

**ISSUED DATE:** October 28, 2025

**TO:**  Children's Division       Contracted Staff

**FROM:** Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

**SUBJECT:** **Prevention Referrals**

## OVERVIEW:

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new referral for Prevention Services, assigned to the Statewide Prevention Team for family or caregiver(s) in need of economic or community supports. This is planned to go into effect on 11/01/2025 at 8:00 am. This new referral condition will be integral in providing the division with opportunities for supporting and assisting families who need economic, or community supports, to include those who are impacted by implications from the current federal government shut down.

A comprehensive policy revision of CWM 3.1 Primary Prevention Program is currently in development and will supersede and replace this Practice Alert.

## NECESSARY ACTIONS:

Concerns for families will be screened by CANHU for appropriate assessment and assignment. If information provided does not meet criteria for a report or another referral type but meets criteria for the new prevention referral condition, it will be assigned to the Statewide Prevention team. An alert will be sent to the Prevention Unit Assistant Manager for assignment to a Statewide Prevention worker.

Note: The Statewide Prevention Program does not work with families who have current involvement with Children's Division. If a prevention referral is received on a family who has a current open report or case (Investigation/ Assessment/ Referral, FCS, AC), this will be sent to the circuit for local assignment. Statewide Prevention workers can share resources needed across program lines to support families.

This prevention referral condition will allow Statewide Prevention workers to engage with families and connect them to community resources and services. Examples of areas of need in which a Statewide Prevention worker may collaborate with families under this condition include:

- **Transportation:** Connection/assistance with transportation needs for a family for such times as a doctor and dentist appointments, school, etc.
- **Hygiene:** Assistance with receiving referrals to community resources and programs to assist with things such as head lice, hygiene supplies, and laundry assistance or supplies.
- **Clothing:** Assistance with referrals to community programs to assist with clothing needs for the family/children; Connection to clothing closets and/or other programs that could assist with obtaining clothing for families.

- **Housing:** Assistance with connecting to services for household/housing concerns; Assistance with bug or rodent treatment; Housing needs, such as cleaning supplies; Referrals for weatherization assistance; Referrals for utility assistance; Referrals for rental assistance and other general home needs.
- **Food:** Assistance with referrals to state and federal programs such as SNAP and TANF; Connection to community programs, such as food pantries and community meal sharing.

<b>PDS CONTACT:</b> Name: Michelle Dixon Email: <a href="mailto:Michelle.Dixon@dss.mo.gov">Michelle.Dixon@dss.mo.gov</a>	<b>MANAGER CONTACT:</b> Name: Elaine Casteel Email: <a href="mailto:Elaine.A.Casteel@dss.mo.gov">Elaine.A.Casteel@dss.mo.gov</a>
<b>DEPUTY DIRECTOR CONTACT:</b> Name: Christina Barnett Email: <a href="mailto:Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov">Christina.Barnett@dss.mo.gov</a>	
<b>CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION:</b>	