



# CHILDREN'S BUREAU FEDERAL UPDATE SESSION

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Presented by Tina Naugler  
Children's Bureau Region 10 Program Manager  
April 17, 2018



## Agenda

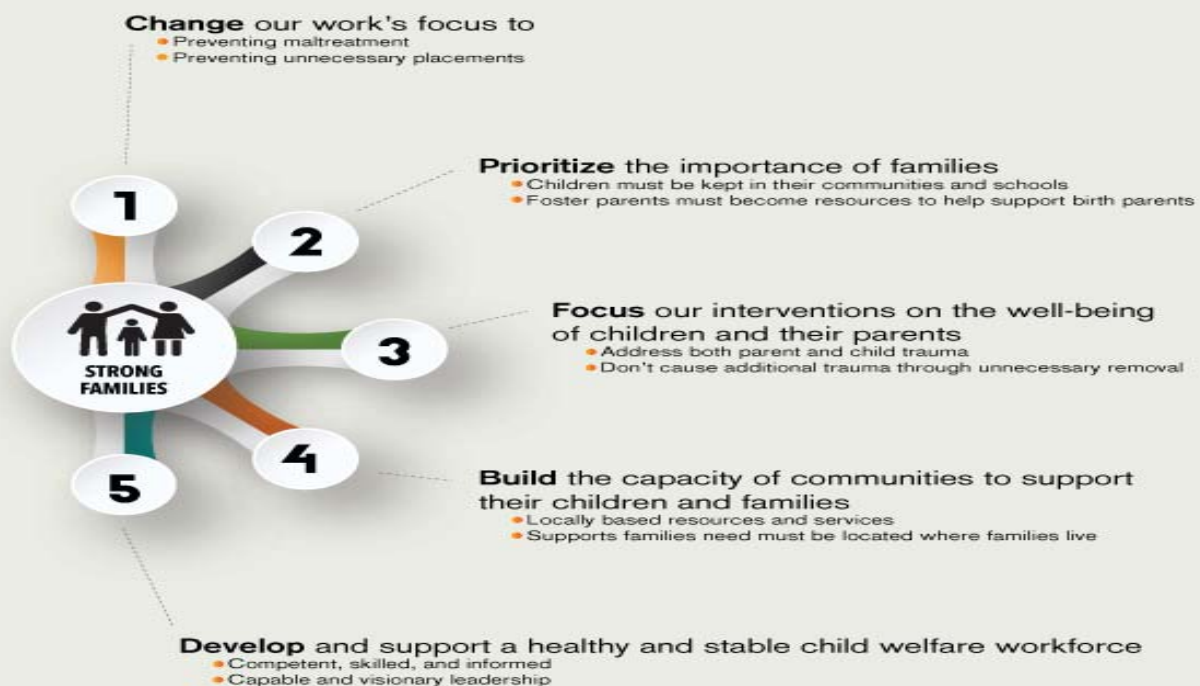
- **Children's Bureau's Vision**
  - Focus on Primary Prevention
  - Prioritize the Importance of Families
  - Focus interventions on the well-being of children and their parents
  - Build the Capacity of Communities to Support Families
  - Develop and Support the Child Welfare Workforce
- **CFSR Round 3**
  - Overview of Process
  - Results from 2015-2016 states
  - Systemic Factors: Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention
    - Item 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placement (including 2017 results)
  - Case Review: Permanency Outcomes
  - Improvement Efforts
- **Extended Foster Care 18-21 (optional program)**
  - Overview of Program
  - Services
  - ICPC Considerations
- **NEICE Update**
- **Questions**

# STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

*The Children's Bureau's Vision for Changing the  
National Child Welfare Practice*



## STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES: THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU'S VISION FOR CHANGING NATIONAL CHILD WELFARE PRACTICE





## This will require:

- FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR PREVENTION
- SHARED COMMUNITY VISION
- COLLECTIVE CHANGE IN MINDSET



# CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEWS

*Round 3 findings*

*2015-2016*

# CFSR Round 3 Changes



- Opportunity to more fully integrate Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)/Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR) with CFSR processes
- Number and scope of stakeholder interviews depend upon state's ability to demonstrate systemic factor functioning
- Changes to CFSR instruments
- Changes to data indicators and national measures
- Option for State Conducted Case Review

## Child and Family Service Reviews

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- Collaborative effort between federal and state governments
- Promote continuous quality improvement in child welfare systems nationally
- Evaluate state performance relative to federal requirements and the state's Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)



