



Children, Youth & Families Department

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Child and Family Services Reviews

A Home for Every Child Program Improvement Plan

New Mexico

June 16, 2026

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

Program Improvement Plan

Section I: General Information

***State Information**

State/Territory: New Mexico

Date Submitted: October 31, 2025

Date Resubmitted due to Opting in to “A Home for Every Child”: June 16, 2026

Date Approved:

PIP Effective Date:

End of PIP Implementation Period:

End of Post-PIP Evaluation Period:

Reporting Schedule and Format:

Contents

Program Improvement Plan

Section I: Description of Stakeholder Involvement.....	4
Section II: Goals, Strategies/Interventions, and Key Activities.....	5
Section III: CFSR Round 4 PIP Measurement Plan-Implementation Oversight and CQI	7

Section I: Description of Stakeholder Involvement in PIP Process

The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) began data analysis and problem exploration nearing the close of the state led on-site review (March 2025). Leadership meetings were held in April, May, June and July 2025 to review the outcomes of the on-site review, the February 2025 data profile, and findings from the 2024 stakeholder interviews, while analyzing additional agency data sources that relate to child and family safety, permanency and well-being. Discussions focused on understanding barriers to improvement, identifying effective practices and prioritizing actions that will lead to sustainable change.

Initial CYFD workgroup participants and workgroup co-leads were identified by the agency's leadership and weekly PIP meetings started internally in May 2025. To ensure statewide and broad representation within the workgroups CYFD reached out to community partners to identify individuals that could participate in and co-lead the identified workgroups.

Participants in PIP Workgroups included CYFD leadership and staff and community stakeholders. Stakeholders included court/legal representatives (Administrative Office of the Courts, Judges, Office of Family Representation Attorneys/Parent Peer Support Navigators, CASA and SCRB members), Tribal Representatives, provider agency representatives, members of the legislature, and congregate care providers. Many stakeholders participated in multiple PIP workgroups and participants were committed to being a part of ongoing feedback loops and monitoring of the PIP from implementation of strategies and key activities to completion.

CYFD leadership met several times in March and April 2026 to discuss the Technical Bulletin 14 Pilot Option: A Home for Every Child. The Technical Bulletin was also discussed with system partners and CYFD ultimately elected to opt in to the A Home for Every Child pilot. The state identified important strategies discussed in initial PIP planning that align with the pilot and reviewed current projects and initiatives with program staff through the lens of A Home for Every Child, taking into consideration the information generated from traditional PIP development steps already in progress.

Section II: Goals, Strategies/Interventions, and Key Activities

CYFD identified priority areas for improvement based on the Round 4 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), internal data analysis, and extensive input from stakeholders and PIP workgroups. These areas reflect both urgent challenges and opportunities to build long-term capacity within the child welfare system.

This Program Improvement Plan (PIP) was developed through collaborative root cause analysis with cross-functional teams, including CYFD staff, tribal partners, service providers, court representatives, and community stakeholders. This process ensured that the goals and strategies reflect not only the findings of the CFSR Final Report but also the perspectives of those most directly impacted by system performance.

To guide implementation, New Mexico will apply structured change and implementation methods aligned with its Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) framework. This approach emphasizes planning, piloting, monitoring, and adjusting strategies in real time to ensure sustainable system change.

The “A Home for Every Child” pilot goals are designed to strengthen practice and outcomes in three key areas:

Goal 1: A Home for Every Child/Improved Placement Stability – Develop, strengthen and maintain safe family-based placement options to ensure children in foster care have access to stable, supportive and nurturing home environments.
Goal 2: Prevention Services – Enhance and expand New Mexico’s prevention system to safely reduce the number of children in foster care.
Goal 3: Achieve Timely Permanency – Children will achieve timely and lasting permanency, and no child will remain in foster care longer than necessary without a finalized permanency outcome.

Each goal is supported by targeted strategies and activities that will be implemented, monitored, and evaluated for effectiveness. Together, these goals and strategies represent New Mexico’s commitment to ensuring that children are safe, families are supported, and permanency and well-being outcomes are achieved in a timely and sustainable manner.

