

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

From the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)

Department of Human Services

OCYF Personnel Updates

Jennifer Johnson, Division of Programs, joined the Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) as a Human Services Analyst in May 2025. Jennifer comes to OCYF having served as an Income Maintenance Supervisor at the Elk County Assistance Office. Her prior work experience includes 10 years at Greene County Children and Youth Services (CYS), serving as a caseworker, county supervisor, and chairing the Greene County Child Death Review Team. Her leadership continued as a manager at Washington County CYS. Jennifer will be responsible for providing overall policy and programmatic support, technical assistance, training, and consultation regarding child welfare services as it relates to the activities necessary to the implementation of the child fatality and near fatality process in accordance with Act 33 of 2008 and Act 44 of 2014. Jennifer can be reached at jeljohnso@pa.gov.

Child and Family Services Review – 2026

Pennsylvania has elected to conduct a State-Led Child and Family Service Review (CFSR), which, pending Children's Bureau (CB) approval, will begin April 1, 2026, and end on September 30, 2026. Prior to the case review phase of the CFSR, Pennsylvania will complete a Statewide Assessment.

The Statewide Assessment is developed to provide the most current and relevant information for understanding state performance on child welfare outcomes and evidence required to demonstrate routine statewide functioning of systemic factors. In March 2025, OCYF, in collaboration with CWRC, developed a Statewide Assessment Committee (SAC). This committee is comprised of a diverse forum of system and community partners, including those with lived experience who, are tasked with the following:

- Review evidence (quantitative and qualitative data and information) to evaluate seven systemic factors as well as seven outcomes that are monitored as part of Pennsylvania's

ongoing continuous quality improvement efforts;

- Consider existing child welfare programs, practices, and systems and consider programmatic goals and the extent to which desired outcomes for the children and families served are being achieved;
- Enable system and community partners to come together to identify system strengths and areas needing improvement to assess potential root causes to help develop program improvement approaches;
- Provide an opportunity for Pennsylvania to consider and critically analyze evidence of disparities in decision-making, programs, and policies that may contribute to inequity in services and outcomes for persons of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality in the child welfare system; and,
- Build and expand statewide continuous quality improvement (CQI) efforts.

The first SAC meeting was held on March 20, 2025. Meetings will be held monthly through June – August 2025.

In addition to the SAC, stakeholder interviews will be conducted during the onsite component of the CFSR. The purpose of the stakeholder interviews is to collect information needed to determine whether the state is in substantial conformity with CFSR systemic factor federal requirements. However, because substantial conformity determinations can be made based on the information the state submits in its Statewide Assessment, stakeholder interviews may not be required to collect information about every systemic factor during the onsite component of the CFSR. Stakeholder interviews will be conducted during the week of **May 18-22, 2026**. More information about scheduling individuals for stakeholder interviews will be shared in the future.

Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Trainings

Effective January 1, 2025, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will no longer accept new

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Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training Curricula for review and approval. All Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Trainings that are currently approved by DHS will maintain approval.

All Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training Curricula that were submitted to DHS prior to January 1, 2025 will be reviewed as outlined in the [Curriculum Approval Guidelines \(pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/mandated-reporter-training.html\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/mandated-reporter-training.html). All approved providers must update their curriculum and submit for DHS approval when legislative changes occur to the Child Protective Services Law.

Individuals or organizations who need to take a Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting Training may still use any of the curricula that are on [the approved list of courses \(pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/mandated-reporter-training.html\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe/mandated-reporter-training.html).

Additional information related to approved providers of Mandated Reporter Training can be found on the Keep Kids Safe website. DHS will continue to monitor the number of approved curricula to ensure there is sufficient training available for mandated reporters.

Promoting Educational Stability for Youth

The Division of Policy continues to facilitate quarterly meetings with county children and youth agencies (CCYAs) and the Office of Children, Youth, and Families' Regional Offices to provide technical assistance, promote collaboration, and highlight new initiatives and successes that promote educational stability for children involved in dependency court.

Starting July 10, 2025 and every Thursday thereafter until August 14th, OCYF will be promoting our 2025 'Back to School' Campaign. This year's campaign is a collaboration of the OCYF Division of Policy, the American Bar Association: Center on Children and the Law, The Center for Schools and Communities, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE): Bureau of Special Education. The campaign will assist CCYAs, providers, and school personnel with resources, materials, and check-ins for the upcoming school year. Technical Assistance Trainings will also include topics such as Educational Stability, Information Sharing, Educational Advocacy, Special Education, Child Accounting, and Checklists. As always, resources related to OCYF's work in supporting educational stability can be found on our website, [Education Stability by Child Welfare Services \(pa.gov\)](https://pa.gov), for more information, [Education Stability for Children and Youth in Foster Care in Pennsylvania \(pafostercare.org\)](https://pafostercare.org).

General inquiries or requests for assistance regarding educational stability for youth served by CCYAs, contact RA-PWOCYFEDUCATION@pa.gov.

PDE website updates:

- [Act 1 of 2022 Supporting Graduation for Students Experiencing Education Instability \(pa.gov/agencies/education/resources\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/education/resources)
Act 1 of 2022 focuses on removing educational barriers for students experiencing instability due to homelessness, juvenile justice involvement, or similar circumstances. This website provides additional guidance that will enhance the ability of educational entities to comply with Act 1's mandates, ensuring comprehensive support for affected students. Also, the Center for Schools and Communities is now offering technical assistance (TA) support for Act 1 of 2022.
- [Complaints Against a School \(pa.gov/agencies/education/resources\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/education/resources)
Complaints against both non-public, non-licensed schools and licensed private academic schools must be formalized in writing, providing specific details. This website provides an overview of the process, a complaint form, and a resource account to email for support.
- [Publicly Placed Complaint \(pa.gov/agencies/education/resources\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/education/resources)
A publicly placed student is a school-aged individual placed by a court or child welfare agency in various institutions like Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions (PRRI), detention centers, or state correctional facilities. The Department of Education aims to provide all students in Pennsylvania access to a safe and high-quality education, regardless of their placement. This website offers complaint procedures, submission forms, a resource account email, and ConsultLine for families for additional assistance.

