

# Families First Prevention Services Act

## Impact on the Continuum of Care in NC

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**Free Will Baptist Children's Home**  
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# What is FFPSA?

- ▶ New federal legislation that was part of the Bipartisan Budget Act that passed and signed into law on February 9, 2018.
- ▶ Opens up federal IV-E funding to support new prevention services to reduce the number of children coming into foster care .
- ▶ Prevention services such as: Substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, parenting education & training, placement of children with a parent in residential substance abuse programs.



# What is FFPSA?

- ▶ Limits federal funding for Children's Homes (congregate care) to 2 weeks with limited exceptions:
  - ▶ Pregnant or parenting teens
  - ▶ Independent Living for youth over 18
  - ▶ Children that have been, or are at risk of, Human Trafficking
- ▶ Any federal dollars for congregate care after 2 weeks requires the child to meet behavioral health eligibility requirements to be placed in a new residential mental health treatment facility called Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs).



# How was FFPSA funded?

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- ▶ No new money was allocated (Budget neutral).
- ▶ The reduction of money used on congregate care, due to the 2 week limit, is redistributed to cover the cost of the new prevention services.
- ▶ The cost model is based on the premise that any non-mental health congregate care is inappropriate and that all children should be placed in foster family settings unless they need mental health treatment.

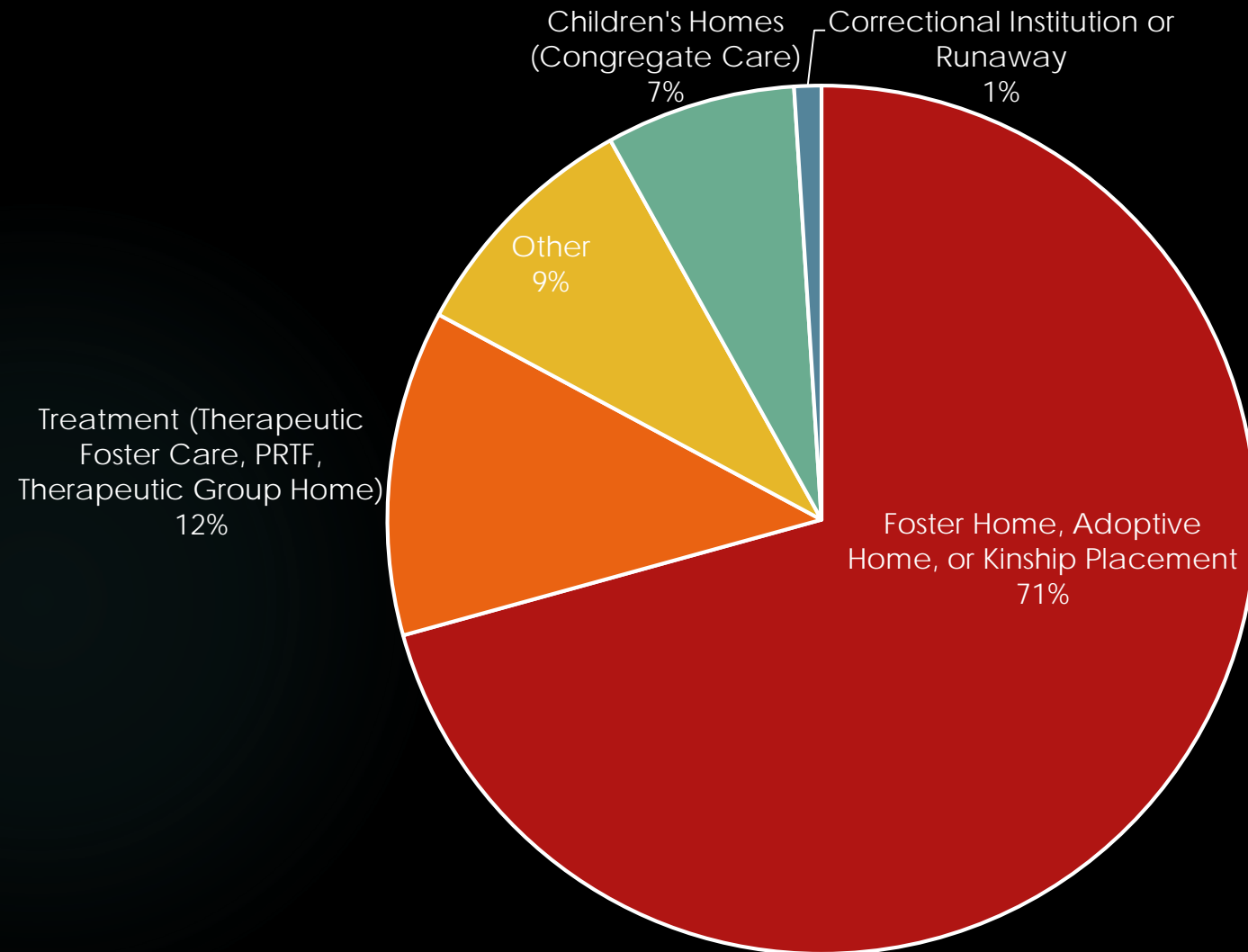


# Purpose of Congregate Care in NC 6

- ▶ Children placed in congregate care need an alternative to family foster care and generally fall into three categories:
  1. Large Sibling Groups – Children's Homes keep siblings together (this IS their family).
  2. Older Youth (starting around 15) – Children's Homes provide Transitional Living Services.
  3. Multiple Failed Foster Placements – Children who have behaviors that make it hard to succeed in a volunteer foster family but can stabilize (and thrive) in congregate care.

# Congregate Care in NC is Very Limited

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# Current State of Foster Care in NC

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- ▶ There were 16,796 children in the NC foster care system in 2018.
- ▶ 27% increase (approximately 3000) new children entering the system in the last 8 years.
- ▶ The number of children entering foster care continues to rise (45% related to substance use disorder) while the number of available foster homes are decreasing.



# Impact on Continuum of Care

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- ▶ Children's Homes, an essential part of the continuum of placement options for children, may cease to exist with only 2 weeks of federal funding.
- ▶ Without Children's Homes, sibling groups will be separated even though it is contrary to their best interest and to federal law.
- ▶ Children with normal and expected responses to trauma will be in a treatment setting instead of a homelike or professional parenting setting.
- ▶ Critical services such as Independent Living, Educational Supports, Youth Employment, College Access, Trauma-Informed Professional Parenting could be lost.



# Impact on Private Funding

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- ▶ With the critical loss in services comes a critical loss in private funding.
- ▶ \$30 million dollars are raised annually by the agencies represented.
- ▶ These funds supplement the rates paid for basic shelter to provide high-quality and nurturing homes, additional services and support for the children, training in independent living skills for older youth, and college support for those continuing their education.



# Two Quick Stories

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- ▶ The Experience of Three Sisters
- ▶ From a PRTF to College

# Questions & Answers

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