employment services to low-income families with children. Administered by the California Department of Social Services, CalWORKs includes Welfare-to-Work services, supportive services (such as childcare and transportation), and other resources designed to help families.
CalWORKs Child-only families	A CalWORKs assistance case in which only the child(ren) receive cash aid, while the parent or caregiver is excluded from the grant due to ineligibility (e.g., immigration status, SSI receipt, sanctions, or other eligibility factors).
Candidacy	A key designation under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) indicating a child is a candidate for foster care or at imminent risk of foster care entry. Children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care (but who can safely remain at home or in a kinship placement if prevention services are provided) may receive Title IV-E funded preventions services (if other requirements are met). For more information refer to the Candidacy and Pathway Brief .
Capacity	The resources, skills, infrastructure, and systems an organization has to effectively implement a service.
Capitated Rate Structure	A payment model commonly used in Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans where the plan receives a fixed per-member, per-month payment from the state to provide covered services, regardless of the actual services used by each member. This structure transfers financial risk to the plan and incentivizes cost-effective, coordinated care.
Case Plan	A written plan that sets out a family's strengths, safety needs, risks, and related services and supports. It includes goals and timelines. Case Plans follow a standard format, but the details are tailored to each family's situation, strengths, and community resources. Case Plans are court ordered when families are under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
Case Review Instruments	Structured tools or standardized forms used to systematically review case files or service records to assess quality, compliance, fidelity, or outcomes.

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CCWIS (Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System)	A federally required child welfare data system that supports the collection and management of case information (intake, case plans, services, placements, outcomes).
Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)	A membership and advocacy organization for California county probation leaders. It represents county probation departments on policy, practice, and legislative issues related to juvenile justice, youth in foster care, and cross-system collaboration and provides additional supports for FFPS prevention services.
Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)	A local advisory council and non-profit promoting prevention strategies and providing services to families.
Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT)	A California state-funded program (administered by CDSS) that provides flexible funding to counties to support child abuse prevention and early intervention services.
Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)	A standardized assessment tool used to identify the behavioral health, social-emotional, and family needs of children and youth. CANS informs service planning, placement decisions, and outcome measurement.
Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)	A federal review process conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to evaluate state child welfare systems. The goal is to ensure states provide safe, permanent, and well-supported environments for children.
Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM)	A collaborative meeting structure including family members, youth (as appropriate), social workers, and service providers to guide planning and decision-making. Meetings bring together a child, their family, caregiver, natural supports, and professionals to create a plan that supports the child's safety, well-being, and permanency using a strength-based approach, ensuring the child's and family's voices are central to decision-making.
Child Specific Administrative Activities	Administrative tasks that are directly attributable to an individual child who is a candidate for foster care (or their family), and that support the planning, coordination, referral, monitoring, or documentation of that child's eligibility for and receipt of Title IV-E prevention services. These activities must be necessary for the provision or case management of services identified in the child's prevention plan and must be linked to a specific case.
Child Welfare Council Prevention and Early	A designated standing committee of the California Child Welfare Council focused on promoting and strengthening policies, strategies, and system improvements that prevent child abuse and

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Intervention Committee (PEI)	neglect and support child, parent, and family well-being across California. Membership includes county leaders, state partners, providers, advocates, parents, youth with lived experience, and community partners.
Child Welfare Services - California Automated Response and Engagement System (CWS CARES)	CWS-CARES is the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) implemented in October 2026 in the State of California. CWS-CARES consolidates functionalities from various systems into a single system and includes multiple interfaces with other applications. Title IV-E Agencies, Tribes, and partners will use CWS-CARES for case documentation, resource management, and fiscal management.
Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)	California's legacy statewide database used by counties to document child welfare case activity, eligibility, and service delivery.
Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)	A statewide effort to support the behavioral health of young people age 0-25 in California. CYBHI makes it easier for children, teens, and young adults to get help wherever they need it:
Closed-Loop Referral System	A coordinated process for connecting individuals to services in which the referring party receives confirmation that the referral was received, accepted, and completed (or otherwise resolved). This "loop" ensures accountability, follow-up, and documented outcomes rather than referrals disappearing without feedback.
Community	All local community-based organizations, community, leaders, residents, and other partners involved in prevention planning and providing direct advocacy, services, and supports to families.
Community Capacity Building	Empowering and strengthening a community organization's ability to identify, prioritize, and address local challenges, fostering self-reliance and long-term sustainable change, by enhancing skills, knowledge, resources, and leadership within a group to improve their quality of life.
Community Pathway	A community-based service array providing no wrong door access to a broad range of trusted community providers where families naturally seek support, and may include Tribes, schools, health care providers, family resource centers, faith-based organizations, and other local entities. Community Pathways may offer a broad variety of services beyond Title IV-E funded EBPs.

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Community Schools	Public schools that use a whole-child approach by integrating academics with health, social services, youth development, and family engagement. Supported by initiatives like the California Department of Education Community Schools Partnership Program, these schools partner with local organizations to provide resources such as mental health services, after-school programs, and family support, aiming to improve student well-being and academic success.
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)	CBCAP is a federal grant program authorized under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Funds are awarded to states, which then distribute them (in California, through CDSS) to support community-based prevention efforts.
Community-Based Organization (CBO)	A community-based agency that delivers services to families and individuals.
Community-Based Provider	A service provider delivering concrete supports, community resources, or family strengthening services within the community. This can include local food banks, help with utility bills, and other resource programs provided by a broad range of community providers often developed and led by local community groups.
Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP)	Under FFPSA, this is the federally required plan that describes how the jurisdiction (state or county) will implement Title IV-E funded prevention services. This is a state or county plan, not an individual child's prevention plan. For more information refer to California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan.
Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) Leads	The local Title IV-E agency (Child Welfare, Probation, and Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements) staff who serve as lead of the county/Tribe's CPP implementation team or effort.
Concrete Supports	Basic resources and necessities provided to families to reduce immediate stressors and promote stability (e.g., housing stabilization, food, transportation, childcare).
Confidentiality	Legal and ethical requirements governing the protection of individual information, including compliance with HIPAA and state privacy laws. Within CARES, confidentiality is upheld through use of unique identifiers and a firewall that prevents IV-E agency staff from accessing personally identifying information for families served.
Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	A process and sequence of activities focusing on program monitoring, integrity, and outcomes to ensure high-quality, ever-improving, and equitable services.
Core Practice Model (CPM)	California's integrated child welfare practice framework that establishes shared values, behaviors, and expectations for working with children, youth, and families across systems. CPM is designed

