

Purpose

A Home for Every Child is a new initiative, through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), that is focused on decreasing the number of children entering foster care while also increasing the number of available foster homes.

Community Action plays an important role in strengthening families and stabilizing communities. As child welfare systems continue to focus on prevention and expanding safe, supportive foster and kinship homes, partnerships with Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are increasingly critical.

This survey is designed to better understand how CAAs are currently working with child welfare agencies: what is working well, where collaboration is meaningfully preventing child welfare system engagement, and how CAAs are helping expand and/or stabilize foster and kinship homes.

Your perspective will help identify strengths across the network, highlight promising practices, and inform potential partnership strategies. The survey should take approximately 8-10 minutes to complete, and responses will be shared in summary form only.

To learn more about A Home for Every Child and for more resources on child welfare systems, [click here](#).

For the purposes of this survey:

- **Child Welfare** refers to the public systems designed to promote the well-being of children by ensuring safety, achieving permanency, and strengthening families. (Source: [HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov)).
- **Prevention and/or Family Support Services** refer to strategies that are designed to reduce risk factors and build positive family engagement that is vital to help families thrive and prevent child abuse and neglect and family separation (Source: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)).
- **Foster Care** refers to a component of the child welfare system where children who cannot safely remain at home because of abuse, neglect, or other serious family challenges are placed temporarily in licensed family-based settings or approved caregiver homes (Source: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)).
- **Kinship Care** refers to care provided to a child in custody by a relative caregiver or fictive kin (someone close with the family) (Source: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)).

Thank you for taking the time to share your experience and expertise!

Section I: Collaboration with Child Welfare

* 1. How is your state's child welfare system structured?

- State-Administered
- County-Administered
- Hybrid Model
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)

* 2. How familiar are you with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) A Home for Every Child initiative?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Heard of it, but not familiar with details
- Not at all familiar

* 3. Has your state formally joined the A Home for Every Child initiative?

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

* 4. Is your organization currently engaged in or receiving funding connected to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)?

- Yes - Direct Services Provider
- Yes - Partner or Referral Agency
- Not Currently - Exploring Engagement
- No
- Don't Know

* 5. What type of formal relationship does your organization have with the local child welfare agency?

- Contracted prevention services provider
- Memorandum of Understanding (Collaboration activities with no monetary value)
- Informal referral partnership only
- We don't currently have a relationship
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)

* 6. In what ways does your organization collaborate with the local child welfare agency to prevent foster care placement? (select all that apply)

- Receiving referrals for family support services
- Employment/financial stabilization tied to safety plans
- Housing stabilization to prevent removal
- Parenting education or support groups
- Early childhood screenings and wraparound services
- Participation in multidisciplinary prevention teams
- Joint case planning or family team meetings
- We do not collaborate in any way
- Other (please specify)

* 7. In what ways does your organization support the expansion or stabilization of foster and kinship homes? (select all that apply)

- Outreach to identify potential foster/kinship caregivers
- Hosting foster parent information sessions
- Supporting kinship caregivers to meet licensing standards
- Housing or utility assistance for foster/kinship families
- Financial coaching for caregivers
- Parenting education for caregivers
- Ongoing case management for caregiver households
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

8. Please provide any additional comments, examples, or insights regarding your organization's efforts to collaborate with local child welfare agencies to prevent foster care placement and/or support foster and kinship home capacity that were not addressed in the previous questions.

Section II: Relationship Quality and Impact

* 9. How would you describe the strength of your organization's relationship with local child welfare agencies?

- Very strong - Shared prevention goals, consistent communication, joint accountability
- Strong - Regular collaboration and clear referral pathways
- Moderate - Occasional coordination
- Limited - Minimal structured communication
- No active relationship

* 10. What factors contribute most to meaningful and impactful collaboration between your organization and local child welfare agencies? (Select up to three)

- Shared prevention-focused mission
- Strong leadership relationships
- Clear referral pathways
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Flexible funding resources
- Data-sharing capacity
- Cross-system training
- Trust between frontline staff
- Joint strategic planning
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)

* 11. What barriers limit deeper collaboration or impact? (Select all that apply)

- Confidentiality/data-sharing restrictions
- Limited shared outcome tracking
- Insufficient prevention funding
- Lack of trust
- Undefined agency roles and responsibilities
- Delayed referrals
- Workforce shortages
- Limited housing resources
- Competing priorities
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)

12. Please share any additional comments, feedback, or suggestions regarding the collaboration between Community Action and the Child Welfare System that were not addressed in the previous questions.

Section III: Agency Information

* 13. If your organization operates early childhood education programs (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start (EHS), EHS-Child Care Partnership, State Pre-K, or other early learning programs), approximately what percentage of enrolled children are in foster care?

- Up to 5% of enrollment
- 5 - 10% of enrollment
- 11 - 15% of enrollment
- Over 15% of enrollment
- Don't Know
- Our organization does not operate Early Childhood Education programs

* 14. If your organization operates early childhood education programs (e.g., Head Start, Early Head Start (EHS), EHS-Child Care Partnership, State Pre-K, or other early learning programs), approximately what percentage of enrolled children are being raised by grandparents or grandparent guardians?

- Up to 5% of enrollment
- 5 - 10% of enrollment
- 11-15% of enrollment
- Over 15% of enrollment
- Don't Know
- Our organization does not operate Early Childhood Education programs

* 15. Of the grandparents raising grandchildren in your programs, how would you describe their caregiving status? (Check all that apply)

- Primarily formal kinship care (legal guardianship, court-ordered custody, licensed kinship foster care)
- Primarily informal kinship care (no legal custody or formal arrangement)
- A mix of formal and informal arrangements
- Don't Know
- N/A

* 16. Does your organization provide and/or facilitate mandated reporter training on child abuse and neglect?

- Yes - We provide mandated reporter training and training is facilitated internally
- Yes - We provide mandated reporter training and training is facilitated by an external organization
- No - We do not provide or facilitate mandated reporter training
- Don't Know

17. Who in your organization and/or community receives mandated reporter training? (select all that apply)

- Staff
- Volunteers
- Board Members
- External Partners
- All of the above
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify)

* 18. Which of the following best describes your type of organization?

- Private Community Action Agency
- Public Community Action Agency
- Tribe or Tribal Organization
- State Association
- Other (please specify)

* 19. In what state or U.S. territory do you serve?

* 20. What geographic area does your organization primarily serve?

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural
- Multiple Geographic Regions

Optional: Contact Information

If you are available to provide additional feedback and are willing to be contacted, please provide your contact information below:

21. First Name

22. Last Name

23. Email Address

24. Organization Name

25. Organizational Role

- Executive Director / CEO
- Fiscal / Administrative Staff
- Program Director
- Front Line Staff
- Other (please specify)

Closing

Thank you for your leadership in strengthening families and communities!