

**MN Department of Human Services  
Social Services Manual**

**Family Preservation Services**

**XV-3000**

Based on statutes and rules in effect as of 06/24/99

**XV**

**Family Preservation Services**

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#### Authority

XV-3100

1. 42 USC 629-629e (Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980).
2. 42 USC 5116-5116I (1993) (Family Preservation and Support Services Act).
3. 42 USC 5106 (1996) (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).
4. 42 USC 671 (Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997).
5. Minn. Stat. 256F.01-256F.13 (1998) (Minnesota Family Preservation Act).

#### Public Policy

XV-3200

The public policy of this state is to assure that all children, regardless of minority, racial, or ethnic heritage, live in families that offer a safe, permanent relationship with nurturing parents or caretakers. To help assure children the opportunity to establish lifetime relationships, public social services must be directed toward:

1. preventing the unnecessary separation of children from their families by identifying family problems, assisting families in resolving their problems, and preventing breakup of the family if it is desirable and possible;
2. restoring to their families children who have been removed by continuing to provide services to the reunited child and the families;
3. placing children in suitable adoptive homes in cases where restoration to the biological family is not possible or appropriate; and
4. assuring adequate care of children away from their homes in cases where the child cannot be returned home or cannot be placed for adoption.

Adapted from Minn. Stat. 256F.01

#### Definitions

XV-3300

1. Family Preservation Services: Services that help families overcome a current crisis that may lead to the out-of-home placement of their children. The services are a continuum of services designed to help children remain with their families or to facilitate reunification of children with their parents.

Adapted from Minn. Stat. 256F.03

2. Core Family Preservation Services: Core services include the following:
  - a. Family- Based Crisis Services: Services to a family in the home, within 24 hours of referral, to help the family resolve a relationship crisis, so that placing a child outside of the home is unnecessary.

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- b. Family- Based Counseling Services: Services to a family in the home followed with additional, limited services in an outside setting if needed to help the family resolve personal, family or situational problems, so that placing a child outside of the home is unnecessary or so that a child can be returned home from placement.
- c. Family-Based Life Management Skills Services: Services to a family in the home including teaching family parenting skills, budgeting, communication and home management skills, so that placing a child outside of the home is unnecessary or so that a child can be returned home.
- d. Family-Based Mental Health Services: Professional home-based family treatment services are intensive mental health services provided to children at risk of, in, or returning from out-of-home placement due to an emotional disturbance. Services must be designed to meet the specific mental health needs of the child and family and must be provided by a team consisting of a mental health professional with other family/child mental health and human service providers.

**Adapted from Minn. Stat. 256F.03;  
Minn. Stat. 256F.05**

Note: See the current Budgeting, Reporting, and Accounting for Social Services (BRASS) Manual for service codes.

### Expanded Child Welfare Preventive Services

XV-3400

In addition to the core family preservation services, expanded child welfare preventive services include: community education and prevention; child protection assessment; child welfare assessment; home health aide (child); homemaking services (child); social and recreational (child); group counseling (child); respite care (child); general case management; other child care; early identification and intervention; other family community support services; child day treatment; child general case management; homemaking services; in-home family support services; and child Rule 185 case management non-waiver under age 21.

**Minn. Stat. 256F.05**

Note: See the current Budgeting, Reporting, and Accounting for Social Services (BRASS) Manual for service codes.

### Funding and Reporting

XV-3500

Funding for family preservation services is provided through a combination of federal, state and local sources. Federal and state funding is allocated annually by the Commissioner to each local social services agency through the family preservation fund grant. This grant must first be used to develop the four core family preservation services. The local agency may then use the grant to provide the expanded set of child welfare preventive services.

Family preservation service activities and expenditures are reported through the Budgeting, Reporting, and Accounting for Social Services (BRASS) process, whether services are provided directly or purchased. BRASS is the classification structure for standardizing and organizing the

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categories used by counties to plan, budget, report, and account for social services. The Social Services Expenditure and Grant Reconciliation Report (SEAGR) collects quarterly financial data based on BRASS codes. The annual Client Summary Report (CSR) collects client information that compliments the fiscal data provided quarterly in the SEAGR Report. These two reports constitute the reporting required under the Community Social Service Act (CSSA).

### Service Provision

XV-3600

The choice of the service or service mix must be based on an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the family as they relate to the presenting problem. This information and progress reviews are documented in the social service case plan. For social service case plan requirements see SSM-IV-4000, CSSA Plan; SSM XVI-4000, Child Protection Services; and SSM-XV-6000, Foster Care Service.

The local social services agency determines the policies and the current level of resources available for the provision of family preservation services. Local agency policies include criteria for eligibility, authorization, service choice, duration, intensity, and expected outcomes. Local agency policies also determine which services are provided directly by agency staff or purchased from a provider.