Final Rule, Separate Licensing Standards for Relative or Kinship Foster Family Homes

On September 28, 2023, the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) issued a final rule amending regulations to allow Title IV-E agencies to claim Title IV-E federal financial participation for the cost of foster care maintenance payments on behalf of an otherwise eligible child who is placed in a relative or kinship licensed or approved foster family home when the agency uses different licensing standards for relative or kinship foster family homes versus non-relative/non-kinship foster family homes. Prior to the publication of this new rule, federal regulations required Title IV-E agencies to use the same licensing standards for both kin and non-kin

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caregivers, disregarding the unique needs of kinship homes.

This new rule encourages Title IV-E agencies to develop separate kinship-specific licensing standards that place as few burdens on relative and kinship families as possible, limited to federal requirements only, such as the safety requirements in sections 471(a)(10)(A) and (a)(20) of the Social Security Act. In addition, the new rule requires Title IV-E agencies to provide all licensed or approved relative or kinship foster family homes with the same amount of Foster Care Maintenance Payments that would have been made if the child was placed in a licensed or approved unrelated foster family home.

According to the federal rule, states may elect to establish separate kinship-specific licensing standards that are in accord with recommended standards of national organizations for foster family homes related to:

- Admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights,
- Use of the reasonable and prudent parenting standard; and,
- Procedures for criminal records checks, including fingerprint-based checks of national crime information databases.

OCYF consulted with DHS Executive Offices, including the Office of General Counsel, Office of Legislative Affairs, and the DHS Executive Policy Office on the process to implement separate kinship-specific licensing standards. Upon consultation, it was determined that a legislative amendment would be required to allow for the implementation of separate kinship-specific licensing standards.

OCYF continues to work closely with these offices on the process to introduce a legislative amendment. OCYF intends to share the proposed standards for comment and feedback from community partners. More information will be forthcoming in the next several months.

Voluntary Resolution Agreement between Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Federal Office of Civil Rights

In July 2023, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Federal Office of Civil Rights (OCR) entered into a Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) to resolve a complaint filed alleging discrimination, specifically withholding participation in services, based on an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-defined condition.

As a recipient of federal funding, DHS OCYF and its program offices, including county children and youth agencies (CCYAs) and agencies with which

they contract, are obligated to comply with federal civil rights laws and are subject to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and its implementing regulations. By entering into the agreement, DHS OCYF affirmed that it will comply with all provisions of Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. To ensure compliance by DHS OCYF and the county children and youth agencies, OCR outlined several requirements that apply to OCYF and the county children and youth agencies. To transmit these requirements to CCYAs, OCYF has issued Special Transmittals in September 2023, December 2023, and April 2024.

The third Special Transmittal, released on April 9, 2024, outlines requirements for staff training and verification of training. These training requirements extended to CCYAs and the agencies with which they contract.

Pennsylvania is in the final year of the Voluntary Resolution Agreement (PA VRA). To meet the requirements of the agreement all staff involved in the provision of child welfare services to children and/or families via child protective services programs, services, and activities that DHS administers, oversees, or provides directly or through the CCYAs or through sub-recipients or contractors must take the Supporting Children and Families with Disabilities Year 2 training before July 30, 2025. Those who took the training in Year 1 must take the training again in Year 2, along with new staff who meet the requirement criteria. The Year 2 VRA training can be accessed via [Supporting Children and Families with Disabilities \(e-learn.pitt.edu\)](https://e-learn.pitt.edu). Contracted agencies are required to use the new attestation form for year two to attest that all required individuals from their organization have taken the training. The form can be located at [Attestation of Supporting Children and Families with Disabilities Training - Year 2 \(office.com\)](https://office.com). If you have any questions about the training or the VRA, please reach out to ra-pwocyf-adaresource@pa.gov.

Trauma Toolbox

The OCYF Trauma Team is proud to announce the release of the Trauma Toolbox! It is important to recognize the widespread burden that secondary trauma and workplace stress are having on the workforce and families that staff work with. The Trauma Team determined that the gathering of resources in one convenient place may be helpful. This resource is known as the Trauma Toolbox. The Trauma Toolbox contains information to help normalize trauma reactions, understand behaviors, and offer information to seek further assistance in healing. The [Trauma Toolbox \(pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources\)](https://pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources) can be found on the Department of Human Services website.

Sensitivity Suite

The OCYF Trauma Team will once again be offering a Sensitivity Suite at the 2025 Annual Permanency Conference in the Ebony Room. We invite you to make use of this space at your discretion. Remember, self-care is important when taking in increased information and processing our learning journey. Enjoy your time in the Sensitivity Suite and return to the sessions feeling rejuvenated. The Sensitivity Suite is sponsored by the Department of Human Services, the Office of Children, Youth, and Families, and the OCYF Trauma Team.

Trauma Training Available for Child Welfare Professionals

OCYF is pleased to announce the continuation of our partnership with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in contracting with Lakeside Global Institute to provide Pennsylvania child welfare professionals **FREE trauma training**. A child welfare professional includes anyone who serves children and families who live in Pennsylvania. This applies to professionals or organizations that work to improve the lives of children and families.

Register now through September 2025.

Interested in workshops? Click here: register.lakesidetraing.org/pa-ocyf-workshops-2025/.

Interested in the Intensive Courses? Click here: register.lakesidetraing.org/pa-ocyf-intensive-courses-2025/.

Questions relating to any of these trainings shall be directed to Beth Hall at: bethh@lakesidetraing.org.

Citizen Review Panel

The Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) in Pennsylvania are seeking new volunteer members for their regional panels in Northwest, North Central, and Southeast Pennsylvania. The CRPs address local and statewide concerns and provide recommendations for improvements in child welfare.

To apply for membership, please follow the link www.pacwrc.pitt.edu/CRP/JoinUs.html to fill out an application. Please note that mandatory FBI and statewide criminal background checks, as well as a child abuse history clearance, will be required as part of the application process. If you have any questions about the process or need additional information, or if you are not located in one of the CRP regions and are interested in joining, please email pacrp@pitt.edu.

