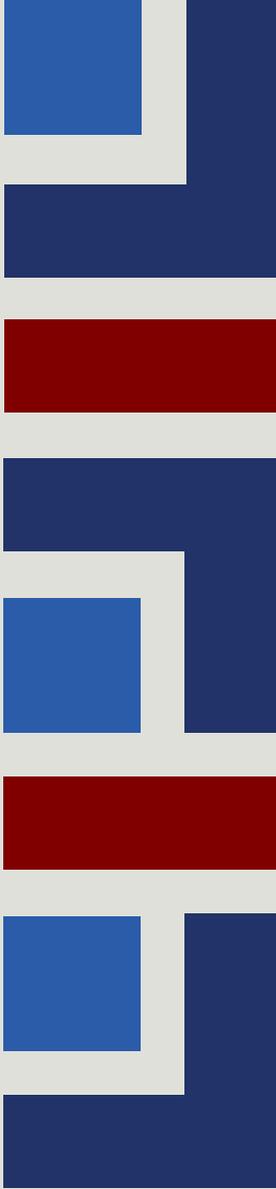


#NSWM 2019

# Leveraging the Family First Prevention and Services Act to Encourage Innovation and Maximize Performance Management and Impact

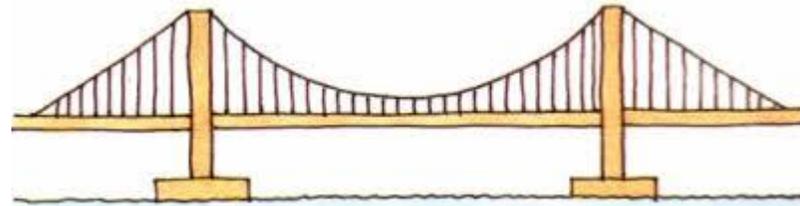
Yolanda Green Rogers, MSW; Miranda Lynch, MS  
Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago



# Bridging the Gap Between What We Know and What We Do

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*Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago is a research and policy center, focused on a mission of improving the well-being of children and youth, families, and their communities.*



*Chapin Hall provides public and private decision-makers with rigorous data analysis and achievable solutions to support them in improving the lives of society's most vulnerable children, youth and families.*

# Our Approach: Actionable Solutions and Sustainable Results



*Jurisdictions build new capacity to:*

- Use data and evidence in decision-making
- Lead toward a strategic direction and priority outcomes
- Build structures that support strong governance and outcome attainment
- Implement strategies to meet specific needs of children and families
- Align policies and finances to gain traction and momentum
- Monitor progress and continually improve

*Impact*

- Jurisdictions become learning organizations ready to respond to Family First Prevention Services Act, CCWIS, new evidence and levers, etc.

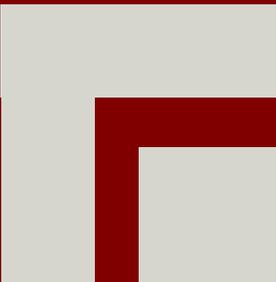
**Building capacity across domains creates readiness to leverage current & future system improvement and transformation opportunities**

