ADMINISTRACIÓN DE FAMILIAS Y NIÑOS

ADFAN

GOBIERNO DE PUERTO RICO

A Home for Every Child Initiative
Program Improvement Plan (PIP)

Administration for Children and Families (ADFAN)
Department of the Family — Puerto Rico

Submitted to:
Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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

1. Background and Transition to the AH4EC PIP Framework

The Administration for Families and Children (ADFAN), within the Department of the Family of Puerto Rico, is the agency responsible for the administration of child welfare services across Puerto Rico's ten (10) service regions. Puerto Rico participates in the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) process under Titles IV-Band IV-E of the Social Security Act.

Puerto Rico had recently initiated its Round 4 Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and was approaching submission of the second required quarterly progress report when the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released Technical Bulletin #14 (TB #14) on December 19, 2025. TB #14 introduced the A Home for Every Child (AH4EC) PIP Pilot Program as an alternative framework to the traditional PIP approach.

On April 20, 2026, ADFAN submitted a formal request to ACF to participate in the AH4EC PIP Pilot Program. On May 1, 2026, ACF's Children's Bureau approved Puerto Rico's participation through an official opt-in letter. Subsequently, ADFAN participated in a technical meeting with ACF on April 29, 2026.

Following review of the bulletin and the collaborative discussions held, ADFAN elected to transition to the revised PIP framework as part of its continued commitment to strengthening outcomes for children and families served by the child welfare system in Puerto Rico. The A Home for Every Child initiative aims to strengthen the child welfare system through a family-centered approach focused on three strategic areas: preventing children from entering the system, increasing the recruitment and retention of foster homes, and achieving permanency through reunification or kinship placement.

Puerto Rico requests a PIP implementation start date of **October 1, 2026.** This requested start date reflects the time needed to finalize ADFAN's data collection instruments and regional reporting workflow, ensuring that all ten service regions are prepared to collect and submit accurate data from the first reporting month. Data for the month of October 2026 would be reported to the federal portal no later than December 15th, 2026, in accordance with the 45-day reporting requirement.

2. Strategic Pillars of Practice Improvement

To guide implementation and support measurable practice improvement under the AH4EC framework, ADFAN identified seven (7) primary pillars of practice aligned with the core goals of TB #14: children remain safely at home whenever possible; children are placed with relatives or kin whenever appropriate; children are placed in safe, stable family settings that meet their needs; children experience reduced reliance on congregate care; and family homes are recruited, supported, and remain available for children. These pillars organize Puerto Rico's PIP strategies around the AH4EC goal of safely reducing entries into foster care, increasing access to safe and stable family homes, preserving family connections. and promoting timely permanency.

The following table presents each pillar with its implementation strategy and corresponding lead measures.

Pillar	**Implementation** (How are we going to achieve it?)	**Data Used**	**Lead Measures**
1. Children remain safe at home whenever possible.	ADFAN will s1rengthen front-end prevention and family preservation practice by reviewing substantiated referrals before removal decisions, identifying families that can be safely served in-home, and ensuring timely connection to preservation, safety planning, and community-based supports. Increasing workforce and increasing specialized units for prevention and family preservation services at the regional level.	• % of substantiated referrals reviewed for in-home safety evaluation prior to removal decision. • # / % of families with substantiated referrals connected to preservation or in-home services within a defined timeframe.	**LM-06** Intakes Registered in PBE
2. Children are placed with relatives or kin whenever appropriate.	ADFAN will implement early and ongoing family finding as a standard practice at removal, placement changes. and permanency reviews. Regional caseworkers will document relatives and fictive kin explored, assess identified resources timely, and address barriers to kinship placement or approval. This pillar also connects to permanency round tables where kinship options can be revisited for children already in care.	• # of relatives/kin explored for placement per child entering care. • % of children entering care with documented family-finding activity within a defined timeframe. • # / % of identified kinship resources assessed for placement. • # of permanency round tables where kinship placement or connection options were reviewed. • # of families/kinship placements referred to the Kinship Navigator program.	**LM-01** Permanency Round Tables **LM-02** Kinship Placement Exploration
3. Children are placed in safe, stable family settings that meet their needs.	ADFAN will strengthen placement support by reviewing child needs, caregiver capacity, sibling considerations, school/community connections. and safety factors before placement decisions. For placements at risk, regional caseworkers will activate support strategies before disruption, including caregiver support, behavioral health services, or other service referrals.	• # / % of at-risk placements receiving support from staff before disruption. • # of referrals to evidence-based practices for caregiver support and to stabilize placements. • % of unplanned disruptions reviewed within a defined timeframe to identify preventable factors.	**LM-06** Intakes Registered in PBE