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	to ensure consistent, trauma-informed, strengths-based, and family-centered practice statewide.
Cost Reimbursement	A funding mechanism where providers are reimbursed for actual allowable costs of providing services, rather than per unit or flat rate.
County-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities	A California program that allows public agencies and eligible partners (such as counties, schools, and community-based organizations) to receive federal Medicaid (Medi-Cal) reimbursement for certain administrative activities that support access to Medi-Cal-covered services. These activities do not include direct clinical services, but instead cover functions like outreach, eligibility assistance, care coordination, referrals, program planning, and interagency collaboration.
County Expense Claim (CEC)	A formal, periodic financial report submitted by a county or local agency to the state documenting allowable expenditures for Title IV-E prevention services and related activities. The county expense claim aggregates costs such as units of service and child-specific administrative activities and serves as the basis for reimbursement.
County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)	California's centralized automated system that allows counties to report and claim reimbursement for both administrative and assistance costs across public assistance and child welfare programs.
County Fiscal Letter	An official guidance document issued by the California Department of Social Services that provides counties with instructions on funding, budgeting, claiming, and fiscal policy changes related to state and federal programs.
County Title IV-E Agency	The county-level public agency responsible for local administration of the federal child welfare funding authorized under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act pursuant to the state's approved IV-E plan. The County Title IV-E Agency must also follow the eligibility, procedural, and compliance requirements in state and federal law related to child safety, risk assessment, candidacy determination, and case management. The state is the agency legally responsible to the federal government under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act.
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Volunteers appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of children in foster care. CASA provides independent monitoring, reporting, and support to ensure children's needs are met.
Cross-Sector Collaboration	Coordinated work across child welfare, behavioral health, education, probation, and other governmental agencies to provide integrated services to children and families in the California Child and Family System of Care.

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Cultural Humility	A perspective that focuses on learning from the people with whom we interact rather than attempting to possess expert knowledge about things outside our experience.
Data Sharing Agreement / Interagency Data Agreement	Legal agreement for sharing child/family data across agencies.
De-Identification	The process of removing personal identifying information and replacing it with a system-generated unique identifier for all data used in federal and state reporting.
Division 31	The section of the California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Division 31) that contains regulations implementing child welfare services and foster care licensing standards. These regulations establish procedural and practice requirements for county child welfare agencies and providers.
Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)	A federally mandated Medicaid benefit for beneficiaries under age 21 that ensures comprehensive and preventive health services, including screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
ECM (Enhanced Care Management)	A Medi-Cal benefit under CalAIM that provides intensive, community-based care coordination for members with complex medical and social needs, delivered through managed care plans.
Emergency Response (ER)	The Child Welfare Services function responsible for investigating allegations of abuse or neglect and determining initial safety and service needs.
End User Scenario Testing (EUST)	A formal testing phase in which frontline end users (e.g., social workers, eligibility staff, supervisors, fiscal staff, and community providers in the provider portal) execute defined, real-world business scenarios in the CARES system to validate that workflows, policy requirements, documentation, eligibility determinations, and reporting functions operate correctly prior to release or go-live.
Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC)	A structured assessment used by probation departments to determine whether a youth is at imminent risk of entering out-of-home placement (such as foster care or congregate care) and meets criteria for services or placement intervention under child welfare or juvenile justice authority.
Evidence-based Practice (EBP)	An EBP is a prevention service or program that has been rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse as promising, supported, or well-supported and is eligible for IV-E reimbursement (if other requirements are met).

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Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth (EPY)	Youth in foster care who are expecting or parenting. Youth in this category are considered candidates for Title IV-E funded prevention services.
Expert Consultants	Individuals with lived experience, specialized knowledge, or subject-matter expertise who provide guidance, technical assistance, evaluation support, or strategic advice to programs or organizations.
Extensible Markup Language (XML)	A data format widely used for structured electronic data exchange. In child welfare information systems like CCWIS or for federal reporting, XML is commonly used to transmit individual, service, placement, and outcomes data between local systems, state repositories, and federal reporting interfaces.
Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)	Federal legislation enacted in 2018 that amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow states to claim federal reimbursement for approved evidence-based mental health, substance use, and in-home parenting services for children at imminent risk of foster care placement and their families.
Family First Transition Act (FFTA)	Federal legislation enacted in 2019 that provided transition funding and flexibilities to help states implement the Family First Prevention Services Act.
Family Maintenance (FM)	A Child Welfare Services track in which a child remains safely in the home while the county provides services to reduce risk and prevent foster care placement.
Family Maintenance Case Plan	An existing child welfare case plan for families who have an open case with the child welfare agency (court or non-court) and have custody of their children. When a FWBP is added, prevention services remain voluntary even if integrated within an existing case plan.
Family Resource Center (FRC)	A community-based organization that provides culturally responsive prevention services, supports, and connections to families to reduce child welfare involvement.
Family Strengths	Qualities, relationships, skills, cultural practices, and resources that support family resilience, stability, and well-being.
Family Voice	Uplifting the voices of children, youth and families in all aspects of individual case planning and development of system-wide policy, practice and implementation; as well as adapting evidence-based prevention and early intervention services to be culturally appropriate and to focus on the well-being of all family members.
Family Wellbeing Plan (FWBP)	A written, strengths-based, trauma-informed prevention service plan developed collaboratively with the family. The plan must align with Title IV-E documentation requirements when federal reimbursement is sought and should demonstrate how services are reasonably

