



Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) Round 4

Technical Bulletin 14

A Home for Every Child Pilot PIP

Introduction: Maryland's Commitment to Technical Bulletin 14

Maryland's Department of Human Services (MD DHS) is dedicated to improving family and child well-being with family-centered, child-focused, and community-based services. On April 8, 2026, MD DHS notified the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of its intent to opt into the [Technical Bulletin 14 Pilot PIP](#). The pilot has been designed to contribute to improving the home to child ratio in alignment with the federal [Home for Every Child](#) initiative, with a preference for safe kinship placements whenever possible.

Mission and Vision Alignment

The proposed Pilot PIP provides a strategic framework to guide and prioritize the state's goals. We are guided in this work by a commitment to equity and opportunity, leaving no one behind, and the following Moore-Miller Administration values:

1. **Be Responsive:** We work for you; when you reach out to us, you can expect a response within 48 hours
 2. **Be Everywhere:** Marylanders are across the state, and so will be our administration
 3. **Be Data-Driven, Heart-Led:** We rely on data and experiences to inform our decisions
 4. **Follow Through:** We are committed to completing all services
 5. **Move Urgently:** We move quickly and diligently with a purpose
 6. **Over-Communicate:** We are transparent, honest, and open
 7. **Be Innovative:** We collaborate across agencies to identify and implement bold solutions
 8. **Be Audacious:** We encourage taking risks and implementing bold solutions
 9. **Move with Integrity:** We are honest and maintain strong moral principles
 10. **Be Courageous:** Lead with confidence to tackle hard problems
 11. **Challenge the Status Quo:** It's okay to disagree and offer a new viewpoint
 12. **Outcomes-Focused:** We will spend each day focused on leaving no one behind
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Core Measure: Home-to-Child Ratio

Measure Definition: The ratio of the count of all children who were in foster care on the last day of the month (denominator) to the count of homes available to those children (numerator).

Chaser Measures

The following chaser measures have been identified by the Children's Bureau and will be reported monthly during the Pilot PIP:

Maintaining Family Connections: of all children in care on the last day of the month, the % of those children who were living with a relative or kin.

Congregate Care: of all days children spent in foster care during the reporting month, the % of those days that were spent in congregate care.

Recent Maltreatment History: of all children with a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition during the month, the % who had a prior substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition within the prior 182 days.

Home Disruption: of all homes with a child placed in the home during the month, the % of those homes with a disruption during the month.

Proposed Lead Measures

In addition to the chaser measures outlined above, Maryland has identified the following lead measures as an area of focus during the Pilot PIP. These lead measures were identified based on the CFSR Round 4 Final Report results and in alignment with Maryland's mission and goals. Efforts to improve practice in these areas will not only support progress towards achieving the core measure, they will also serve to improve services to families and children across the state.



Lead Measure	Data Reported	Key Practice Strategies	Impact Measure will have on Children and Families in MD
1. Increase the total percentage of licensed kin	The percent of kinship settings with active placements that are licensed.	- Assess licensure timeframes for each of the LDSS to determine which jurisdictions license families most efficiently and share their strategies with SSA and LDSS. - Provide technical assistance to the LDSS to ensure staff understand how to appropriately document licensed placements in CJAMS - Explore opportunities to increase access to fingerprinting <i>Amend state regulations to allow for name based clearances in situations where fingerprinting is not possible (amendments are with OAG).</i>	Increase the total number of licensed homes (numerator).
2. Increase the percentage of families connected to In-Home Family IHFPS following a CPS indicated finding.	The percentage of indicated CPS cases with a service case opened to IHFPS within 60 days of CPS case closure.	- Utilize Separation/Considered Separation FTDMs to support conversations around transitioning to IHFPS and needed community resources to support diversion. - Encourage the use of staffings for CPS cases with high MFRA and previous history - Provide Training and Technical Assistance to staff focused on: <i>Support Supervisors in reviewing assessments tools specifically the MFRA and identifying families that must be</i>	Linking families to IHFPS when there is high risk will allow the agency to provide ongoing support to families to help reduce entries into foster care (denominator).

Lead Measure	Data Reported	Key Practice Strategies	Impact Measure will have on Children and Families in MD
		<i>connected to services.</i> <i>o Improve family engagement to encourage participation in IHFPS.</i> <i>o Appropriate transfer of cases from CPS to IHFPS.</i>	
3. Increase exits to permanency (reunification, guardianship, and adoption).	The percent of youth who exited to adoption, guardianship or reunification.	• Utilize Permanency Planning FTDMs to support case planning conversations and identify any existing barriers to achieving permanency. • Encourage the use of permanency-related case staffings to discuss progress towards permanency, identify barriers, and potential solutions.	By increasing exits to permanency, the number of children in foster care will be reduced (denominator).

Lead Measure	Data Reported	Key Practice Strategies	Impact Measure will have on Children and Families in MD
4. Decrease the percent of children re-entering foster care.	The percent of youth who re-enter care within 12 months of their exit.	• Utilize THVs and/or continued IHFPS following a reunification to promote successful reunification. • Identify and collaborate with wraparound service providers in the community to support a family following reunification. • When a family comes back to the attention of the agency following a reunification, utilize Separation/Considered Separation FTDMs to support conversations around transitioning to IHFPS and needed community resources to prevent re-entry.	By decreasing re-entries into foster care, the number of children in foster care will be reduced (denominator).

Notes: LDSS = Local Department of Social Services; SSA = Social Services Administration; CJAMS = Child, Juvenile, Adult Management System (MD's administrative data system); FTDM = Family Team Decision Meeting; CPS = Child Protective Services; MFRA = Maryland Formal Risk Assessment; IHFPS = In-Home Family Preservation Services; THV = Trial Home Visit

Concluding Statement

Through participation in Technical Bulletin 14, Maryland is aligning existing focus on safety and permanency within a coordinated framework focused on measurable population-level outcomes. By developing lead measures that are focused on improving the home-to-child ratio and pairing these measures with key practice strategies, Maryland can ensure that improvements in performance trends are supported by meaningful and lasting practice improvements. Maryland is committed to making data-informed decisions to improve permanency and ensure the safety and well-being of children and families across the state.

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