

A Home for Every Child Program Improvement Plan

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.

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
- Number of children entering custody during the report month who were placed in kinship homes

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 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

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
- Number of children entering custody during the report month who were placed in kinship homes
- Number of newly licensed foster homes
- Number of licensed foster homes
- Licensed foster homes capacity
- 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

Ohio PIP Measurement Plan

Measure Type	Monthly Reporting Measure	Strategy
Core	Foster home-to-child ratio	1 – Prevention 2 – Kinship Licensing & Supports 3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention 4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Chaser	% of children placed with relatives/kin	2 – Kinship Licensing & Supports
Chaser	% of days children spend in congregate care	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention 4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Chaser	% of children with recent maltreatment history	1 – Prevention 4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Chaser	% of homes experiencing disruption (unexpected placement endings)	4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Lead	Families served by Ohio START	1 – Prevention
Lead	Families served by Triple P	1 – Prevention
Lead	Foster care entry rate	1 – Prevention
Lead	# of licensed kin foster homes with kin placed in the home	2 – Kinship Licensing & Supports
Lead	# of children placed with kin at entry	2 – Kinship Licensing & Supports
Lead	# of newly licensed foster homes	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	# of licensed foster homes	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	Licensed foster home capacity	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	# of newly licensed treatment foster homes	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	# of licensed treatment foster homes	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	Licensed treatment foster homes capacity	3 – Foster Care Recruitment & Retention
Lead	Placement stability rate	4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Lead	Maltreatment in care rate	4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Lead	% of children achieving permanency within 12 months	4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency
Lead	% of children achieving permanency within 24+ months	4 – Placement Stability & Timely Permanency