Pillar	**Implementation** (How are we going to achieve it?)	**Data Used**	**Lead Measures**
4. Children experience reduced reliance on congregate care.	ADFAN will conduct regular case reviews for children in congregate care to determine whether a family-based setting can safely meet the child's needs with appropriate support. Regional caseworkers will identity kin or licensed family homes, and coordinate services needed to transition children from congregate care to family-based placements when clinically and programmatically appropriate.	• # / % of children in congregate care with an active reunification plan. • # / % of children transitioned from congregate care to a family-based setting.	**LM-01** Permanency Round Tables
5. Family homes are recruited, supported, and remain available for children.	ADFAN will manage the foster home pipeline by monitoring recruitment, licensing, availability, utilization, retention, and barriers that limit real placement capacity. Licensing, placement, regional operations. and data staff will coordinate monthly to identify where homes are needed by region, child age, sibling group, special needs, and kinship status, and to address delays in licensing or caregiver support.	• # of recruitment activities. • # of prospective foster/kinship families contacted. • # of applications received and advanced through licensing. • # of new homes licensed. • % of licensed homes retained during the reporting period. • # of visits completed to support licensing and caregiver needs.	**LM-04** Home Recruitment Initiatives
6. Data reported accurately reflects system activity across all sources.	ADFAN will monitor the accuracy and consistency of data entered into regional reporting tools against the official data platform (SIMCa) to ensure reporting integrity across all ten regions. Regional liaisons and the Central Office Quality Assurance unit will compare data entered into the Excel-based instruments with figures recorded in SIMCa on a monthly basis to identify and correct discrepancies.	• % of correspondance between data collected in developed tools vs reported in the official data platform (SIMCa). (Number of data entered into reporting tool that is exact or near to the number reported in our data platform (SIMCa).) • Data accuracy across time and across sources.	**LM-05** Data quality
7. The child welfare workforce is recruited and retained to sustain service capacity.	ADFAN will monitor workforce movement and retention in case management positions to identify staffing gaps and sustain the capacity needed to implement AH4EC strategies. ADFAN will track new hires and retention rates monthly and ensure adequate staffing levels across the ten service regions.	• Number of individuals newly hired in case management positions during the month. • Retainment rate.	**LM-03** Staff Recruitment - New Hires **LM-03** Staff Recruitment - Separations

3. Monitoring Measures

3.1 Core Measure and Chaser Measures

Under the AH4EC PIP Pilot, Puerto Rico will report monthly to the federal government through the OMS/CFSR Portal. Reporting will consist of a Core Measure and four Chaser Measures predefined by ACF. The first report corresponds to the first collection month beginning on the requested PIP start date of **October 1, 2026,** and is due no later than 45 days following the closing of that collection month. Subsequent reports are due within 30 days after the closing of each reporting month.

Measure	Type	What It Measures	Numerator	Denominator
Home-to-Child Ratio	Core Measure	Relationship between available foster homes and children in care.	Count of all licensed homes with an active license plus all unlicensed homes with a child placed, on the last day of the month. Homes in which the only child present is on a trial home visit are excluded.	Count of all children in foster care on the last day of the month. Children on a trial home visit are excluded.
Maintaining Family Connections	Chaser Measure	Placement or children with relatives or kin caregivers.	Children in roster care on the last day or the month living with a relative or kin.	Total children in foster care on the last day of the month. Children on a trial home visit are excluded.
Use of Congregate Care	Chaser Measure	Use of congregate, institutional, or residential settings.	Total days children spent in congregate care during the month.	Total days children spent in any foster care arrangement during the month. Days for children on a trial home visit are excluded.
Recent Maltreatment History	Chaser Measure	Recurrence of maltreatment.	Children with a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report during the month who also had a prior substantiated or indicated report within the previous 182 days.	Total children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report with disposition during the month.

Measure	Type	What It Measures	Numerator	Denominator
Home Disruptions	Chaser Measure	Stability of placements in foster homes.	Homes with a child placed during the month that had an unplanned removal of a child for a reason other than an exit from care or a trial home visit.	Total homes with at least one child in foster care placed during the month.

