



DSCYF
Department of Services for
Children, Youth & Their Families

FAMILY SERVICES

A Home for Every Child Program Improvement Plan



State of Delaware
A Home for Every Child
Performance Improvement Plan
May 29, 2026

General Information

The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) is responsible for administering Title IV-B programs (also IV-B, IV-E, and XX of the Act), which are monitored and coordinated by the Division of Family Services.

The Mission of the Division of Family Services is to promote the safety and well-being of children through prevention, protection, and permanency. Our vision is that our children are our future and our responsibility.

The Department is comprised of the Division of Family Services (DFS) as the primary child welfare agency, the Division of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) that manages juvenile justice services, the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS) that supports child mental and behavioral health services and the Division of Management Support Services (DMSS) that provides administrative support services for the frontline that includes the CCWIS system (FOCUS). Together, the Department's mission is to engage families and communities to promote the safety and well-being of children through prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitative services and a vision of safe and healthy children, resilient families, and strong communities.

For more information regarding the Department, please visit:

<https://kids.delaware.gov/about/>

Delaware's Annual Progress and Services Report, Child and Family Services Plans and Child and Family Services Review are accessible at this web address:

<https://kids.delaware.gov/family-services/cfs-review-plan/>

This Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed in response to [CFSR Technical Bulletin# 14](#) and aligns with the *A Home for Every Child* initiative, a national effort focused on ensuring that every child in foster care has access to a safe, stable, and permanent family home through improved child welfare practices and permanency outcomes.

This PIP replaces Delaware's Round 4 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) PIP, which was implemented on January 1, 2025, in response to [CFSR Technical Bulletin #13A](#). The following lead measures remain aligned with Delaware's 2025-2029 Child and Family Services Plan, commonly referred to as the Pillar Plan, and are supported by Pillar 1: Safe Children, Pillar 2: Stable Families, and Pillar 3: Strong Workforce.

Pillar 1: Safe Children	Improve safety of children by increasing timeliness of contacts, access to appropriate services and supports, and promoting stable placements.	
Strategy	Activities	Lead Measures
1.1 Delaware will improve engagement and support of relatives and kin, both initially and on an ongoing basis, to enhance their ability to ensure a child's safety, permanency, and well-being needs are met.	The CQI Promoting Permanency Success Committee will finalize the <i>Working with Kinship Caregivers: A Guide for Child Welfare Workers</i> (covering engagement and individualized case planning) and the <i>Kinship Caregiver Resource Guide</i>, (including information on trauma-informed care, and available resources.) Both guides will be reviewed during Kinship Training and made available on the Division's website. Staff will complete an updated Kinship Training, focused on best practices for engaging and supporting relatives and kin caregivers in planning for youth. DFS will work with the FOCUS team to develop automatic referrals to the Kinship Navigator Program for all relative and kin placements entered into the system.	Number of families active with Kinship Navigator Program Number of newly licensed Kinship Homes
1.2 DFS will strengthen support for foster families by improving parent support programs, enhancing placement resources, recruiting new foster families, and adding new tools to help stabilize youth and placements.	The Foster Parent Support Program provides additional support services to foster families to help stabilize placements, prevent disruptions, and promote the overall wellbeing of both the youth and the foster family. • New DFS Foster Homes will be referred to the Foster Parent Support Program through their first placement. • In addition, the Foster Parent Support Program will be utilized to assist foster families caring for youth with complex medical, behavioral, mental health, or emotional needs and/or multidivisional involvement. DFS Foster Care Team will collaborate with Contracted Foster Care Provider agencies to evaluate current recruitment efforts and guide creative and effective diligent recruitment strategies.	Number of families active with the Foster Parent Support Program Number of newly licensed Foster Homes

Pillar 2: Stable Families	Improve family stability by increasing engagement of children/youth, families, relatives, and stakeholders in case planning and decision-making processes related to safety, permanency, and well-being.	
Strategy	Activities	Lead Measures
2.1 Delaware will enhance and revise tools to better engage parents, children, and their teams in planning to effectively meet their unique and individualized needs.	The Treatment Program Team will finalize the Family Team Meeting policy to strengthen planning with families at key case decision points. Family Team Meeting training will be updated to reflect revised policy and procedures and provided to staff. Delaware will increase the use of Pre-Removal Considered Removal Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings to divert youth from entering custody. The Treatment Program Team will promote and recommend Family Time (Visitation) services for children placed in DFS Foster Homes or Placements to better accommodate family schedules for visitation between children in care, siblings, and parents.	Percentage of youth with a pre-removal TDM where DFS custody was diverted – decision was to not file Of all children in care on the last day of the month, the percentage who were in care for 12 months or longer.
2.2 DFS will partner with our legal community and other stakeholders to strengthen timely and appropriate permanency goals for all youth in state custody.	PPC Coordinator will reach out to assigned supervisors and regional administration to schedule a PPC review when a child has been in care for 9 months. The CIP Data Subcommittee, which includes representation from DFS and the Courts, will gather and review data to improve the timeliness of scheduling and holding permanency hearings for all children in DFS custody.	Percentage of children in care for a total of 10 out of 15 months who have had a PPC review Percentage of children who are in care for at least 12 months who had a permanency hearing

Pillar 3: Strong Workforce		
Ensure frontline staff, supervisors, and providers have opportunities for ongoing training and professional development focused on enhancing skills, confidence, and competency regarding engagement, planning and service delivery for children, families, and caregivers.		
Strategy	Activities	Lead Measures
3.1 Delaware will strengthen supervisory training to empower supervisors in supporting staff to improve outcomes for children and families.	DFS Supervisors will attend the Leadership Institute to strengthen supervision skills to support frontline caseworkers in successful case management. FOCUS team will continue to provide Bite-Sized Learning opportunities to supervisors and managers regarding the use of specific dashboards and reports in performance monitoring. Promote timely Supervisor/Worker Case Conferences at the onset of a Treatment Case to ensure accurate assessment of child safety and wellbeing to address individualized needs for service delivery and case planning.	Percentage of Initial Treatment Case Conferences completed within 45 days of case opening.
3.2 Delaware will track and monitor foster parent training completion to ensure all foster parents have access to and are trained in topics relevant to the youth they support.	The Foster Care Program Team will implement practice changes to strengthen monitoring of foster parent training plan. Foster Care Program Team will continue collaboration to develop a comprehensive dashboard to monitor training compliance for all licensed foster homes in Delaware.	Number of Trainings offered per month (for DFS and Contracted Foster Parents)