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	expected to prevent foster care placement. In California, the FWBP differs from a Child Welfare Case Plan in that the FWBP is focused on prevention and the Case Plan is focused on addressing needs identified after a child welfare case is opened. Both may be generically referred to as a case plan. For more information refer to the Family Well-Being Plan Brief .
Federal Financial Participation (FFP)	The federal share of costs reimbursed for eligible child welfare, Medicaid, or prevention services. FFP is used to calculate reimbursement under Title IV-E and FFPSA-funded programs.
Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP)	The federal matching rate for Medicaid expenditures, including eligible prevention, health, and behavioral health services provided to children and families. It determines the percentage of Medicaid costs that the federal government reimburses to states, with the remaining share covered by state or local funds.
Fee-for-Service	A payment model in which providers are paid for each unit of service delivered, rather than a lump sum or capitated rate.
Fidelity Monitoring	The structured process of ensuring that an EBP is delivered consistent with its model design.
Firewall	A system protection within CARES that prevents child welfare or probation staff from seeing personal information about families served in the Community Pathway. Only de-identified data are shared with IV-E agencies.
First Five Commission	A county-level public body in California responsible for funding and overseeing programs that support the healthy development of children from prenatal stages through age five. First 5 Commissions are funded primarily by tobacco tax revenues from Proposition 10. They focus on a wide range of prevention activities and work closely with counties to augment supports and services for families such as early childhood education, health care access, parenting support, home visiting, child care, early intervention, transportation, concrete sports, and school readiness initiatives. Their goal is to improve outcomes for young children and families by coordinating community resources and promoting early intervention.
Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC)	A public health nursing program located in county child welfare service agencies and probation departments to provide public health nurse (PHN) expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental and developmental needs of children and youth in out of home placement. This service may be relevant to expecting and parenting youth in foster care.
Health Insurance Portability and	A U.S. federal law that sets standards for protecting sensitive patient health information and regulates how healthcare providers, insurers, and related entities handle it.

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Accountability Act (HIPAA)	
Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)	A standardized coding system used in the United States to describe medical procedures, services, equipment, and supplies for billing and insurance purposes. HCPCS is maintained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is primarily used for Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance programs.
Imminent Risk	A condition in which a child is likely to enter foster care without timely and appropriate intervention.
Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	A federal law that protects the rights of Native American children, families and Tribes in child welfare cases, requiring inquiry to identify Tribally affiliated children, noticing of Tribes, active efforts for reunification and preference for placement with family, Tribe, or other Native families.
Indian Health Care Provider (IHCP)	A health program operated by IHS, a Tribe, or an urban Indian organization that delivers services to American Indian and Alaska Native individuals and may serve as a primary provider for Medicaid-eligible prevention services.
Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM)	An expansion of the Core Practice Model that formalizes cross-system integration between child welfare, behavioral health, probation, education, developmental services, and Tribal partners.
Integration and Collaboration	Integrating and collaborating across systems to maximize and leverage funding, share information and data, and provide families with services and supports to meet their specific needs.
IV-E Agency	A county child welfare agency, probation department, or Tribe with a California IV-E Agreement.
IV-E Claiming	The fiscal claiming process through which eligible prevention services are reimbursed with federal funds.
IV-E Pathway	The prevention pathway in which a family receives voluntary prevention services via a service plan developed and monitored by a IV-E agency (child welfare, probation, or Tribe with a California IV-E agreement).
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics used to track effectiveness of prevention programs.
Learning Management System (LMS)	A software tool used to administer, manage, track, and deliver training programs and courses.
Lived Expert	Individuals with lived experience who provide guidance, technical assistance, evaluation support, or strategic advice to programs or organizations.

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Local Education Agency (LEA)	The school district or local education body responsible for delivering educational services to children, including those in foster care or prevention programs.
Maintenance of Effort (MOE)	Counties must continue spending at least a specified baseline level of local funds on prevention services in order to receive state or federal FFPS funding.
Managed Care Plan (MCP)	In Medi-Cal, a Managed Care Plan is an entity contracted to provide a broad array of health services (medical, behavioral, preventive, and specialty services) to enrolled members under a fixed per-member, per-month payment. MCPs coordinate care, assign primary care providers, and increasingly collaborate with county child welfare agencies to ensure health and behavioral health needs of foster youth and eligible families are met.
Mandated Reporter	A person employed in a profession designated within the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (California Penal Code sections 11164 - 11174.3) who is legally obligated to report to law enforcement and/or child welfare services any incident “reasonably suspected” of being child abuse or neglect.
Mandated Reporter to Community Supporter initiative	A California prevention-focused effort designed to reframe the role of mandated reporters toward a support-first, prevention-oriented approach. The initiative promotes training, cross-sector collaboration, and system redesign so that professionals who are legally mandated reporters prioritize early engagement, family support, and connection to voluntary community-based services, while maintaining their legal duty to report reasonable suspicion of child maltreatment.
Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC)	A statutory committee established by the California Child Welfare Council. Membership includes representatives from county agencies, labor organizations, community-based organizations, and parents and youth with lived experience in the child welfare system. Its purpose is to support ongoing transformation of mandated reporting policy and practice toward community supporting approaches, reduce disparities in child welfare system involvement, and advise on improvements to mandated reporting systems, training, data, and policy.
Mandated Supporter	A professional who is legally a mandated reporter under California law but whose practice is oriented toward supporting families and connecting them to voluntary prevention services. Mandated supporters maintain the duty to report suspected abuse or neglect but prioritize early engagement, education, and family-strengthening interventions before reporting when appropriate.
Match	See Non-Federal Share of Cost.

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Medi-Cal	California’s Medicaid program, which may fund medically necessary behavioral health services that complement or overlap with prevention services.
Model Fidelity	Model fidelity means delivering an evidence-based prevention program exactly as designed and approved, ensuring both effectiveness and Title IV-E reimbursement eligibility.
Mutual Aid	A voluntary, reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit, often organized by communities or groups to support each other in meeting needs, especially during crises or systemic gaps in services.
Needs Assessment	A process to determine how service interventions are impacting and resolving risks within the family. This will help identify if services are meeting the family needs and if the family still meets candidacy requirements. Needs Assessment may also identify new prevention services or other supports that might help the family.
No Wrong Door	A cross-system service access framework in which families can receive or be connected to prevention and supportive services through any participating agency, provider, or community pathway without being turned away, redirected unnecessarily, or required to navigate multiple disconnected systems on their own. This could include screening, connection, and coordination of services.
Non-Federal Share of Cost	The federal government uses Title IV-E funding to reimburse states, Tribes, and territories for 50% of the cost of approved evidence-based prevention services. The remaining 50% must be provided from non-federal sources, such as state, local, Tribal, or other eligible non-federal funds.
Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)	The California Office of Child Abuse Prevention, a division within the California Department of Social Services that administers funding, programs, and initiatives aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families.
Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA)	The Office of Tribal Affairs is a division within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) that serves as the primary liaison between the state and California’s federally recognized Tribes regarding child welfare, foster care, and prevention services.
Outcome Measurement	Use of validated tools or defined indicators to assess service effectiveness.
Parent Partner / Family Navigator	A person with lived experience in the child welfare juvenile probation or mental health system who supports families in accessing prevention and early intervention services.
Payer of Last Resort (POLR)	Title IV-E prevention funds can only be used after all other available funding sources have been exhausted. For more information, refer to

