

# Washington State Title IV-E Waiver Evaluation

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Evaluation Semi-Annual Report  
July 2016

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## Evaluation Status

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The evaluation continues to proceed as planned. Site visits and key informant interviews for all offices implementing FAR through June 2016 have been completed. The Phase VI summary report and Phase VI office-level reports are in progress.

The family surveys continue utilizing the new protocol (updated to offer incentives for completion, in the form of a Wal-Mart gift card, and to allow for families to provide feedback through their choice of a live phone interview, a shorter automated phone survey, or an online survey).

A method for capturing office-level fidelity ratings has been drafted and reviewed by FAR leadership. We are now in the process of assigning rankings to all of the offices currently implementing FAR, in order to test the utility of the tool. Once all of the rankings are complete, we will carefully review results and make final changes. Once fidelity rankings are finalized, we plan to use those to look for differential outcomes across offices.

Most evaluation activity for this reporting period have centered on preparations for our Interim Evaluation Report.

## Numbers of Children and Families Assigned to the Demonstration

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The following table shows the number of families with a FAR intake, by evaluation cohort, across all offices implementing FAR through December 2015, based on April 2016 extracts from FAMLINK. Each intake represents a family assessed as being eligible for FAR and assigned to a caseworker. These counts are unduplicated, meaning that each family in the cohort is only counted once, even if they have multiple intakes in the period.

Please note that the research design criteria for including families in the study group are not identical to the hand count methodology used in FAR offices. As a result, the numbers of study group families do not exactly match the hand counts. Our primary design is “intent to treat,” which means that study group numbers include families who are assigned at intake to FAR but are later transferred to Investigations due to safety concerns, and families who decline to participate in FAR – these numbers are included in hand counts. Additionally, our data cleaning process excludes any cases labeled as FAR but that are served in non-FAR offices.

### Families Assigned to FAR Study and Control Groups

Study Cohort	Number of Families with a FAR Intake	Number of sampled <sup>1</sup> FAR Group Families	Number of Matched Control Group Families
<b>Cohort 1</b> (Jan – Jun 2014) Phase 1 Offices (pilot)	663	663	663
<b>Cohort 2</b> (Jul – Dec 2014) Phase 1-3 Offices	2,602	2,602	2,602
<b>Cohort 3</b> (Jan – Jun 2015) Phase 1-5 Offices	5,364	2,000	2,000
<b>Cohort 4</b> (Jul – Dec 2015) Phase 1-5 Offices <sup>2</sup>	5,279	1,000	1,000

### Major Evaluation Activities and Events

Evaluation activities for this semi-annual reporting period (July through December 2015) have centered on Round IV and V Office site visits, continued data analysis and presentation (including the creation of a new study cohort), revisions to the Family Survey protocol, and participation in the annual Federal IV-E Waiver Meeting in Washington, DC. The following table lists specific major activities around evaluation plan work:

- Monthly meetings with Washington State FAR team
- Drafted and finalized reports on for Round V Offices
- Legislation Presentation
- Receipt of new data for Cohort 4
- Data analysis (ongoing analysis of Cohorts 1-4)
- Interim Evaluation Report planning and analysis
- Round VI site visits and report drafting
- Implementation Fidelity Reporting pilot

<sup>1</sup> Beginning with Cohort 3, a random sample of FAR families was used for comparative analysis. As more offices implemented FAR, the comparison pool of families in non-FAR offices became too small to draw a comparison group the same size as the full FAR group.

<sup>2</sup> Due to a delay in FAR implementation, no additional offices began FAR implementation during the Cohort 5 study period.

**Major Evaluation Activities: January – June 2016**

Date	Activity	Audience/Participants
January 11	Met with Regional Leads	TriWest/Children’s Administration
January 12	Monthly Evaluation Team Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
January 15	Sunnyside Key Informant report drafted	TriWest
January 19	Finalized Semi-Annual report and submitted to Children’s Administration	TriWest
January 22	Aberdeen Follow-Up report drafted	TriWest
January 25	Sunnyside Key Informant report drafted	TriWest
January 30	Spokane Follow-Up report drafted	TriWest
February 1	Implemented Gift Card Incentive	TriWest
February 2	Pierce South Key Informant report drafted	TriWest
February 3	Office Follow-up reports submitted to Children’s Administration	TriWest
February 9	Monthly Evaluation Team Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
February 15	Draft of Bremerton Office report completed	TriWest/Children’s Administration
February 16	Call lists sent to parent allies	TriWest
February 16	Fidelity Tool drafted	TriWest
February 25	Phase V Key Informant Summary Report drafted	TriWest
February 25	Stakeholder Group Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
February 26	Legislative Presentation	TriWest/Children’s Administration
March 1	Spokane, Lynwood, and Aberdeen Fidelity of Implementation site assessments drafted	TriWest
March 7	FAR Assessment Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
March 8	Phase V Office and Overall reports submitted to Children’s Administration	TriWest
March 8	Monthly Evaluation Team Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
March 9	Phase V report drafted and submitted	TriWest
March 11	Automated phone survey re-implemented with new phone company	TriWest
March 29	Parent Ally Training Webinar	TriWest

**Major Evaluation Activities: January – March 2016**

Date	Activity	Audience/Participants
April 12, 2016	Monthly Evaluation Team Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
April 22, 2016	Draft of the Analysis Plan for Interim Evaluation Report	TriWest/Children’s Administration
April 26, 2016	Kelso Site Visit	TriWest
April 27, 2016	Colfax Site Visit	TriWest
April 28, 2016	Clarkston Site Visit	TriWest
April, 29, 2016	Receipt of Cohort 4 Data	TriWest
May 9, 2016	Spokane, Pierce East, and Richland Fidelity of Implementation Site Assessment Drafts Completed	TriWest
May 10, 2016	Monthly Evaluation Team Meeting	TriWest/Children’s Administration
May 11, 2016	FAR Family Survey Webinar Training	TriWest
May 11, 2016	Work with Services Classification table	TriWest
May 13, 2016	FAR Family Survey Webinar Training	TriWest
May 17, 2016	FAR Family Survey Webinar Training	TriWest
June 4, 2016	Draft table of contents/tables for Interim Evaluation Report	TriWest
June 16, 2016	Finalized pilot implementation fidelity tool	TriWest
June 30, 2016	Drafted Year 1 Implementation Fidelity reports	TriWest

**Challenges to the Evaluation and How They Have Been Addressed**

There have been no significant delays to the implementation of the Evaluation Plan. Washington DSHS has collaborated closely with the evaluation team and provided access to the staff necessary to conduct critical activities. All evaluation activities are underway as planned.

**Significant Evaluation Findings to Date**

TriWest will be submitting an Interim Evaluation report in September 2016 that contains significant evaluation findings for the first two project years.