# Goals for this Presentation

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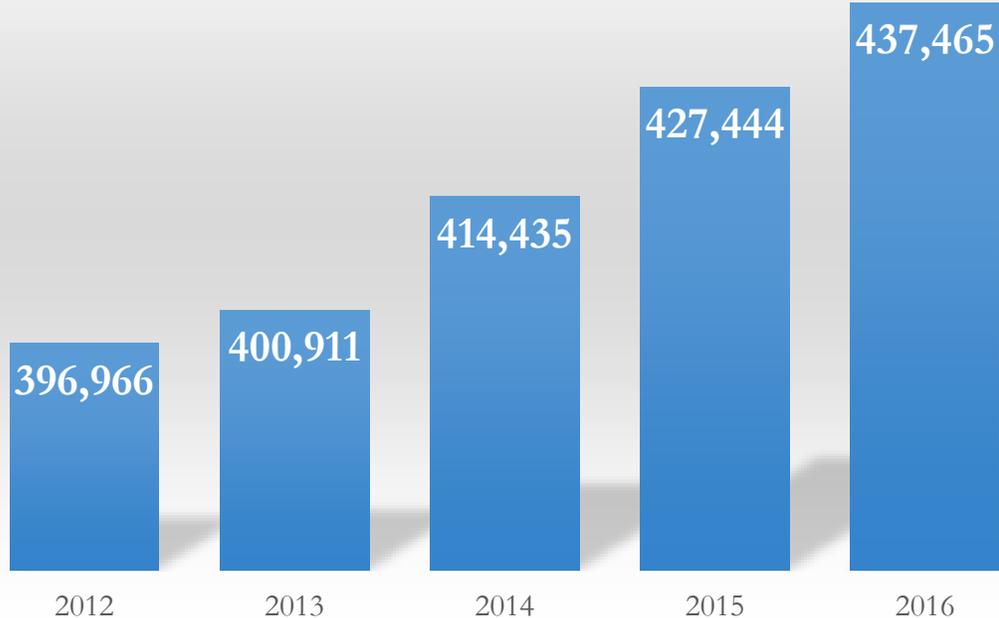
- Provide context for understanding Family First by providing a brief overview of the child welfare population and policy environment.
- Provide a description of key provisions and opportunities in Family First to promote family stability and well-being.
- Understand implications and opportunities to engage stakeholders to assess, human services, practices and business processes to better serve communities at risk.
- Highlight approaches that promote agencies' engaging in assessment and continuous quality improvement (CQI) and achieving maximum impact.