# Child and Family Service Reviews



- Identify strengths and areas needing improvement in state child welfare programs
- States that do not meet standards develop an action-oriented 2-year Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
- CB assists states in enhancing capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes through ongoing technical assistance and support



# CFSR Process



CFSRs assess child welfare outcomes and systemic functioning using:

- ✓ Statewide Assessment
- ✓ Case-level reviews: Case record and interviews
- ✓ Interviews with key state stakeholders and partners



## Round 3 CF SR Paths



### Traditional CF SR

One-week, onsite review during which a federal and state team reviews a sample of 65 cases at three sites



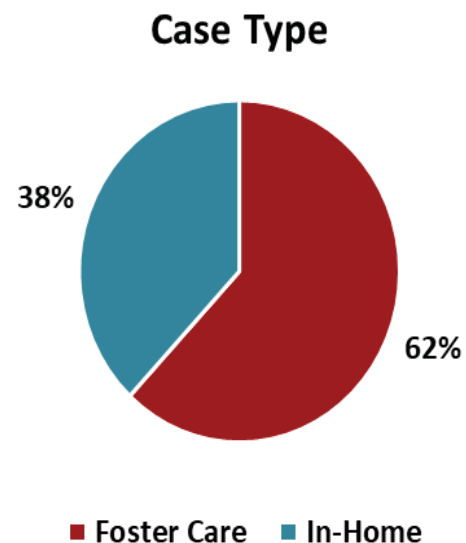
### State-Conducted CF SR

States meeting CB criteria may conduct their own case reviews using a revised federal CF SR onsite review instrument and submit the results to CB

## FY 2015 – 2016 Reviews

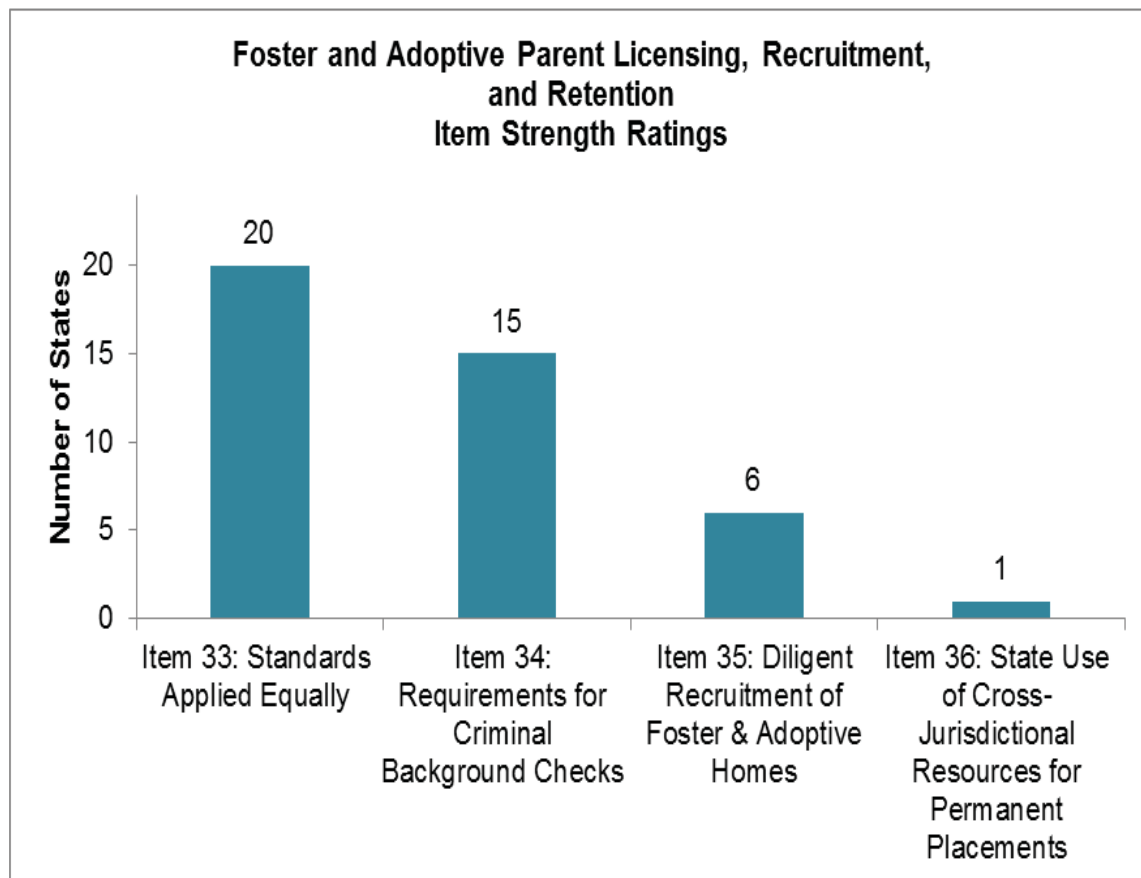


- 24 states
- 2,073 cases were reviewed
  - 9 Traditional Reviews examined 584 cases
  - 15 State Conducted Case Reviews examined 1,489 cases



