



Florida Department of Children and Families

FLORIDA'S PILOT PLAN
ADVANCING A HOME FOR EVERY CHILD

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Introduction: Ensuring a Home for Every Child in Florida

Florida began implementing its CFSR PIP in accordance with Technical Bulletin 13A on October 1, 2024. The comprehensive PIP focused on improving permanency, safety, and well-being outcomes for Florida's children and families. Key goals included:

- Strengthening staff's ability to identify and manage safety threats
- Enhancing service array capacity
- Increasing relative and non-relative placements and expanding foster home capacity and availability
- Improving placement stability and educational support
- Strengthening the case review process to achieve timely permanency
- Improving family engagement
- Enhancing the quality assurance system to support accountability and continuous quality improvement

Following two quarters of implementation, Florida demonstrated significant progress toward these goals, showing improvement across all associated outcome measures and meeting established targets for many indicators. With the release of Technical Bulletin 14 (TB 14), however, Florida identified an opportunity to align statewide efforts under a singular vision of ensuring a "Home for Every Child."

In May 2026, Florida launched the TB 14 pilot program in support of this goal. This framework continues to advance permanency, safety, and well-being outcomes while creating greater alignment across the system of care. Increasing the number of available homes for children in out-of-home care serves as a key indicator of overall system health and cannot be fully achieved without continued improvements in permanency, safety, and well-being outcomes. As such, Florida will leverage many of its existing PIP strategies to influence the home-to-child ratio.

The sections that follow outline the goals, strategies, and monitoring approach Florida will deploy to advance toward the goal of a "Home for Every Child".

Goals

- **Goal A:** Increase the Number of Families Safely Served with Prevention Services to Strengthen Family Resiliency and Well-Being
- **Goal B:** Increase the Availability of Stable and Strategic Placements
- **Goal C:** Increase Safe and Timely Exits from Out-of-Home Care into Permanent Homes

Strategies:

Strategy	Implementation Milestones	Lead Measures	Goal(s) Supported
Connect families to needed services and support them with navigating the system of care.	- Strengthen involvement of cross-system expertise to drive connections to supportive services for children and families. - Expand access to subject matter expertise in order to accurately inform holistic and safe decision making and identification of supportive services for children and families. - Revise Family Navigator protocols and publish a formal operating procedure outlining program goals, target populations, roles, and processes. - Develop a Microsoft Dynamics database and dashboards to track Family Navigator services, program indicators, and outcomes. - Monitor implementation data to assess Family Navigation program effectiveness, service delivery, and impact on child and family outcomes.	- Percent of Cases where a Consultation was Completed with a Subject Matter Expert when Indicated - CFSR Item 2: Did the Agency Make Concerted Efforts to Provide Services to the Family to Prevent Children's Entry into Foster Care or Re-Entry After Reunification? - Percentage of cases with no verified maltreatment within 12 months of closure of in-home services.	Goal A: Increase the Number of Families Safely Served with Prevention Services to Strengthen Family Resiliency and Well-Being
Standardize Family Finding Efforts occurring across the life of a case.	- Develop and implement a methodology to review family finding practices including identification of best practices, inconsistencies, and gaps in evidence-based practice. - Expand family finding efforts pre-removal to support sufficient in-home safety plans and enhance support networks for families. - Review family finding processes and performance during all case stages, including initial, ongoing, pre-TPR, and post-TPR phases.	Percent of Children Initially Placed with Relatives or Non-relatives	Goal A: Increase the Number of Families Safely Served with Prevention Services to Strengthen Family Resiliency and

Strategy	Implementation Milestones	Lead Measures	Goal(s) Supported
	• Develop a standardized family finding process, implementation plan, and measures of success based on review findings. • Implement and evaluate the revised family finding process to determine effectiveness and needed improvements. • Update CFOP, contract language, training, and communication protocols to standardize successful family finding practices across the system of care.		Well-Being Goal B: Increase Safe Exits from Out-of-Home Care into Permanent Homes
Implement foster home recruitment and retention strategies to expand and stabilize placement options.	• Revise Lead Agency contracts to require that annual recruitment and retention plans be data driven and focused on building placement capacity for children and areas with greatest need. • Conduct quarterly calls with Lead Agencies and Child Placing Agencies to review recruitment and retention data, assess foster home capacity and growth, and share effective practices. • Explore technology solutions that assist with identifying recruitment needs and targeted recruitment efforts to meet the evolving needs of the children in out of home care.	• Number of New Strategic Foster Homes Recruited for Children with Enhanced Support Needs • Percent of Foster Home Retention During First 12 Months • Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Care that are Placed in their County of Origin	Goal C: Increase the Availability of Stable and Strategic Placements
Strengthen the case review system to support timely achievement of appropriate permanency goals.	• Develop a baseline Conditions for Return (CFR) training curriculum incorporating feedback from individuals with lived experience and staff involved in the dependency process. • Deliver e-learning and training for judges, attorneys, GALs, case managers, CPIs, and supervisors, including continuing education opportunities. • Revise and deploy the Dependency Benchbook to	• Percent of Children Achieving Permanency within 12-Months of Entering Out-of-Home Care • Percent of Children Achieving Permanency	Goal C: Increase Safe Exits from Out-of-Home Care into Permanent Homes