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	All County Letter No. 25-12 / Behavioral Health Information Notice No. 25-018.
Performance Measures	Quantitative indicators used to assess program effectiveness, such as placement prevention rates or service completion.
Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Any information that can be used on its own or with other data to identify, contact, or locate a specific individual, such as names, Social Security numbers, or email addresses.
Portals	Where external partners/stakeholders can have role-based access to the application through the web.
Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)	Developmental building blocks—such as feeling safe, supported, and connected to family or community—that foster resilience, better adult mental health, and emotional well-being. Research shows higher PCEs can mitigate the impact of trauma (ACEs) and predict lower risks of adult depression and, in some cases, lower alcohol use.
Prevention CQI Collaborative (PCC)	A local group comprised of CPP/CQI leads, EBP providers, lived experts, Tribal Representatives and Tribal Advocates who work together to strengthen CQI practice through shared learning and practical application efforts.
Prevention Episode	A 12-month federally reimbursable service period beginning on the date an eligible prevention service is initiated.
Primary prevention	Activities directed at the general population to strengthen communities and improve child and family well-being, such as reducing poverty, increasing social connectedness, improving access to care, and increasing public awareness (e.g., parenting education, anti-bullying campaigns).
Probation Officer	A trained professional who works within the juvenile justice system to supervise and support young people who have been accused of or found responsible for legal offenses. Within FFPS, probation officers are responsible for assessing safety and risk, engaging families, coordinating services, and documenting FFPS eligibility and case management activities. Also sometimes referred to as a Caseworker.
Program Identifier Number (PIN)	Numeric codes identifying the specific program or funding source that a cost should be charged to when counties submit their claims. They help the state determine which program the expense belongs to, which funding stream should pay for it (federal, state, county), and what cost-sharing ratio applies.
Progress Monitoring	Ongoing documentation and evaluation of service engagement, fidelity, and measurable outcomes.

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Protected Health Information (PHI)	Individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associates, including medical records, treatment details, or payment information, protected under HIPAA.
Protective Factors	Attributes or resources that strengthen family resilience and child well-being.
Protective Factors Framework	A prevention framework that strengthens parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete supports, and children’s social-emotional competence.
Provider	An organization, agency, or individual that delivers direct services or interventions to participants.
Purveyor	An organization or entity responsible for distributing, supporting, and ensuring fidelity of a specific program model or practice.
Racial Equity	Seeking to reduce disproportionality in the child welfare system, supporting the development of community-based, culturally appropriate services and programs, and incorporating outcomes measures that help to ensure fair and unbiased reach in implementation and provision of services.
Reach	The number or proportion of the intended target population that participates in service.
Reconciliation	A systematic process of comparing, validating, and resolving differences between reported, billed, or claimed Title IV-E prevention services and the supporting source documentation to ensure accuracy, allowability, and compliance with federal and state requirements. Reconciliation confirms that services claimed (including units of service and child-specific administrative activities) are fully supported, correctly calculated, and tied to eligible children and approved prevention plans.
RED Team (Review, Evaluate, Direct)	A multidisciplinary review team at the child welfare hotline that evaluates incoming referrals or reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Its purpose is to ensure that screening and triage decisions are consistent, accurate, and aligned with child safety and risk assessment protocols.
Risk Assessment	A process to determine how service interventions are impacting and resolving risks within the family. This will help identify if services are meeting the family needs and if the family still meets candidacy requirements. This process serves as a needs assessment and may also identify new prevention services or other supports that might help the family.
Safety Monitoring	A process by which community prevention providers observe, document, and respond to child safety concerns within the scope of their role, consistent with definitions in the Child Abuse and Neglect

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	Reporting Act (CANRA). This includes recognizing and responding to “child abuse or neglect,” defined as physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means, sexual abuse (including sexual assault or exploitation), willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment, unlawful corporal punishment or injury, and neglect (severe or general).
Safety Plan	Documented plan to address immediate child safety concerns.
School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA)	A reimbursement program that allows local educational agencies (such as school districts and county offices of education) to receive federal Medi-Cal funds for administrative activities that help students access Medi-Cal services.
Secondary prevention	Early identification and intervention for at-risk groups. Activities are offered to populations that have one or more risk factors associated with compromised well-being or child maltreatment. Programs seek to build protective factors and mitigate the risk factors. (Family Resource Centers, parenting education, home visiting, family-centered substance use disorder treatment services, connecting families to public assistance programs, i.e., CalWORKS & CalFresh).
Service Array	The full continuum of available prevention and supportive services within a jurisdiction.
Service Authorization	Formal approval from the responsible agency confirming that the service aligns with the prevention plan and eligibility criteria.
Service End Date	California requires documentation of service completion date, termination reason (e.g., goals met, disengaged, referred elsewhere, entered foster care), whether the eligibility period ended. Common end-date reasons include completion of the service, family withdrawal or disengagement, change in candidacy, end of 12-month IV-E eligibility, child entering foster care.
Service Start Date	California guidance requires documentation of candidacy determination date, prevention plan approval date, service authorization date, and actual service start date (the date service delivery begins cannot be before candidacy determination or plan approval). For CARES, this date should be the first date when services are provided after service authorization is approved, candidacy is approved and the Family Well-Being Plan is developed with the family.
Share of Cost (SOC)	For certain Medi-Cal eligibility categories (such as Medically Needy), the amount of medical expenses an individual must incur before Medi-Cal begins paying for covered services. SOC reflects the financial threshold that must be met each month under the program and is used to determine when the state or plan assumes responsibility for service costs.

