

Return-on-Investment for Three Years of Functional Family Therapy in Pennsylvania

High Quality Evidence-based Programs Improve Youth & Family Functioning, Reduce Future Crime, and Save Money

Functional Family Therapy is projected to save Pennsylvania **\$30 to \$65 Million**, based on future crime reduction among youth served during the past three years.

Population	Program Cost ¹	Benefits ²	Benefits Minus Cost	Youth Discharged FY 2012-2014 ³	Total
Juvenile Justice Youth	\$3,909	\$29,944	\$26,035	1,179	\$30,695,265
All Youth Served	\$3,909	\$29,944	\$26,035	2,515	\$65,478,025

Repeated evaluations of FFT have demonstrated reductions in future criminal offending and incarceration for youth who participate in FFT as compared to youth receiving other family therapies, “services as usual,” or no treatment. This reduction is in turn associated with long-term monetary benefits.³

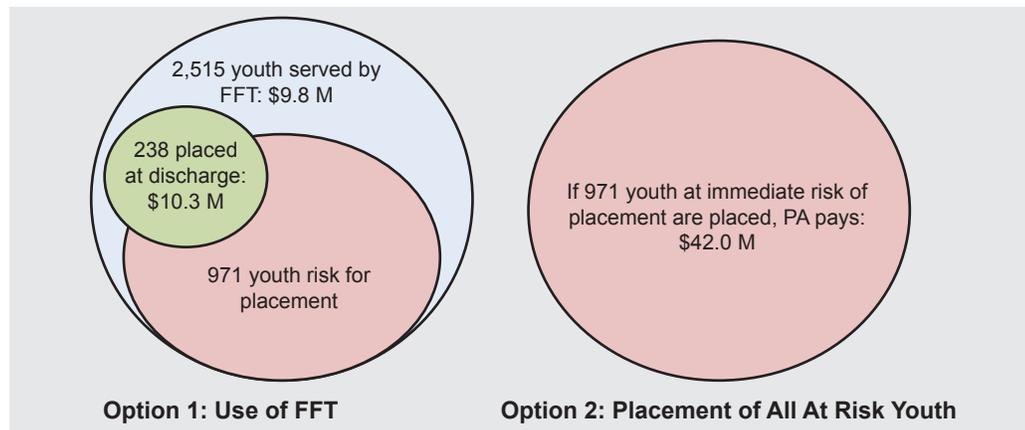
Keeping Youth At Home and Out of Placement Saves Money Today

In the short-term, FFT saves money by diverting youth from costly out-of-home placements through the use of less expensive community-based treatment.

Of 2,515 youth clinically discharged from FFT in FY 2012-2014:

- 971 youth were at high risk of placement upon admission.
- Only 238 were discharged from FFT to restrictive, out-of-home placement.

This translates into an **immediate savings of \$21.9 million**.



Option 1, using FFT in an effort to divert youth from placement while also serving a broader population of youth, represents a savings of \$21.9 million when compared to Option 2, foregoing the use of FFT and instead placing all youth who were at risk of placement at the time of referral.

When the same comparison is limited to Juvenile Justice-referred youth – the group upon which average placement cost is based – an estimated \$12.2 million is saved.

¹ Based on average BH-MCO rate and hours billed per completed case, as reported by Pennsylvania FFT providers in a 2012 survey.

² Washington State Institute of Public Policy estimates as of December 2014. Estimated benefits are contingent upon FFT being delivered competently and with fidelity with a juvenile justice population.

³ Includes all youth clinically discharged from FFT July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2014. Administrative discharges (e.g., youth who moved out of the area or lost funding) are not included.

⁴ Calculation uses an average cost of \$3,909 per completed FFT case, based on a 2012 Pennsylvania survey, and a median cost of \$43,248 per juvenile justice placement. Placement cost is derived using an average per diem of \$209 and 6.8 month median for counties' median length of stay, as reported by the Juvenile Court Judges Commission. Placement risk is indicated by provider at time of enrollment, based on available case information.