## Systemic Factors

- Statewide Information System
- Case Review System
- Quality Assurance System
- Staff and Provider Training
- Service Array and Resource Development
- Agency Responsiveness to the Community
- Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention





## Systemic Factor 36: State Use of Cross-Jurisdictional Resources for Permanent Placements

How well is the foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention system functioning to ensure that the process for ensuring the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide?

### Information Collected through Statewide Assessment and Stakeholder Interviews

- Key Concerns
- Barriers

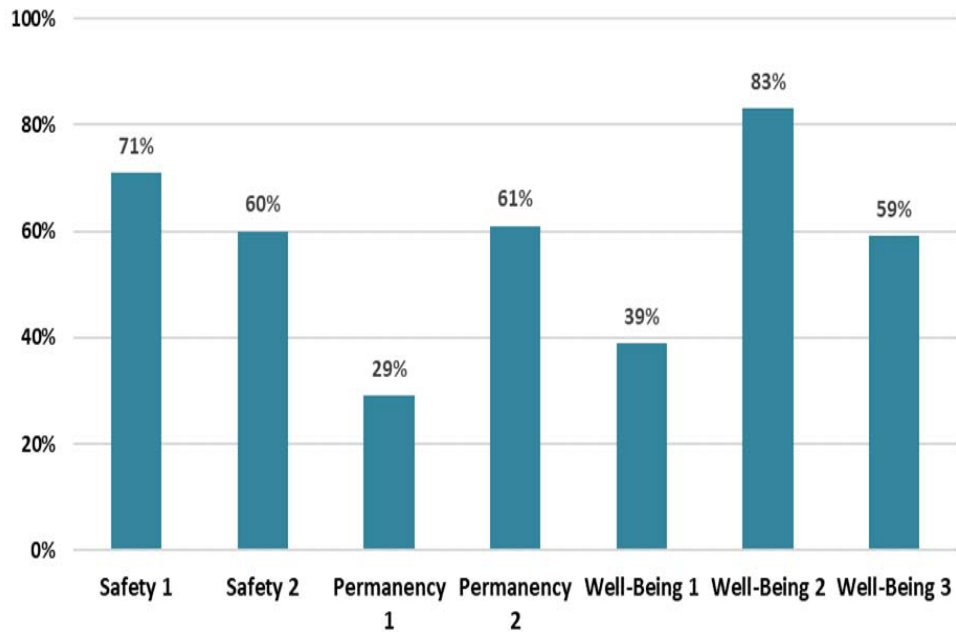


## Impact on Permanency Outcomes

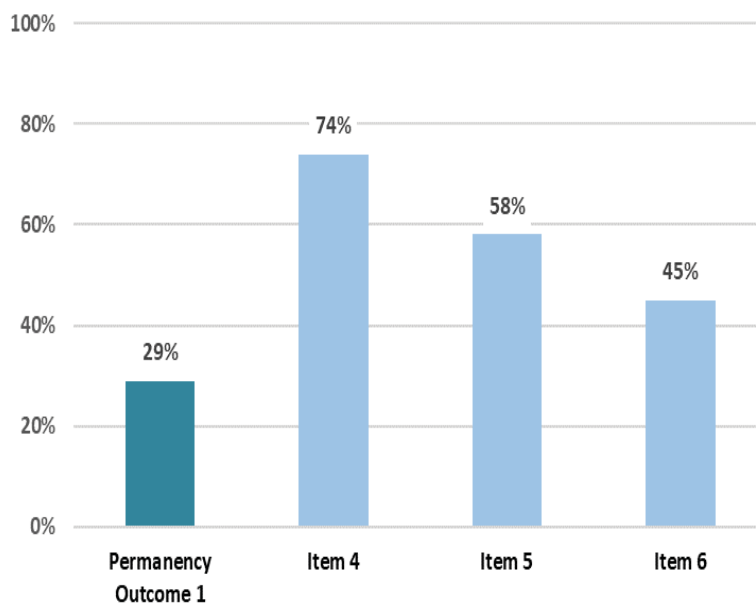
- Children have permanency and stability in their living situation
- The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children