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

NYTD collects information in the following areas: Baseline Population (every youth in foster care who reaches age 17), Served Population (any youth or young adult receiving independent living services regardless of age) and Follow-up Population (youth surveys at age 19 and 21, depending on Cohort period). Pennsylvania is currently in Cohort 5 for 19-year-old Follow-up Surveys. The 2025 B period began on April 1, 2025, with all data from follow-up surveys and served population for this reporting period due by October 15, 2025. Counties can log onto www.getnytdpa.org to enter their served and survey data. NYTD questions can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at liglezen@pa.gov or 717-787-7056.

If you have new staff, need assistance with resetting your password, forgot your username, or have other technical assistance questions related to NYTD, please contact the NYTD Help Desk at 800-436-4105 or getnytd@pcgus.com.

Chafee Education and Training Grant Programs

The Pennsylvania Chafee Education and Training Grant (ETG) application and instructions for the 2025–2026 academic year are available on PHEAA's website at [Chafee Education and Training Grant Program](https://www.pheaa.org/Chafee-Education-and-Training-Grant-Program) ([pheaa.org](https://www.pheaa.org)). The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026. Please ensure students are filling out the application for the correct academic year.

As a reminder, current ETG award recipients will automatically be enrolled for the next academic year and do not need to complete another ETG application. The ETG award amount cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance.

Questions regarding the ETG program can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at liglezen@pa.gov or at 717-787-7056. Youth who have questions related to their ETG application can contact PHEAA at 1-800-831-0797.

Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program

The Fostering Independence through Education Program, known as FosterEd, requires Pennsylvania post-secondary institutions to award a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees for Pennsylvania resident youth who meet Chafee ETG eligibility requirements and have applied for all available federal and state grants. Tuition and mandatory fee waivers apply to both public (state) colleges and universities, community colleges, private post-secondary institutions, and other eligible schools. Youth are eligible to

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receive the waivers for 5 years, which need not be consecutive, or until age 26. All youth who apply for Chafee ETG are automatically evaluated for FosterEd.

In addition to the waivers, each post-secondary institution must appoint a Point of Contact (POC) to assist youth with eligibility, technical assistance, and other resources that may be available to them on and off campus. County and private provider IL Caseworkers/Coordinators may be contacted by the POC to verify a youth's eligibility. This is a critical step in assisting youth with verifying their eligibility when entering post-secondary education and financial aid packages are being awarded.

Each post-secondary education institution is required to have their identified POC listed on their website. A list of POCs can be found on the [Center for Schools and Communities website at Foster Care Contact Directory \(center-school.org\)](#).

Additional information about the tuition waiver can be found at [PA Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program \(PHEAA/FosterEd.org\)](#). Questions regarding FosterEd can be directed to Lindsey Glezen at linglezen@pa.gov or at 717-787-7056.

Credit Reports

The [Social Security Act §475 \(ssa.gov\)](#) requires that CCYAs perform credit checks for all youth in foster care at age 14 and older by **all three** credit bureaus on a **yearly** basis. Each Credit Bureau has a specific contact person and process to ensure foster care youths' credit history checks are completed appropriately. If you have questions regarding credit report requirements or need assistance obtaining a credit history from one of the Credit Bureaus, please contact Lindsey Glezen at linglezen@pa.gov or at 717-787-7056.

New Student Loan Repayment Loan Options

The US Department of Education announced the reopening of two student loan repayment plans to give borrowers more options to keep their payments affordable. Please share with anyone who might benefit from having this information.

The Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) repayment plans offer income-driven repayment (IDR) and credit for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) to eligible borrowers enrolled in the currently [enjoined Saving on a Valuable Education \(SAVE\) Plan \(ed.gov/higher-education/manage-your-loans/save-plan\)](#), as well as other terms that borrowers may wish to consider.

- As income-driven repayment plans, Income-Contingent Repayment and Pay as You Earn set monthly payments based on borrowers' earnings and family size and have allowed

borrowers to earn loan forgiveness after 20 to 25 years. And many public servants use them to keep their payments low as they work to earn Public Service Loan Forgiveness after just 10 years.

- The Income-Contingent Repayment and Pay as You Earn applications are available at [StudentAid.gov/idr](https://studentaid.gov/idr).
- To apply, borrowers need to log in to their studentaid.gov account and upload income information.
- The US Department of Education authorized new enrollments in the plans through regulatory changes.
- The Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) and Pay as You Earn plans will remain available to new enrollments until July 1, 2027.

Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Initiatives – American Bar Association (ABA)

Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project and Education Barriers Project

The ABA Pennsylvania Permanency Barriers Project and Education Barriers Project work collaboratively with key county stakeholders from the child welfare agency, court, education system, private providers, and community to prevent child welfare system involvement and help identify and correct the delays that impede permanency for youth in care. Additionally, the Education Barriers Project focuses on improving education outcomes for children in foster care as a key component to permanency and life success.

The project is a two-to-three-year model working with each project county to accomplish the following four major tasks:

- Provide a focus on system change by identifying and analyzing barriers.
- Collaboratively develop county-driven, county-owned action plans created with a local advisory board and subcommittees.
- Ensure regular communication and connection, through regular onsite visits and virtual meetings facilitated by ABA staff, serving as a neutral and strategic partner, working to develop and implement reforms.
- Monitor, achieve and report on measurable results.

Pennsylvania Specific Technical Assistance

As an alternative to the multi-year model, we also provide PA-specific intensive technical assistance, which can range from a one-day training to a multi-month engagement. Areas of special focus in Pennsylvania have included:

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- improving court and agency relationships
- integrating a kin-first culture
- providing hands-on court skills and testifying training for caseworkers
- incorporating a race equity lens in child welfare
- implementing trauma-informed court practices
- meeting the educational needs of youth in foster care
- improving school stability and education decision-making
- special education advocacy
- engaging parents in educational advocacy

For more information on Permanency Barriers technical assistance, please see: [PA Permanency Project \(americanbar.org\)](#) or contact Heidi Redlich Epstein at heidi.epstein@americanbar.org.

For more information on the Education Barriers to Permanency Project, please see: [Education Barriers to Permanency Project \(americanbar.org\)](#) or contact Kathleen McNaught at kathleen.mcnaught@americanbar.org.

Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA)

With the retirement of longtime executive director Kathy Ramper on June 30, 2025, the Pennsylvania State Resource Family Association (PSRFA) Board has appointed Melissa Geesaman as its new executive director. Melissa brings a deep commitment to supporting resource families and ensuring strong permanency services across the state.

