



ND STAKEHOLDER CONVENING

Family First Prevention Services Act

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Permanency Administrator

Children and Family Services

ND Department of Human Services

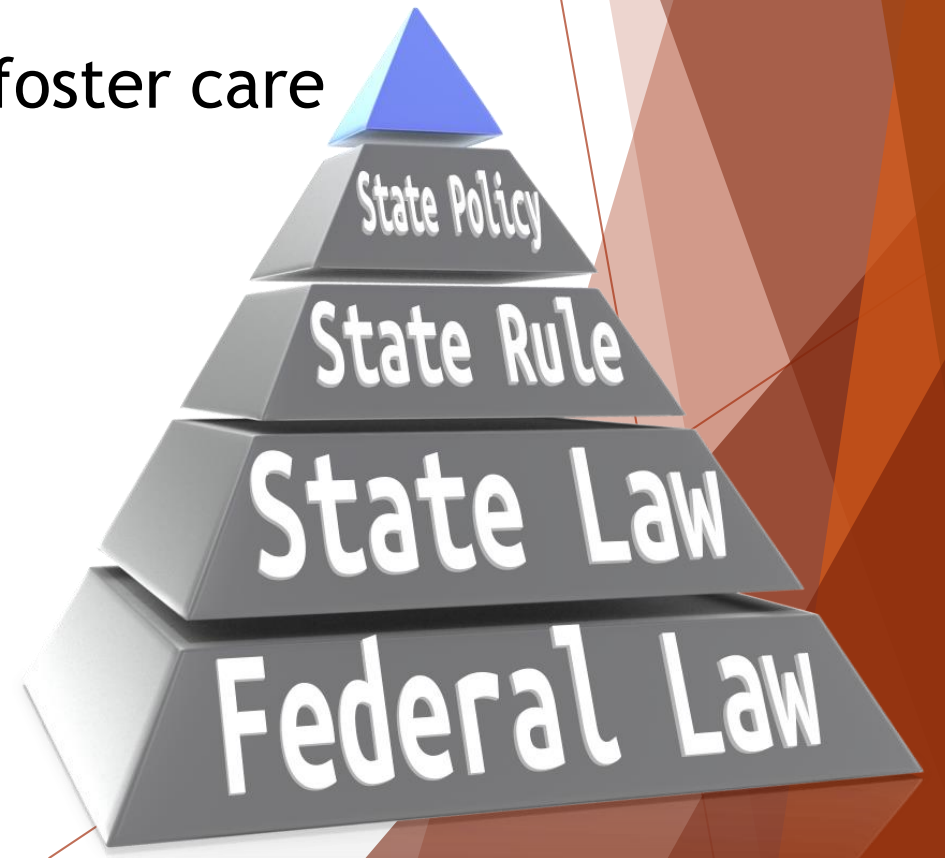
**Monumental shift of federal funding
from deep end services to
preventative measures, while strengthening
families and protecting children.**



States & Tribes – Family First

Highlights of the Regulation

1. Title IV-E funds for specific prevention activities
2. Appropriate placements for children in foster care
3. Reauthorize existing funding



Title IV-E Funding Imbalance



\$4.4 billion

Amount of Title IV-E money spent to maintain children in foster care



170,100 children receive federal foster care dollars

\$703 million

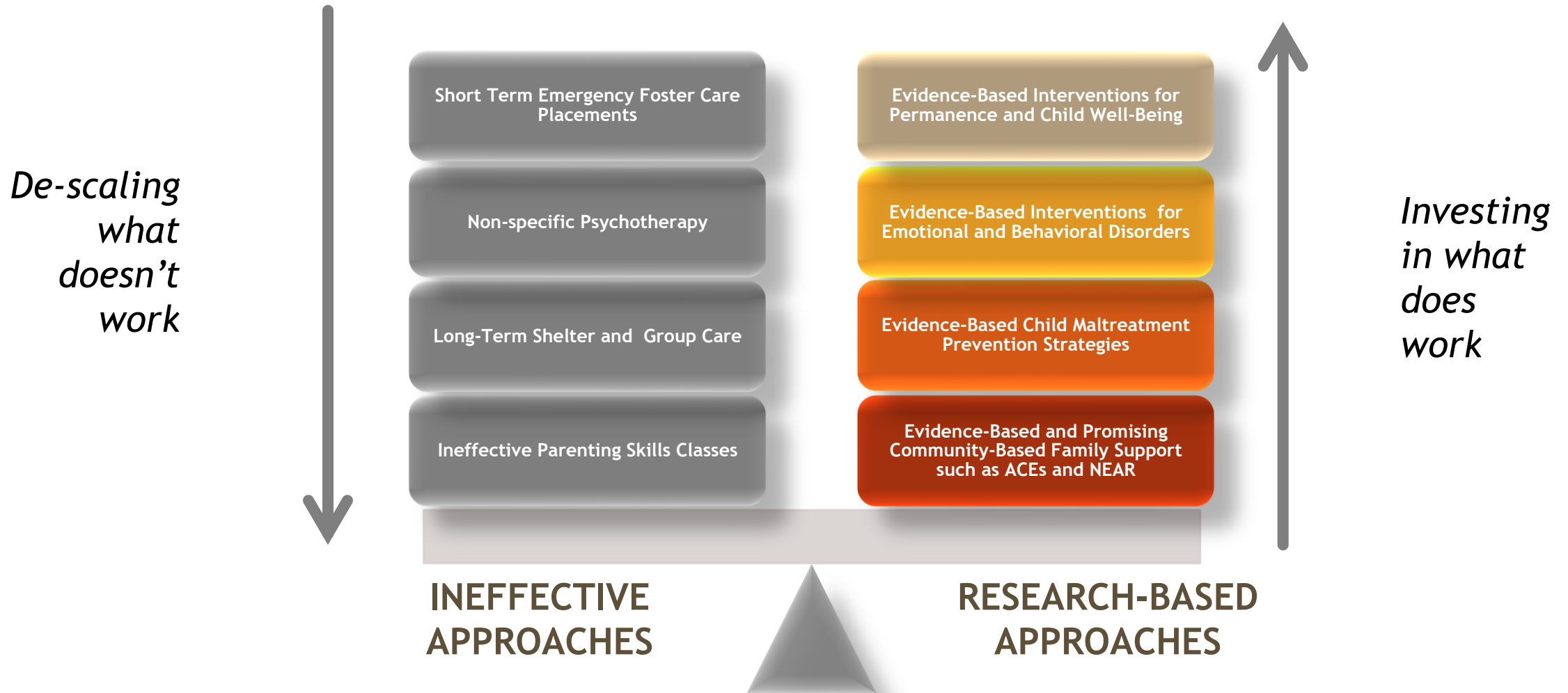
Amount of Title IV-B money available to be invested in keeping children safely out of foster care

