

Investments in Family Finding, Engagement and Support

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Data Highlights the Importance of a First Placement with a Relative

Since 2017

20% increase in youth that have a first placement with a relative or extended family member

11% increase in youth whose predominant placement is with a relative or extended family member.



71% of youth that had their first placement with a relative and are still in care at 12 months are still with that relative or extended family member

Placement with Siblings

73% of children placed with relatives are placed with all of their siblings

51% of children with non-relatives are placed with all of their siblings

Investments in 2022-23 budget for family finding, engagement, support and approvals

Excellence in Family Finding and Engagement Program

- \$150 million one-time with 5 year expenditure authority
- \$750,000 GF ongoing for Center for Excellence in Family Finding and Engagement

Flexible Family Supports

- \$50 million GF for 2022/23 and 2023/24 to provide concrete supports for families accepting placement of a child and to stabilize children in family homes

Placement Prior to Approval

- Allows Emergency Caregiver funding to be paid for 120 days and up to 365 days for good cause in current fiscal year and ongoing

Caregiver Approval

- \$50 million GF ongoing to support activities to reduce family approval timelines

Goals for Excellence in Family Finding and Engagement Program

To Support dedicated and specialized efforts for family finding, engagement

To increase the success of identifying relative caregivers and engaging relatives and other supportive adults to support children and families during and after reunification, and support permanency in cases where reunification cannot occur.

Family Finding and Engagement Program – Core Components

Parameters for counties that participate in the Family Finding and Engagement Program

- A participating county or contracted nonprofit community-based organization shall utilize family-finding workers who have experience or training in family-finding strategies or practice, which may include lived experience.
- Family-finding workers shall be assigned to family-finding and engagement responsibilities full time.

Funding for Specialized Permanency Work

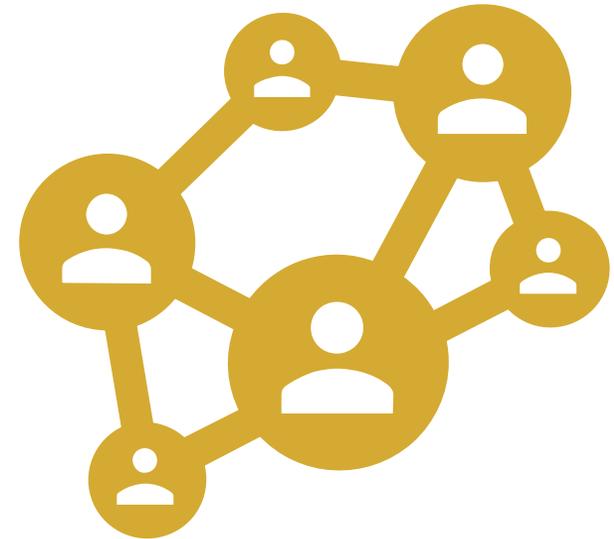
(1) Training of staff on family finding and engagement practices and models.

(2) Staffing and tools to identify, locate, and engage persons related to the child by blood or marriage, identification and engagement of other family-like relationships

(3) Outreach and engagement of the child and family team members and all other current and prior service providers, case managers, and other connections to the foster children, to identify and engage possible family and family-like connections.

(4) Plan development and case management for the child, family, and family-like connections to identify and address any barriers to establishing or reestablishing positive, loving, and supportive relationships.

(5) Implementation of model programs, strategies, or promising practices



Vision for Center for Excellence

The center shall provide, or contract for the provision of, multitiered, culturally appropriate training and technical assistance to county child welfare and probation departments, participating tribes, and foster care providers to enhance their practices, policies, and efforts for family finding, support, and engagement. This may include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- (1) Conducting **evidence-based, organization-specific assessments** of implementation activities.
- (2) **Strengthening trauma-informed practices and programs related to finding, engaging, and supporting relatives**, and in the case of an Indian child, extended family members, as defined in Section 224.1, and the children with whom they interact as caregivers or as providers of other support toward reunification, permanency, or other ongoing involvement in a child's life.
- (3) **Developing and training workforce** regarding how to support family finding and engagement, including, in the case of an Indian child, ensuring due diligence to inquire pursuant to Section 224.2, and improving staff skills and practices regarding reunification, permanency, or other ongoing involvement of relatives or extended family members in a child's life.
- (4) **Providing guidance and research on evidence-based family finding and engagement models and practices.**
- (5) **Providing peer-to-peer learning opportunities** for counties, participating tribes, and providers to share and leverage best practices for family finding and engagement program and practice development and sustainability.
- (6) **Other relevant training and technical assistance** for counties, participating tribes, and providers regarding reunification, permanency, or other ongoing involvement of family members in a child's life, including, in the case of an Indian child, the child's tribe and tribal community.

Draft Framework for Center for Excellence in Family Finding and Engagement