Context –  
The Child Welfare Population and  
Funding for Services



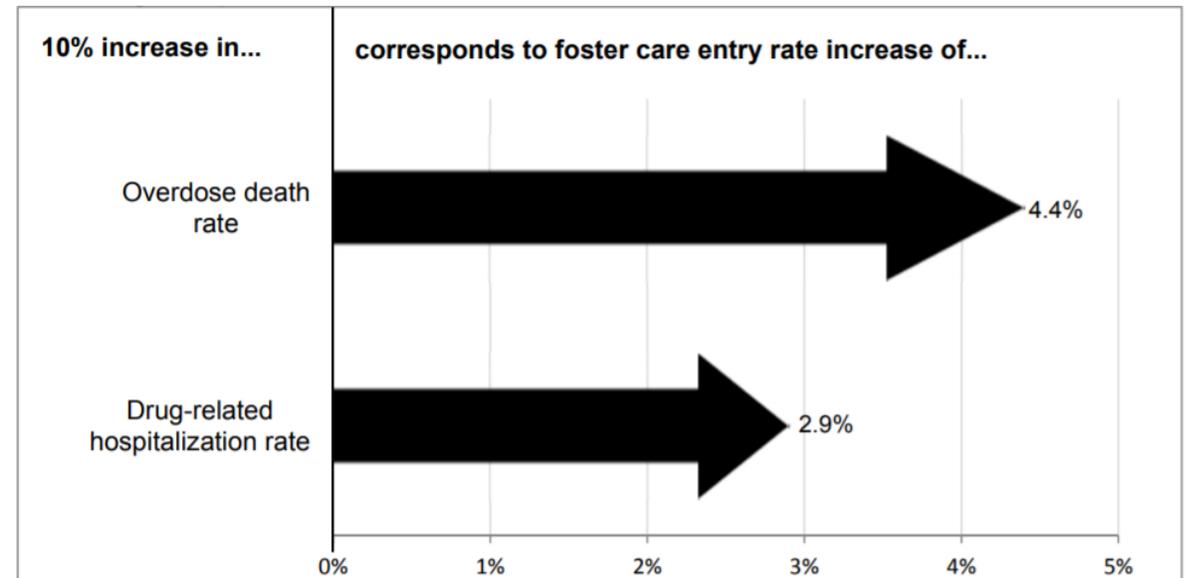
# Child Welfare Population: Foster Care

Children In Foster Care Last Day of FFY



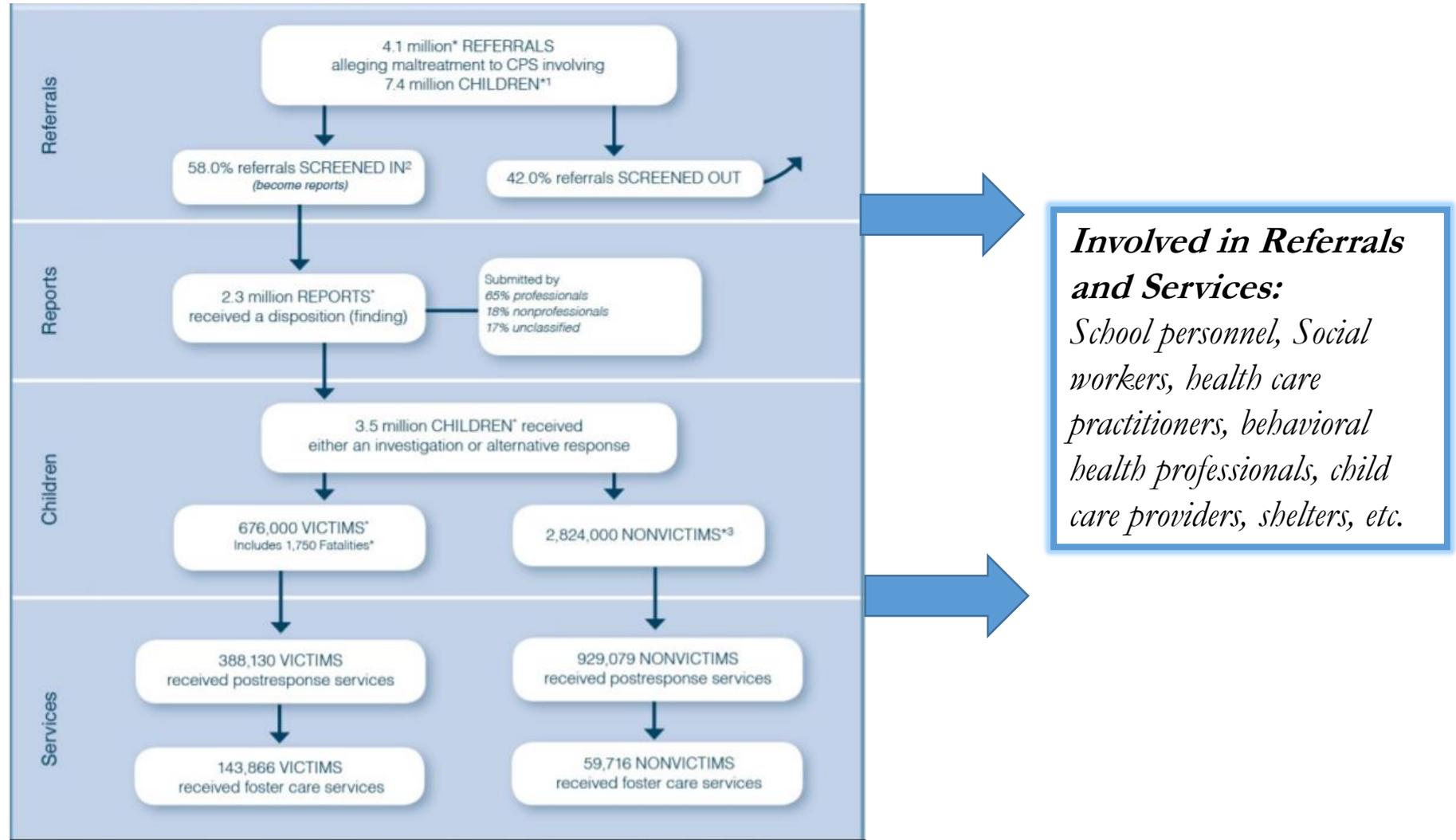
Source: U.S. DHHS, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. AFCARS Report #24

Overdose Death and Drug-Related Hospitalization Rates and Foster Care Entry Rates, 2011-2016



