



Date: April 8, 2019
To: Members of the Coalition of Residential Excellence
From: Don Forrester, Executive Director
Subject: March 2019 CORE Monthly Report

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- **FFPSA – Selection of Evidence Based Programs**

In November 2018, HHS released information concerning the first list of programs and services scheduled for assessment by the Title IV-E Clearing House to assess their eligibility as approved evidence based practices. Results of the review reportedly are expected to be released in May 2019. The possible categories are: "promising," "supported," "well-supported," or "does not currently meet criteria."

Perhaps it falls under the category of too little too late, but reportedly Congress expressed concern over the anticipated timeline of receiving the results. Reportedly, the statute required this list be received by October 1, 2018. In addition, also included in the law is the requirement that 50% of the programs offered must fall in the "well supported" category.

I am attaching a copy of correspondence dated March 7, 2019, sent to HHS from Senator Grassley, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Ron Wyden, Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, Congressman Danny K. Davis, Chairman – Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support - Committee on Ways and Means and Congressman and Jackie Walorski, Ranking Member- Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support – Committee on Ways and Means.

Programs selected for review included the following:

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Mental Health	Substance Abuse	In-Home Parent Skilled Based	Kinship Navigator Program
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	Motivational Interviewing	Nurse-Family Partnership	Children’s Home Society of New Jersey Kinship Navigator Model
Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Multisystemic Therapy	Healthy Families America	Children’s Home, Inc. Kinship Interdisciplinary Navigation Technologically – Advanced Model (KIN-Tech)
Multisystemic Therapy	Families Facing the Future	Parents as Teachers	
Functional Family Therapy	Methadone Maintenance Therapy		

http://static.smallworldlabs.com/alliance1/user_content/files/000/000/341/be09cff13eb6b4cd372b558b63fb6eco-attachment-c-the-title-iv-e-ps-clearinghouse-initial-criteriafinal.pdf

Reportedly, the aforementioned list does not include many evidence-based programs that have established strong evidence of effectiveness that many states anticipated would be on the list. Many of these programs have already been approved by other HHS-managed clearing houses and/ states have already been operating with evaluations under Title IV-E waivers.

The Department of Health and Human Services was requested: “To assure states as quickly as possible that all twelve programs currently being reviewed would be included as part of the pre-approved list and therefore eligible for federal funding”. In addition, they were requested to: “Clarify that states may submit as part of their state plan their proposed prevention services for review by HHS, and that they do not have to wait for a program to be included on the HHS pre-approved list before requesting approval to receive reimbursement for it”.

- **Federal Register – Proposed Rules Filed by Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division**

On March 29, 2019 the Federal Register included proposed rules for a 60-Day Review and Comment Period regarding: **9 CFR Parts 548 and 778 - RIN 1235-AA24 - Regular Rate Under the Fair Labor Standards Act**

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You may access the document at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-03-29/pdf/2019-05687.pdf> The document includes information on where to submit comments in relation to the review process.

- It is a lengthy document and basically raises the minimum salary for an executive, administrative, or professional employee from \$455 per week (\$23,660) to \$679 per week (\$35,308 per year) if they are to be considered exempt from wage and hour requirements.
- Up to 10% of the salary minimum can be satisfied through nondiscretionary bonuses, incentives, and/or commissions that are paid annually or more frequently.
- The threshold for exemption as a "highly compensated employee" would jump from \$100,000 to \$147,414 in total annual compensation.

Following the 60-day review and comment period, the DOL will issue a final rule. Reportedly, the DOL is anticipating the effective date for the rule will coincide with the beginning of the New Year. Reportedly, it is not the intent of the DOL that the proposed rule would impose new requirement on employers other than modification of the standard rate.

- **Update on legislation related to Modernization of the Houseparent Exemption from wage and hour requirements**

The proposed legislation previously drafted by Congressman Fleischmann's Office has yet to be filed this session. Reportedly, efforts are being sorted out as to the most expeditious course of action legislatively.

- **Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017**

The provision -- Section 512(a)(7) of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 -- requires houses of worship and other nonprofits to pay a 21 percent tax on such employee benefits as parking and transportation. The measure, which took effect Jan. 1, 2018, will cost the charitable sector an estimated \$1.7 billion over 10 years, the ERLC-led coalition said in the letter. Opponents of the provision also have said it will burden churches and others with accounting and compliance costs not previously required.

<http://www.bpnews.net/52651/no-tax-relief-yet-from-congress-for-churches>

- **S. 107 - State Flexibility Family Transformation Act**

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The State Flexibility Family Transformation Act filed by Senator Marco Rubio [R-FL] and Senator Dianne Feinstein [D-CAL] continues to be assigned to the Finance Committee. Two additional co-sponsors have signed on to the legislation. They include Senator Tom Cotton [R-AR] and Senator Kamala D. Harris [D-CA]

- **SAVE THE DATE - OCTOBER 15 – 17, 2019
2019 CORE NATIONAL CONFERENCE &
RFP FOR PRESENTATIONS**

The 2019 CORE National Conference is scheduled for October 15-17, 2019 in Little Rock, AR. This year's conference theme is entitled "**Moving Forward - Forever a Resource for Children and Families**". What better time to consider ways to strengthen our programs and further develop and embrace best practice? Isn't it true that despite our histories, we've only just begun and the best is yet to be?

No doubt, both challenges and opportunities present themselves as we move forward. This year's conference will include ways to increase our skillset and professionalism as we continue to carve out our niche in the continuum of care and further define our programs.

We welcome your submission of a proposal to present a workshop geared on improving programs and raising the bar on professionalism as we move forward in serving children and families from hard places. Each conference workshop is scheduled for an hour and a half. Please provide a title and synopsis of the workshop in your proposal.