Title IV-B



3,004,500 children are involved in reports of maltreatment or other issues where timely interventions are important

Shifting Resources to Support What Works

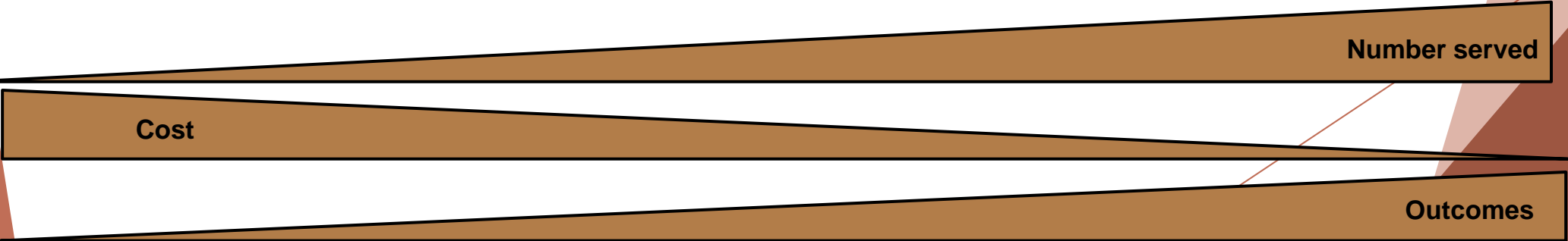
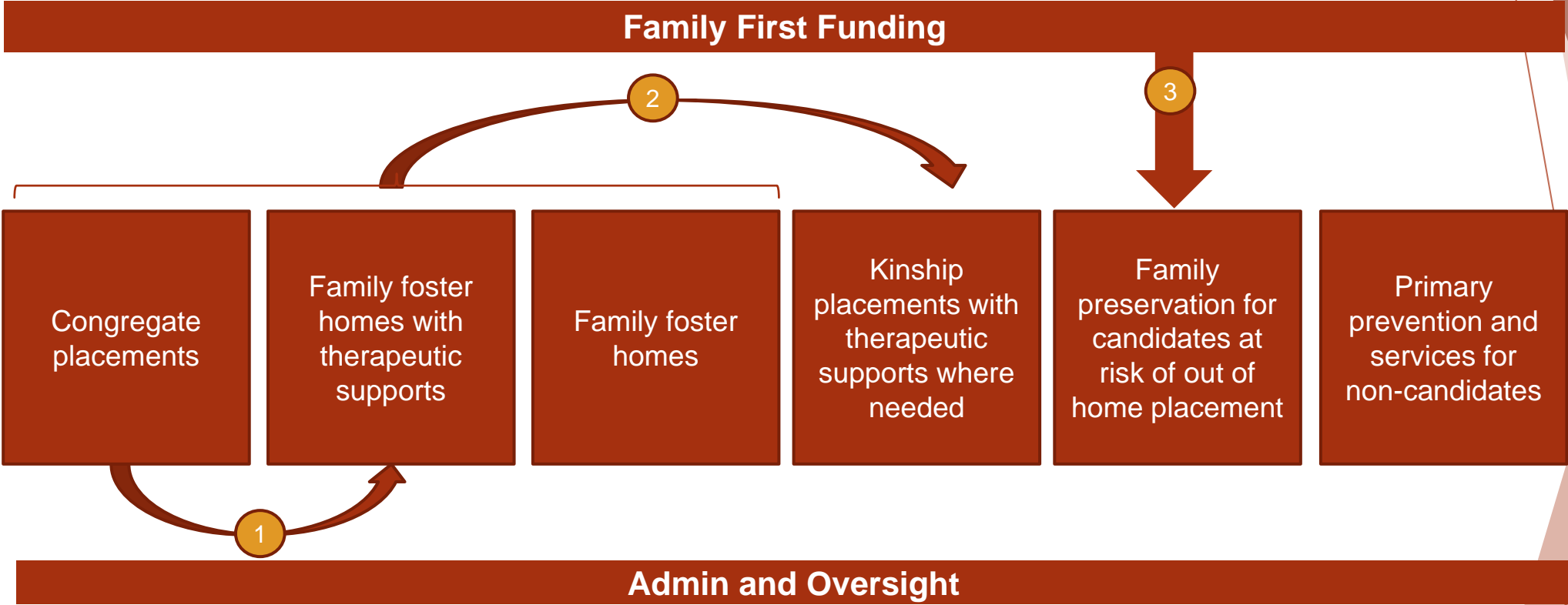


Investing savings to bridge from ineffective to effective practices.

Source: Casey reinvestment brief: <http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/pdf/ShiftingResources.pdf>

