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**Pioneering Child Welfare Program Celebrates 40 Years
Nationally Acclaimed Program Began in Washington State in 1974**

(Seattle, Washington)—Established in 1974 in Washington State, Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) keep families intact and teach parents the skills they need to safely raise their children. The evidence-based model, implemented across the United States and internationally, keeps families safe, prevents unnecessary out-of-home placement, and saves money.

2014 marks the 40th anniversary of Intensive Family Preservation Services in the United States. On July 17, past and present leaders in the IFPS movement from many national organizations (e.g. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Children’s Defense Fund, Child Welfare League of America, National Conference of State Legislators, Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) and from many states (e.g. Indiana, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Kentucky, Missouri, Washington) gather at Talaris Conference Center in Seattle to celebrate and chronicle the history and stories of one of the most important systems reform initiatives in child welfare in this country.

“As we come together to celebrate the successes of HOMEBUILDERS[®] and many other family preservation program models, it is clear family preservation has fundamentally changed child welfare. The impact of family preservation programs is immeasurable. The countless number of children and their families that avoided the additional trauma associated with separation is not only felt in the present, but has had significant and positive impact on the life histories of thousands of our nation’s most underserved and disadvantaged families.”
~Douglas W. Nelson, Retired President and CEO, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation was the main catalyst for this highly successful systems reform initiative in child welfare for over a decade beginning in the mid 1980’s. In addition to the replication and dissemination of the model across the country, results of the initiative include: a program that came to define the reasonable efforts required to keep families together prior to court-ordered out-of-home placement, Title IV-B funding developed for in-home services, 13 states passing legislation calling for family preservation, IV-E waivers created to reinvest placement prevention savings, judicial training, media efforts to change the view of the general public about families involved in the system, garnering support from the large national child welfare associations/groups, development of service provider training and quality assurance methods that were then used in the several states that adopted large scale implementation of IFPS.

Overview

Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS) are evidence-based services designed to strengthen families in order to prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement in foster care, group care, psychiatric hospitals, or correctional institutions. Families served by this intensive, in-home, family therapy model have children in imminent danger of placement, or have children in placement who cannot be reunified without intensive services. Established in 1974 in Washington State the HOMEBUILDERS[®] IFPS model has been implemented across the United States and internationally. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimates that for every dollar spent on HOMEBUILDERS the public saves \$4.49.

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