Department of Children & Youth

A Home for Every Child
Program Improvement Plan

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Introduction

Ohio is opting into the federal A Home for Every Child PIP pilot, which replaces the traditional CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) structure with a streamlined, outcome focused model. As outlined in Technical Bulletin #14, states develop a limited number of deeply impactful goals and track progress toward achieving a 1:1 foster home–to–child ratio, while ensuring safety, permanency, and wellbeing outcomes remain strong.

This PIP aligns Ohio's existing strategic direction, as outlined in the Child and Family Services Plan 2025–2029, with the state's commitment to prevention, foster care capacity, timely permanency, and placement stability.

Ohio's PIP is centered on the primary federal goal: **Every child has access to a safe, stable, loving home.**

Ohio has organized its improvement approach across **four statewide strategies**, each selected because it directly affects the foster home–to–child ratio and the broader continuum of child welfare outcomes.

DCY is committed to incorporating diverse perspectives to support successful implementation. Throughout the lifecycle of this PIP, the department will continue engaging with partners including the Children and Youth Advisory Council (CYAC), the Ohio Youth Advisory Board (OYAB), the Supreme Court of Ohio (SCO), community leaders and organizations, and other interested stakeholder groups to ensure ongoing collaboration.

PIP Strategies, Goals, Activities, and Lead Measures

Strategy 1 – Prevention

Goal: Safely reduce new entries to foster care by expanding upstream supports and crisis response.

Federal Alignment: TB #14 encourages states to strengthen prevention and reduce unnecessary foster care entries as a core part of achieving the 1:1 ratio.

Activities & Initiatives:

- Expand utilization of evidence-based and informed services
- Expand access to prevention services
- Increase availability of in-home and community-based services and supports
- Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma)
- Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)

Lead Measures:

- Number of families served:
  - Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma)
  - Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)
- Foster care entry rate

Strategy 2 – Kinship Licensing & Supports

Goal: Increase safe kinship placements and reduce barriers to kin licensure to ensure children maintain family and community connections.

Federal Alignment: TB #14 emphasizes the importance of expanding home-based care, especially through kinship, to help achieve the statewide foster home-to-child ratio goal.

November 2026 *– Clarified metric descriptions and defined cohorts within the measurement plan.*

Activities & Initiatives:

- Increase kinship care utilization
- Explore and implement kin-specific licensing pathways
- Expand kinship wraparound supports
- Reduce non-safety barriers to kin licensure
- Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KGAP)
- Kinship Support Program (KSP)
- Kinship Permanency Incentive Program (KPIP)
- Kinnect to Family (KTF)
- OhioKAN (Kinship and Adoption Navigator)

Lead Measures:

- Number of licensed kin foster homes with kin placed in the home
- Percentage of children placed with kin at entry

Strategy 3 — Foster Care Recruitment & Retention

Goal: Increase the number of licensed foster homes, including specialized treatment homes, and improve retention to ensure placement stability and capacity for higher-needs youth.

Federal Alignment: Ohio will work to increase available foster homes and keep caregivers supported and retained to reach the target ratio.

Activities & Initiatives:

- Expand trauma-informed and resiliency-based trainings
- Implement statewide foster parent mentor/mentee supports
- Implement Strengthening Families
- Statewide Listening Sessions with caregivers
- DCY-led foster home recruitment

Lead Measures:

- Number of newly licensed foster homes
- Number of licensed foster homes
- Licensed foster home capacity
- Number of newly licensed family foster homes
- Number of newly licensed treatment foster homes
- Number of licensed treatment foster homes
- Licensed treatment foster homes capacity

Strategy 4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency

Goal: Achieve timely permanency for children and youth by strengthening placement stability, enhancing safety, reducing placement disruptions, and preventing reentry into care.

Federal Alignment: TB #14 emphasizes wraparound safety measures, trauma-informed supports, and appropriate foster home-to-child ratios to reduce harm and support stability.

Activities & Initiatives:

- Specialized trauma-informed training across all caregiver groups (kin, foster, adoptive, residential)
- Improve matching practices to ensure children and youth are placed in settings that meet their needs and reduce likelihood of disruption
- Continue to engage with Ohio's Youth Advisory Board around the development of policies related to placement decisions and case planning

November 2026 *– Clarified metric descriptions and defined cohorts within the measurement plan.*

Lead Measures:

- Improvement in the placement stability rate
- Improvement in the maltreatment in care rate
- Improvement in the percentage of children achieving permanency within 12 months
- Improvement in the percentage of children achieving permanency within 24 months

Required Reporting Components

Monthly reporting includes the foster home-child-ratio, the CB designated chaser measures, and agreed-upon lead measures.