Reinvestment in the Continuum

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Flow of funds



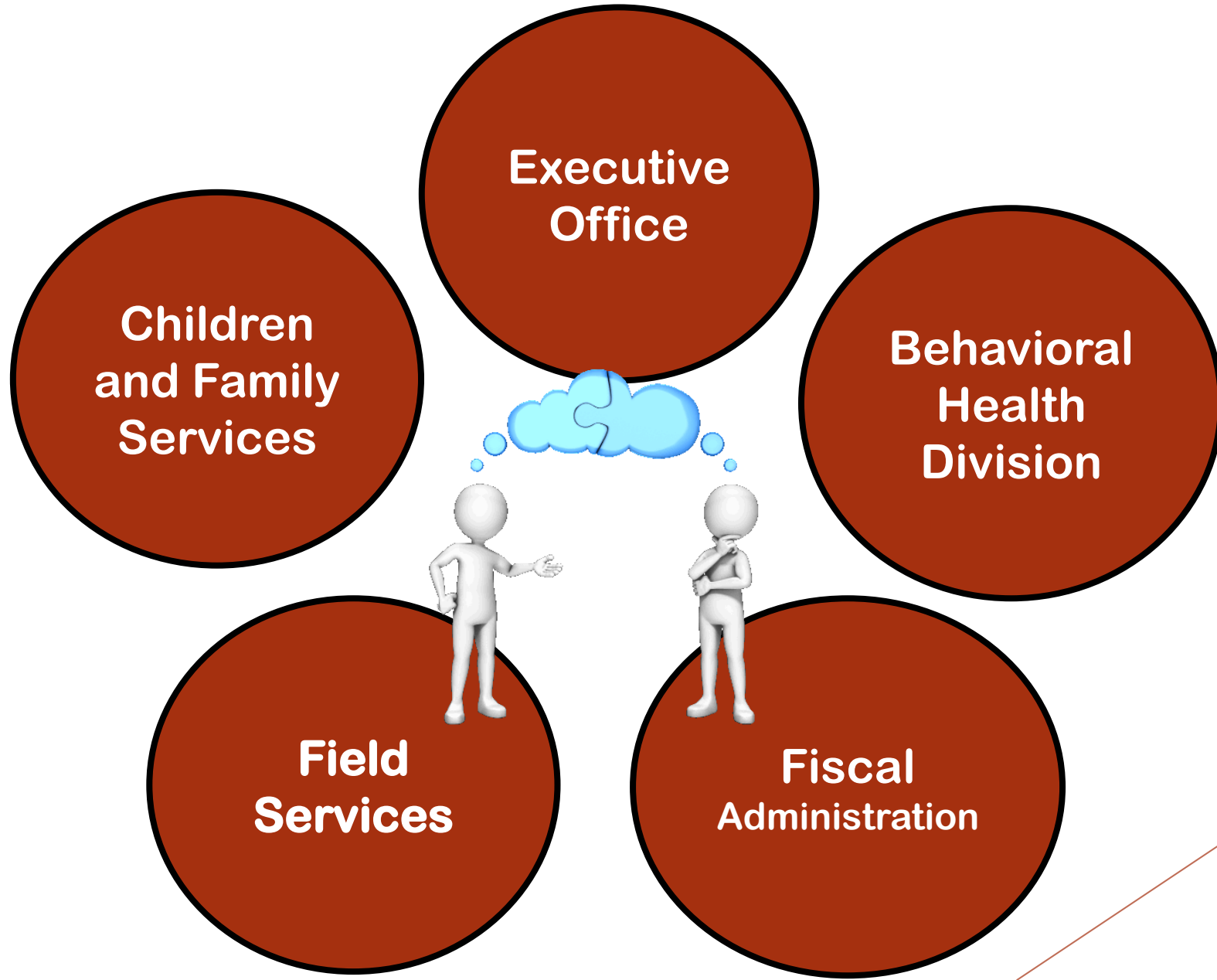
Delayed Implementation

Title IV-E agencies (2 years)



~ Over 20 States

Agency Responsible for Implementation



Implementation Stages

PUBLIC LAW 115-123: FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

North Dakota FFPSA Implementation Stages

EXPLORATION

- Determine Project Manager
- Interpret federal regulation
- Notify Stakeholders
- Identify Subcommittees

PREPARATION

- Determine timelines and responsibilities
- Identify communication plan
- Meet with Stakeholders
- Draft legislation
- Draft administrative code

IMPLEMENTATION

- Finalize/formalize policy and protocols
- Develop/disseminate tools to guide practice
- Develop training plan

EVALUATION

- Develop a process for evaluating progress
- Data collection plan
- Assess implementation efforts
- Further improve fidelity and outcomes

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Not ND
Selected
Model To
Date

Where Have We Been?

▶ February 2018

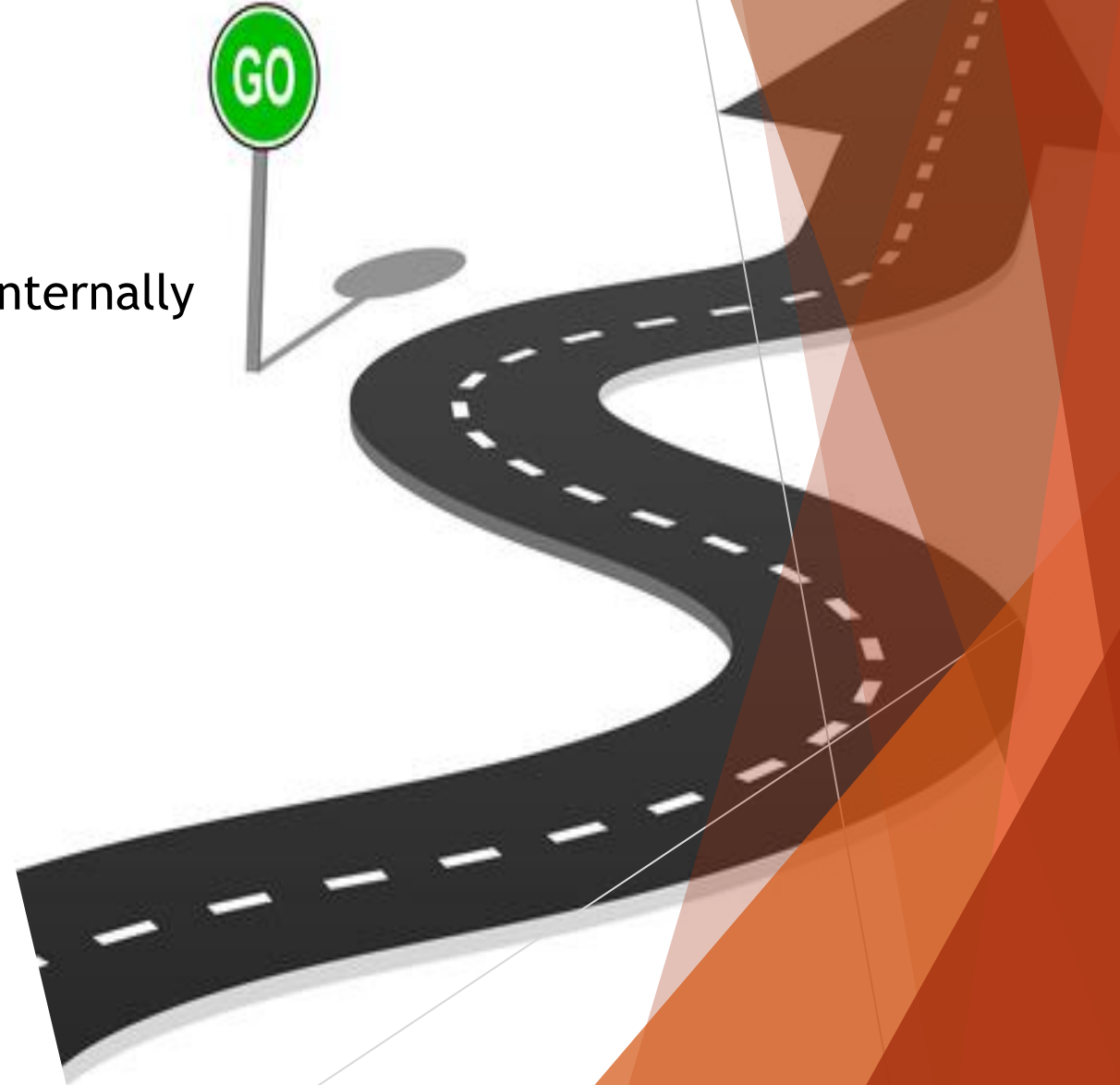
- ❖ Law passed Feb 9, 2018
- ❖ Notified the field
- ❖ Began reviewing regulation and discussing internally