Source: U.S. DHHS. ASPE Research Brief: The Relationship between Substance Use Indicators and Child Welfare Caseloads. March 2018

# Child Welfare Population: Exposure to the Child Protection System



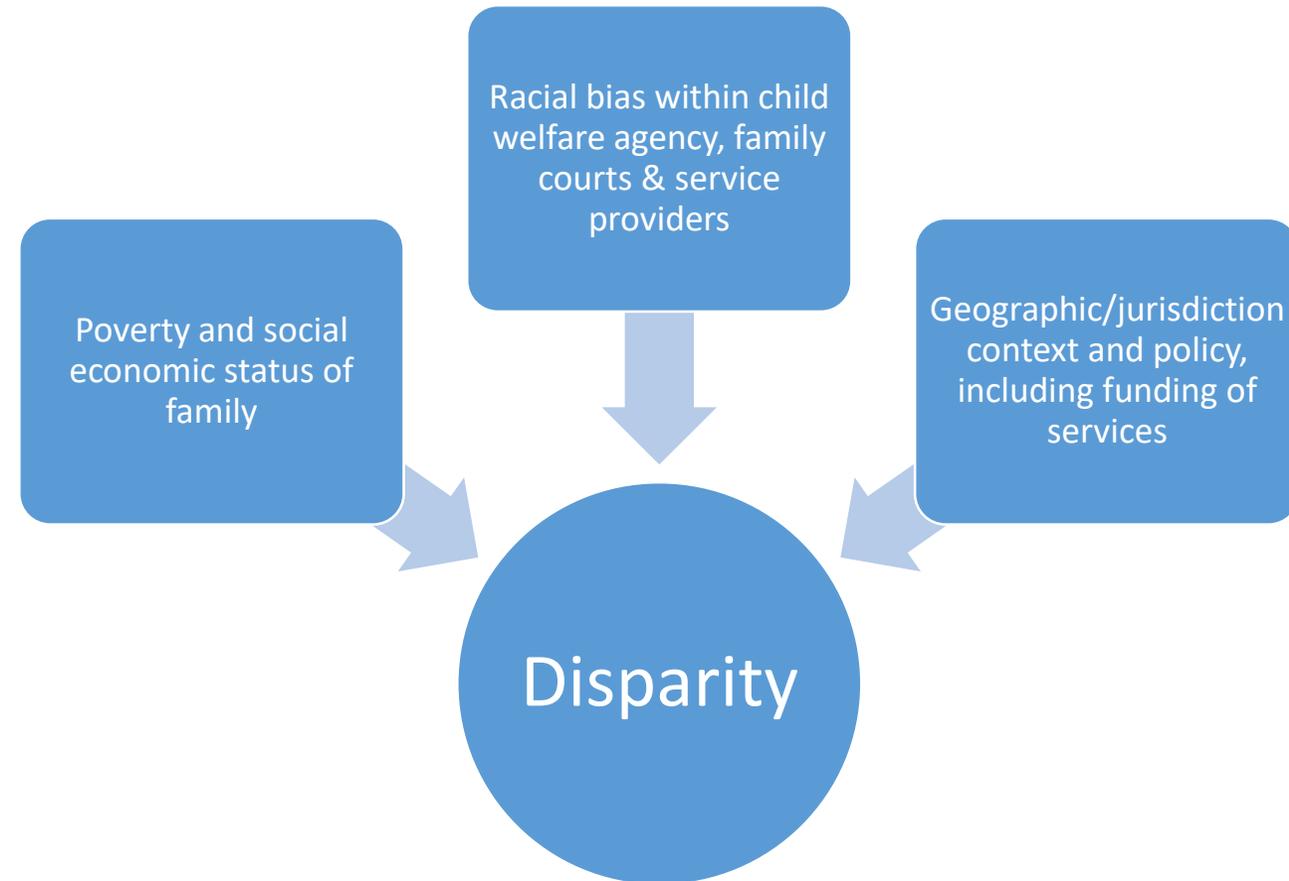
Source: U.S. DHHS.  
Children's Bureau. *Child Maltreatment 2016*. February 2018.