TERM	DEFINITION
Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)	The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age that influence health, well-being, and family stability. In child welfare prevention, SDOH help providers understand the broader factors affecting a family's risk of child abuse or neglect.
Social Worker (SW)	A county child welfare professional responsible for assessing safety and risk, engaging families, coordinating services, and documenting FFPS eligibility and case activities. Also sometimes referred to as a Child Welfare Worker (CWW), Protective Services Worker (PSW) or Children's Social Worker (CSW).
State and Governmental Partners	Includes the CDSS as the lead state agency, with support from other state agencies and entities, including coordination with Tribes and the FFPS Advisory Committee and subcommittees.
State Block Grant (SBG)	State-allocated flexible funding provided to counties to support prevention program development, implementation, and other activities aligned with FFPS. Counties were required to conduct needs assessments, create Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPPs), and develop cross-sector collaborations to receive the funds.
State Title IV-E Plan	A state-administered program approved by the federal government that allows reimbursement for foster care maintenance, adoption assistance, and related child welfare services under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act
Strength-Based Practice	A practice approach that intentionally identifies, affirms, and builds upon the inherent strengths, capacities, resources, and resilience of children, youth, families, and communities. Rather than centering deficits or pathology, strength-based practice reframes assessment and intervention to leverage protective factors and family competencies to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being.
Structured Decision Making (SDM)	A standardized set of assessment tools and protocols used in child welfare to guide consistent, evidence-informed decision-making at key practice points, such as screening, risk assessment, safety assessment, and placement decisions. SDM helps ensure that case decisions are more objective, transparent, and aligned with best practices, supporting consistent risk categorization and service provision across cases and jurisdictions.
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	A clinical diagnosis indicating problematic alcohol or drug use that impacts functioning. In prevention services, SUD assessment and treatment may be included as evidence-based interventions for parents or caregivers.
Supplantation	Replacing existing funding by using grant funds to pay for activities that were previously supported with other funds, rather than increasing or expanding services.

TERM	DEFINITION
Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR)	A California Department of Justice standard form for Mandated Reporters reporting child abuse.
System Partner	A public agency, Tribe, court, or other governmental organization collaborates to plan, fund, or deliver services in the California Child and Family System of Care.
Technical Assistance (TA)	Targeted guidance, coaching, and support provided to counties and Tribes to support FFPS implementation.
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	A federally funded block grant program that provides states with funding to administer cash assistance, work support, and related services for low-income families with children. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families emphasizes work participation, time-limited benefits, and state flexibility in program design.
Tertiary prevention	Reducing harm and preventing recurrence of established problems. Activities focus on families where child maltreatment has occurred, seeking to mitigate its trauma and reduce the negative consequences of the maltreatment, and to prevent its recurrence. (Family reunification services, permanency planning, mental health services, parent mentoring programs to families in crisis).
Title IV-E Prevention Services	Federally reimbursable prevention services for eligible “candidates for foster care” for up to 12 months per episode, including trauma-informed mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and in-home parenting programs.
Trauma-Informed Care	An organizational and clinical approach that recognizes the impact of adverse experiences and integrates safety, trust, and empowerment into service delivery.
Trauma-Informed Practice	An organizational and service delivery approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma, understands potential trauma responses, and actively works to avoid re-traumatization while promoting healing and resilience.
Tribal Advocate	An individual with relevant lived experience and Tribal connection who supports and advocates for Native American or Alaska Native individuals, families, or communities to support system development, and help navigate systems, access culturally appropriate services, and uphold Tribal rights and interests but who is not officially representing a Tribe.
Tribal Consultation and Collaboration	Recognizing the sovereignty of Tribal governments and establishing deliberate, inclusive, participatory processes for effective government-to-government consultation, collaboration, and collective, informed decision-making in the development of programs, systems, and policies that impact Tribes and Indian

TERM	DEFINITION
	families, ensuring consistent partnership with Tribes in all aspects of individual assessment and case planning for Indian children and families, and actively supporting Tribes developing and operating services and programs under a Title IV-E or other agreement between the State and Tribe.
Tribal Representative	An individual formally designated to represent the interests, perspectives, and authority of a specific Tribe or Tribal government in planning, decision-making, or collaborative efforts.
Tribal TANF	A version of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families administered directly by federally recognized Tribes or Tribal consortia. With Tribal TANF, Tribes design and operate their own TANF programs to better reflect their cultural values, needs, and service approaches.
Unit of Service	A standardized, measurable increment of a Title IV-E prevention service delivered to or on behalf of a specific child or family, used to document service provision, support billing or claiming, and track utilization. A unit of service reflects the type, duration, or occurrence of a service as defined by the program or service model and must be clearly tied to the child's approved prevention plan.
Voluntary Services	Prevention or support services provided without a court order. Families freely consent to participation with no risk of negative consequence if they terminate participation.
Warm Handoff	A coordinated referral process involving direct communication between the referring agency and the receiving provider to support engagement.
Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)	California's codified statutes governing social services, public welfare programs, and child welfare law. WIC contains the legal framework for county child welfare services, eligibility criteria, administration of state-supervised programs, and related requirements. In child welfare practice, practitioners reference WIC sections that define program authority, responsibilities, and compliance standards.
Welfare to Work (WTW)	A component of CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work (WTW) helps individuals receiving public assistance prepare for, obtain, and retain employment and includes access to services and resources such as childcare and transportation as well as intensive, short-term case management and services to families experiencing crises—such as homelessness, domestic violence, or behavioral health challenges—that prevent participation in employment activities.
Workforce Excellence	Striving for workforce excellence with a staff composition that reflects the ethnic, linguistic, and cultural aspects of the community, incorporates individuals with lived experience, and is grounded in trauma-informed practice.

TERM	DEFINITION
Youth Advocate	A person with lived experience in the child welfare probation or mental health system who provides guidance and support for transition-age youth focused on speaking up for or with the youth in systems and decision-making spaces.
Youth Mentor	A person with lived experience in the child welfare probation or mental health system who provides guidance and support for transition-age youth focused on supporting the youth's personal growth through a consistent relationship.

Glossary 2

This glossary has acronyms related to FFPS development and implementation in alphabetical order. Use Glossary 1 (see page 1) if you are searching based on an acronym or initials.

