

Learning and Improving Through Research at Boys Town

Ongoing research drives innovation and continuous improvement, giving our children and families the best possible chance to succeed. The table below presents the status of Boys Town Youth Care Programs on evidence-based practice registries. This status is largely based upon the quality of published research studies and strength of positive outcomes.

STATUS OF BOYS TOWN PROGRAMS ▼	WHAT IT MEANS ►	Informed by Research Evidence	Promising Research Evidence	Supported by Research Evidence
		Has demonstrated positive outcomes in the field, using before-and-after comparisons and follow-up studies. A data collection system exists to support more scientific study.	Has shown promising research results, often using comparisons between groups or another scientific approach. A strong theory explains why it works. A system exists for replication.	Has been tested in a rigorous trial, where participants are randomly selected and compared to a control group. Effects are significant and enduring. Replication is successful.
Common Sense Parenting® - School Age Convenient, accessible training course for parents from all walks of life			ACHIEVED NIJCS (2013) PSC (2023)	ACHIEVED CEBC (2017)
Family Home ProgramSM Family-style residential care for children recovering from abuse or leaving juvenile justice			ACHIEVED NIJCS (2015)	
On the Way Home® Aftercare support for youth returning home to their families after out of home placement			ACHIEVED CEBC (2018) PSC (2022)	ACHIEVED CEBC (2020)
In-Home Family Services® Intensive training, support, & resources for families at risk of having a child placed out of home			ACHIEVED CEBC (2022)	
Well-Managed SchoolsSM Training in classroom behavior management for teachers and administrators		ACHIEVED TRC	IN PROGRESS Rigorous trial underway	

LEARN MORE ►

Boys Town Translational Research Center (TRC): www.boystown.org/trc
 California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare (CEBC): www.cebc4cw.org
 National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions (NIJCS): crimesolutions.ojp.gov
 Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse (PSC): preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov



Evidence-Based Practice Registries

One of the primary goals of the Boys Town Strategic Plan is to invest in research to make sure our Youth Care programs and services work and establish them as evidence-based programs.

Public registries publish standards for evidence-based programs. These registries have panels of experts who review the published research for programs and provide information about the level of evidence for each program reviewed.

These registries have different review criteria and methods, and they are focused on somewhat different service areas such as child welfare, juvenile justice, and education. However, they all share the approach that intervention programs vary on a continuum of evidence for their effectiveness, from no evidence to evidence-informed to evidence-based.

Specific registries for evidence-based programs have been developed by agencies such as the [California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare](#), the [National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions](#), [What Works Clearinghouse](#), and the [Prevention Services Clearinghouse](#) to name a few.

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and the Prevention Services Clearinghouse

For instance, the FFPSA was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act in 2018. This act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, in-home parenting skill training, and kinship navigator programs.

The Prevention Services Clearinghouse was created as part of the FFPSA to review research on these programs and services and rate them as *well-supported*, *supported*, *promising*, or *does not currently meet criteria*, based upon the quality of the research design and strength of positive outcomes.

Program Implementation

In addition to making sure programs work, it is also important to provide implementation support to ensure programs and services continue to produce positive outcomes for children and families. Boys Town does this routinely with four core systems:

1. Administration – Ensures programs have necessary resources to function; obtains grants and service contracts; monitors compliance with licensing and accreditation standards
2. Training – Preservice and ongoing in-service trainings utilizing manualized materials
3. Evaluation – Staff observations to certify fidelity to the treatment model and program evaluation to monitor client outcomes
4. Consultation – Trained supervisor has frequent meetings with direct care staff and conducts onsite visits to provide support for staff development

Ongoing Youth Care program development, research, and implementation support allows Boys Town to apply to registries of evidence-based programs to upgrade the status of our ratings and have our programs and services listed on multiple registries. These efforts help us compete successfully for service contracts while we also continue to improve the quality of our service delivery for children and families.