

South Carolina AH4EC Program Improvement Plan

The South Carolina Department of Social Services respectfully submits this plan in accordance with the *A Home for Every Child* framework established by the Administration for Children and Families. The decision to participate in the pilot aligns with the Agency's ongoing efforts to refine strategic priorities that enhance safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families across the state.

Informed by targeted strategy groups and the findings of the Round 4 Child and Family Services Review Final Report, the Agency has identified three strategic focus areas which align with both the *A Home for Every Child* initiative and the Agency's Strategic Plan. Each strategy group, comprised of key agency leadership and stakeholders, conducted a comprehensive review of existing initiatives and practices for expansion and identified methods to ensure measurable, accurate, and transparent monitoring of progress. The resulting lead measures and strategies reinforce the Agency's commitment to its three priorities: 1) Preventing Unnecessary Removals, 2) Promoting Lifelong Well-Being for Youth, and 3) Strengthening Kinship and Family Connections in Custodial Cases.

Priority	Strategies	Monitoring
#1 Preventing Unnecessary Removals	Expand Removal Prevention Child and Family Team Meetings (RP-CFTM) statewide to help decrease unnecessary entries into foster care.	# of RP-CFTM held
	Continue formal and informal assessments which ensure accurate understanding of family needs, strengthen decision making, and prevent unnecessary removals.	% of Family Advocacy and Support Tool (FAST) and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) completion rates # of referrals to FFPSA services for family preservation and investigation cases

Priority	Strategies	Monitoring
#2 Promoting Lifelong Well-Being for Youth	Systemically track all reasons for placement disruptions and analyze statewide trends to identify barriers to placement stability.	% with placement disruptions
	Utilize Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM), Family Permanency Plans (FPP), and transition planning meetings to establish supportive resources for youth in foster care.	% of youth with a transition planning meeting which included at least one supportive adult
#3 Strengthening Kinship and Family Connections in Custodial Cases	Conduct ongoing engagement, assessments, training, and communication with parent/guardian, kin, and community supports, during the duration of the case.	
	Strengthen post-placement support for kinship caregivers.	# of children placed in foster care with kin/relative as first placement # of referrals to Family Resource and Preservation Services for Kinship Caregivers # of referrals to Kinship Navigator Services