▶ Summer 2018

- ❖ Engaged NDDHS Implementation Team
- ❖ Applied for Kinship Navigator \$
- ❖ Attended the National Convening

▶ Fall 2018

- ❖ Received Kinship Navigator Award - RFP \$
- ❖ Plan ND Stakeholder Convening
- ❖ Kinship Navigator RFP



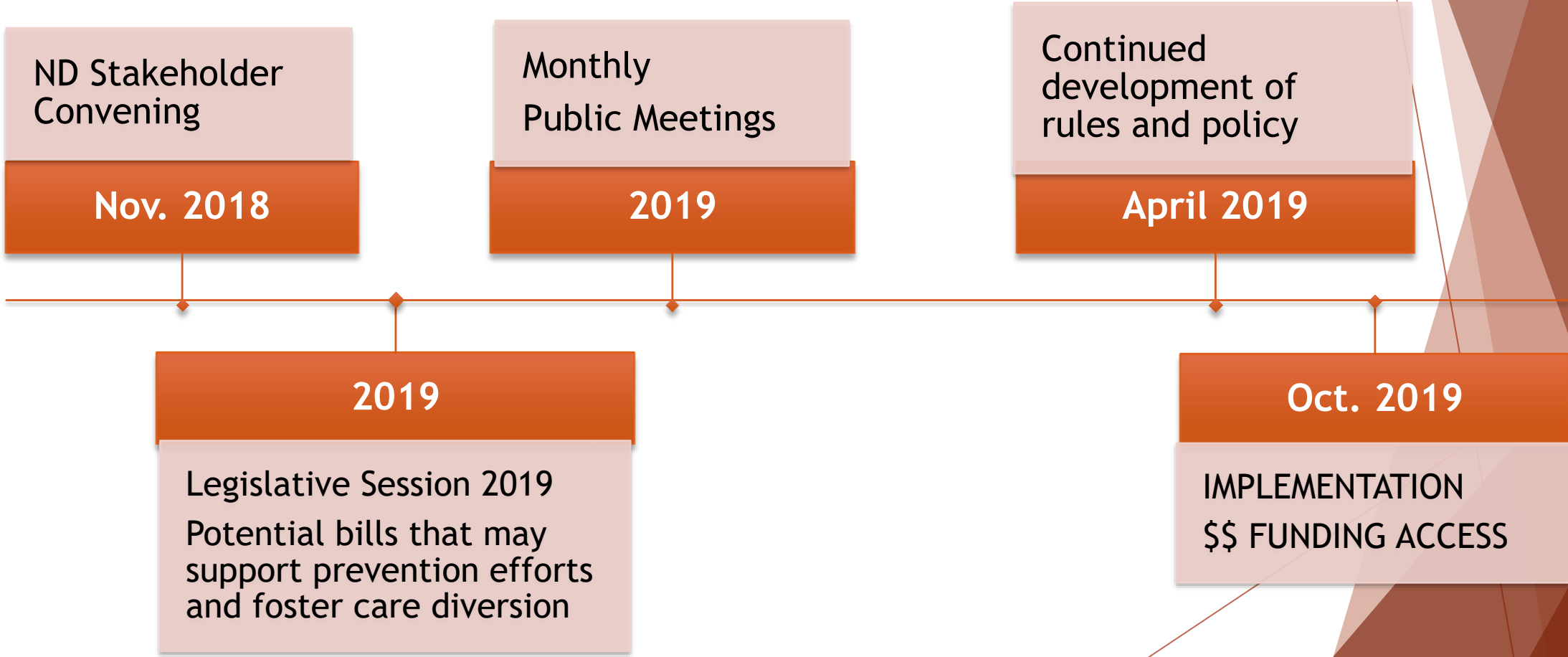
Currently

► November 2018

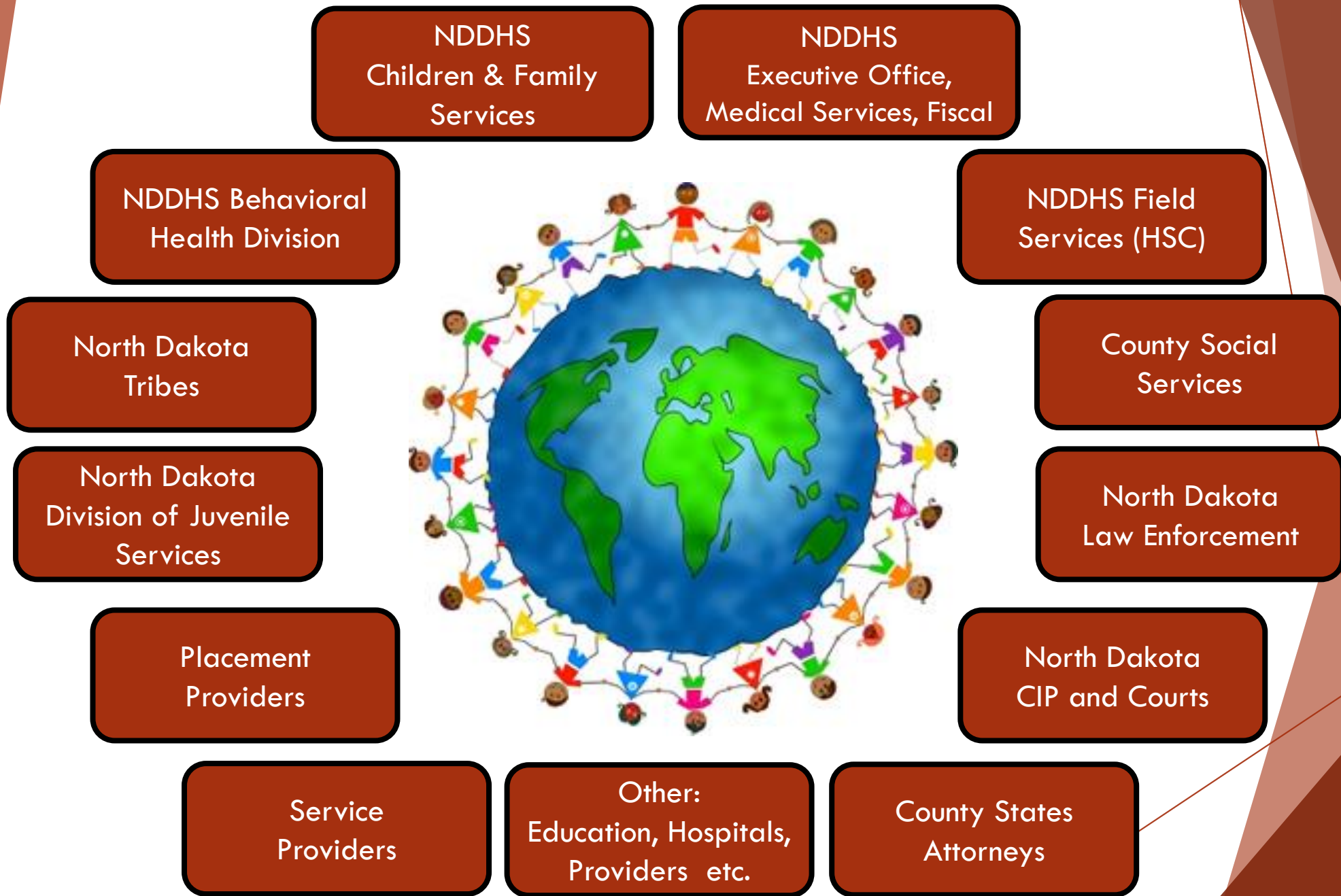
- ❖ Award the Kinship Navigator RFP
- ❖ Update Chafee IL policy
- ❖ ND Stakeholder Convening
- ❖ Prepare for legislative session
- ❖ Further discuss regulation sections
- ❖ Reflect on FFPSA as a complement to other initiatives (SB 2206)



