

Recommended Best Practice Sequencing of Required FFPS Training

FFPS requires California to maintain a qualified and trained prevention workforce.¹ The training approach outlined in this document helps counties meet that requirement² by providing flexible learning opportunities that recognize the convergence of implementation efforts over the coming months, including CWS-CARES. Workforce training and related implementation activities are claimable under Title IV-E prevention services and are designed to help counties build sustainable capacity to deliver prevention services with fidelity.

FFPS Training Requirements at a Glance

Training	Requirement	Description
CWS-CARES	Must complete before claiming	Title IV-E Agency staff, system partners and community-based organizations who will be entering data in CARES or the CARES Provider Portal must complete training on the CARES processes related to their role to accurately document required data for Title IV-E claiming. It is recommended that they complete this training prior to November 1, 2026.
FFPS Learning Series (Tier 1 & 2)	At least 1 staff person must complete prior to service delivery and claiming; all must complete within a year	Title IV-E Agency staff, system partners, and community-based organizations providing services must complete the FFPS Learning Series (Tier 1 and Tier 2). ³ Prior to beginning service delivery and claiming, each Title IV-E Agency or provider organization must have at least one trained staff member who can advise others performing claimable work. ⁴ All staff delivering FFPS services must be trained within 1 year of beginning claiming.

¹ The prevention workforce is Title IV-E Agency staff (child welfare agencies, probation departments, and Tribes with a California Title IV-E agreement), system partners and community-based organizations delivering or supporting delivery of prevention services.

² Refer to [All County Letter \(ACL\) 25-73](#) for more details regarding Tier 1 training requirements. The Tier 2 Training ACL is forthcoming.

³ The FFPS Learning Series classroom training and asynchronous e-learning both fulfill the FFPS training requirement.

⁴ This flexibility is intended to ensure each Title IV-E agency includes staff who can answer questions and make sure all program requirements are met while providing a longer window for full staff training. CPP leads are well positioned to fill this role. Larger counties may need more than one person to ensure staff delivering prevention services are adequately supported while their training is pending.

Training	Requirement	Description
EBP Specific Training	Must meet EBP requirements before delivering EBP	Anyone delivering an evidence-based practice (EBP) must meet fidelity requirements including training, coaching, and fidelity monitoring for that EBP. Since timing requirements vary, consult purveyors.
CQI Asynchronous e-learning Modules 1-5	CPP and CQI leads must complete prior to participation in the Prevention CQI Collaboratives (PCCs)	CPP & CQI Leads must complete the CQI e-learning modules. This training series is also recommended for Data Teams, CFSR Reviewers, community-based providers, EBP contract managers, and others participating in the CQI process.

Recommended Training and Workforce Development Activities

In addition to the required training described above, counties must conduct prevention-related continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities consistent with the [California CQI Plan](#) and [CQI Implementation Plan](#). To support this work, counties are encouraged to establish a local prevention CQI team or incorporate prevention-related CQI activities into existing CQI structures by including the appropriate participants and data. Counties are also encouraged to participate in the Prevention CQI Collaborative (PCC).

Activity	Timeframe	Description
Prevention CQI Collaborative (PCC)	Anticipated to begin Spring 2027	Virtual quarterly regional PCC, with local CQI team, to share data and learn successful strategies from regional colleagues. Technical assistance and facilitation provided by Chapin Hall and CDSS FFPS team. PCCs are not required but are highly encouraged and are supportive of readiness for implementing CQI requirements alongside CQI Training.

Developing Your Local Training Delivery Plan

Title IV-E Agencies and CalAcademies will work together to develop training delivery plans and ensure access to all training modules for staff, tribal partners, system and community partners, and expert consultants. While this initial training delivery plan is necessary to ensure all required training is available, more information on developing ongoing training plans will be included in forthcoming guidance on CPPs.

The content below describes each training in more detail and provides a recommended sequence. Because there are some differences in required training based on role, sequencing is described differently for Title IV-E Agency staff and others.

Tier 1 – FFPS/A Foundations⁵ - This training series establishes a common understanding of FFPS principles, prevention-focused practice, equity, and the Integrated Core Practice Model across diverse agencies and partners. It is required for all Title IV-E Agency staff and providers who will be delivering Title IV-E funded prevention services.

Tier 2: FFPS Case Management and Service Delivery (Available July 2026)⁶ - This training series is focused on FFPS program requirements, candidacy determination, prevention pathways, case management responsibilities, and service delivery.

Tier 3: Evidence-Based Practice Resources - Training focused on Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse-approved EBPs. These trainings are recommended when making decisions about what EBPs to include in the local service array. All providers delivering EBPs must complete required training, coaching, and fidelity monitoring as identified by the EBP purveyor or, for Motivational Interviewing, as identified in the [Motivational Interviewing CQI Brief](#) and [MI Training Plan](#).

