

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS

CHAPTER 413

DIVISION 053

STRENGTHENING, PRESERVING AND REUNIFYING FAMILIES
PROGRAM AND FLEXIBLE FUNDS

Updated 02/20/2020

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Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program (SPRF) and Flexible Funds

413-053-0000

Definitions

(Technical Amended 02/20/2020)

- (1) "Child" means a person who:
 - (a) Is under 18 years of age; or
 - (b) Is under 21 years of age and residing in or receiving care or services at a child-caring agency or proctor foster home.
- (2) "Child protective services" (CPS) means a specialized social service program that Child Welfare provides on behalf of children or, when applicable, young adults who may be unsafe after a report of abuse is received.
- (3) "Contractor" means the person or entity that is awarded a contract and is responsible for the provision of services.
- (4) "CPS assessment" means an investigation into a report of abuse pursuant to ORS [419B.020](#), ORS 418.205 – 418.327, or ORS 419B.035 that includes activities and interventions to identify and analyze safety threats, determine if there is reasonable cause to believe abuse occurred, and assure safety through protective action plans, initial safety plans, or ongoing safety planning.
- (5) "Department" means the Oregon Department of Human Services.
- (6) "Family" means, at a minimum but not to the exclusion of siblings as defined in ORS [419A.004](#) or other persons living in the same household with a child, the child and:
 - (a) The child's parent as defined in ORS [419A.004](#);
 - (b) The child's guardian appointed pursuant to ORS [chapter 125](#); or
 - (c) A person who has a caregiver relationship as defined in ORS [419B.116](#) with the child.
- (7) "Flexible funds" means expenditures that are intended to provide goods and services that support child safety and maintain a child safely in the home or to expedite reunification, attachment, permanency and well-being.

- (8) “Front-end intervention” means a service that provides specialists in areas such as alcohol and drug treatment, domestic violence, mental health or a human service generalist, who may accompany Department caseworkers on initial CPS calls and visits in response to allegations or reports of abuse or neglect.
- (9) "Impending danger safety threat" means a family behavior, condition, or circumstance that meets all five safety threshold criteria. When it is occurring, this type of threat to a *child* is not immediate, obvious, or occurring at the onset of the CPS intervention. This threat is identified and understood more fully by evaluating and understanding individual and family functioning.
- (10) "Initial safety plan" means a documented set of actions or interventions sufficient to protect a *child* from an *impending danger safety threat* in order to allow for completion of the CPS assessment.
- (11) "Moderate to high needs" means *observable* family behaviors, conditions, or circumstances that are occurring now; and over the next year without intervention, are likely to have a negative impact on a child's physical, sexual, psychological, cognitive, or behavioral development or functioning. The potential negative impact is not judged to be severe. While intervention is not required for the *child* to be *safe*, it is reasonable to determine that short-term, targeted services could reduce or eliminate the likelihood that the negative impact will occur.
- (12) “Navigator” means a service provider who works with families, assists them in understanding the safety concerns leading to Department involvement, encourages participation with the Department and other service providers, locates resources and eliminates barriers.
- (13) "Ongoing safety plan" means a documented set of actions or interventions that manage the safety of a child or, when applicable, a young adult after Child Welfare has identified one or more impending danger safety threats at the conclusion of a CPS assessment or anytime during ongoing work with a family.
- (14) “Other admin-only case” refers to a case opened by the Department for the sole purpose of providing contracted community services post CPS assessment to a family with moderate to high needs. No casework activities, including monitoring child safety, occur.
- (15) "Present danger safety threat" means an immediate, significant, and clearly observable family behavior, condition, or circumstance occurring in the present tense, already endangering or threatening to endanger a *child* or, when applicable, a young adult. The family behavior, condition, or circumstance is happening now and it is currently in the process of actively placing a *child* or, when applicable, a young adult in peril.

- (16) "Protective action plan" means an immediate, same day, short-term plan, lasting a maximum of 10 calendar days, sufficient to protect a *child* from a *present danger safety threat*.
- (17) "SPRF" means the Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families program. Services paid for with SPRF funds are intended to prevent a *child* from entering *substitute care* and allow a *child* to remain with or reunify with his or her *family*. The services:
 - (a) Are flexible and can be provided during the Department's initial involvement with the *family*;
 - (b) Can be ongoing, long or short term; and
 - (c) Can be focused on the *child, family* or both.
- (18) "Strengths and needs assessment" means a tool used to assess the strengths and needs, including service needs, of a family determined to have *moderate to high needs*.
- (19) "Substitute care" means the out-of-home placement of a *child* or young adult who is in the legal or physical custody and care of the Department.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#), 418.205 – 418.327, 419B.035