# Disproportionality and Disparity in Child Welfare

Racial Disproportionality Index at Select Child Welfare Intervention Points, 2014

Child Race/Ethnicity	Identified as Victims	Entering Foster Care	Waiting for Adoption
White	0.9	0.9	0.8
<b>American Indian</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>African American</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.0	1.1	0.6
<b>Asian</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Hispanic – all races	1.0	0.9	1.0

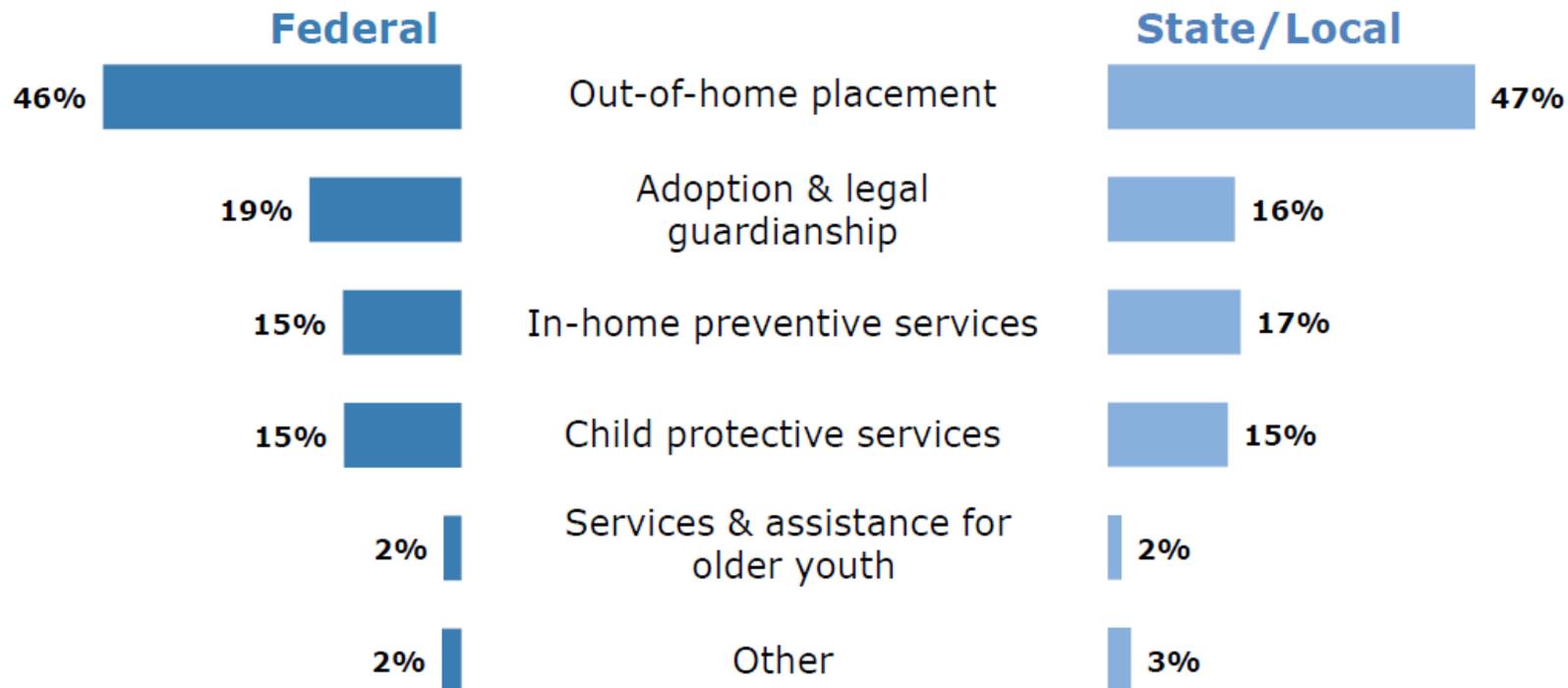
Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway. Issue Brief - Racial Disproportionality and Disparity in Child Welfare. November 2016.



