

“I’ve been told I need to go to FAPT for education funding for residential treatment for my child. What do I need to know?”



What is CSA?

The Children's Services Act (CSA) is a Virginia law that helps families access services and supports for children with serious behavioral and/or mental health needs. Local child-serving agencies and private service providers work with parents/caregivers to develop plans that will best address these needs. Funding for services may be available for youth who meet eligibility requirements when family resources or other funding sources such as insurance are not available. Families will be assessed for their ability to contribute to the cost of services based on income and other factors.



What is FAPT?

In Fairfax-Falls Church, the Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) makes recommendations about residential placements. The FAPT includes professionals who represent public agencies as well as private organizations serving Fairfax County, the City of Falls Church, and the City of Fairfax. As defined by law, each FAPT has a representative from the Department of Family Services (DFS) representing social services, the local community behavioral health agency called the Community Services Board (CSB), Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) or Falls Church City Public Schools (FCCPS), and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC). There is also a representative from the private provider community as well as a trained parent/family representative. Private therapists and psychiatrists may participate in the meetings along with other supports identified by families.

As a community, we believe that youth are best served within their own families. Keeping youth and families together and preventing entry into long-term out-of-home placements results in the best outcome for children and families. While developing and coordinating treatment planning for children, services used will be community-based whenever possible. *Our system will support placement outside of the community only when deemed necessary through the FAPT service planning process.*

Referrals to a FAPT happen when:

- A safe and effective community-based plan cannot be created through a team-based process, or the team is unable to agree on a plan.
- Parents/custodians disagree with the community-based plan.
- Parents/custodians decline to participate in developing a community-based plan and decide to request residential placement.



Why am I being sent to CSA/FAPT for education funding?

While a family's private insurance or Medicaid can pay for treatment services, educational costs may not be covered. Before offering funding, the FAPT must determine that a residential level of care is clinically appropriate and CSA requirements are met. Youth with certain types of special education services may also qualify for education funding through their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

What are the other benefits of CSA and FAPT?

CSA is not just for education funding. Your family will be provided with a local agency case manager at no cost to you. The case manager assists with navigating the service system, coordinating care, helping to identify resources and supports, making referrals, developing after-care plans, and monitoring services. Participation in CSA and the FAPT provides parents with access to knowledgeable staff who can support and guide appropriate, cost-effective care to meet the youth's needs using contracted, "in-network" providers.

How do I schedule a FAPT?

CSA Case Managers who work for the CSB or JDRDC can request a meeting by submitting required documents to the CSA office. If your family does not have a CSA Case Manager and you are interested in receiving CSA services including meeting with a FAPT, please contact the CSA office using the information and links provided below. CSA staff will gather information from you about your child's specific needs and refer you to the appropriate agency for case management.

When can I meet with the FAPT?

Once your CSA Case Manager submits the request, the meeting will be scheduled typically within 10-15 business days.

What can I do if I don't want to participate in the CSA/FAPT process?

If you have already placed your child in a residential program or are planning to and do not want to access funding and support through CSA, you will need to contact your child's base school and ask to speak with the Procedural Support Liaison (PSL) and/or the special education administrator. They will assist you with the process of requesting educational reimbursement for eligible students.

<https://www.fcps.edu/academics/academic-overview/special-education-instruction/special-education-procedural-support-1>

If you are a Falls Church City resident, contact information for FCCPS is below:

<https://www.fccps.org/page/contact-fccps>

Key CSA Requirements/ Things to Know:

- Participation in CSA/FAPT is voluntary. A provider cannot require it.
- Providers may ask for a guarantee of funding by the local CSA program. The locality cannot guarantee funding without FAPT review, service authorization, AND a county-approved purchase order. All CSA requirements and procedures must be met. CSA funding is not retroactive.
- The Code of Virginia requires the FAPT to consider alternatives to residential and to work towards discharge as soon as appropriate.
- A Utilization Review process is required for local CSA programs. The clinical necessity and appropriateness of a residential level of care is reviewed and summarized in a report to FAPT.
- A parental contribution towards the cost of services may be charged if local CSA funding is requested for any service other than education.
- CSA funding for education is not guaranteed by FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) unless the youth has an IEP for a private level of education services. CSA documentation and procedures must still be followed.
- Residential providers must be approved through the county's contract process. CSA is required by law to use Medicaid providers unless they are unavailable or inappropriate. Only approved providers under contract with the county may be used.

For more information:

[Children's Services Act | Healthy Minds Fairfax \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Email: DFSCSA@fairfaxcounty.gov

Phone: 703-324-7938