Where Are We Going?



PARTNERSHIPS



Federal Regulations Timelines



Back to January 2018



The Court Improvement Program (CIP)

Training for judges, attorneys and other legal personnel about FFPSA and reimbursement for children placed in settings that are not foster family homes (Sec. 50741(c))



Health care services oversight procedures and protocols

Ensure foster children are not being **inappropriately diagnosed** with mental illnesses, disorders or disabilities that may result in the child not being placed with a foster family home (Sec. 50743)



Collect/Report data on children **not** in foster family homes (Sec 50744)



Title IV-E **Adoption Assistance** income eligibility requirements for children under age 2 will be reinstated until June 30, 2024. (Sec. 50780)

Upon Enactment – February 2018



**John H. Chafee
Foster Care
Independence
Program (Sec.
50753)**



**State plan
requirement under
Title IV-B to describe
activities:**

To reduce the length
of time to
permanency for
children under age 5
and

To address the
developmental needs
of all vulnerable
children under age 5
who receive services
(Sec. 50772)



**Title IV-E Adoption
Assistance “delink”
and the savings and
reinvestments (Sec.
50782)**



**Reauthorized a
number of Title IV-B
programs through
FY2021 (Sec. 50752)**

Title IV-B, Subpart 1,
Promoting Safe and
Stable Families
Program (Title IV-B,
Subpart 2),

Funding reservations
for supporting
monthly caseworker
visits, and

Court Improvement
Program Grants

Chafee Independent Living



TODAY:

- ▶ Age 14 to 21
- ▶ Aging out of care provisions
- ▶ Education and Training Voucher (ETV) by age 21; until age 23 = \$20,000 lifetime maximum

Implementations Due to FFPSA:

- ▶ Age 14 to 23
- ▶ Education and Training Voucher (ETV) up to age 26 = \$25,000 lifetime maximum

Foster Care Alumni

Beginning October 2018



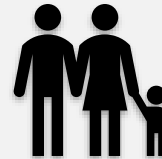
Title IV-E reimbursement for a child who has been placed with a parent in a licensed residential family-based **treatment facility for substance abuse**. (Sec. 50712)



Reimbursement for 50% of the state's expenditures on **kinship navigator** programs (Sec. 50713)



Title IV-B track and prevent child maltreatment **fatalities**. (Sec. 50732)



States are required to have procedures for **criminal records child abuse and neglect index checks** on any adult working in group care settings where foster children are placed. (Sec. 50745)

Kinship Navigator

Sponsor, Senator Heidi Heitkamp

The Supporting Kinship Connections Act

(S. 2543)

“When a parent isn’t able to care for a child, having another caregiver like a grandparent step in to fill that role can prevent damaging trauma and stress for the child, making them heroes to the kids they care for,” Heitkamp said.

“Our bipartisan legislation to help kinship caregivers access programs to ease their transition to guardianship and help them manage the many challenges and responsibilities that come with their important role in a child’s life. The federal funding we were able to secure is exciting news for kids and caregivers in North Dakota who rely on these services, and I’ll continue this bipartisan push to help connect kinship caregivers with every resource available to help them protect some of the most vulnerable kids in our communities.”



Kinship Navigator

Kinship Navigator programs provide information, referral, and follow-up services to grandparents and other relatives raising children to link them to the benefits and services that they or the children need.

For the first time, as of **October 1, 2018**, all states and some tribes can receive federal reimbursement for up to 50% of their expenditures to provide kinship navigator programs that meet evidence-based requirements of promising, supported or well-supported practices.

Children not required to meet Title IV-E income eligibility requirements.



Develop Kinship Navigator - RFP

Kinship Navigator

On November 6th, the development RFP was awarded to:

**LUTHERAN
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Effective November 15th
LSS will begin to research
and develop the ND
Kinship Navigator
program

**** Development Contract ****



BULK OF REGULATION

Prevention
Services

Appropriate
Out of Home
Placements

Effective April 2019

Family Foster Home Licensing Standards (Sec. 50731)

- ▶ Relative Waiver
- ▶ Training caseworkers on the relative licensing waiver authority