The PSRFA community extends its deepest gratitude to Kathy Ramper for her years of dedicated leadership, tireless advocacy, and unwavering commitment to resource families. Her work has profoundly impacted the lives of countless children and caregivers, and we celebrate her lasting legacy as she embarks on this new chapter.

One of Melissa's first major events in her new role will be overseeing the PSRFA annual conference, scheduled for October 22-23, 2025, at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg. This highly anticipated gathering welcomes all resource families, including foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers, —along with health professionals and both public and private agency staff dedicated to permanency services. Additional details will be released in the near future.

A highlight of this year's conference will be keynote speaker Dominic Carter, a well-respected TV journalist, author of *No Momma's Boy: How I*

Let Go of My Past and Embraced the Future, and a survivor of childhood abuse. His powerful story is expected to resonate deeply with attendees.

If you or your resource families are interested in attending or receiving event updates, please reach out to Melissa Geesaman at mgeesaman@psrfa.org to be added to the mailing list.

Join us as we celebrate Kathy's remarkable contributions, welcome Melissa into her new role, and come together to support and uplift resource families across Pennsylvania!

CWEB and CWEL Programs

Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates (CWEB)

The CWEB program is now present in 22 schools across the state, which provides ample opportunity for senior social work majors to prepare for public child welfare employment. CWEB students complete child welfare coursework, enroll in Foundations training, and engage in a child welfare practicum in one of the 67 county child welfare agencies. They are ready to join the workforce immediately following graduation. Students accepted into the program receive tuition and fees at the in-state rate for their senior year, fellowship payments during their internship, a bonus upon graduation, and more. Upon graduation, a one-year work commitment in a Pennsylvania public child welfare agency is required. Through the spring term of 2024-2025, 39 students completed studies and began agency employment. Application reviews for the upcoming fall 2025 term are in process. The application deadline for the spring 2026 term is November 30th. For more information, visit [Child Welfare Education for Baccalaureates \(socialwork.pitt.edu\)](http://ChildWelfareEducationforBaccalaureates.socialwork.pitt.edu).

Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL)

The CWEL Program strengthens Pennsylvania public child welfare services by providing graduate-level educational opportunities for current public child welfare professionals at 13 partner graduate schools. Seven programs offer a fully online course of study. Counties and OCYF approve students for either full-time or part-time participation; all students accepted into the program receive tuition and fees at the in-state rate, reimbursement for books, and other benefits. Full-time students are also granted an educational leave from their jobs, and their county employers receive reimbursement for the student's salary and benefits. Upon graduation, a work commitment at their county agency is required. Through the spring term of 2024-2025, 54 students completed studies and resumed agency employment. Application reviews are in process for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. Additional information is available

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at: [Child Welfare Education Leadership](mailto:socialwork.pitt.edu) (socialwork.pitt.edu).

The CWEL and CWEB Teams are available to provide presentations to County Commissioners, Advisory Boards, Agency Leadership Teams, Agency Staff Members, and Independent Living Programs. For more information and to schedule a presentation, please contact Laura Borish, CWEB/CWEL Agency Coordinator at lbb14@pitt.edu or 412-334-9122.

Pennsylvania Kinship Navigator Program, KinConnector

The PA KinConnector Program offers kinship caregivers and professionals who work with kinship caregivers support, guidance, training and resources. Please provide kinship caregivers with information about PA KinConnector. The PA KinConnector website (Kinconnector.org) and helpline can be reached at 866-546-2111.

The website includes a comprehensive, guided search feature of resources in the following topic areas: childcare, clothing, financial assistance, food, legal, medical, school, and support groups. Also available on the website are training opportunities for both professionals and kinship caregivers, printable resources, a podcast series called "Kindred Voices," and a virtual Support Group called "Kindred Spirits."

OCYF encourages all county and provider agencies to connect to PA KinConnector and learn more about the services offered, provide new community resource information for website inclusion and to establish partnerships for program growth across the state. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to Diane Michel at dmichel@pa.gov or 717-705-2911.

Kinship Care Summit

The second Kinship Care Summit will be held on Saturday, September 13th, 2025, as a part of National Kinship Care Month, at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. This in-person event will also offer a live stream. Additional information can be found at [What's Happening \(Kinconnector.org\)](http://What's Happening (Kinconnector.org)) and registration is currently open at [Kinship Care Summit 2025 "Lessons from Heart and Home" \(Kinconnector.org\)](http://Kinship Care Summit 2025 'Lessons from Heart and Home' (Kinconnector.org))!

Please feel free to contact Diane Michel at dmichel@pa.gov or 717-705-2911 with any questions regarding the event.

Accurint

Accurint is an online search tool available to every county throughout the state. It is able to assist with family finding efforts, contact information,

criminal checks and identifying individuals for any type of family engagement meeting. Each county must have a county employee who is designated as their Accurint administrator. Administrators can be Accurint users or non-users. Non-user administrators do not count toward the county's allotment of users. Counties may have more than one Accurint administrator. If you or your staff would like training on the Accurint software, please contact Accurint Education Consultant, Bill News, at William.News@lexisnexisrisk.com or 215-285-7108.

Additionally, you can look up trainings on the [National Training Calendar \(learn.lexisnexisrisk.com\)](http://National Training Calendar (learn.lexisnexisrisk.com)). If you have any questions about Accurint or to set up a non-user administrator account, please contact Jessica Andrews-Slagel at jandrewssl@pa.gov or 717-787-2726.

Mandated Reporter Training

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance (PFSA) offers virtual and in-person, three-hour Mandated Reporter Trainings (MRT) at no cost to mandated reporters in Pennsylvania. PFSA also offers trainings with Spanish translators, American Sign Language and Certified Deaf Interpreter translations.

Trainings include, "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse" which meets all the requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse, as well as "Responding to Disclosures of Child Abuse" and "Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect", for mandated reporters who have taken Mandated Reporter Training before and need to take it again. The "Responding to Disclosures of Child Abuse" training is designed to help participants respond to disclosures of child abuse in a way that is sensitive and supportive to the child, but without tainting the child's memory. The "Recognizing and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect" training helps participants recognize the signs of neglect, determine when and how to make a referral, and increase understanding of General Protective Services and agency procedures.