Source: Papers from a Research Symposium Convened by the Center for the Study of Social Policy and The Annie E. Casey Foundation on behalf of The Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare. Disparities and Disproportionality in Child Welfare: Analysis of the Research. December 2011.

# Federal and State spending in Child Welfare

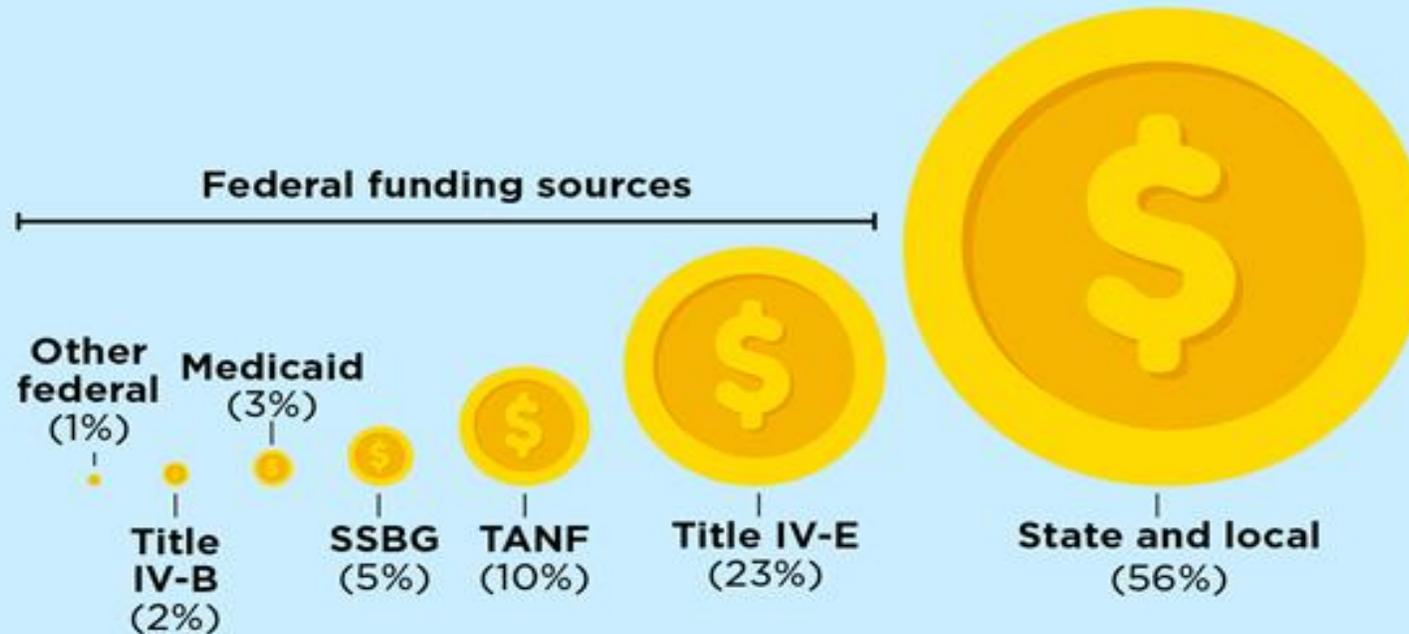
## Proportion of federal and state/local expenditures on categories of services



Source: ChildTrends. Highlights from the SFY 2014 Child Welfare Financing Survey. December 2016.

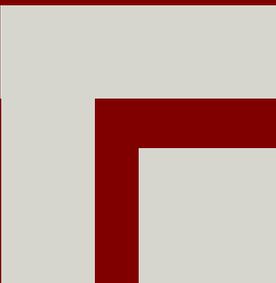
# Federal financing of child welfare

## Sources of child welfare funding in SFY 2014



Note: Each state reported data based on its state fiscal year 2014—for most states, this was July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.. Of the 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, only six (AL, DC, MI, NY, TX, and WY) reported a different SFY calendar.