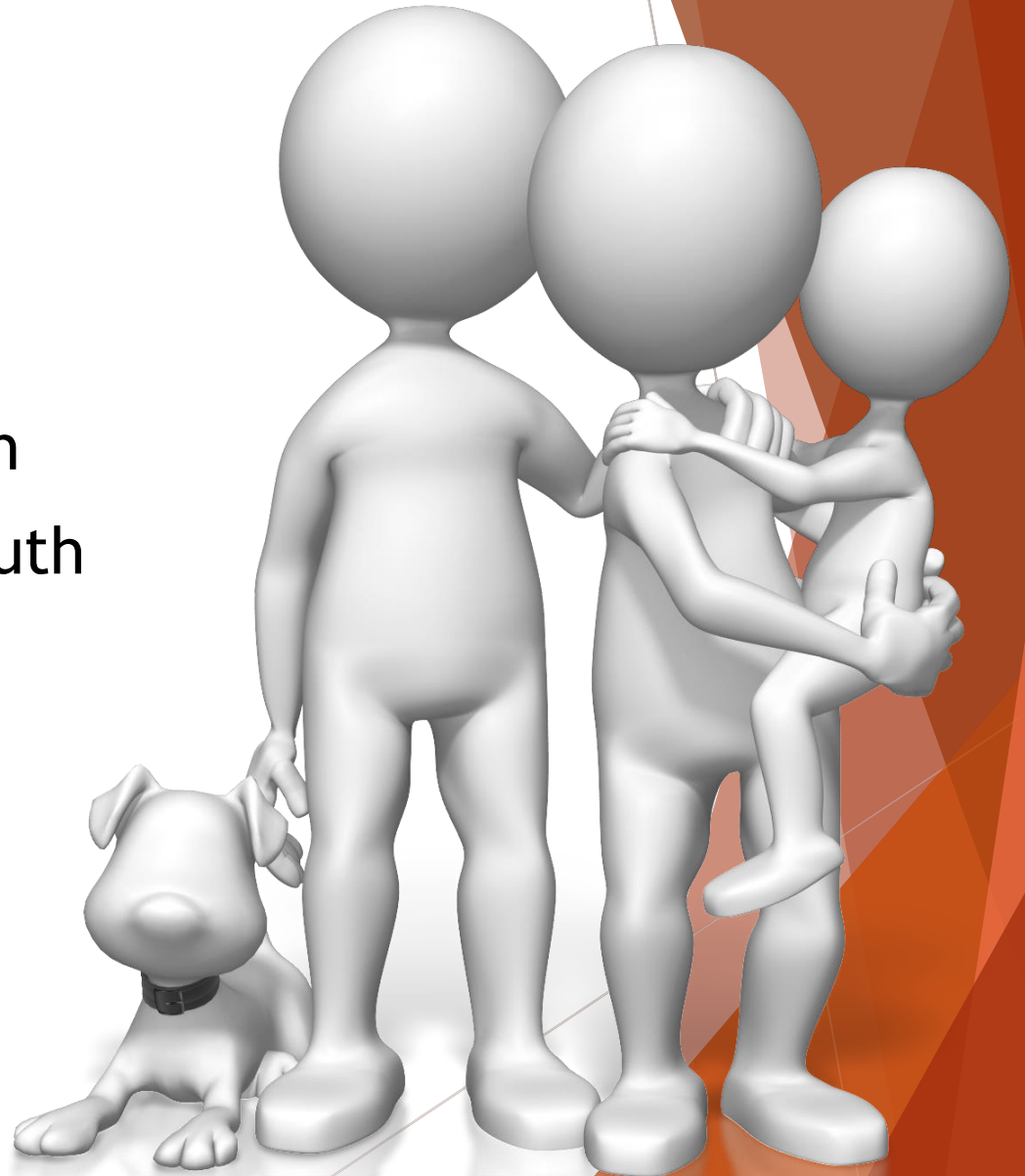
Family First provides \$8 million in grants to states and tribes to support the **recruitment and retention** of high quality foster families.



Foster Parent

Placement options **allowable under current Title IV-E** will continue under Family First:

- ❖ Family Foster Home
- ❖ Facility for pregnant/parenting youth
- ❖ Supervised independent living for youth 18 years and older
- ❖ Specialized placements victims of or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking



ND Foster Care Placements FFY2017

Foster Care Placement	1,598
Relative Placement	343
Trial Home Visit	369
PRTF	58
Non-Foster Care Placement	104
Runaway Status	16
Total	2,488

RCCF	298
PATH	301
Total	599

19% in residential

81%

14% Relative - not licensed
52% Foster Care Placemen (*Relatives*)
15% Trial Home

ND Foster Care Placements FFY 2018

Foster Care Placement	1,680
Relative Placement	399
Non-Foster Care Placement	125
Trial Home Visit	370
PRTF	42
Runaway Status	9
Total	2,625

RCCF	266
PATH	306
Total	572

16% in residential

83%

15% Relative - not licensed
54% Foster Care Placemen (*Relatives*)
14% Trial Home

Allowable Residential Placements



Beginning **October 1, 2018**, Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments can be made on behalf of a child in foster care who is placed with their parent in a **licensed residential family-based treatment facility** for up to 12 months.



Beginning as early as **October 1, 2019**, after 2 weeks in foster care, Title IV-E federal support will be available for Title IV-E eligible youth placed in a **Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)**.

