



State of Florida  
Department of Children and Families

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Chad Poppell  
Secretary

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**DATE:** September 13, 2019

**TO:** Regional Managing Directors  
Sheriff's Offices Conducting Child Protective Investigations  
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

**THROUGH:** Patricia Babcock, Deputy Secretary *PB*

**FROM:** Patricia Medlock, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *PM*

**SUBJECT:** 'Get Ready' for FSFN Enhancements – Eligibility Enhancements Release 1

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this memorandum is to update all child welfare stakeholders on the status of the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) enhancements scheduled to be implemented on September 27, 2019, so final preparations can be made locally to "Get Ready" for the changes.

**BACKGROUND:** Florida's child welfare system has been under the Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver since 2006, allowing the state to forego certain provisions of the Title IV-E Social Security Act, yet still claim Title IV-E dollars. The Department of Children and Families (Department) uses much of this revenue to fund our unique community-based care child welfare system. This waiver is set to expire on September 30, 2019, and the Department anticipates it will lose approximately 90 million dollars. Therefore, with the sun setting of the Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver, the Department has implemented the Path Forward initiative which includes various programs that will draw down additional funding to support the state's child welfare system.

One of the efforts in the project is focused on updating policy, practice, and the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) to align with Federal Title IV-E standards and ensuring all components of the child welfare system are operating in alignment with the standards.

The goals of the FSFN Eligibility Enhancements are to:

- Accurately determine Title IV-E eligibility for each child
- Accurately claim Title IV-E funding for reimbursable services
- Maintain timely and efficient eligibility determinations and redeterminations
- Maximize Title IV-E utilization

These changes will impact and require training for a multitude of child welfare programs, including Child Protective Investigations, Case Management, Adoptions, Children Legal Services, Revenue Maximization, and Fiscal.

In preparation for the enhancements to "Go Live" on September 27, 2019, there is a continuous effort to assess and achieve people readiness, system readiness, and the implementation of a support plan. The following is a status on our readiness assessment:

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Mission: Work in Partnership with Local Communities to Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency

**PEOPLE READINESS: On Target!** – Statewide training sessions have been scheduled and are scheduled to begin on September 30, 2019.

**SYSTEM READINESS: On Target** – The FSFN enhancements have been designed, developed, and User Acceptance Testing is currently in progress.

**SUPPORT READINESS: On Target!** – All policy updates are in progress.

A project website has been setup on the Center for Child Welfare's website ([centerforchildwelfare.org](http://centerforchildwelfare.org)) to house all project related policy, training, FAQ, and FSFN documentation and can be located at [Eligibility Enhancements Release 1](#) and [Revenue Maximization Resources](#).

**TRAIN THE TRAINER/TRAINING INFORMATION:** Five train the trainer/training sessions have been scheduled: one in Miami, one in Tampa, one in Orlando, one in Jacksonville, and one in Tallahassee.

Miami:	09/30/2019 – 10/01/2019
Jacksonville:	10/03/2019 – 10/04/2019
Orlando:	10/08/2019 – 10/09/2019
Tampa:	10/10/2019 – 10/11/2019
Tallahassee	10/16/2019 – 10/17/2019

All training materials will be available on the project's website once training is completed. For any training related questions, please contact your regional champions.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** It is time to **Get Ready** for the Eligibility Enhancements Release 1 to go-live on September 27, 2019. Please continue to execute all readiness plans to ensure our workforce is ready for the upcoming FSFN changes.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have questions about the Eligibility Enhancements Release 1, please send them to [HQW.FS.Eligibility.Redesign@myflfamilies.com](mailto:HQW.FS.Eligibility.Redesign@myflfamilies.com). If you have FSFN questions, please contact Amanda Smith at [Amanda.Smith@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Amanda.Smith@myflfamilies.com). If you have any questions regarding local readiness efforts, please contact your regional champion below.

**Regional Champions:**

Northwest Region – Regina Pleas – [Regina.Pleas@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Regina.Pleas@myflfamilies.com)  
Northeast Region – Rebecca Robinson – [Rebecca.Robinson@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Rebecca.Robinson@myflfamilies.com)  
Central Region – Fawn Moore – [Fawn.Moore@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Fawn.Moore@myflfamilies.com)  
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Southeast Region – Tausha Schreiber – [Tausha.Schreiber@myflfamilies.com](mailto:Tausha.Schreiber@myflfamilies.com)  
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cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors  
Center for Child Welfare  
FSFN Consultant Network