All trainings utilize a child abuse recognition and reporting training curriculum approved by DHS in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), as well as approved by the Department of State (DOS) for persons requiring continuing education credit toward licensure or certification.

PFSA also offers a specialized Residential Care Facility Training (RCFT) for individuals who are employed by organizations and agencies licensed under Title 55, Chapter 3800, Child Residential and Day Treatment Facilities. The RCFT Program

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provides information to appropriately identify recordable, reportable, and suspected child abuse incidents, as well as information about documentation, minimal facts interviewing and development and implementation of plans of supervision for staff who are under investigation of suspected child abuse. Additional information and training dates can be found on the [PSFA website \(pafsa.org\)](https://pafsa.org). For questions or to schedule a specific session for your organization, please email PFSA at training@pa-fsa.org.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (PA-AAP) offers Mandated Reporter Trainings, specifically for Primary Care Physicians (and their staff), Hospitals, Emergency Medical Services and School Nurses, through their Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) program. To schedule in-person or virtual training for medical professionals, contact PA-AAP at scan@paaap.org or call 866-823-7226.

Media Campaign

The #MeetTheKids media campaign is designed to recruit foster and adoptive families across Pennsylvania through a strategic multimedia approach. Television ads aired from November 2024 to February 2025 and resumed in May 2025 across six media markets. Radio ads ran in November and December 2024, restarting in May 2025. Digital ads on Google, Hulu, Facebook, Instagram, and Cumulus followed the same schedule, ensuring broad outreach and engagement.

While this media campaign airs, agencies should be prepared to promptly respond to phone calls from prospective foster and adoptive families.

Waiting Child Segments

The Department of Human Services, Office of Children Youth and Families is pleased to inform the network that two additional television stations now feature waiting child segments. WJAC (serving the Johnstown area) and WSEE/WICU (covering the Erie area) have partnered with DHS/OCYF and are scheduling and airing waiting child segments. These new partnerships provide the opportunity to enhance child-specific recruitment efforts across the Commonwealth.

Please contact, Katie Juliana at kjuliana@diakon-swan.org to schedule children or youth to be featured on WJAC and Nic Landon at nlandon@diakon-swan.org to schedule children or youth to be featured on WSEE/WICU.

All agencies are encouraged to utilize these new waiting child segment partners and to continue to utilize KDKA, WHTM and WBRE. Waiting child segments have proven to be successful over the

years in helping find permanent homes for children in foster care.

As a reminder, *Waiting Child* is aired on KDKA-TV, channel 2, a Pittsburgh CBS affiliate; *Val's Kids* is aired on abc27 WHTM in the Harrisburg area; and *A Little Love* is aired on WBRE-TV, channel 28, a Wilkes-Barre NBC affiliate.

If you have a child you would like featured on KDKA's *Waiting Child*, please contact Ja-Neen Jones at TRAC Services for Families at jjones@tracpgh.org or Nikita Lewis at nlewis@diakon-swan.org.

If you have a waiting child you would like featured on WHTM's *Val's Kids*, please contact Alfredo Gonzalez at algonzalez@diakon-swan.org.

If you have a waiting child you would like featured on WBRE's *A Little Love*, please contact Sarah Reiss at sreiss@diakon-swan.org.

SWAN/IL Google Groups

The SWAN/IL Listserv, hosted through Google Groups, serves as an excellent platform for network members to share confidential information, waiting families, waiting children, matching events, and post-permanency resources. It also provides opportunities to seek advice from colleagues and announce upcoming events. Membership is limited to employees of county children and youth agencies, SWAN affiliate agencies, or IL providers. If interested, please contact Isabel Madrigal at imadrigal@diakon-swan.org or 717-558-1223.

Interstate Compact Unit

The PA Interstate Unit does not have the ability to process USPS, FedEx, or UPS "paper mail". When providing any case documents to the Interstate Unit, please use the unit's Resource Accounts, fax, or the Interstate/County DocuShare collection. Case documents include request packets, completed Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) home studies, 100Bs, supervisory reports, Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA) documents, etc.

Resource Accounts:

RA-PA-ICPC@pa.gov for ICPC cases

RA-PA-ICAMA@pa.gov for ICAMA cases

Interstate Unit Fax Number:

717-425-5562

In a runaway situation, email Amanda Behe at abehe@pa.gov or Natalie (Primak) Mwaniki at nmwaniki@pa.gov.

Clearance Verification Unit

Childline's Clearance Verification Unit (CVU) provides eligible individuals with the following three clearances: Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Fingerprint Clearance and National Sex Offenders Registry (NSOR). The Pennsylvania (PA) Child Abuse History clearance can be submitted and paid for online through the [Child Welfare Information Solution \(CWIS\) self-service portal \(www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis\)](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis). Applicants are able to view and print their results online.

CVU will also accept PA Child Abuse History Clearance applications in paper format for anyone who may not have access to the internet. Results for paper applications are mailed to the appropriate address noted on the form and within 14 days from the date that the application is received in CVU.

The Commonwealth's vendor for digital fingerprinting is IDEMIA (also referred to as Identogo or MorphoTrust). The fingerprint-based background check is a multi-step process. For general questions about FBI clearances, please contact the FBI Background Check Unit at 1-877-371-5422. For IDEMIA registration, processing, or billing questions, please contact IDEMIA/Identogo at 1-844-321-2101. To register online, go to www.Identogo.com or call 1-844-321-2101 and listen to the options menu.

CVU is responsible for processing out-of-state clearances for resource parents, including adoptive and foster parents, when a resource parent has resided outside of Pennsylvania within the past five years. Prospective foster and adoptive parents required to obtain an out-of-state Child Abuse clearance are **no longer required** to submit the clearance to ChildLine for interpretation **IF** the clearance shows *no result (or no record)*. Out-of-State Child Abuse clearances with **ANY** result or record, **are required** to be submitted to ChildLine for interpretation.

Visit [Keep Kids Safe \(pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe.html\)](http://pa.gov/agencies/dhs/resources/keep-kids-safe.html) for additional information regarding the clearance or call us at 877-371-5422.

Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF)

P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2675
717-787-3984
www.dhs.pa.gov

CFSR Round 4 is Coming to Pennsylvania!

Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) are a joint local, state, and federal effort designed to:

Ensure compliance with federal child welfare requirements;

Learn what is happening with children and families in the child welfare system; and

Help states to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.

CFSR involves the following phases:

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT

This phase collects and provides evidence to the federal government to demonstrate the effectiveness of the state's child welfare system.

ONSITE REVIEWS

Assess the state's child welfare outcomes through case reviews and stakeholder interviews.

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP)

Develop a plan to address the state's areas needing improvement, implement it, and monitor our progress.

Planning and preparations are underway for CFSR Round 4 to begin in 2026.

Look for more information to come as planning continues!



Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services
Office of Children, Youth, and Families



To learn more now, go to [Understanding the CFSRs](#).

Email PACFSR@pitt.edu with any questions or requests for additional information.

From the SWAN Prime Contract
Diakon-SWAN, LLC/Voce

State Fiscal Year 2024-25 Referrals

As we near the end of state fiscal year (SFY) 2024-2025, some needs-based budget (NBB) dollars remain unspent. Counties should continue to make referrals for children, youth and families who need services. Affiliates are encouraged to continue to submit family profile, family matching, and family matching extension service referrals as well.

For referrals to be applied to the SFY 2024-25 NBB, referrals must be submitted to the SWAN prime contractor **by 11:59 pm on or before Monday, June 30, 2025**. Any referral received after this cut-off time will be held and processed in SFY 2025-26. Processing of SFY 2025-26 referrals is expected to begin on Thursday, July 10, 2025.

If your county has exhausted its SWAN SFY 2024-25 NBB dollars, do not stop referring. DHS has authorized the reallocation of funds among counties so that the use of these dollars can be maximized. The SWAN prime contractor will continue to process referrals received for SFY 2024-25 until the NBB dollars are exhausted.

Affiliate Agreement and SWAN Subcontract Extensions

DHS/OCYF issued a six-month extension to the SWAN prime contract. The contract extension term begins July 1, 2025 and continues until December 31, 2025. Accordingly, Diakon-SWAN, LLC is extending the Purchase of Service Affiliate Agreements and Subcontractor Agreements for the same contract term.

Keep “Waiting Child” Videos Fresh

Starting in July 2025, PAE will no longer link to “waiting child” videos over two years old on a youth’s AdoptPAKids page. We always want to represent youth in their current and up-to-date state. When youth have multiple or older videos on their page, it can also underscore how long they have been waiting. Now that we have seven television stations willing to conduct tapings, please consider scheduling a new, fresh one! For more information, please review Tips #11 and #12 in the *CSR Strategies for Permanency*, available on swantoolkit.org.

Updated Guidance on Writing Narratives for PAE Registered Youth

PAE has updated Tip #3: How to Write a Strength-Based Public Narrative in the *CSR Strategies for Permanency* to better reflect current practices, increase clarity and provide additional guidance.

Now, narratives must be 150 words, or about a quarter of a page. At a *minimum*, it should be updated yearly to reflect the youth’s growth, development and wishes. For more information, please review Tip #3 in the *CSR Strategies for Permanency*, available on the swantoolkit.org.

SWAN’s E-Learning Center - Units of Service Training Courses at Your Fingertips

Are you a new affiliate worker learning how to complete a quality Child Profile, an experienced Child Specific Recruitment worker who wants a refresher on creating an individualized CSR Plan or a county worker looking for more information about Child Preparation before making a referral? The SWAN E-Learning Center can meet all of your training needs.

The E-Learning center provides training courses on each of the SWAN Units of Service. These include Child Profile, Child Preparation, CSR, Family Profile, Placement & Finalization and Post-permanency. Family Matching is currently in development.

Each comprehensive course includes interactive activities, quizzes and discussion points for supervisors to reinforce transfer of learning. Courses also provide videos of experienced affiliate and county workers offering practice tips, step-by-step instruction on completing benchmarks and required templates as well as examples of thoroughly completed documents. A certificate of training is available at the completion of each course.

Courses are easily accessible to anyone in or out of the network and can be accessed at any time at swan-online.net. A user can begin the course, stop to attend to other duties and later re-enter the course to pick up where they left off.

Additionally, if a user is simply looking for a refresher on a particular activity within a Unit of Service, they can directly access the module in a course where the specific activity is addressed. For example, a user seeking a refresher on Lifebook work can navigate directly to the specific module within the Child Preparation course without needing to complete the entire course.

Additionally, users seeking a broader overview of each Unit of Service can opt to exclusively access the introductory modules within each course to gain general information.

The SWAN E-Learning Center is a dynamic resource that is convenient for busy staff. Be sure to check out available courses, which are invaluable to new workers and great refreshers for seasoned workers and supervisors.

Please contact your SWAN regional technical assistant (RTA) with any questions.

Affiliate Referred Family Profile (ARFP) Analysis

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving permanency outcomes, the SWAN technical assistance division is exploring ways to increase referral rates for Family Matching and identifying strategies to support affiliates through training, reducing barriers and fostering continued collaboration.

As part of this effort, the division recently collaborated with affiliate agencies to conduct a review of Affiliate Referred Family Profiles (ARFPs), aiming to better understand the outcomes for families engaged in the matching process, which seeks to provide permanency for children and youth in county custody. The analysis included 505 families referred across 50 affiliates between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2024, with services marked as Paid, Invoiced or Submitted to SWAN. Further, it showed that 52% of these families also received Family Matching services.

SWAN Family Matching is a relatively new unit of service, developed to help standardize matching services across the state, and there is naturally a learning curve for its implementation. Taking a closer look at these services helps the SWAN prime contractor work more closely with affiliates to increase referrals for matching activities. If you have any questions about family services, reach out to your SWAN RTA.

Staff Update: Legal Training

The Legal Training Specialist team is excited to welcome our newest team member, **Brandon Schemery, Esquire**. Before joining the SWAN prime contractor, Brandon practiced law for over a decade, litigating matters across central and northeastern Pennsylvania. His areas of practice included a significant focus on custody, divorce, dependency, children and youth investigations, adoptions, and protective orders, including appellate practice in the Pennsylvania Superior and Commonwealth Courts. Brandon is a graduate of Ursinus College, where he majored in politics and minored in international business and international relations. He subsequently graduated from Widener University School of Law and is a board member of several community-based non-profit organizations. We encourage you to extend a warm welcome to him as he integrates into our team and network.

