Child Protection Services in the United States of America: Structure and Technical Assistance Support
US Foster Care and Adoption Data

• 443,000 children in foster care
• 270,000 children enter care annually
• 248,000 children exit care annually
• 50% of children reunified with their parent(s)
• 123,000 children in care have a plan of adoption
• 70,000 are legally freed (TPR) for adoption
• 60,000 adopted from foster care annually
Child Protection Services in the United States

• Federal programs including child protection and family support services are administered by the US Department of Human Services in the Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau.

• The Children’s Bureau is 107 years old and was the first US Federal agency devoted to children’s issues.

• The Children’s Bureau has played a critical role in addressing vital issues affecting families.
The Children’s Bureau (CB) partners with federal, state, tribal and local agencies with a focus on:

- **Strengthening families** and preventing child abuse and neglect.
- **Protecting children** when abuse or neglect has occurred.
- **Ensuring** that every child and youth has a **permanent family** or family connection.
The Children’s Bureau seeks to improve outcomes in the following key areas:

• Safety
• Permanency
• Well-Being
Federal Role

Children’s Bureau provides national leadership in child welfare by:

- **Providing** guidance on federal law, policy and program regulations.
- **Funding** essential services.
- **Supporting** innovation through research.
- **Providing** training and technical assistance.
- **Monitoring** child welfare services.
- **Sharing** research.
Current Priorities

• Primary prevention.
• Community-based care & services.
• Increased parental engagement.
• Increased use of relatives as placements.
• Minimize trauma of removal & placement.
• Promote adoptions for children and youth when reunification fails.
• Flexible funding.
Children’s Bureau Funding

- Annual Federal budget for the Children’s Bureau is over $8 billion.
- States and local governments contribute more funds for child welfare services.
- Funds child welfare programs, training and research.
- The Federal government (Congress and HHS) determines how States and Tribes may spend Federal funds.
Federal Requirements

• Preserve families to prevent removal of the child.
• Remove child if not safe in their home and place in out-of-home care.
• Provide services to assist with reunification.
• Conduct court hearings as required.
• Provide services to youth for independent living.
• Promote adoption or guardianship if reunification efforts fail.
Role of States and Tribes

• States operate their own child welfare programs and local agencies provide direct services to children and families.

• Native American Tribes may also operate their own child welfare programs for members of their Tribe.
Role of States and Tribes

Provide direct services to children and families:

• Investigate reports of child abuse and neglect.
• Provide family preservation services to avoid removal.
• Remove children when warranted and place in foster or kinship homes while providing reunification services to families.
• Visit children regularly while in foster care and provide services.
• Courts are involved to protect rights of children and parents.
• Judge has final determination on a return home or Termination of Parental Rights.
Federal Monitoring Role

• Children’s Bureau monitors state child welfare services.

• Program Improvement Plans may result from monitoring.

• Training and Technical Assistance is available.
Training and Technical Assistance

• The Capacity Building Center for States
• The Capacity Building Center for Tribes
• The Capacity Building Center for Courts
Capacity Building Services

The Centers provide three general types of services:

- Universal services
- Constituency services
- Tailored services
Conference Lobby
Exhibit Hall
Virtual Gallery

Gallery 1: Assessing Evidence in Support of Selecting Interventions

Gallery 2: Applying Data and Findings to Improve Practice

Gallery 3: Developing and Using Consumable Data
Virtual Gallery 1 (Example)

Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse

Gallery 1: Assessing Evidence in Support of Selecting Interventions
Explore how clearinghouses rate programs and services as promising, supported, and well-supported practices, and discover tools and guidance regarding the selection of evidence-based practices.
Theater
Child Welfare Information Gateway

National clearinghouse with information on:

• Child Welfare
• Child Protection
• Foster Care and Out-of-Home-Care
• Adoption

Child Welfare Information Gateway
www.childwelfare.gov
Contact Us…

Postal Address:
Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Children’s Bureau Website:
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/

Resource links:
Child Welfare Information Gateway  www.childwelfare.gov