

GUIDANCE FOR FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT EVALUATION PLANS FOR HIGH FIDELITY WRAPAROUND



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As noted in a previous [National Wraparound Initiative \(NWI\) blog post](#), the [Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#), established as part of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), recently added Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) Using High Fidelity Wraparound to the working list of programs to be reviewed. At this point, there is no specified timeline for when the review will be completed.

Although High Fidelity Wraparound has yet to be given a designation by the Clearinghouse, it may still be included in a state's FFPSA five-year plan, and states can claim transitional payments for services and associated costs until the Clearinghouse provides a designation for Wraparound. In order to receive approval for transitional payments for Wraparound, states must conduct an independent systematic review and submit sufficient documentation to demonstrate that it meets the evidentiary standards for one of the designations outlined by the Clearinghouse: promising, supported, or well-supported. **Once Wraparound is approved as part of one state's five-year plan, any other state may submit a five-year plan for approval of transitional payments for Wraparound**, so long as the plan is submitted prior to October 1, 2021. An independent systematic review has been submitted by one state and is [currently under review](#).

When including Wraparound in a five-year plan, it must be accompanied with a well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy, as well as a plan for continuous quality improvement (CQI) and fidelity monitoring. Several fidelity and implementation support tools have

been developed that could help meet this requirement. Fidelity tools from the [Wraparound Fidelity Assessment System \(WFAS\)](#) can be used to regularly assess fidelity. Additionally, system- and organizational-level tools have been developed to monitor important factors that contribute to the successful implementation of Wraparound (i.e., Wraparound Implementation Standards tools).

FFPSA does not specify what is required for a "well-designed and rigorous evaluation strategy," but the Children's Bureau commissioned an [Evaluation Plan Development Tip Sheet](#) (ACYF-CB-IM-19-04) to help guide evaluation design for programs included in FFPSA plans. When developing an evaluation for Wraparound, a few key considerations include:

- » **Scope and purpose of the evaluation:** What questions will be answered through this evaluation? Is the implementation of the program being evaluated?
- » **Target population:** Who is the target population to be served by Wraparound? What are the eligibility criteria to be enrolled in Wraparound? How is eligibility being assessed?



Questions?

If you have questions about the status of the Wraparound evidence base, or seek to use validated quality and fidelity tools developed by University of Washington Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team (UW WERT), please contact them at wrapeval@uw.edu.

Information on training, coaching, and technical assistance can also be obtained via inquiries to these emails, or via the website of the National Wraparound Implementation Center (NWIC) at www.nwic.org.

- » **Evaluation design:** How is the evaluation being designed to assess outcomes? What methodology is being used (e.g., RCT, QED, pre- and post-test)?
- » **Process outcomes:** What are the procedures or policies that ensure successful implementation and outcomes (e.g., caseload size, timely engagement, workforce training)? How are these being measured? How is fidelity to the Wraparound model being assessed?
- » **Target outcomes:** What youth-level outcomes are being evaluated? How are these outcomes being measured? What are the psychometric properties of standardized tools being used to assess outcomes? Over what period of time are outcomes being measured?
 - › Evaluation plans can also include an optional cost evaluation.

In addition to the evaluation plan, states will be required to report specific child-level data for every child receiving Title IV-E programs. These data include demographics, types and dates of service utilization, and foster care entry status.

Once Wraparound is reviewed and rated by the Clearinghouse, it will be given an official designation. If the designation is equal to or higher than the provisional designation in a state's five-year plan, then no changes are required. If Wraparound receives a designation of *well-supported* in the future, the rigorous evaluation requirement under FFPSA may be waived; however, a plan for ongoing fidelity monitoring and CQI would still be required. States may claim a 50% reimbursement for administrative costs for data collection and reporting expenses associated with their evaluation plans. Funds cannot, however, be applied to purchasing, developing, or refining technologies such as management information systems (MIS).

Suggested Citation

National Wraparound Initiative, National Wraparound Implementation Center, & Wraparound Evaluation and Research Team. (2021). *Guidance for Family First Prevention Services Act Evaluation Plans for High Fidelity Wraparound*. Portland, OR: National Wraparound Initiative.

