



TALKING POINTS

California Partners for Permanency is a new five-year federally funded systems reform project to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care. This public education document provides summary information about the project.

California:

- California is one of six projects in the nation participating in an urgent \$100 million Presidential Initiative to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care.
- Ultimately, our efforts aim to help build a foundation for a statewide movement to improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care by ensuring they have loving and lasting permanent relationships and families.
- California is using its \$14.5 million in federal funds to first work directly with four California Counties and then engage 10 other Counties in implementation and dissemination that extends beyond the life of the project to all counties, communities and children.
- While the project's focus is on all children in foster care, there is a targeted effort to reach children who are in care the longest and experience the worst outcomes. Statewide, in California, populations most affected are African American and Native American children and youth.

Partners:

- California's effort is all about partnering -- at all levels of planning and implementation.
- We believe it is essential to build this level of partnership with parents, caregivers, and communities as well as practitioners and policymakers.
- As part of this partnership, we are working to identify the elements of a new Child and Family Practice Model that builds on existing permanency practices that can be used by social workers and community partners in their day-to-day work. Closely related is our work to identify the systemic barriers that keep some children and youth in foster care so long.

Permanency:

- Permanent relationships begin with family – and should be the first area to target when seeking to identify and support permanency options. Our goal is to ensure children and youth have the permanent relationships that allow them to grow and thrive.
- Our focus, for the purposes of this project, is on legal permanency options that allow children and youth to exit the child welfare system or prevent them from entering care. They include Family Reunification, Kinship Guardianship and Adoption.

A Rare Opportunity:

- California Counties, Tribes and the African American Community have an unparalleled opportunity to leverage the Federal Government's funding and leadership – and this CAPP Project – to become part of a statewide initiative that will help to inform how child welfare is practiced in the largest State in the Nation.

- While CAPP will submit its Draft Implementation Plan to the Federal Government by July 31, we are continuing to reach out to local families, communities and tribes to refine practices core to the Child and Family Practice Model and to help ready Counties for early implementation efforts.