



Youth First Application Webinar

1. Is the project funding Aftercare?

- Youth First is not funding the services directly. The project will work with counties and providers to identify the challenges of these youth and the best programmatic structure and interventions to meet their needs. The final programs designed may or may not include aftercare. AB2944 created flexibility in the county rate structures so that counties can create different ways to fund these services to meet complex needs. Additionally, the project will support counties and providers to build partnerships related to contracting for specialty mental health services that may be necessary in an Aftercare setting.

2. Are these temporary or permanent placements?

- These are temporary, intensive programs that occur within a placement context.

3. Can counties collaborate and apply together as a "region"?

- Yes, we will accept applications from "regions" as well as individual counties.
- Multi-county partnerships are not required to apply to the program.

4. How does this project intersect (or not) with the State TA calls with counties and providers?

- This work has come out in part as a result of the TA calls, in which many of these needs were identified. These programs will be designed to meet the individualized needs of the youth identified by the county placing agencies as having complex challenges that cannot be addressed in the currently available continuum of services.





5. Will this project also provide creative ways the County can fund these individualized programs?

- Part of the technical assistance Youth First will provide to County participants is support in identifying funding flexibilities and utilizing available funding in innovative ways.

6. Would participants be able to utilize this program to "beef up" services for youth already in care such as for youth that need a 2:1 staff ratio?

- The project is not designed to support additional staffing in current STRTP facilities. It is intended as a new program model for youth who need support outside of the traditional congregate care setting.

7. What are the ages that this project will serve?

- That will be part of the program design and be based on the provider experience and capabilities as well as the specific needs within each county or region.

8. Is this project only for STRTPs or can shelters participate?

- The programs would fall under either the FFA or STRTP licensing models.

9. If the goal is to develop 75 enhanced programs statewide - will only those counties that apply be eligible to use such programs?

- The geographical location of the programs developed in the Youth First project will depend on the locations in which applicants are interested in developing programs. Ultimately, we hope these models are adopted broadly, throughout the state. The Catalyst Center and Casey Family Programs will openly share all the knowledge gathered in the project. Depending upon the contracting structure that occurs between participating counties and their providers, there may be opportunities for non-participating counties to also contract with providers who have developed these programs.





10. If the facility is in “X” county and that county doesn’t participate in this project, does that exclude your organization?

- The project depends on a partnership between the provider and county, however the county in which a provider wishes to develop the program does not have to submit an application. We are not excluding either counties or providers that do not have an existing partnership. Experience with providing mental health services is required for the providers who are applying, but these enhanced services would be provided under a *new* mental health contract (or a revision of an existing contract). Thinking about potential county partners would be part of the technical assistance and support provided by this project.

11. How are these models different from current ISFC models? What’s the difference between E-ISFC and a combination of ISFC and TFC or other mental health services?

- The E-ISFC would be an “additional layer” or “module” that can be added to ISFC: staff time, staff supports, and additional services (eg., increased respite) provided to the foster parent. It allows for additional staff hours to provide other services to meet the youth’s needs. For agencies using the E-ISFC model, youth are placed in a family setting with a Professional Resource Parent with an enhanced payment rate for both the agency and the resource parent. Additionally, youth will receive intensive behavioral health services funded through EPSDT contracts. Family finding and/or building a youth’s natural support system are often part of the program design. Typically, youth are placed alone in an E-ISFC family and staff are available to support the youth and family within the home 24 hours per day/7 days per week. Professional Resource Parents receive additional training, support and supervision that enable them to respond in a therapeutic manner to very challenging behaviors while preparing youth for transition to more traditional placement and service programs.

12. How do we become part of the pilot program?

- The project application can be found on our project website: <https://www.catalyst-center.org/youthfirst>.

13. Will this project be affected by the incoming IMD legislation?

- If you are having IMD discussions with DHCS and are creating a program under the E-STRTP model on a shared campus, the additional beds may factor into the IMD determination. IMD considerations may be part of the project when necessary.





14. Does the project have a limit to how many counties can participate?

- We are looking to have 5-7 counties/regions participating in the project.

15. How do children with aggressive or violent behaviors fit into this project? What about youth who are eligible for Regional Center services? Or youth in need of substance use services?

- The project aims to create new programs that meet the needs of the youth. These may be youth with needs that cannot be met in the currently available continuum of services. The needs themselves are not prescribed and the provider will decide the target population that is best served through their program. They may include some of the characteristics included in the question.

16. How does this project take family finding and permanency into consideration?

- The project will work with counties to identify sources of support for the youth. Additionally, assistance will be provided to ensure that youth are able to be kept in geographical proximity to family and natural supports whenever possible to support permanency efforts.

17. Will current CCL requirements and regulations be the same for these programs? Will collaboration with CCLD be part of this technical assistance?

- The program will have to be licensed for 24-hour care and will need it's own program design/approval. CCL has been an active partner in discussions about the programmatic needs of youth with complex challenges and providers will receive assistance in collaborating with CCLD regarding new and innovative program designs.

18. When is the anticipated start date for the project?

- All applications are due by August 31, 2021. Applicants will be notified of their status by September 30th.