ACRONYM	TERM	DEFINITION
AB2083	AB2083 Interagency Leadership Team (ILT)	See ILT
ACEs	Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) Screening	Assessment tools for identifying adverse childhood experiences.
ACF	Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, responsible for federal programs which promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities.
ACIN	All County Information Notice (ACIN)	A formal notification from CDSS providing information on program operations, reporting requirements, or clarifications that may not require formal policy changes.
ACL	All County Letter (ACL)	A guidance document issued by CDSS to inform counties and providers about policy changes, implementation instructions, or program updates.
ACYF	Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)	An office of the ACF within the Department of Health and Human Services. ACYF is the federal sponsor for Child Welfare Services (CWS) and the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) program.
BH-CONNECT	Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT)	BH-CONNECT is comprised of a new five-year Medicaid Section 1115 demonstration, State Plan Amendments (SPAs) to expand coverage of evidence-based practices (EBPs) available under Medi-Cal, and complementary guidance and policies to strengthen behavioral health services statewide.
BHSA	Behavioral Health Services Act	California's voter-approved behavioral health funding framework (formerly the Mental Health Services Act) that provides dedicated state funding to counties for mental health and substance use disorder services, including prevention and early intervention programs designed to reduce risk factors and strengthen protective supports for children, youth, and families.

CalAIM	California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM)	A statewide initiative by the California Department of Health Care Services designed to transform the Medi-Cal system by delivering more coordinated whole person care through enhanced care management, population health management, and community supports. CalAIM emphasizes care coordination for high-need populations with the goal of improved health outcomes and cross-system alignment.
CalWORKs	California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs)	A California public assistance program that provides temporary cash aid and employment services to low-income families with children. Administered by the California Department of Social Services, CalWORKs includes Welfare-to-Work services, supportive services (such as childcare and transportation), and other resources designed to help families.
CANS	Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)	A standardized assessment tool used to identify the behavioral health, social-emotional, and family needs of children and youth. CANS informs service planning, placement decisions, and outcome measurement.
CAPC	Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC)	County-level advisory council and non-profit promoting prevention strategies and providing services to families.
CAPIT	Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT)	California state-funded program (administered by CDSS) that provides flexible funding to counties to support child abuse prevention and early intervention services.
CARES		See CWS CARES
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Volunteers appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of children in foster care. CASA provides independent monitoring, reporting, and support to ensure children's needs are met.
CBCAP	Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)	A federal grant program authorized under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). Funds are awarded to states, which then distribute them (in California, through CDSS) to support community-based prevention efforts.
CBHDA	California Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA)	A statewide membership organization for county behavioral health directors. It provides policy guidance, technical assistance, and advocacy for mental health and substance use services, including coordination with child welfare and prevention programs.

CBO	Community-Based Organization (CBO)	A contracted or partnered provider delivering prevention services within the community pathway.
CCWIS	Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)	A federally required child welfare data system that supports the collection and management of case information (intake, case plans, services, placements, outcomes).
CDE	California Department of Education (CDE)	The California Department of Education is an agency within the Government of California that oversees public education. The department oversees funding and testing, and holds local educational agencies accountable for student achievement. Its stated mission is to provide leadership, assistance, oversight, and resources so that every Californian has access to a good education.
CDSS	California Department of Social Services (CDSS)	The state agency responsible for administering California's child welfare system and FFPS prevention plan.
CEC	County Expense Claim (CEC)	A formal, periodic financial report submitted by a county or local agency to the state documenting allowable expenditures for Title IV-E prevention services and related activities. The county expense claim aggregates costs such as units of service and child-specific administrative activities and serves as the basis for reimbursement.
CECRIS	County Expense Claim Reporting Information System (CECRIS)	California's centralized automated system that allows counties to report and claim reimbursement for both administrative and assistance costs across public assistance and child welfare programs.
CFL	County Fiscal Letter (CFL)	An official guidance document issued by the California Department of Social Services that provides counties with instructions on funding, budgeting, claiming, and fiscal policy changes related to state and federal programs.
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)	CFSR is a federal review process conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to evaluate state child welfare systems. The goal is to ensure states provide safe, permanent, and well-supported environments for children.
CFTM	Child and Family Team Meeting (CFTM)	A collaborative meeting structure including family members, youth (as appropriate), social workers, and service providers to guide planning and decision-making.

CMAA	County-based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (CMAA)	A California program that allows public agencies and eligible partners (such as counties, schools, and community-based organizations) to receive federal Medicaid (Medi-Cal) reimbursement for certain administrative activities that support access to Medi-Cal-covered services. These activities do not include direct clinical services, but instead cover functions like outreach, eligibility assistance, care coordination, referrals, program planning, and interagency collaboration.
CPM	Core Practice Model (CPM)	California's integrated child welfare practice framework that establishes shared values, behaviors, and expectations for working with children, youth, and families across systems. CPM is designed to ensure consistent, trauma-informed, strengths-based, and family-centered practice statewide.
CPOC	Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC)	CPOC is a membership and advocacy organization for California county probation leaders. It represents county probation departments on policy, practice, and legislative issues related to juvenile justice, youth in foster care, and cross-system collaboration.
CPP	Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP)	Under FFPSA, this is the federally required plan that describes how the jurisdiction (state or county) will implement Title IV-E funded prevention services. This is a state or county plan, not an individual child's prevention plan. For more information refer to California's Five-Year State Prevention Plan.
CPP Leads	Comprehensive Prevention Plan (CPP) Leads	The local Title IV-E agency (Child Welfare, Probation, and Tribes with Title IV-E Agreements) staff who serve as lead of the county/Tribe's CPP
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)	Focusing on program monitoring, integrity, and outcomes to ensure high-quality, ever-improving, and equitable services.
CWDA	California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)	A statewide membership and advocacy organization for county human services and child welfare directors. It represents counties in policy discussions, provides technical guidance, and supports implementation of statewide child welfare programs, including FFPSA prevention services.
CWS CARES	Child Welfare Services - California Automated	CWS-CARES is the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) implemented in October 2026 in the State of California. CWS-CARES consolidates functionalities from various systems into