# CFSR Performance 2015-2016: Outcomes Overview



## Permanency Outcome 1



# Item 4

## Stability of Foster Care Placement



- In 45% of cases, placement changes were planned in an effort to achieve case goals or meet the needs of the child.
- The child's placement was considered stable at the time of the review in 90% of cases.
- Placement with relatives positively affected placement stability.
- Assessing and addressing the needs of foster parents positively affected placement stability.

## Lack of Placement Stability



- Child's behavior - more than a third of cases
- Lack of appropriate foster homes - slightly more than a third of cases
- Lack of agency responsiveness in addressing concerns - more than 15% of cases
- Allegations of child maltreatment in the foster home
  - slightly more than 10% of cases



## Item 5

### Permanency Goal for Child

- Permanency goals were established timely in 77% of cases.
- Permanency goals were appropriate to the child's needs and circumstances in 79% of cases.
- 23% of cases had concurrent goals identified

When children were in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months:

- Agencies filed TPRs prior to the PUR or timely during the PUR in 51% of applicable cases.
- TPR was not filed and no exception existed in 27% of cases.



## Item 5

### Permanency Goal for Child

Practice Concerns:

- Reunification plans kept in place too long.
- Inappropriate goals based on child's age, case circumstances and need for permanency.
  - Guardianship rather than adoption for very young children
  - OPPLA goal for children under the age of 16
- Selecting OPPLA without adequate consideration of other goals.



## Item 6

### Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

- Concerted efforts towards timely achievement were seen in:
  - 52% of cases with a plan of reunification
  - 40% of cases with a plan of guardianship
  - 35% of cases with a plan of adoption
- 64% of children with a goal of OPPLA were placed in a permanent arrangement

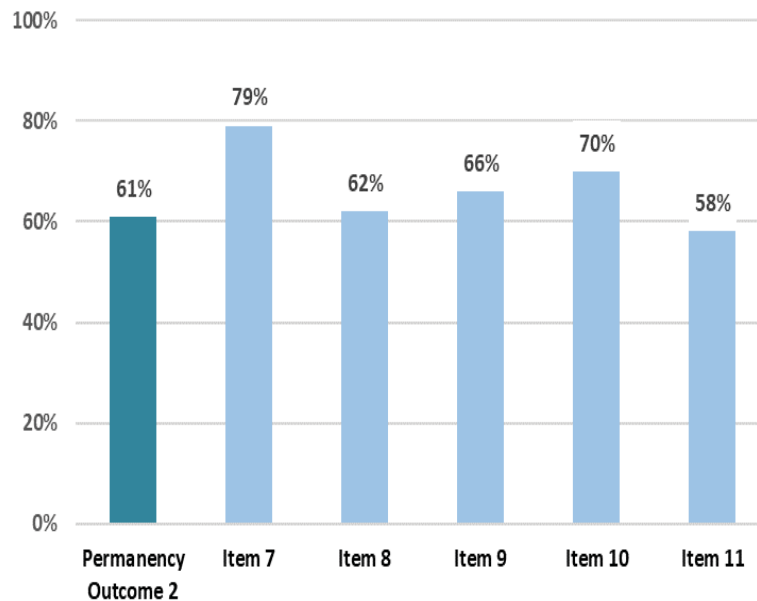
## Item 6



### Practice Concerns:

- Delays in completing the paperwork and filing TPRs
- Children and Parents not receiving needed services
- Caseworker/attorney high case loads and turnover
- Delays in scheduling hearings
- Multiple court continuances
- Contested TPRs and lengthy appeals processes

