

MIDD 2 Initiative CD-13: Family Interventions Restorative Services (FIRS) (NEW)

How does the program advance the adopted MIDD policy goals?

This initiative impacts the adopted MIDD policy goal of “divert individuals with behavioral health needs from costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals.”

When law enforcement has probable cause of domestic violence in a home involving a youth, the youth is often arrested. Arrested youth are then transported to the King County Youth Service Center and booked into detention. Historically, family violence offenses have comprised the largest category of detainable offenses in King County.

With the FIRS Program, eligible youth involved in a domestic violence situation may avoid detention and have the opportunity to engage in a range of services without the delays of formal court processing. Youth are provided a place to stay in a 24/7 non-secure facility run by a contracted community services provider. Youth are assigned a specialized FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC) and a Step-Up Social Worker. During the family intervention process, youth and families will complete a validated risk and needs assessment, complete a family violence safety plan, and craft a FIRS Agreement. The FIRS agreement engages youth in appropriate services, including Step-Up, evidence-based therapy, or the 180 Program. Youth may also agree to complete community service or engage with other services. In addition to enhancing access to existing services, FIRS expands the capacity of Step-Up, a “nationally recognized adolescent family violence intervention program designed to address youth violence toward family members” run by the King County Department of Judicial Administration (DJA). Step-Up provides safety plans for all FIRS families. The Step-Up curriculum provides 20 sessions of group counseling for parents and youth, which will be provided if FIRS screeners determine Step-Up is the appropriate treatment.

1. Program Description

◇ A. Service Components/Design (Brief)

The Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) program is an alternative to court involvement and/or detention. FIRS provides services for King County youth who are violent towards a family member (often their mother). FIRS includes two components:

- A non-detention 24/7 Respite and Reception Center (FIRS Center) staffed by a contract community services organization
- Improved access to evidence-based and best practices interventions for families, including expansion of the Step-Up Program

◇ B. Goals

Goals for this initiative include improving prompt access to services for families experiencing youth domestic violence; reducing detention and filings; and reducing future domestic violence and other criminal incidents.

◇ C. Preliminary Performance Measures (based on MIDD 2 Framework)⁹⁴

1. How much? Service Capacity Measures

This initiative is expected to serve more than 300 unduplicated youth annually.

2. How well? Service Quality Measures

- Increased use of prevention (outpatient) services
- Increased access to culturally appropriate recovery services

3. Is anyone better off? Individual Outcome Measures

- Reduced substance use
- Reduced behavioral health risk factors
- Improved wellness and social relationships
- Reduced unnecessary incarceration

◇ D. Provided by: Both County and Contractor

2. Spending Plan

Year	Activity	Amount
2017	24/7 non-secure facility for King County youth who are violent towards a family member and evidence-based and best practices interventions for families	\$ 1,087,688
2017 Annual Expenditure		\$ 1,087,688
2018	24/7 non-secure facility for King County youth who are violent towards a family member and evidence-based and best practices interventions for families	\$ 1,115,967
2018 Annual Expenditure		\$ 1,115,967
Biennial Expenditure		\$ 2,203,655

⁹⁴ Throughout 2017, review and refinement of Results-Based Accountability (RBA) performance measures for MIDD 2 initiatives will be conducted whenever applicable, in consultation with providers. Updates to performance measures that may result from this collaborative process will be reported in the next MIDD Annual Report in August 2018.

3. Implementation Schedule

◇ A. Procurement and Contracting of Services

The initial King County Superior Court pilot of the FIRS program is already active, with initial temporary support from the City of Seattle and MIDD fund balance funding prior to the creation of this MIDD 2 initiative. An RFP may be issued in the future if there is an opportunity for expansion.

◇ B. Services Start date (s)

Services continued on January 1, 2017.

4. Community Engagement Efforts

The City of Seattle recently funded a cultural responsiveness study of the FIRS pilot conducted by the University of Washington. The study looked at the ability of the FIRS program to serve youth from various communities in King County, most notably youth from East African communities. Findings of the study suggest further investigation of the availability of culturally-responsive services. It is also suggested that the City of Seattle invest in development and implementation of such services.

King County Juvenile Court staff continue to outreach to the communities of King County, the State of Washington and several other states to share the FIRS program. Information sessions on FIRS and the new response to family violence incidents have been conducted with East African community groups, several youth advocacy groups, and groups focused on gender equality. In the last 12 months, King County Juvenile Court staff have hosted over 20 informational tours of the program. In addition, there have been over a dozen presentations of FIRS around the state and the country.