Prevention Services — Family Preservation (Case Managed)

Program Overview

The Family Preservation program provides intensive, time-limited support to families who are involved with Child and Family Services and are at risk of having their children come into care, or who are working toward reunification following a period of separation. Services are delivered in the home and community, with a focus on building the skills, knowledge, and supports that families need to stay together safely.

Program Philosophy

PBCFS believes that families are the best place for children to grow up, and that most families — given the right support at the right time — can provide a safe and nurturing home. Family Preservation exists to offer that support at a critical moment. The program works alongside families, not above them, drawing on family strengths and community networks. Cree cultural values — including the importance of extended family, community responsibility, and connection to the land — are woven throughout the program's approach.

Program Goals

- Prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their families by providing timely and intensive support.
- Support families in developing the skills, routines, and community connections needed to provide safe and stable care.
- Strengthen children's and families' connection to Cree culture, Elders, and traditional ways of life.
- Facilitate successful reunification where children have been temporarily placed outside the home.
- Build lasting informal support networks that families can rely on after the program ends.

Operational Information

Population Served	Families with children (birth to 18) who are open to PBCFS Child and Family Services, where there is an identified risk of children

	coming into care or a need to support reunification. Families reside in PBCN communities or Prince Albert.
Settings	Family homes, community locations, PBCFS offices, and wherever else is most useful and accessible for the family — including on-reserve and in Prince Albert.
Hours of Service	Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Workers are accessible outside of standard business hours to respond to crises and provide support when families need it most.
Days of Service	Every day of the year.
Frequency of Service	Intensive and frequent contact, particularly in the early weeks of service. The frequency of contact is individualized and typically decreases as the family stabilizes. Services are time-limited, with the length of involvement tailored to the family's progress and needs.
Payers / Funding	Indigenous Services Canada (ISC).
Fees	No fees. All services are provided free of charge.
Referral Sources	All referrals come internally from PBCFS Child and Family Services (Child Protection) workers.

Services Offered

In-Home Family Support

Workers visit families in their homes to provide hands-on coaching and support with parenting, household management, budgeting, routines, and daily living skills. Support is practical, relational, and grounded in the family's own goals and circumstances.

Provided directly by PBCFS Family Preservation staff.

Safety and Risk Reduction Planning

Workers collaborate with families and their Child Protection worker to develop and monitor safety plans that address identified risks. Progress is reviewed regularly and shared with the referring CFS worker.

Provided directly, in coordination with the CFS case manager.

Connection to Cultural Supports

Family Preservation workers actively support families in reconnecting with Cree cultural practices, including access to Elders, ceremonies, land-based activities, and extended family networks. Cultural identity is recognized as a protective factor for children and families.

Provided directly and through referral to Elders and cultural practitioners.

Coordination with Other Services

Workers identify additional needs and coordinate referrals to mental health, addictions, housing, income supports, health care, and other community services. PBCFS Mental Health Services and Prevention (Community-Based) programs are common referral destinations.

Coordination provided directly; specialized services accessed by referral.

Service Modalities and Personnel

Primary Modality	Intensive, in-home, strengths-based family support with a case management component. Trauma-informed and culturally grounded.
Additional Modalities	Safety planning; practical skill-building; family goal-setting; Elder engagement; referral coordination.
Personnel	Family Preservation Workers (BSW or relevant human services diploma/degree). Supervised by a qualified supervisor (BSW/MSW or equivalent). Training in trauma-informed practice, family systems, and cultural competency is required.