Research Confirms Depth and Effectiveness of SWAN LSI Diligent Search Efforts

The SWAN prime contractor's Research and Quality Assurance Division continually evaluates the SWAN Legal Services Initiative (LSI) by analyzing

available data. Their findings consistently show diligent search to be one of the most powerful and effective tools offered by LSI.

A recent analysis of internal data indicates that 61 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties (approximately 90%) currently use SWAN LSI paralegals to perform some type of diligent search activity including, but not limited to, searches to locate missing parents. Specifically, 54 of the 67 counties (approximately 81%) use LSI paralegals to perform diligent searches specifically for the purposes of family finding.

Feedback from county partners speaks to the effectiveness of SWAN LSI's diligent search efforts. In the 2024 LSI County Partner Survey, **96% of all respondents indicated that LSI paralegals have a positive impact on locating missing parents and kin through diligent search.** Further, **93% of all respondents indicated that LSI Diligent Search efforts lead to more successful engagement of parents and kin.** Additionally, **95% of all survey respondents agreed that SWAN LSI paralegals' efforts increase the efficiency of the overall diligent search process.**

Resources related to diligent search are publicly available, including the *SWAN LSI Diligent Search Packet* (now in its 9th edition), the *SWAN ICWA Search Guide* and the recently updated *Incarceration Resource Manual*. However, it is the expertise and specialized training of LSI staff that optimize tools, leading to real-world results for children and their families.

SWAN LSI looks forward to continuing collaboration with our county partners to maximize the impact of diligent searches for Pennsylvania children in foster care.

Upcoming Diligent Search Training

SWAN LSI is excited to announce the release of the *SWAN Diligent Search Training*, which is expected to be available this fall. In this training, participants will be guided through the comprehensive search packet, which outlines the search process and ensures compliance with the laws and regulations governing search and family finding practice. Participants will be able to define a diligent search, gain an understanding of the history of diligent search, understand the purpose behind search, and learn more in-depth about the various types of searches required. Additionally, they will gain resources and information to streamline their individual agency search process. Stay tuned for this exciting training, coming your way soon!

SWAN LSI released its 9th Edition of the *SWAN LSI Diligent Search Packet* in February 2024. This

Continued on p. 13

latest Edition includes important and updated information to help ensure that your agency is in compliance with both new and existing laws related to diligent search and family finding. Additionally, the *SWAN ICWA Search Guide* is available to inform about compliance with the *Indian Child Welfare Act*. Both publications are available at swantoolkit.org. For questions about diligent search practice, contact your LSI coordinator.

SWAN LSI Incarcerated Resource Manual (IRM): Fifth Edition Released

The fifth edition of the SWAN LSI Incarceration Resource Manual has been released. This new version can be found at swantoolkit.org. The SWAN LSI IRM remains a valuable resource to help overcome challenges and enhance outcomes for this important population.

While the effects of parental incarceration are far-reaching, those who care for the children of incarcerated parents can help keep familial connections strong. SWAN LSI developed the IRM as a comprehensive tool for child welfare professionals use for case planning with incarcerated parents and as a resource to support the county agencies' efforts to engage with these parties.

The manual provides protocols for each county correctional facility in Pennsylvania including:

- Guidance on written and telephone communication to support contact between the incarcerated parents and children;
- Visitation schedules or video visitation to support parent-child visitation; and
- Services available to the incarcerated parent to support reunification and permanency efforts.

If you have any questions about this resource, or have updates about a facility's protocols, contact lsiirmupdates@diakon-swan.org.

Save the Date for the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show

Milkshakes, baby goats, rodeos, unique food, parking passes and more! The 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show will take place January 10-16, 2026 in Harrisburg. The Farm Show is a fun opportunity for the network to interact with the public and raise awareness about foster care, adoption and permanency. Consider volunteering to help staff the SWAN booth and interact with thousands of members of the public. Be on the lookout for additional information in the fall. Questions? Contact PAE coordinator Alfredo Gonzalez at algonzalez@diakon-swan.org.

SWAN Prime Contract

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PO Box 959

Camp Hill, PA 17011

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www.diakon-swan.org

www.dhs.pa.gov/AdoptPAkids



**From the PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
Independent Living (IL) Project**
University of Pittsburgh

Older Youth Retreat

The Older Youth Retreat will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown Campus July 28 – August 1, 2025. Registration information was sent to all county-identified IL Coordinators and remains open until June 27, 2025. Additional information can be found at payab.pitt.edu/ILRetreat.htm. Please feel free to contact Meghan O'Hare, meo43@pitt.edu with any questions regarding the event.

Older Youth Training and Resources

There are several sources of information and training related to older youth maintained by the CWRC that are free and available:

PA Child Welfare Resource Center website:
pacwrc.pitt.edu/

Webinars specific to older youth:
pacwrc.pitt.edu/Webinars.htm

Youth Advisory Board (YAB) Leadership Summit

The PA YAB 2025 Leadership Summit was held on June 11 – 12th, 2025, at CWRC. This event allowed youth from across the state to participate in workshops related to college, housing, and aftercare. This event was youth-led and provided an opportunity for youth to display leadership skills and improve public speaking skills. YAB members play an active role in shaping policy recommendations and advocating for systemic change. They speak up about the challenges youth in care face and directly participate in developing solutions at the county, regional and statewide levels. Through meetings and discussions with child welfare professionals and policymakers, YAB ensures that youth voices are heard where decisions are made. By actively engaging in these spaces, youth influence policies that impact their lives, helping to create a more youth-centered child welfare system. Please like and follow the YAB on Facebook and Instagram.

YAB and CRP: Empowering Foster Youth for Independence

The YAB is a vital part of the Citizens Review Panels (CRP) and is one of four panels across the state that assess and improve the child welfare system. YAB consists of young people with lived experience in foster care who advocate for policy

changes that directly impact youth in care, ensuring that youth perspectives shape the panel's broader mission. The CRP is a federally mandated group responsible for evaluating child welfare practices and ensuring they are effective, transparent, and responsive to the needs of youth and families across Pennsylvania. Currently, the YAB is focusing on key initiatives, including pregnant and parenting youth, normalcy, and financial literacy.