413-053-0010

History and Purpose

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) In 2011, the Oregon Legislature created requirements for Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs. These directives are codified in ORS [418.580 to 418.598](#). The goals of the programs are to:
 - (a) Reduce the number of children entering *substitute care* and reduce their length of stay in *substitute care*;
 - (b) Reduce the trauma of CPS involvement for children and families;
 - (c) Ensure families receive timely family-focused services, while children remain safely at home;
 - (d) Improve collaboration between the Department and its county partners, especially when those partners are providing appropriate and necessary services to families; and

- (e) Create better outcomes for children and families involved with the Department.
- (2) The purpose of these rules is to describe the responsibilities of the Department in providing SPRF services.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0020

Eligibility Criteria

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) During a *CPS assessment*, if a *present danger safety threat* or *impending danger safety threat* has not been identified, a *family* is eligible to receive only the following SPRF service types:
 - (a) *Front-end intervention.*
 - (b) *Navigator.*
- (2) In an *other admin-only case*, a *family* is eligible to receive the SPRF service types in section (3) of this rule when:
 - (a) A *CPS assessment* has been completed;
 - (b) No *present danger safety threat* or *impending danger safety threat* has been identified; and
 - (c) The *family* has *moderate to high needs*.
- (3) When the requirements in section (2) of this rule are met, the SPRF services available for an *other-admin only case* are:
 - (a) *Strengths and needs assessment*; and
 - (b) Any SPRF services available to that district that are recommended by the Department.
- (4) When a *present danger safety threat* or *impending danger safety threat* has been identified and is being managed with a *protective action plan*, *initial safety plan* or *ongoing safety plan*, a *family* is eligible to receive services when:
 - (a) A *family* has an open Family Support Services case, pursuant to OAR [413-030-0003 to 413-030-0030](#);

- (b) A *child* is in *substitute care* and the service is used to support the *child* to promote the safety, permanency or well-being of the *child*;
 - (c) A family has an open *CPS assessment*; or
 - (d) A *family* has an open Department case including an in-home non-court involved case.
- (5) The Department may use SPRF services to engage in active efforts with Indian families, as required in OAR [413-115](#).

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0030

Referral for a SPRF Service

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

To receive SPRF services, the Department must submit to the provider:

- (1) A written service referral approved by a supervisor; and
- (2) A completed DHS form [2099](#).

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0040

CPS Assessment Closure or Department Case Closure

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) The Department must close a SPRF service immediately when:
 - (a) A *CPS assessment* closes, and a Department case is not opened pursuant to OAR [413-015-0445](#);
 - (b) An *other-admin only case* is closed; or
 - (c) A Department case is closed.
- (2) When the Department closes a SPRF service pursuant to section (1) of this rule, the Department must:

- (a) Notify the provider the service is closed; and
- (b) Document in the department's electronic information system that the provider has been notified.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0050

Exception to CPS Assessment Closure: Other Admin-Only Cases

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) The only services the Department may provide for an *other admin-only case* are SPRF services.
- (2) An *other admin-only case* that is open after a *CPS assessment* may remain open for up to 90 days to provide SPRF services, with the option of one 90-day extension. An extension must be approved by the district manager, program manager or designee.
- (3) If the family continues to need services in an *other admin-only case*, Department responsibilities are limited to:
 - (a) Entering and ending services;
 - (b) Validating invoices for services;
 - (c) Requesting and approving extensions; and
 - (d) Case closure.
- (4) If, at the end of an assessment, the child is determined to be safe and the family has moderate to high needs, the Department may offer the family a *strengths and needs assessment*. If, because of the *strengths and needs assessment*, services are recommended and available, the Department may refer the family to SPRF services.
- (5) When the *other admin-only case* closes, the Department must immediately close all SPRF services and notify each provider that the service has closed.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stat. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0060

Outcome Measures

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) All SPRF services have client-focused functional outcome measures.
- (2) SPRF outcomes are delineated by service category and are in the SPRF Outcomes table, dated November 2017, which is adopted as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference into this rule. A printed copy may be obtained from the Department.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stats. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)

413-053-0070

Flexible Funds for SPRF

(Adopted 10/03/2018)

- (1) *Flexible funds* may be negotiated as part of individual SPRF contracts. Including *flexible funds* in a contract is optional and based on agreement between the Department and the contractor.
- (2) A contractor may use *flexible funds* to support engagement with the family and to achieve the contracted outcomes and services goals that correlate with the SPRF services provided in the individual SPRF contract.
- (3) *Flexible funds* expenditures that meet the requirements of this division and contract-specific criteria will be reimbursed by the Department.
- (4) When appropriate, *flexible funds* should be utilized to support fulfilling active efforts for Indian children.

Stat. Auth.: ORS [418.005](#)

Stats. Implemented: ORS [418.575 to 418.598](#)