



Mississippi Pregnant and Parenting Teen Placement

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was passed by Congress on February 9, 2018. Family First includes historic reforms to child welfare financing streams by providing prevention services to families of children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care. It underscores the importance of children growing up in families and seeks to avoid the traumatic experience of children being separated from their families and entering foster care. Specifically, federal reimbursement will be available for trauma-informed mental health services, substance use disorder treatment and in-home parenting skills training to safely maintain in-home family placement. It also aims to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by safely reducing placement of children in non-family-based settings (e.g. residential treatment programs), and instead placing children in the least restrictive, most family-based setting appropriate to their individual needs. This legislation sparks a sweeping overhaul of the child welfare system, the largest seen in nearly 40 years. Opportunities for real and lasting change are available, and the physical and mental health benefits to children and families will be extraordinary.

Upon implementation of Family First in Mississippi, Title IV-E funds can only be used for non-family-based placements that are designated as: 1. Placements for pregnant or parenting youth; 2. Supervised independent living for youth 18+; or 3. Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) for youth with treatment needs. Family First created a specific non-family-based placement type, called a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) along with a structure around placing children in these types of placements. QRTPs serve children with specific treatment needs who need short term placement out of their home.

Statement of Purpose: This application is for the designation of a Pregnant and Parenting Teen Placement (PPTP) in Mississippi. The PPTP designation is dependent upon a program becoming properly licensed.

Thank you for your interest in becoming designated as a Pregnant and Parenting Teen program (PPTP) in Mississippi. Below are the requirements for PPTPs and for the placement of children in them.

Program Description

This is a setting specializing in providing prenatal, postpartum, or parenting supports for youth in foster care. The facility must meet the definition of a CCI in sections 472(c)(2)(A) and (C) of the Act. Program participants shall be pregnant or parenting teens in foster care who have been determined to have the capacity to reside in the setting with support and provide care for a dependent(s). The youth must be between the ages of 13 and 18 and currently in MDCPS custody. A complete medical examination including obstetrical findings shall be provided and reviewed prior to admission into the program. Family and medical history shall be obtained on the pregnant or parenting teen and the additional parent, if possible. The program shall be monitored by MDCPS Division of Congregate Care and will be reviewed

according to the MDCPS Congregate Care review schedule. In addition, MDCPS caseworkers will conduct monthly visits with program participants and document contact with teen and dependent.

The prenatal program shall accept an applicant without prejudice based on age, sex, race, marital status, plans for the child, prior pregnancies, or stage of pregnancy.

Scope of Services:

- The setting shall be a group home with semi-private sleeping quarters for pregnant teens and private sleeping quarters for a parenting teen and dependent child(ren). In addition, there shall be compliance with physical requirements as defined by the MDCPS licensure standards.
- The prenatal and parenting teen placement shall provide for diaper disposal or soiled diaper storage in a hygienic manner, as applicable.
- When mothers and infants sleep in the same room, each room shall have a maximum of one (1) mother and her infant(s) and/or children.
- Each mother shall have her own bed and each baby have his/her own crib. The agency must adhere to MDCPS safe sleep policies.
- The pregnant and parenting home must have furniture and equipment suitable for infants for feeding, bathing, napping and transportation.
- The pregnant and parenting home must provide supplies necessary for caring for infants such as diapers, wipes and feeding bottles.

Additional Program requirements include but are not limited to:

- Transitional Living Plans
- Basic Life Skills to include but not limited to:
Money management, budgeting, consumer education, use of credit
Parenting skills (e.g., child-safe transitional and independent living accommodations, education in parenting, child discipline, and safety as well as direct supervision of parenting and related domestic skills)
Interpersonal skill-building
Educational advancement
Job attainment skills
- Mental and physical health care needs
- Individual and/or group counseling and parent/child counseling needs
- Leisure activities for pregnant or parenting teen and dependent(s)
- Transportation support
- Handbook identifying additional expectations for program

Staffing Requirements

- 1.) The PPT home shall provide a staff/child ratio of two (2) staff members to every five (5) youth. If the ratio falls below 5, a minimum of two staff shall always be present.
- 2.) During sleeping hours, all staff should remain awake.
- 3.) A PPT home caring for young children and infants shall provide a ratio of at

least two staff members to five (5) children. There shall always be a minimum of two staff present in the home.

4.) A PPT home shall have, on the premises or otherwise readily available at all times, a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

5.) A PPT home shall obtain consultation from a licensed practicing physician or nurse practitioner concerning medical plans and a program of medical care for the mothers and their children.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Prenatal and Parenting Teen Placement shall provide training for the staff which includes:

- Medical, physical and psychological implications of pregnancy
- Development needs of adolescents and infants
- Information of legal options available to young mothers