	Response and Engagement System (CWS CARES)	a single system and includes multiple interfaces with other applications. Title IV-E Agencies, Tribes, and partners will use CWS-CARES for case documentation, resource management, and fiscal management.
CWS/CMS	Child Welfare Services/ Case Management System (CWS/CMS)	California's legacy statewide database used by counties to document child welfare case activity, eligibility, and service delivery.
CYBHI	Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI)	is a statewide effort to support the behavioral health of young people in California. CYBHI makes it easier for children, teens, and young adults to get help wherever they need it:
CYSOC	California Child and Youth System of Care (CYSOC)	California's coordinated, cross-agency framework for delivering integrated, family-centered services to children, youth, and families across child welfare, probation, behavioral health, and education systems. Also sometimes called the System of Care or SOC.
DHCS	California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)	The agency overseeing Medi-Cal and behavioral health financing, including services that may intersect with FFPSA prevention eligibility.
EBP	Evidence-based Practice (EBP)	An EBP is a prevention service or program that has been rated by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse as promising, supported, or well-supported and is eligible for IV-E reimbursement (if other requirements are met).
ECM	ECM (Enhanced Care Management)	A Medi-Cal benefit under CalAIM that provides intensive, community-based care coordination for members with complex medical and social needs, delivered through managed care plans.
EIRRC	Evaluation of Imminent Risk and Reasonable Candidacy (EIRRC)	A structured assessment used by probation departments to determine whether a youth is at imminent risk of entering out-of-home placement (such as foster care or congregate care) and meets criteria for services or placement intervention under child welfare or juvenile justice authority.
EPSDT	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)	A federally mandated Medicaid benefit for beneficiaries under age 21 that ensures comprehensive and preventive health services, including screening, diagnosis, and treatment.
EPY	Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth (EPY)	Youth in foster care who are expecting or parenting. Youth in this category are considered candidates for Title IV-E funded prevention services.

ER	Emergency Response (ER)	The Child Welfare Services function responsible for investigating allegations of abuse or neglect and determining initial safety and service needs.
EUST	End User Scenario Testing (EUST)	A formal testing phase in which frontline end users (e.g., social workers, eligibility staff, supervisors, fiscal staff, and community providers in the provider portal) execute defined, real-world business scenarios in the CARES system to validate that workflows, policy requirements, documentation, eligibility determinations, and reporting functions operate correctly prior to release or go-live.
FFP	Federal Financial Participation (FFP)	The federal share of costs reimbursed for eligible child welfare, Medicaid, or prevention services. FFP is used to calculate reimbursement under Title IV-E and FFPSA-funded programs.
FFPSA	Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)	Federal legislation enacted in 2018 that amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to allow states to claim federal reimbursement for approved evidence-based mental health, substance use, and in-home parenting services for children at imminent risk of foster care placement and their families.
FFTA	Family First Transition Act (FFTA)	Federal legislation enacted in 2019 that provided transition funding and flexibilities to help states implement the Family First Prevention Services Act.
FM	Family Maintenance (FM)	A Child Welfare Services track in which a child remains safely in the home while the county provides services to reduce risk and prevent foster care placement.
FMAP	Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP)	The federal matching rate for Medicaid expenditures, including eligible prevention, health, and behavioral health services provided to children and families. It determines the percentage of Medicaid costs that the federal government reimburses to states, with the remaining share covered by state or local funds.
FRC	Family Resource Center (FRC)	A community-based organization that provides culturally responsive prevention services, supports, and connections to families to reduce child welfare involvement.
FWBP	Family Well-Being Plan (FWBP)	A Family Well-Being Plan is a coordinated, cross-system service plan that is developed in collaboration with families to describe the prevention services they want to receive to reduce foster care risk and strengthen family stability. For more information refer to the Family Well-Being Plan Brief .

FWPB	Family Well-Being Plan (FWBP)	A strengths-based, voluntary, family-driven plan developed collaboratively with families, Tribes, and community partners to identify goals, needs, services, and supports that promote safety, stability, and long-term well-being.
HPCFC	Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HPCFC)	A public health nursing program located in county child welfare service agencies and probation departments to provide public health nurse (PHN) expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental and developmental needs of children and youth in out of home placement. This service may be relevant to expecting and parenting youth in foster care.
HCPCS	HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System)	A standardized coding system used in the United States to describe medical procedures, services, equipment, and supplies for billing and insurance purposes. HCPCS is maintained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and is primarily used for Medicare, Medicaid, and other health insurance programs.
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)	a U.S. federal law that sets standards for protecting sensitive patient health information and regulates how healthcare providers, insurers, and related entities handle it.
ICPM	Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM)	An expansion of the Core Practice Model that formalizes cross-system integration between child welfare, behavioral health, probation, education, developmental services, and Tribal partners.
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)	A federal law that protects the rights of Native American children, families and Tribes in child welfare cases, requiring inquiry to identify Tribally affiliated children, noticing of Tribes, active efforts for reunification and preference for placement with family, Tribe, or other Native families.
IHCP	An Indian Health Care Provider (IHCP)	An Indian Health Care Provider is a health program operated by IHS, a Tribe, or an urban Indian organization that delivers services to American Indian and Alaska Native individuals and may serve as a primary provider for Medicaid-eligible prevention services.
ILT	AB2083 Interagency Leadership Team (ILT)	A county-level leadership body established under California AB 2083 that brings together senior representatives from child welfare, behavioral health, probation, education, Tribal partners, and community

		organizations. The 2083 ILT guides cross-system coordination to support early intervention and prevention services, align service delivery across agencies, address systemic barriers, and ensure trauma-informed, strengths-based approaches for children and families at risk of foster care placement.
KPI	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	Metrics used to track effectiveness of prevention programs.
LEA	Local Education Agency (LEA)	The school district or local education body responsible for delivering educational services to children, including those in foster care or prevention programs.
LMS	Learning Management System (LMS)	A software tool used to administer, manage, track, and deliver training programs and courses.
MCP	Managed Care Plan (MCP)	In Medi-Cal, a Managed Care Plan is an entity contracted to provide a broad array of health services (medical, behavioral, preventive, and specialty services) to enrolled members under a fixed per-member, per-month payment. MCPs coordinate care, assign primary care providers, and increasingly collaborate with county child welfare agencies to ensure health and behavioral health needs of foster youth and eligible families are met.
MOE	Maintenance of Effort (MOE)	Counties must continue spending at least a specified baseline level of its own funds on prevention services in order to receive state or federal FFPS funding.
MRAC	Mandated Reporting Advisory Committee (MRAC)	A statutory committee established by the California Child Welfare Council. Membership includes representatives from county agencies, labor organizations, community-based organizations, and parents and youth with lived experience in the child welfare system. Its purpose is to support ongoing transformation of mandated reporting policy and practice toward community supporting approaches, reduce disparities in child welfare system involvement, and advise on improvements to mandated reporting systems, training, data, and policy.
OCAP	Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP)	The California Office of Child Abuse Prevention, a division within the California Department of Social Services that administers funding, programs, and initiatives aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and strengthening families.