## Permanency Outcome 2

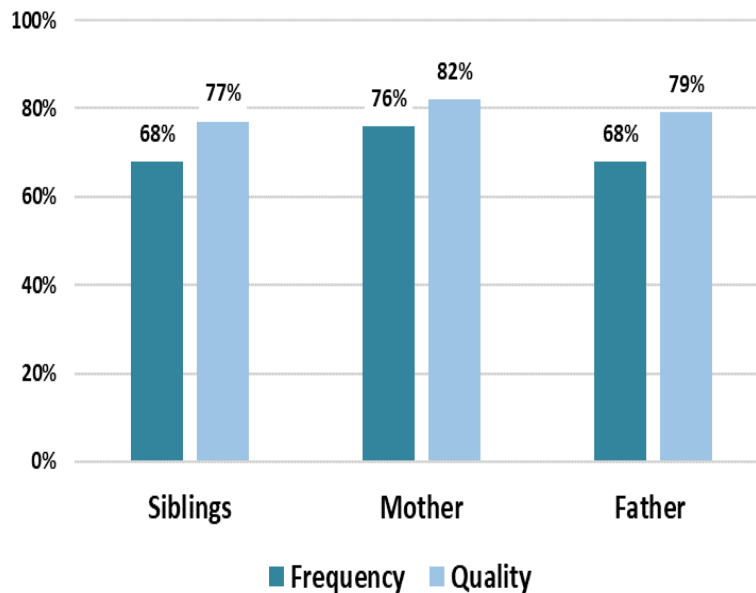


## Item 7 Placement With Siblings

- In 79% of the cases the child was placed with all sibling who were also in foster care, or if not, there was a valid reason for the child's separation from his siblings.
- Practice concerns:
  - Lack of placement resources able to accept sibling groups
  - Failure to reconsider placement of siblings together after initial separation

## Item 8

# Visiting With Parents and Siblings in Foster Care



## Item 9

# Preserving Connections

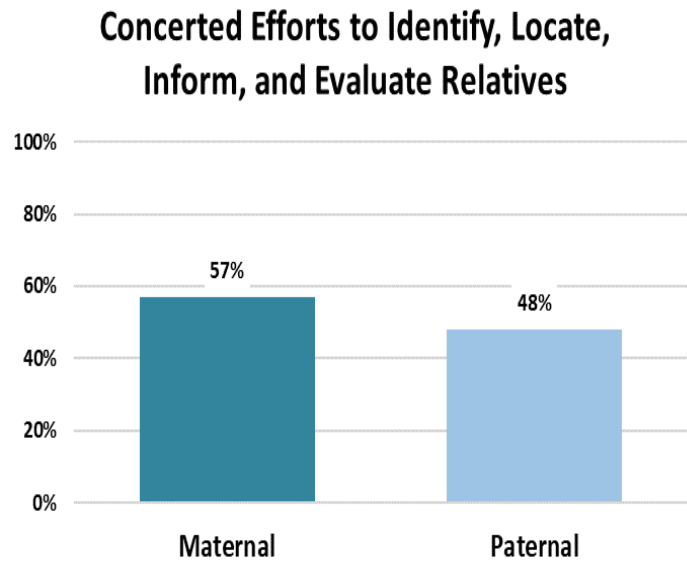


- For children who were members of, or eligible for membership in, a federally recognized Tribe:
  - The Tribe was provided timely notification in 73% of the cases.
  - Concerted efforts were made to place the child in accordance with ICWA placement preferences in 68% of the cases.

