

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Assessments



Is your agency meeting the new assessment requirements for QRTP placements?

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) creates opportunities under Title IV-E to provide prevention services to children at risk of entering foster care. However, it also establishes restrictions on Title IV-E reimbursement for foster care maintenance payments for children in a non-foster family home,¹ by introducing Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) as a new placement setting. This new placement setting establishes standards that must be met to continue receiving Title IV-E reimbursement beyond the second week of placement in a Congregate Care setting.

QRTP Assessments

Every child placed in a QRTP must be assessed within 30 days of the start of the placement. Each assessment must:

- Be conducted and documented by a qualified individual.
- Be conducted within 30 days after the placement is made stating the need for this type of placement.
- Include the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated assessment tool.

QRTP assessments must be completed by a third party; they cannot be completed by an employee of the Title IV-E agency or someone who is affiliated with a setting in which children are placed by the Title IV-E agency.²

Why partner with PCG?

With the Family First implementation deadline of October 1, 2021 quickly approaching, child welfare agencies must establish QRTP procedures that meet their unique circumstances, processes, and workflows. Public Consulting Group (PCG) has the knowledge, tools, and experience to implement QRTP assessments. We will partner with your agency to become your QRTP qualified assessor. Here are several ways we can support your agency's QRTP assessment efforts.

- ✔ **QRTP assessments are new – for all jurisdictions**
PCG has been a national Family First implementation leader since the act was passed in early 2018. Our team has expert knowledge of the Family First requirements, and we are helping many states navigate this complex legislation, including Kentucky, Michigan, Arkansas, Maine, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, and others.
- ✔ **QRTP assessments must be completed by a third party²**
We have been providing operational functions for public Human Services organizations for more than a quarter century, including the following:

27+ years

1993 - present in
Kentucky &
Massachusetts

13+ years

2007 - present in
Pennsylvania &
New York City

10+ years

2010 - present
in San Diego

3+ years

2017 - present
in Indiana

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QRTP assessors must evaluate the strengths and needs of the child, utilizing an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, functional assessment tool
 Our team has assisted states in the use of the Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) as a standardized assessment tool for determining an individual's level of need and we have staff experienced with conducting CANS assessments. The CANS has demonstrated both reliability and validity and has been approved by the Secretary as an appropriate QRTP Assessment tool. Our Title IV-E Waiver evaluation work with West Virginia, Maine, and Arkansas confirmed that the needs identified in the CANS were linked to the service needs of children and youth.
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QRTP assessments must be completed by qualified individuals
 Our team includes highly skilled licensed social workers and trained child welfare workers, experienced with administering the CANS. PCG has a deep understanding of the child welfare system. Our team consists of former employees of child welfare agencies that include case workers, program staff, executive staff, and the director of a state's child welfare agency.
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QRTP assessments must meet stringent timelines and reporting requirements
 PCG has developed an online database for completion of the CANS and tracking of client referrals called the Assessment Referral Tracker (ART). West Virginia has been using our ART to track referrals to their wraparound program since 2016. ART is designed not only to track cases of children and youth being considered for QRTP placement, it provides aggregated reporting to ensure CANS are completed on time and identify trends in performance and decision-making.

How can PCG help?

Our approach to QRTP assessments is built upon more than 30 years of experience improving practice and carrying out operational functions. We will partner with your agency to implement QRTP assessments by creating the infrastructure for success. **This process includes:**



¹ ACYF-CB-PI-18-07 <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1807.pdf>

² ACYF-CB-PI-18-07 gives Title IV-E agencies an option to request waiver from HHS allowing the "qualified individual" to be an employee of the agency and/or connected to or affiliated with a placement setting in which children are placed by the agency. In doing so, the title IV-E agency must certify that the trained professionals or licensed clinicians will maintain objectivity in determining the most effective and appropriate placement for a child (section 475A(c)(1)(C) of the Act). CB has not promulgated guidance imposing additional requirements for the title IV-E agency to seek a waiver.

Interested in learning more about how our team can help you meet the new requirements for QRTP assessments? Contact us today!

 (800) 210-6113  info@pcgus.com

 www.publicconsultinggroup.com