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Subject: Family First Extended Implementation Date
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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Date: April 9, 2020

To: Children's Residential Facilities
Licensed Child Placing Agencies

From: Family First Team

Re: Extended Family First Implementation Date

The implementation of Family First is extended to January 30, 2021. VDSS had several major Family First implementation activities scheduled for Spring 2020 that unfortunately have been cancelled and/or postponed due to COVID-19.

Non-Family Based Providers:

At this time, VDSS has only received one application for a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). This is a significant barrier to implementing Family First in Virginia. Family First specifies the requirement for non-family based placement providers to ensure the highest quality of care for youth in foster care. It is critical that non-family based placement providers meet the standards of a QRTP. If Virginia does not have QRTPs, youth risk having appropriate placements to meet their needs. This also causes an unnecessary financial burden on localities and the state. Localities will be encouraged to utilize QRTP placements to meet the youth's need.

The Family First team will continue to accept and approve applications for QRTP, family-based residential treatment facilities for substance abuse, and prenatal, post-partum and parenting programs. The application can be found on the [Family First Virginia Website](#), and we are available to provide one-on-one technical assisting when completing your application.

We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible to ensure designation by January in order to continue to be a placement option for youth in foster care.

Prevention Services Providers:

The Family First team will continue to work with the current providers enrolled in training for MST, FFT, and PCIT to deliver the training as soon as possible. We will continue to offer additional training opportunities for providers as funding is available.

The Family First Team continues to work towards identifying providers to deliver evidence based services that are listed in the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. In the coming weeks, you will receive information on the process to become designated as a provider in Virginia.

Implementing Family First remains a high priority for the Division of Family Services and implementation activities will continue with our state and community partners.

We encourage you to reference our [Family First Virginia website](#) for updates and feel free to contact us at familyfirst@dss.virginia.gov with questions or concerns.