3.2 Lead Measures

Lead Measures are jurisdiction-defined indicators that Puerto Rico will use to monitor implementation efforts and system improvements, aligned with the A Home for Every Child initiative. These measures will be reported monthly by each of Puerto Rico's ten service regions through ADFAN's Excel-based data collection instrument. pending final approval of the revised PIP.

ID	Lead Measure	Data to Report
LM-01	Permanency Round Tables	Number of permanency round table meetings held during the month.
LM-02	Kinship Placement Exploration	Number of cases with a formal kinship/relative placement exploration conducted during the month.
LM-03	Staff Recruitment - New Hires Staff Recruitment - Separations	Number of individuals newly hired in case management positions during the month. Number of individuals who left case management positions during the month.
LM-04	Home Recruitment Initiatives	Number of active foster home recruitment initiatives implemented during the month.
LM-05	Data quality	Number of data entered in the reporting tool that is exact or near to the number reported in our data platform (SIMCa).
LM-06	Intakes Registered in PBE	Number of families or children with an intake registered in the PBE system during the month.

4. Reporting Structure and Data Flow

ADFAN will operationalize the AH4EC reporting framework through a structured, multi-level data flow designed to ensure timely collection, validation, and submission of required measures.

4.1 Federal Measures

The Core Measure and the four Chaser Measures will be compiled monthly and submitted through the OMS/CFSR Information Portal (https://www.cfsrportal.acf.hhs.gov/), in accordance with the analytic technical instructions published by ACF. The first report corresponds to the first collection month beginning on the requested PIP start date of October 1, 2026, and is due no later than 45 days following the closing of that collection month. Subsequent reports are due within 30 days after the closing of each reporting month. Data submissions will be prepared by ADFAN's Central Office data team using the federal AH4EC data intake template.

4.2 Lead Measures

Lead Measures will be collected and monitored through ADFAN's Excel-based instrument. The reporting workflow is as follows:

- Each of Puerto Rico's ten service regions will designate a regional liaison responsible for compiling that region's Lead Measure data each month.
- Regional liaisons report to their respective Regional Directors and to the Central Office Quality Assurance unit.
- Regional data must be submitted to the Central Office within five (5) business days following the close of each reporting month.
- SIMCa Committee and PIP task force will fill out the information that is assigned to them.
- The Quality Assurance team at the Central Office will review, validate, and consolidate all regional submissions into the statewide Lead Measures report.
- Consolidated results will be reviewed in monthly supervisory meetings and used to guide regional practice coaching and technical assistance activities.

5. Implementation and Data Collection

ADFAN's submission of required measures to the federal government will follow this schedule:

Milestone	Target Date	Responsible Party
Submit revised PIP to ACF/Children's Bureau	First week of July 2026	**ADFAN**
First federal data submission (Core Measure + Chaser Measures)	Within 45 days following the close of the first collection month (October 1. 2026)	**ADFAN**
Subsequent federal reports	Within 30 days after the close of each reporting month	**ADFAN**

To support data collection and reporting, ADFAN developed three Excel-based instruments. Each instrument is completed monthly by the designated regional liaison and Central level Committees and task force and submitted to the Central Office Quality Assurance unit within five (5) business days following the close of each reporting month.

Instrument	Purpose	Measures Covered	Completed By
Ratio	Collects data on the Home-to-Child Ratio The regional liaison enters the total number of licensed foster homes with an active license and the total number of children in foster care on the last day of the month. The ratio is calculated automatically.	Core Measure: Home to Child Ratio	Regional Liaison (Foster Care)

Instrument	Purpose	Measures Covered	Completed By
Chaser Measures	Collects numerator and denominator data for each of the four federal Chaser Measures. The instrument includes definitions for each measure and calculates results automatically.	Chaser Measures. Maintaining Family Connections, Use of Congregate Care, Recent Maltreatment History, Home Disruptions	Regional Liaison: **SIMCa** Committee and PIP Task Force
Lead Measures	Collects monthly counts for each of Puerto Rico's 1unsd1cllon-defined Lead Measures (LM-01 through LM-06). Each measure includes a defined description of the data to be reported.	Lead Measures: LM-01 through LM-06	**SIMCa** Committee and PIP Task Force