

## ABC and FAST Dollars

### What are they, and am I eligible?

	➤ <b>ABC</b>	➤ <b>FAST</b>
<b><u>What is it?</u></b>	<p>The ABC, or Access to Better Care, initiative began in 2006 with the goal of improving access to behavioral healthcare for children and families. These funds are to be spent on things like intervention, treatment, and program development to support and strengthen children and families.</p>	<p>FAST stands for Family and System Team Dollars. This initiative began in 2004 with the goal of providing families with formal and informal supports to keep their children in the home and out of placement. FAST funding is meant to promote the resiliency of children and families, increase the stability of the family unit, and strengthen the well being of all family members.</p>
<b><u>Who is eligible?</u></b>	<p>ABC funding was initially created for prevention and early intervention with children at risk of developing behavioral health disorders. Presently, ABC funding is flexible in regard to who is eligible and what services can be covered. This allows for local systems to consider the best opportunities for the funding and encourages parents to advocate for their child's needs.</p>	<p>There are clearer eligibility requirements for FAST. Children must be in the custody of their parents or family/kinship provider to be eligible for FAST. If the court or JFS retains custody of the child or if the child is in placement of some kind (e.g. residential treatment center) he or she is not eligible for FAST.</p> <p>A mental health diagnosis or drug and alcohol diagnosis are also a requirement for FAST eligibility.</p>
<b><u>What is it used for?</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychiatric assessments at Community Mental Healthcare</li> <li>• School Based Social Workers in Elementary, Middle School, and High School in Malvern and Carrollton</li> <li>• Outpatient counseling and psychiatric services at Community Mental Healthcare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respite- someone to help with the child/ children to give the entire family a break</li> <li>• Activities not billable to Medicaid to strengthen the child or parent-child relationship</li> <li>• Gas cards to allow families to get their child to treatment</li> <li>• Parent education</li> </ul>

**If you have any questions related to ABC or FAST, please contact your child's mental health provider or call Natalie Bollon at the ADAMHS Board ♦ 330-364-6488 or 330-627-7912**