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) - Training focused on the 5-Step CQI framework for California, supporting ongoing analysis, learning, and refinement in the delivery of prevention services. Required training will be provided for county CPP and CQI leads. The following partners are encouraged but not required to take the CQI training modules: EBP contract holders, community-based providers, lived expert consultants, tribal partners, and others. See the [California CQI Plan](#) for more details.

The 5 eLearning modules in this training series should be completed prior to participating in the PCC process which will start in January 2027.

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| 1. Introduction to FFPS & the Role of CQI | 4. Developing or Refining Local CQI Implementation Workgroups |
| 2. Intro to the EBP Measurement Framework | 5. Practical Application of the 5-Step CQI Framework |
| 3. Intro to CA's 5 -Step CQI Framework | |

⁵ Refer to [All County Letter \(ACL\) 25-73](#) for more details, including required vs. recommended attendees, for Tier 1 training.

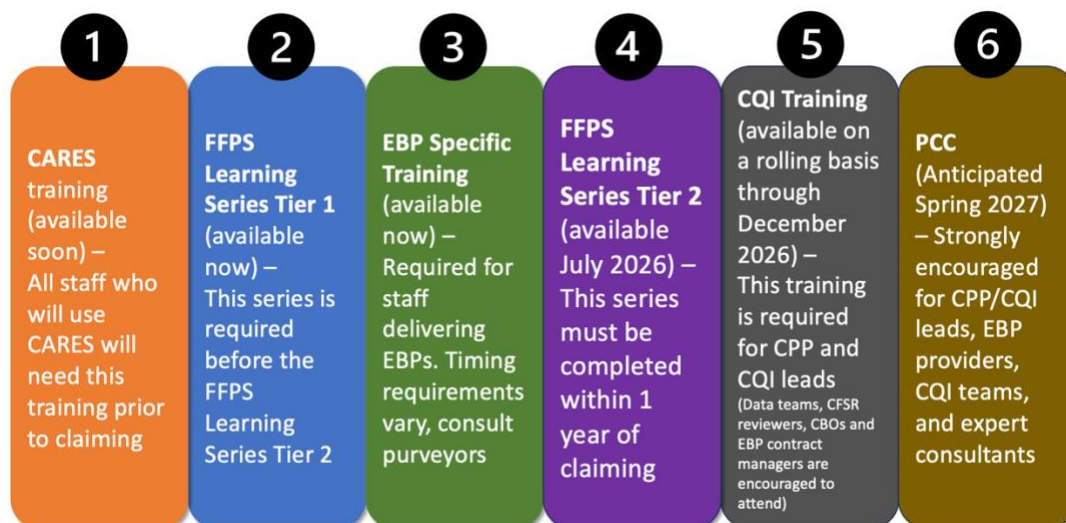
⁶ There will be a forthcoming ACL with more details, including required vs. recommended attendees, for Tier 2 training.

Prevention CQI Collaborative (PCC) - Technical assistance opportunity provided regionally and virtually by Chapin Hall and the CDSS FFPS team. Offered quarterly with facilitation, these sessions bring teams together to share lessons learned, strengths, and challenges with regional colleagues while drawing on national implementation expertise.

FFPS Series Recommended Sequencing by Role

Title IV-E Agency Staff (including caseworkers, probation staff, supervisors, managers, administrators, fiscal staff)	Tier 1	1. FFPS Overview ⁷ 2. Shifting Mindset towards Prevention 3. Implicit Bias & Disproportionality 4. Integrated Core Practice Model Overview ⁸
	Tier 2	1. Candidacy Determination & Pathway Overview 2. Safety Through the Lens of Prevention 3. Case Management for Child Welfare OR Case Management for Probation
Tribal Partners, Community-based organizations and other FFPS partners	Tier 1	1. FFPS Overview 2. Shifting Mindset towards Prevention 3. Implicit Bias & Disproportionality 4. Integrated Core Practice Model Overview
	Tier 2	1. Walking Together with Tribes (Tribal partners exempt) 2. Candidacy Determination & Pathway Overview 3. Safety Through the Lens of Prevention 4. Case Management for Community Pathway

General Sequencing Recommendation



⁷ FFPS Overview is required before any other FFPS Training series module. It is recommended that Title IV-E Agencies work with their CalAcademy to support access and timing of these modules for staff and community partners.

⁸ Title IV-E Agency staff may seek exemption from the Integrated Core Practice Model training if they have already taken equivalent training. **Learn more about the exemption process [here](#).**

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on this brief. Please take a few moments to complete the [Feedback 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.