Qualified Residential Treatment Program

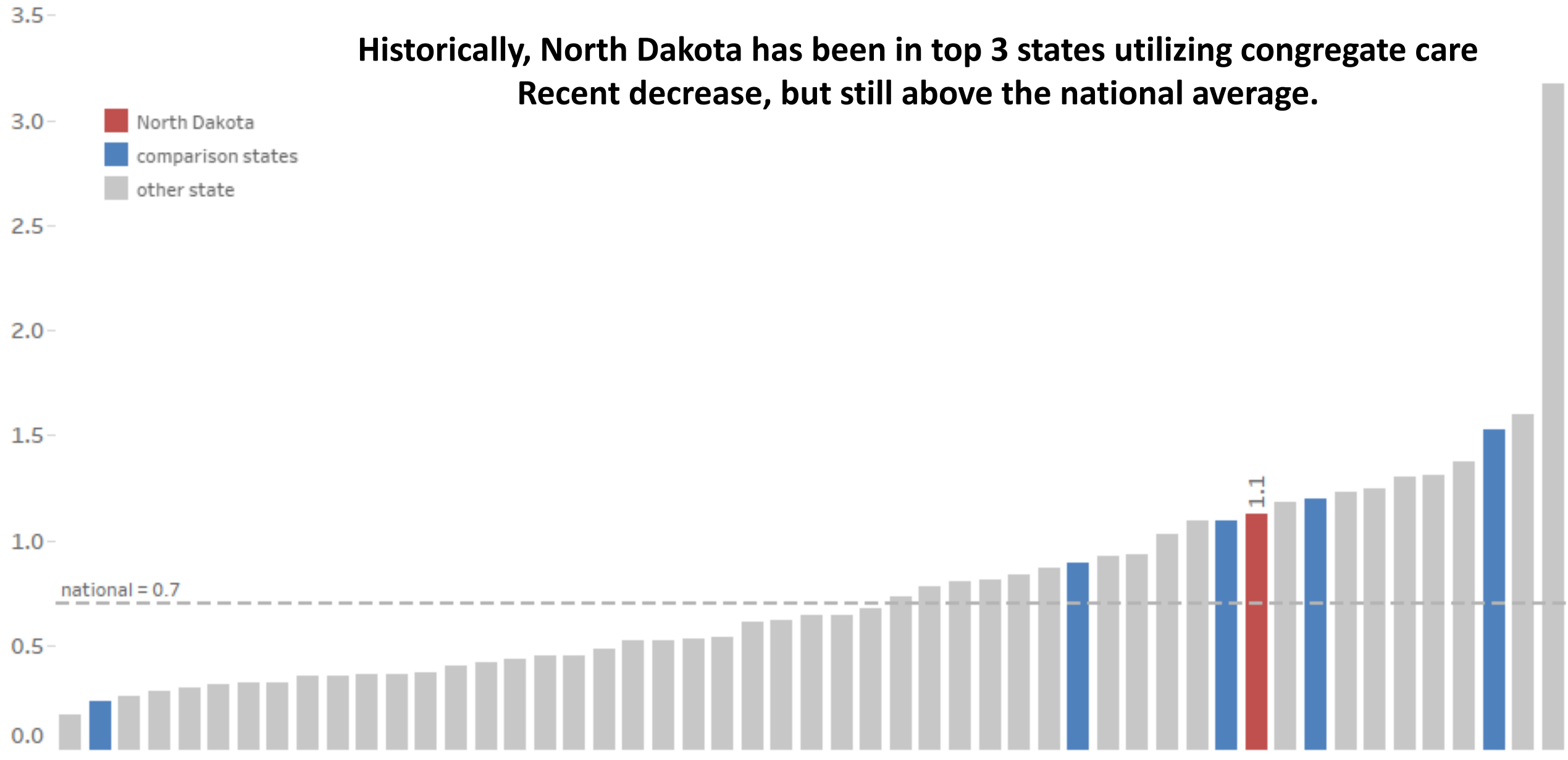
QRTP

- ▶ Licensed and accredited
- ▶ Trauma informed treatment model
- ▶ Registered or licensed nursing and other clinical staff onsite
- ▶ Level of care assessment
- ▶ 60 day review hearings
- ▶ Full family engagement
- ▶ Aftercare supports for 6 months



ND High in Congregate Care

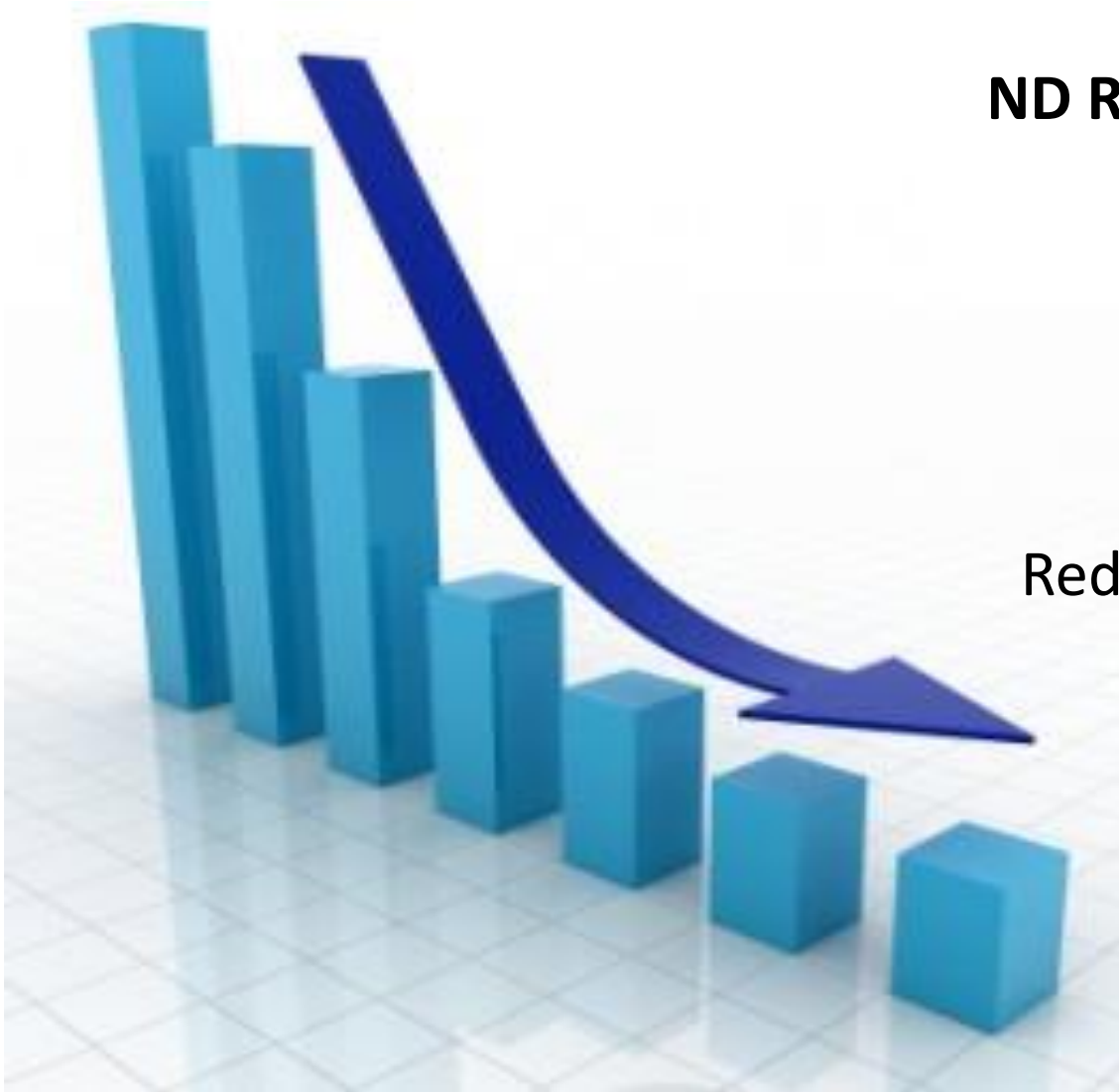
Historically, North Dakota has been in top 3 states utilizing congregate care
Recent decrease, but still above the national average.



ND Reduction in Bed Capacity

ND Residential Child Care Facility
capacity has decreased
from **288 beds** (2012)
to
165 beds (Nov 2018)

Reduction of **123** licensed beds
in six years



Why Focus on Congregate Care?

1. Costly on various levels

- ✓ More expensive daily rate,
- ✓ Varied outcomes from family-based settings, and
- ✓ Roadblocks to the timely achievement of permanency

2. Children who experience congregate care

- ✓ Are more often male
- ✓ Are almost 3x as likely to have a DSM diagnosis
- ✓ Are more than 6x more likely than children in other settings to have “child behavior problem” as a reason for removal
- ✓ Are in residential placement on average for 8 month stays

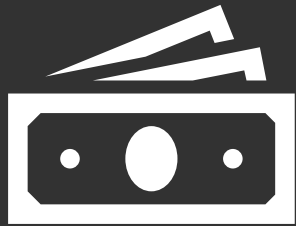
**Over the past ten years, nationwide decrease of 37%
in the number of foster children living in congregate care.**

Residential Congregate Care

- ❖ When utilized for youth who can most benefit (stabilization);
- ❖ The setting offers the most appropriate, evidence-based interventions; and
- ❖ Placement is used for the shortest amount of time necessary to achieve the child's key safety, therapeutic, and permanency goals.