Strategy	Implementation Milestones	Lead Measures	Goal(s) Supported
	incorporate CFR principles and provide specialized training for judges and attorneys on applying CFR in courtroom practice and communication. • Incorporate CFR into Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP), court observation and survey tools to assess implementation and consistency in courtroom proceedings. • Conduct courtroom observations, provide feedback to judges and attorneys, evaluate outcomes, and develop revisions and a sustainability plan to support long-term implementation success.	within 12-23 Months of Entering Out-of-Home Care	
Increase the quality and impact of engagement with parents throughout the case.	• Develop a training curriculum designed to enhance child welfare professional and parent relationships through positive, strength-based engagement in partnership with the Impacted Families Network (parents with lived experience) and Subject Matter Experts. • Pilot the training to assess effectiveness, identify improvements, and evaluate readiness for broader implementation. • Evaluate pilot outcomes, finalize revisions, and determine rollout to the extended child welfare community. • Establish a supervised visitation reporting format that provides consistent assessment and documentation of parent-child interaction quality to support case planning and decision making. • Pilot the supervised visitation in conjunction with the parent engagement training curriculum to assess effectiveness and readiness for less restrictive	• CFSR Item 8: Did the agency make concerted efforts to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father, and siblings was of sufficient frequency and quality to promote continuity in the child's relationships with these close family members? • CFSR Item 15: Were the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers of the child(ren) sufficient to ensure the	Goal A: Increase the Number of Families Safely Served with Prevention Services to Strengthen Family Resiliency and Well-Being Goal B: Increase the Availability of Stable and Strategic Placements

Strategy	Implementation Milestones	Lead Measures	Goal(s) Supported
	visitation formats.	safety, permanency, and well-being of the child(ren) and promote achievement of case goals?	Goal C: Increase Safe Exits from Out-of-Home Care into Permanent Homes

Monthly Data Requirements:

Core Measures	Foster Home-to-Child Ratio: The numerator is the number of licensed and non-licensed homes approved for placement at the end of the month. The denominator is the number of children in custody who require placement at the end of the month.
Chaser Measures	1. Maintaining Family Connections: Percent of children in care at the end of the month who are placed with relatives or kin. 2. Congregate Care: Percent of days children are placed in group homes/settings instead of living with a family. 3. Recent Maltreatment History: Percent of children harmed after child welfare agency has already confirmed abuse or neglect. 4. Home Disruptions: Percent of homes where foster placement ends unexpectedly and children must move.
Lead Measures	1. Percent of Cases where a Consultation was Completed with a Subject Matter Expert when Indicated 2. CFSR Item 2: Did the Agency Make Concerted Efforts to Provide Services to the Family to Prevent Children's Entry into Foster Care or Re-Entry After Reunification? 3. Percentage of cases with no verified maltreatment within 12 months of closure of in-home services 4. Percent of Children Initially Placed with Relatives or Non-relatives 5. Number of New Foster Homes Strategically Recruited for Children with Enhanced Support Needs 6. Percent of Foster Home Retention During First 12 Months 7. Percent of Children in Out-of-Home Care that are Placed in their County of Origin 8. Percent of Children Achieving Permanency within 12-Months of Entering Out-of-Home Care 9. Percent of Children Achieving Permanency within 12-23 Months of Entering Out-of-Home Care 10. CFSR Item 15: Were the frequency and quality of visits between caseworkers and the mothers and fathers of the child(ren) sufficient to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child(ren) and promote achievement of case goals? 11. CFSR Item 8: Did the agency make concerted efforts to ensure that visitation between a child in foster care and his or her mother, father, and siblings was of sufficient frequency

Conclusion:

Florida's commitment to ensuring a Home for Every Child reflects a unified, systemwide effort to strengthen safety, stability, and permanency for children and families. Building on Florida's progress made during the initial phases of the CFSR PIP, the TB 14 framework brings greater alignment, clarity, and accountability to this work by connecting strategies that improve family engagement and support children remaining in their homes, whenever safely possible, expand placement options, and promote timely achievement of permanency.

By refining core practices, expanding service capacity, standardizing family finding, strengthening the case review system, and supporting foster families, Florida is creating the conditions necessary for every child to have a safe, stable, and nurturing home. The monitoring and continuous quality improvement structures embedded in this plan ensure that progress is measured, challenges are addressed, and successful strategies are sustained.

Through collaboration with Lead Agencies, judicial partners, system stakeholders, community providers, and families themselves, Florida will continue advancing toward a system of care where every child can grow up in a permanent, supportive home. The goals and strategies that follow represent the next step in this commitment and provide a clear roadmap for achieving meaningful, lasting outcomes for children and families in Florida.