OTA	Office of Tribal Affairs (OTA)	The Office of Tribal Affairs is a division within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) that serves as the primary liaison between the state and California’s federally recognized Tribes regarding child welfare, foster care, and prevention services.
PCC	Prevention CQI Collaborative (PCC)	A local group comprised of CPP/CQI leads, EBP providers, lived experts, Tribal Representatives and Tribal Advocates who work together to strengthen CQI practice through shared learning and practical application efforts.
PCEs	Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)	Developmental building blocks—such as feeling safe, supported, and connected to family or community—that foster resilience, better adult mental health, and emotional well-being. Research shows higher PCEs can mitigate the impact of trauma (ACEs) and predict lower risks of adult depression and, in some cases, lower alcohol use.
PEI	Child Welfare Council Prevention and Early Intervention Committee (PEI)	A designated standing committee of the California Child Welfare Council focused on promoting and strengthening policies, strategies, and system improvements that prevent child abuse and neglect and support child, parent, and family well-being across California. Membership includes county leaders, state partners, providers, advocates, parents, youth with lived experience, and community partners.
PHI	Protected Health Information (PHI)	Individually identifiable health information held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associates, including medical records, treatment details, or payment information, protected under HIPAA.
PII	Personally Identifiable Information (PII)	Any information that can be used on its own or with other data to identify, contact, or locate a specific individual, such as names, Social Security numbers, or email addresses.
PIN	Program Identifier Numbers (PIN)	Numeric codes identifying the specific program or funding source that a cost should be charged to when counties submit their claims. They help the state determine which program the expense belongs to, which funding stream should pay for it (federal, state, county), and what cost-sharing ratio applies.
POLR	Payer of Last Resort (POLR)	Payer of Last Resort means Title IV-E prevention funds can only be used after all other available funding sources have been exhausted. For more information,

		refer to All County Letter No. 25-12 / Behavioral Health Information Notice No. 25-018.
RED Team	RED Team (Review, Evaluate, Direct)	A multidisciplinary review team at the child welfare hotline that evaluates incoming referrals or reports of suspected child abuse or neglect. Its purpose is to ensure that screening and triage decisions are consistent, accurate, and aligned with child safety and risk assessment protocols.
SBG	State Block Grant (SBG)	State-allocated flexible funding provided to counties to support prevention program development, implementation, and other activities aligned with FFPS. Counties were required to conduct needs assessments, create Comprehensive Prevention Plans (CPPs), and develop cross-sector collaborations to receive the funds.
SCAR	Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR)	A California Department of Justice standard form for Mandated Reporters reporting child abuse.
SDM	Structured Decision Making (SDM)	A standardized set of assessment tools and protocols used in child welfare to guide consistent, evidence-informed decision-making at key practice points, such as screening, risk assessment, safety assessment, and placement decisions. SDM helps ensure that case decisions are more objective, transparent, and aligned with best practices, supporting consistent risk categorization and service provision across cases and jurisdictions.
SDOH	Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)	The conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age that influence health, well-being, and family stability. In child welfare prevention, SDOH help providers understand the broader factors affecting a family's risk of child abuse or neglect.
SMAA	School-Based Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (SMAA)	A reimbursement program that allows local educational agencies (such as school districts and county offices of education) to receive federal Medi-Cal funds for administrative activities that help students access Medi-Cal services.
SOC	See California Child and Youth System of Care (CYSOC)	California's coordinated, cross-agency framework for delivering integrated, family-centered services to children, youth, and families across child welfare, probation, behavioral health, and education systems
SOC	Share of Cost (SOC)	For certain Medi-Cal eligibility categories (such as Medically Needy), the amount of medical expenses an

		individual must incur before Medi-Cal begins paying for covered services. SOC reflects the financial threshold that must be met each month under the program and is used to determine when the state or plan assumes responsibility for service costs.
SUD	Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	A clinical diagnosis indicating problematic alcohol or drug use that impacts functioning. In prevention services, SUD assessment and treatment may be included as evidence-based interventions for parents or caregivers.
SW	Social Worker (SW)	A county child welfare professional responsible for assessing safety and risk, engaging families, coordinating services, and documenting FFPS eligibility and case activities. Also sometimes referred to as a Child Welfare Worker (CWW) or Protective Services Worker (PSW).
TA	Technical Assistance (TA)	Targeted guidance, coaching, and support provided to counties and Tribes to support FFPS implementation.
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	A federally funded block grant program that provides states with funding to administer cash assistance, work support, and related services for low-income families with children. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families emphasizes work participation, time-limited benefits, and state flexibility in program design.
WIC	Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC)	California's codified statutes governing social services, public welfare programs, and child welfare law. WIC contains the legal framework for county child welfare services, eligibility criteria, administration of state-supervised programs, and related requirements. In child welfare practice, practitioners reference WIC sections that define program authority, responsibilities, and compliance standards.
WTW	Welfare to Work (WTW)	A component of CalWORKs, Welfare-to-Work (WTW) services help individuals receiving public assistance prepare for, obtain, and retain employment and includes access to services and resources such as childcare and transportation as well as intensive, short-term case management and services to families experiencing crises such as homelessness, domestic violence, or behavioral health challenges that prevent participation in employment activities.
XML	Extensible Markup Language (XML)	A data format widely used for structured electronic data exchange. In child welfare information systems

		like CCWIS or for federal reporting, XML is commonly used to transmit individual, service, placement, and outcomes data between local systems, state repositories, and federal reporting interfaces.
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Feedback and Questions Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this brief. Please take a few moments to complete the [FFPS Glossary of Terms Survey](#) to share your input and suggestions. Your feedback will help inform future resources and ensure they are clear, effective, and supportive of FFPS Program implementation.

Questions?

For additional questions regarding FFPS Program policy and requirements, please contact the CDSS FFPS Team at ffpsapreventionservices@dss.ca.gov.