*Goals, Strategy, and Activity Identification

Goal 1: A Home for Every Child/Improved Placement Stability		
Strategy 1.1: Develop, strengthen and maintain safe family-based placement options to ensure children in foster care have access to stable, supportive and nurturing home environments.		
Activity	Description	Implementation
Activity 1.1.1	Increase the recruitment and retention of resource/foster parents by improving outreach, support, and the overall training experience.	Statewide
Activity 1.1.2	Increase the number of initial and ongoing placements with relatives.	Statewide
Activity 1.1.3	Implement Foster Care Plus, a specialized foster care model that provides enhanced training, individualized support, and an increased reimbursement rate for designated resource/foster parents caring for children and youth with higher acuity or unique needs.	Statewide

Goal 2: Strengthen Prevention, Family Support, and Child Safety Services		
Strategy 2.1. Strengthen prevention focused safety practices and family-centered risk assessment to identify threats of harm early, enhance parental protective capacities, and connect families with supportive services that help children remain with their families and communities whenever possible.		
Activity	Description	Implementation
Activity 2.1.1	Increase access to prevention, early intervention and community-based services that support child safety, family stability, and reduced system involvement.	Statewide
Activity 2.1.2	Implement and strengthen Multi-Level Response for low-and-moderate risk reports that engage families as partners and connect them to supportive services to help children safely remain with their families whenever possible.	Statewide
Activity 2.1.3	Utilize In-Home Services and Family Support Services to provide early intervention, family support and connections to community-based services that address identified safety concerns and prevent unnecessary removal whenever safely possible.	Statewide
Activity 2.1.4	Strengthen initial and ongoing assessment and case planning practices through improved assessment tools, training, coaching, and supervision focused on safety, prevention, protective capacities, and family engagement.	Statewide
Activity 2.1.5	Improve coordination and access to prevention, behavioral health, substance use, domestic violence, and family support services through standardized referral pathways and cross-system collaboration to ensure families receive timely and appropriate supports.	Statewide

Goal 3: Achieve Timely Permanency		
Strategy 3.1: Children will achieve timely and lasting permanency, and no child will remain in foster care longer than necessary without a finalized permanency outcome.		
Activity	Description	Implementation
Activity 3.1.1	Develop and implement a comprehensive permanency roadmap that defines how cases progress through reunification, adoption, guardianship, and aging out, with clear roles, responsibilities, and decision points.	Statewide
Activity 3.1.2	Strengthen family engagement practices to support access to services, address barriers related to caretaker engagement and promote the use of Individualized Planning Meetings (IPMs) in all permanency cases to strengthen collaborative case planning and service alignment.	Statewide
Activity 3.1.3	Work with Office of Family Representation and Advocacy and/or Administrative Office of the Courts to establish processes and increase communication around court resources (attorneys, court dockets, communication with judges, scheduling clerks).	Statewide

Section III: CFSR Round 4 PIP Measurement Plan-Implementation Oversight and Continuous Quality Improvement

The following measures will be used to monitor implementation and determine the successful outcome of the “A Home for Every Child” pilot strategies and activities outlined above.

A Home for Every Child/Improved Placement Stability

- Increase the number of newly licensed foster homes (relative, non-relative and fictive kin).
- % of children placed with relatives/kin initially and overall.
- Track placement stability rate.
- Track 12-month retention of licensed foster homes.
- Qualitative QA Review of licensing standards, with a target child component to assess frequency and quality of visitation with children/youth and foster parents.

Improve Safety and Prevention Services

- Track the number of families engaged in prevention in-home, and community-based services.
- Track utilization and outcomes of Multi-Level Response, including family engagement and service connection rates.
- Track foster care entries.
- Qualitative QA Review of prevention and safety practices, including assessment of family engagement, safety and risk assessment, identification of protective capacities, appropriateness of service provision and case planning, and the frequency and quality of contact with children and families.

Achieve Timely Permanency

- Track the percentage of children achieving permanency within 12 months from entry into foster care.
- Track the percentage of children attaining timely reunification, guardianship or adoption.
- Track the number of DBC's and IPM's utilized.
- Qualitative QA Review of legal practices and timelines, with a component to assess the timeliness and appropriateness of the permanency goal, concerted efforts made to achieve the permanency goal and concerted efforts made to actively involve the family in case planning/service provision.