



Family Finding is Network Building: continued....

Child Welfare Council
September 2021

ACYF-CB-IM-20-09, Issuance date 1-5-2021
Achieving Permanency for the well being of Children and
Youth: Conclusion p23

Child welfare systems have a high duty and legal responsibility to achieve and support improved permanency outcomes for children and youth in foster care.

The first step toward improvement requires that stakeholders agree that family relationships and connections are key to child wellbeing, family relationships and connections directly influence a child's sense of permanency, and that more meaningful efforts toward reunification should be an urgent priority.

Key areas to address

- **Reasonable efforts**--After the 2018 federal review, federal reviewers put California on notice that based on their review, the reasonable efforts findings needed to be supported by more evidence in the record and the court reports.
- **Alignment**—what can be done at each county, and across the state, to promote alignment between the systems to promote relational permanency?
- **Child and Family Teaming**--Attendance, participation and feedback as to family members/natural support involvement in Child and Family Team process, including but not limited to meetings
- **Relational wealth**—since this seems to be the factor that activates the benefits of many of the supports our systems offer, how do we know and measure whether there is relational wealth, and what do we do when there isn't the needed wealth?