Beginning October 2019



To use Title IV-E funds, at a Federal Financial Participation (FFP) rate of 50% for **evidence-based prevention services and programs** that are promising, supported, or well-supported.

At least 50% of expenditures are well-supported practices.

Prevention service, training and administrative costs are “delinked” from the AFDC income eligibility (Sec. 50711)



New restrictions on Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments for child **placements**.

The group care settings will be ineligible for federally-reimbursed maintenance payments (Sec. 50741)



Assuring the state will not enact or advance policies or practices that will result in a significant increase in number of youth in the **juvenile justice system** because of the new restrictions on federal reimbursement for children not placed in a foster family home. (Sec. 50741(d))

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Prevention

Requires prevention services and programs to be

Promising,

Supported, or

Well-Supported

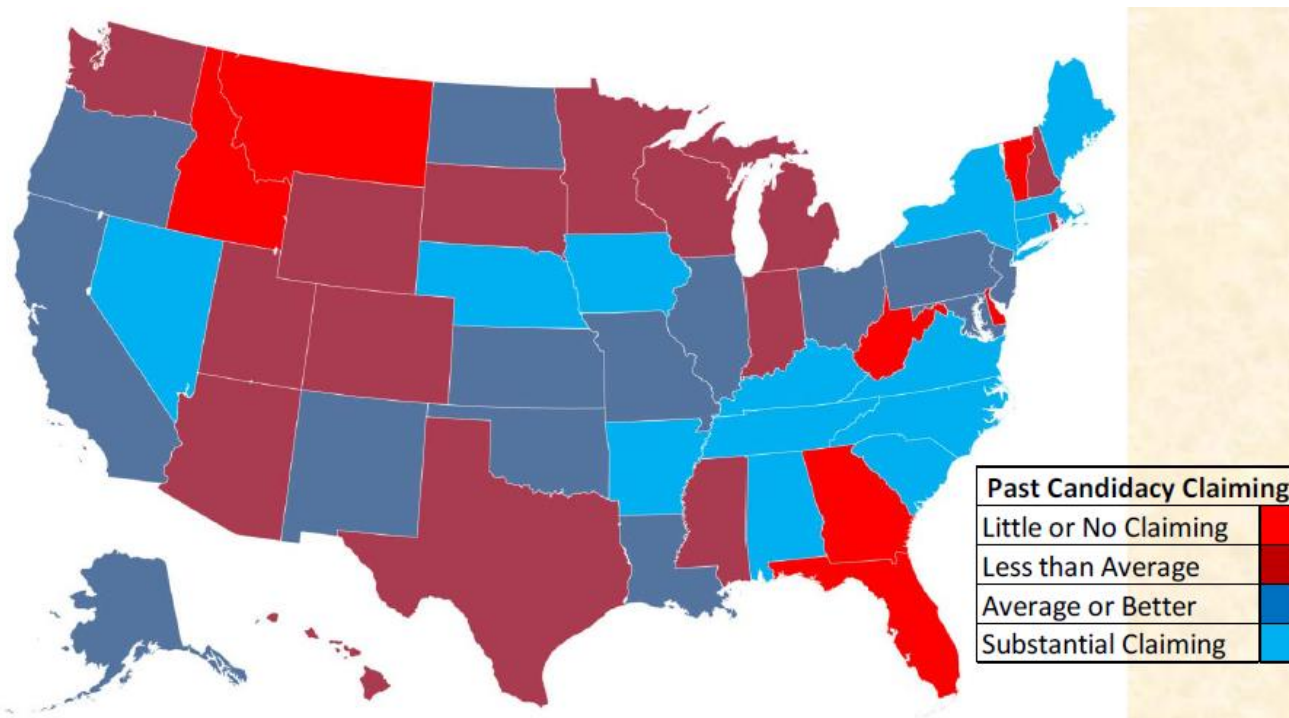
New \$\$ Prevention

- ▶ ***Non-Supplantation:*** New federal funds for prevention services are intended to supplement (enhance), not supplant (replace) state funding for prevention services.
 - ❖ Mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services,
 - ❖ In-home parent skill-based programs, and
 - ❖ Kinship Navigator services.
- ▶ ***Maintenance of Effort:*** MOE will be set at FY2014 spending for these same prevention services for candidates for foster care.

Candidate for Foster Care

Today in North Dakota: Children at imminent risk of removal from the home are candidates for foster care. Clients today may be actively involved with

- ▶ County Social Services - In-Home Program
- ▶ Division of Juvenile Services - Community
- ▶ NDDHS Human Service Centers - Partnerships



Candidate for Foster Care

Future in North Dakota: Children at imminent risk of removal from the home but can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement with receipt of services.

- ▶ County Social Services In-Home
- ▶ DJS Community
- ▶ Human Service Center Partnerships
- ▶ Substance Abuse Treatment Provider - Child placements
- ▶ TBD
- ▶ TBD
- ▶ TBD



OTHER REGULATIONS

Partnerships
\$ Grants \$

Activities to address developmental needs of young children 0-5

Family reunification services allows 15 months of services for children who return home from foster care

Interstate Compact
online system

Next Step Priorities

▶ Kinship Navigator

- ❖ Development of the program by contract
- ❖ Implementation

▶ Development of Intake and Needs Assessment

- ❖ Qualified Individual
- ❖ Assessment for level of care

▶ Review fiscal structure to accommodate new allocations

- ❖ Work with Medical Services
- ❖ Fiscal Administration



BEFORE
OCTOBER
2019

Next Step Priorities

▶ Legislative Session

- ❖ NDCC 50-11
- ❖ Bills related to prevention efforts

▶ Development of Administrative Rule

- ❖ RCCF will be repealed
- ❖ QRTP Licensing rules
- ❖ QRTP Rate Setting rules
- ❖ SIL Licensing and payment rules
- ❖ Family Foster Care licensing rules to be updated



Jan - May
2019

Stakeholder Involvement

► 2019 Public Meetings

❖ Scheduled the third Wednesday of the month

- Jan 16
- Feb 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 19
- July 17
- August 21
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 18

❖ 1:00pm – 2:00pm

❖ AV Rm 210 and 210 – State Capitol

❖ Conference Line at **1-855-673-2629**



Stakeholder Involvement

- ▶ Public Meetings
- ▶ Submit Questions to DHS
 - Email to dhscfs@nd.gov
- ▶ Request Update or Presentation
- ▶ Subcommittee efforts
- ▶ Share feedback on draft rules, RFP's or proposed processes





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Thank You!

All of the hard work will assist in the success of much needed reform....