Core Measure (Federal Requirement)

Foster home-to-child ratio

Chaser Measures (Federal Requirement)

- **Maintaining Family Connections** – the percent of children in care at the end of the month who are placed with relatives or kin
- **Congregate Care** – the percent of days children are placed in group homes/settings instead of living with a family
- **Recent Maltreatment History** – the percent of children harmed after child welfare has already confirmed abuse or neglect
- **Home Disruption** – the percent of homes where foster placement ends unexpectedly and children must move

Lead Measures (State Developed/Federally Approved)

- Number of families served:
    - Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma)
    - Triple P (Positive Parenting Program)
- Foster care entry rate
- Number of licensed kin foster homes with kin placed in the home
- Percentage of children placed with kin at entry
- Number of newly licensed foster homes
- Number of licensed foster homes
- Licensed foster home capacity
- Number of newly licensed family foster homes
- Number of newly licensed treatment foster homes
- Number of licensed treatment foster homes
- Licensed treatment foster homes capacity
- Improvement in the placement stability rate
- Improvement in the maltreatment in care rate
- Improvement in the percentage of children achieving permanency within 12 months
- Improvement in the percentage of children achieving permanency within 24 months

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Ohio PIP Measurement Plan

Measure Type	Monthly Reporting Measure & Description
Core Home-to-Child Ratio	**Ratio of homes available to children in foster care** • **Numerator:** Number of foster homes. • **Denominator:** Number of children in foster care.
Chaser Family Connections	**% of children placed with relatives/kin** • **Numerator:** Number of children in care living with a relative or kin on the last day of the month. • **Denominator:** Number of children in care on the last day of the month.
Chaser Congregate Care	**% of days children spend in congregate care** • **Numerator:** Of all children in congregate care for at least one day during the month, the sum of the number of days each child lived in congregate care during the month. • **Denominator:** Of all children in foster care for at least one day during the month, the sum of the number of days each child lived in foster care (any living arrangement) during the month.
Chaser Recent Maltreatment	**% of children with recent maltreatment history** • **Numerator:** Of all children in the denominator, the count of those who had a prior substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition within 182 days. • **Denominator:** Count of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition during the month.
Chaser Home Disruptions	**% of homes with disruption** • **Numerator:** Of all homes in the denominator, the count of homes that had a child move out of the home for a reason other than an exit or being placed at home on a trial home visit. • **Denominator:** Count of all homes with a child placed in the home for at least 1 day during the month.

Ohio Lead Measures

Strategy	Monthly Reporting Measure & Description
Strategy 1 Prevention	**Families served by Ohio START** • Cumulative count of families served as of a particular date. • **Note:** Ohio START is not a statewide program and is currently implemented in 57 of 88 counties.
Strategy 1 Prevention	**Families served by Triple P** • Cumulative count of families served as of a particular date.
Strategy 1 Prevention	**Foster care entry rate** • Rate of children entering foster care per 1,000 children in the population, calculated over a rolling 12-month period.
Strategy 2 Kinship Licensing & Supports	**# of licensed kin foster homes with kin placed in the home** • Count of licensed kin foster homes with kin children placed in the home as of a particular date.
Strategy 2 Kinship Licensing & Supports	**% of children placed with kin at entry** • **Numerator:** Number of children placed with kin at the time of entry into foster care. • **Denominator:** Number of children who entered foster care.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**# of newly licensed foster homes** • Count of newly licensed homes across all home types in a particular month.

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Strategy	Monthly Reporting Measure & Description
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**# of licensed foster homes** • Count of all licensed homes across all home types as of a particular date.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**Licensed foster home capacity** • Foster home capacity across all home types as of a particular date.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**# of newly licensed family foster homes** • Count of newly licensed traditional foster homes in a particular month.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**# of newly licensed treatment foster homes** • Count of newly licensed treatment foster homes in a particular month.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**# of licensed treatment foster homes** • Count of all licensed treatment foster homes as of a particular date.
Strategy 3 Foster Care Recruitment & Retention	**Licensed treatment foster home capacity** • Treatment foster home capacity as of a particular date.
Strategy 4 Placement Stability & Timely Permanency	**Placement stability rate** • Of all children who enter foster care during a rolling 12-month period, the rate of placement moves is calculated per 1,000 days of foster care.
Strategy 4 Placement Stability & Timely Permanency	**Maltreatment in care rate** • Of all children in foster care during a rolling 12-month target period, the rate of victimization is calculated per 100,000 days in foster care.
Strategy 4 Placement Stability & Timely Permanency	**% of children achieving permanency within 12 months** • **Numerator:** Number of children entering care 12 months ago who achieved permanency within 12 months. • **Denominator:** Number of children entering care 12 months ago.
Strategy 4 Placement Stability & Timely Permanency	**% of children achieving permanency within 24 months** • **Numerator:** Number of children entering care 24 months ago who achieved permanency within 24 months. • **Denominator:** Number of children entering care 24 months ago.

Minor formatting adjustments may have been made to this document for 508 compliance. Content is unaffected.

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