## Item 10

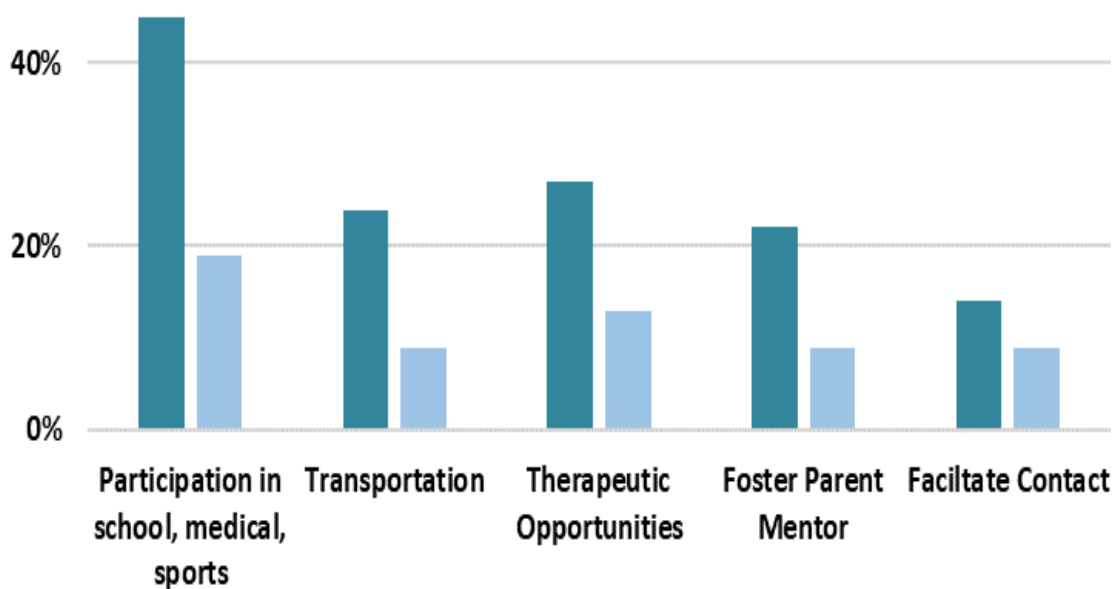
### Relative Placement

- The child's current or most recent placement was with a relative in 34% of cases.
- The relative placement was considered stable and appropriate in 93% of those cases.



## Item 11

### Relationship of Child in Care With Parents



# Being Involved in Improvement Efforts



- States are expected to involve stakeholders in developing their improvement strategies
- States will be working on program improvement plans (PIP) as well as their strategic plans (CFSP/APSR)
- Many will be addressing ways to improve Permanency as well as specifically targeting the effective use of cross-jurisdictional resources to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children is occurring statewide
- Being involved in the program improvement discussions about the findings and working through the root causes, and identifying goals and strategies that are tied to the root causes together



## EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF A CHILD

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*Making title IV-E foster care; adoption assistance; and, guardianship assistance programs for the 18-21 year olds*





## Expanding the Definition of Child

If the agency chooses to expand the definition of child, **the selected age must apply to the title IV-E foster care; adoption assistance; and, if applicable, guardianship assistance programs.**

- If the agency wishes to extend assistance over age 18, but only up to age 19 or 20, the agency must submit a description as to why the agency is choosing a lower age.
- A title IV-E agency **may** design its child welfare programs to provide extended care to youth in any of the five educational or employment circumstances.
  - In designing its program, **the agency is given considerable flexibility** in relation to these conditions, such as:
    - Including only one, some or all conditions;
    - Determining how the agency will verify or obtain assurances that the youth meets the conditions, and
    - the frequency of the verifications.



## Guidance from ACYF-CB-PI-10-11

- Youth 18+ in foster care must meet the title IV-E removal criteria.
- The agency must obtain placement and care responsibility of youth over age 18 receiving title IV-E foster care maintenance payments through a VPA, written authorization from the youth or court order.
- All title IV-E protections and case review requirements apply to youth over age 18, including:
  - Periodic reviews
  - Permanency hearings and TPR requirements
  - Monthly caseworker visits, and
  - A judicial determination that the agency made reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan every 12 months for youth over age 18 receiving title IV-E foster care who were removed via court order.

## Extended Federal Foster Care (EFFC)



For states to qualify for Title IV-E reimbursement, young adults in extended federal foster care (EFFC) must meet at least one of five eligibility requirements:

- completing high school or a program leading to an equivalent credential
- enrolled in postsecondary or vocational education
- participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
- employed at least 80 hours per month
- incapable of doing any of the above because of a medical condition

## States Implementing EFFC



**There are 26 states that extended Federal Foster Care**

- 25 have defined child to 21 while one state only goes to 20

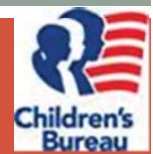
For states to qualify for Title IV-E reimbursement, young adults in extended federal foster care (EFFC) must meet at least one of five eligibility requirements:

- completing high school or a program leading to an equivalent credential (all 26 selected)
- enrolled in postsecondary or vocational education (25 selected)
- participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment (24/26 selected)
- employed at least 80 hours per month (23/26 selected)
- incapable of doing any of the above because of a medical condition (24/26 have this condition)



# EFFC and ICPC Considerations

- ICPC over 18
- EFFC Programs vary from state to state
- Compiling List of States with EFFC
- ILP Services
- Supervision
- Information Needed from Each State



NEICE UPDATE

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# NEICE Update

- NEICE Comprehensive Update by Project Staff
- New Post: Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) questions and answers to the Child Welfare Policy Manual (CWPM) on 3/15/2018. These updates include responses to questions about the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE)
- Families First Legislation
  - ACYF-CB-IM-18-02, an Information Memorandum to inform States and Tribes of the enactment of the Family First Prevention Services Act and provide basic information on the new law. The IM has been posted on the Children's Bureau website



## QUESTIONS AND THANK YOU

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*Email additional questions to:*

*Tina Naugler*

*[tina.naugler@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:tina.naugler@acf.hhs.gov)*