NYTD Council for Youth

The NYTD Council for Youth is an exciting initiative aimed at empowering youth with lived experience in foster care to provide valuable feedback and insights that will influence state-level policy decisions. The council will allow youth to engage in discussions about their needs, challenges, and opportunities, giving them a platform to shape the future of youth services. By fostering a sense of community and shared purpose, the council will also focus on developing leadership skills, advocacy and providing a space for peer support. This initiative underscores the importance of youth participation in policymaking and ensures that youth voices are integral in shaping the programs and services that affect them. More information will be provided as the council develops and as resources become available.

YAB Regional Consultants

CWRC is seeking YAB Regional Consultants for the Northwest, South Central, and North Central regions. The purpose of the YAB consultants is to ensure grassroots advocacy efforts for older youth initiatives are supported at the local and regional levels. The consultants coordinate all activity and communication for the regional YABs, including meetings, statewide YAB meetings, community service events and legislative initiatives. Each regional YAB is allocated funding to support advocacy efforts within their regions. The consultants assist with managing the funding, including documents, stipends, reimbursements, and other purchase-reimbursable items. Additionally, the consultants provide mentoring and coordinate professional development opportunities for the regional YAB. Please contact Carl Butler IV at clb379@pitt.edu if interested or for additional information.

PA Child Welfare Resource Center (CWRC)
403 E. Winding Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-795-9048
www.payab.pitt.edu

ABA Permanency Barriers Project

A project of the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project works with you to reduce the time children spend in foster care before achieving permanency.

Principles

1. Permanency begins on Day 1.
2. Small steps add up to change.
3. Full stakeholder engagement is key to realize and maintain system reform.

Project Approach

1 Focus on System Change

ABA staff help local stakeholders develop individualized county action plans. The action plans are based on a thorough assessment of needs, which includes:

- Case file review
- Court observation
- Data analysis
- Focus groups with stakeholders

2 County-Driven, County-Owned

Each jurisdiction encounters unique challenges. We form a county Advisory Board and issue-based subcommittees made up of lead decisionmakers, including:

- Child welfare agency administrators and staff
- Behavioral health providers
- Juvenile and family court judges
- School administrators
- Agency, parent, and children's attorneys
- Others, as identified by county

3 ABA as Neutral Facilitator and Strategic Partner

ABA staff are on site monthly working to develop and implement reforms.

- Our attorneys bring extensive firsthand knowledge and national perspective to guide your county.
- We ensure all stakeholders join the effort as equal partners.
- We focus on system barriers and engagement between the legal and nonlegal communities at both the county and state level.
- We provide individualized attention, which can include refining court and agency procedures, providing legal analysis, and conducting trainings.

4 Improved Outcomes

At the end of this two-year project, you will see:

- More efficient and effective pathways to permanency for every case;
- A reduction of time in foster care for children in your county; and
- Improved communication, network building, and stakeholder collaboration.

Measurable Results

At the end of the two-year project each county receives a final project report that summarizes results and provides recommendations to sustain system change. To date, the project has:

- ✓ served **55** different counties in **four** states,
- ✓ reduced the time children spend in foster care in all four states by an average of **nine months**,
- ✓ realized a positive impact on more than **3,000** children,
- ✓ saved counties and states over **\$30 million** in foster care costs.

Targeted Technical Assistance

As an alternative to the two-year model, we provide targeted technical assistance on permanency matters through on-site trainings, developing local protocols, facilitating meetings, and other solutions to address local challenges. ABA technical assistance can range from a one-day training to a multi-month engagement.

Get Started Today

The ABA Permanency Barriers Project can work with your county to promote permanency for children in foster care.

For more information, contact:
Heidi Redlich Epstein, 202-662-1725
Heidi.Epstein@americanbar.org

This project is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of Children, Youth and Families.

ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project

A project of the American Bar Association, Center on Children and the Law

The **ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project** improves school experiences and outcomes for children in foster care to promote permanency and life success.

Key Principles

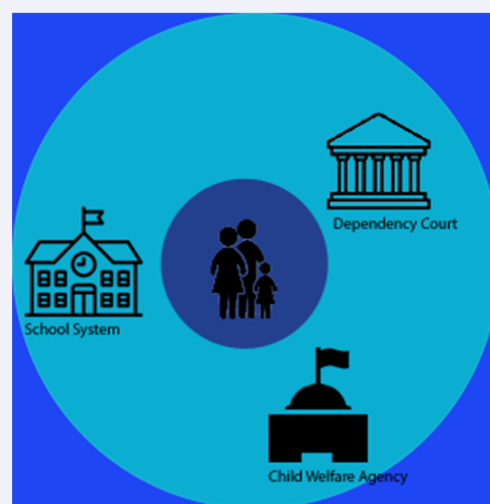
1. **School stability strengthens placement stability** and often speeds permanency for children and families.
2. **School success guides life success.** Focusing on the full educational experience (including needs and supports) improves school and life outcomes.
3. **Child welfare agencies, schools, and courts must work together** to create a support network for students in foster care.

How the Project Helps

The Education Barriers project can:

- ✓ **Identify strengths and challenges** child welfare agency, education, and court systems experience supporting education success for children in care.
- ✓ **Develop strategies, practices, and policies** to address challenges and improve education success for children in care.
- ✓ **Provide targeted technical assistance** to address needs and train educators, child welfare staff, and the legal community.
- ✓ **Collaborate on a long-term reform strategy** to address barriers and needs and implement reforms (see Full project components, right).

A Collaborative Approach



Full project components:

1. Identify education barriers.
2. Recommend and implement changes.
3. Work with child welfare, education, and court systems to develop and implement new policies and procedures.
4. Monitor improvements and changes.
5. Measure and report project results.

Get started today

The ABA Education Barriers to Permanency Project can work with your jurisdiction to promote permanency for children in foster care by addressing children's education needs. Contact us to get started or to learn more.



Kathleen McNaught, 202/662-1966



Kathleen.McNaught@americanbar.org



<http://www.abaeducationbarriers.org>