

FFTA



Foster Family-based Treatment Association

FFTA Member Agency Survey Results January, 2007

Goals of Survey

- * Describe range of member agency program activities
- * Describe member agency program development needs and preferred resources
- * Describe satisfaction with past FFTA supports and interest in future FFTA supports
- * Identify trends associated with agency location (region) and size (budget)

Method

- * Brief web-based survey developed with mix of closed and open-ended items
- * Invitations sent to 317 agencies; 133 responses received (42%)
- * In context of similar surveys, the current response rate is typical.
- * The respondent group appears generally representative of the overall membership
 - smaller agencies are slightly underrepresented in favor of very large agencies.

	% of FFTA ¹	N responding	% of responses
TFC Budget			
\$0-500K	30%	36	27%
\$500K-1M	22%	25	19%
\$1M-2.5M	23%	25	19%
\$2.5-5M	15%	20	15%
\$5M-15M+	11%	27	20%
Agency Location			
New England	7%	10	8%
Mid-Atlantic	15%	17	13%
South	36%	49	37%
Midwest	22%	31	24%
West	17%	22	17%
Canada	5%	4	3%

Highlights of Results and Initial Implications

In addition to TFC, what are member agencies providing?

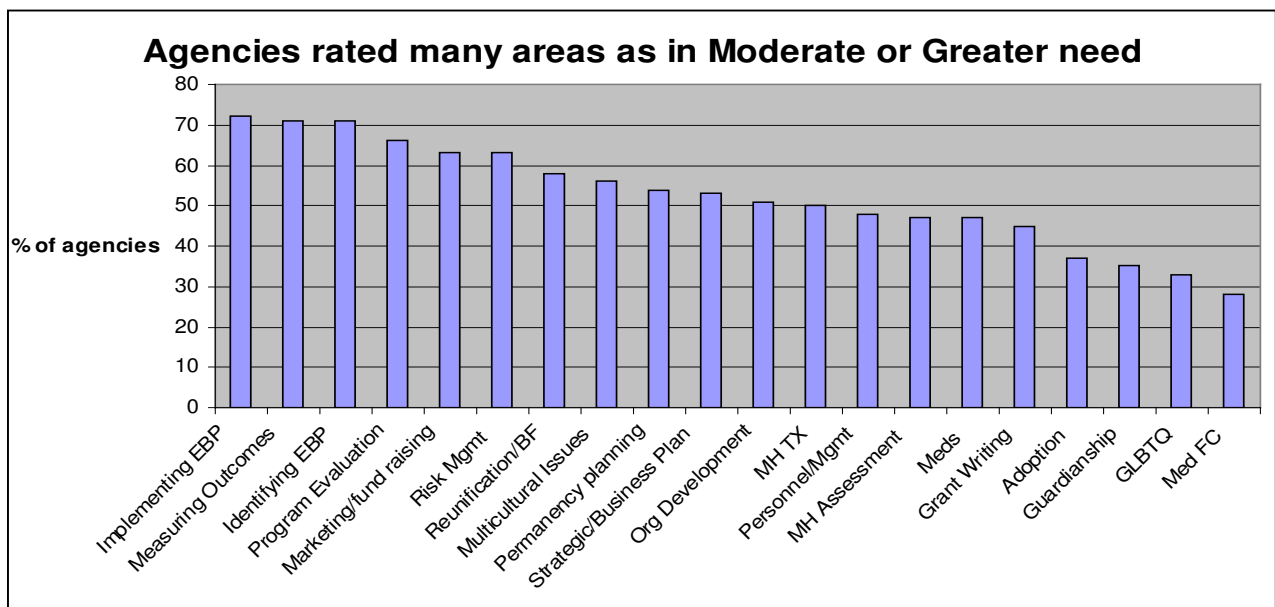
- The majority of member agencies provide additional family foster care placement services beyond TFC, but substantially fewer agencies provide congregate care or supervised Independent Living.

¹ Based on roster of full members.

- Two thirds of the member agencies described providing Intensive home-based/Wrap-around services, and nearly one half of the agencies indicated that they provide Family Preservation and Reunification services.
- While most agencies provide some Community-based services, the majority of their budgets are directed to foster care.
- The majority of members (73%) indicated that 76-100% of the families that they serve receive case management services; slightly more than half of the members indicated that the same percentage range of families served receive permanency planning and foster parent training services from their agency. One quarter of the respondents provided clinic-based counseling and life skills training services to 51-75% of their cases.

FFTA members’ current support needs

FFTA members were asked to identify the extent of their current support needs for developing practice, policy or administrative procedures. Agencies rated many areas as “moderately” or “greatly” needed:



Agencies also identified needs for support through foster parent recruitment and training, and nonprofit organization development and board management, as well as other areas.

What support needs are FFTA member agencies’ five highest priorities?

1. Implementing Evidence-based Practice (EBP) in TFC (60%)
2. Measuring outcomes (49%)
3. Identifying EBP relevant to TFC (45%)
4. Marketing and fundraising (34%)
5. Risk Management (28%)

Other areas mentioned as top priorities by at least 25% of respondents include Program Evaluation (28%), Strategic planning/Business model development (25%), Reunification (25%), Permanency Planning (24%), and Grant writing (25%).

- In a quick scan of the data, a few subgroup trends were noted. While not an exhaustive list, these regional differences include:
 - Agencies in the West expressed more of a need for support around Permanency Planning and Legal Guardianship;
 - Agencies in New England expressed less perceived need for support around general management and administration, Strategic Planning, and Risk Management;
 - Agencies with budgets under \$250K perceived fewer immediate needs for support in general.

How have FFTA member agencies been addressing their needs for program development support?

- Respondents identified FFTA more often than any other source of support.
 1. FFTA (71% of the respondent agencies used FFTA support in the last 24 months)
 2. CWLA (57%)
 2. State Public Child Welfare Agency (57%)
 3. State Associations (56%)
 3. Peer Agencies (56%)
 4. Private consultants (48%)

What supports are considered most helpful?

- Respondent ratings rank FFTA among the most frequently helpful supports.
 1. State Associations (83% rated the support provided as *moderately helpful* or better)
 2. FFTA (76%)
 3. CWLA (71%)
 4. Other National Associations (65%)
 5. Private Consultants (61%)
 - The most preferred formats for support were web-based resources (67%), Regional conferences/workshops (56%), free on-site consultants (53%), and national conferences (42%). Few indicated preference for paid consultants (4%) or National Clearinghouses (9%).
 - A scan for subgroup differences suggested that Midwest agencies tended to find FFTA supports slightly less helpful, though they were still considered in the ‘moderately helpful’ range. Other trends may exist, but would require further analysis.
 - The sources that were considered “very helpful” we rated as such for a variety of reasons.

Who do agencies expect to turn to for support in the next 24 months?

- Respondents see FFTA as a leading provider of organizational support.
1. FFTA (82% said that they would probably or definitely seek FFTA help)
 2. State Child Welfare Agency (72%)
 3. Peer Agencies (71%)
 4. State Associations (70%)
 5. CWLA (66%)

What might agencies like to access from FFTA in the next 24 months?

- As noted, the top priorities identified in the ratings concerned EBP, Measuring Outcomes, and Marketing and Fundraising. However, agencies may be considering a variety of resources to address these needs.
- Specifically, FFTA member agencies are hoping to get support from FFTA in staying abreast of EBP, Public Policy and Legislative developments, emerging research and insight into Best Practices, training and recruitment practices, and other areas.
- A quick scan for subgroup differences suggested that agencies in New England, as well as those in the South and West considered themselves more likely to access FFTA supports.