# Family First Prevention and Services Act: Provisions and Opportunities



# Family First: A Real Transformational Opportunity



- Landmark legislation: **Most significant child welfare law in 20 years**
- Dramatically **alters the federal financing structure** for child welfare programming
- Provides the legislative foundation for states to **substantially transform their child welfare systems to invest more in family preservation services and family-based placements** for children and youth who must enter foster care
- Creates platform for establishing or furthering **transformational vision and leadership**

# Leveraging Family First to Promote Child Welfare System Transformation

Prevention

Evidence Based Interventions

High Quality Group Care

Other Family Support Provisions

# Family First provisions to stabilize families

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## Prevention

- States will have the option to use title IV-E federal funds for evidence-based preventive services/programs for children and youth determined to be at imminent risk of foster care, as well as for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.
- Prevention services are for children/parents/kin caregivers regardless of income, and defined as:
  - Skill based parenting programs – individual and family counseling, parenting skills and parent education
  - Substance abuse treatment and prevention
  - Mental health treatment

# Family First provisions to focus on evidence

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Evidence  
Based  
Interventions

- Prevention services must meet one of 3 levels of evidence: *promising, supported and well-supported*.
- Half of prevention service investments must be at the well-supported level.
- States must submit to the federal government a *Prevention Plan* that prompts careful consideration of selected services, target populations, intended outcomes, etc.
- Federal funding for evidence-based kinship navigator programs

# Family First provisions to support right-sizing group care

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High  
Quality  
Group Care

- Restricts federal financial support for children in child care institutions to:
  - ✓ Facilities that meet the *Qualified Residential Treatment Program* (QRTP) criteria (e.g., accredited, trauma informed, engages family and provides after care) for any child's stay beyond 2 weeks.
  - ✓ Children whose assessment completed within 30 days indicates their clinical needs are best met in that setting.
- Additional safeguards for children placed in QRTPs include specific case planning requirements, review and hearing requirements, and court approval of placements.

# Family First provisions to support right-sizing group care

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## Other Family Support Provisions

- Federal grant funds can be used to provide reunification services while children and youth are in care, and up to 15 months post-reunification.
- Federal funds can support a child in foster care placed with their parent in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility
- Prevention services for children living with relatives, outside of formal foster care
- Federal investment in kinship navigation services

# Transformative Opportunities that could be leveraged in Family First

- ✓ **Transforming** the child welfare focus from foster care to prevention, increased family stability, and well-being
- ✓ **Engaging** the community in reimagining the role of the child welfare system
- ✓ **Applying** a trauma-responsive lens to the continuum of prevention and out of home services
- ✓ **Partnering** across systems (mental health, substance use, juvenile justice, early childhood, health, etc.) to align prevention efforts
- ✓ **Expanding** the evidence base in child welfare and spreading innovative practices
- ✓ **Reinventing** the business model of residential care providers to best serve families
- ✓ **Aligning** processes for deploying clinical and functional assessments

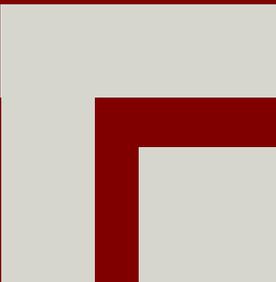


# Discussion Questions

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- What opportunities do you see to better serve vulnerable children and families? e.g.,
  - To increase the availability of effective services.
  - To fill gaps in the service array that could prevent the need for foster care.
  - To increase the evidence for promising services.
  - To provide multidisciplinary training that will improve the effectiveness of front line staff and providers.
- What partnerships should be created or leveraged to maximize those opportunities?

# Approaches and Tools for Impact



# Assessment & Planning

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- Maximize and leverage the provisions in Family First to promote system transformation.
- Be methodical in planning to identify opportunities to embed the transformation throughout the system.
- Clarify direction and strategy and align resources to be successful.
- Develop clear and integrated implementation plans to ensure comprehensive approach and effective tracking and evaluation.
- Be well prepared and ready to implement!

# Family First: Chapin Hall's Approach to Readiness Assessment, Planning and Capacity Building for Implementation

## Transformation Framework

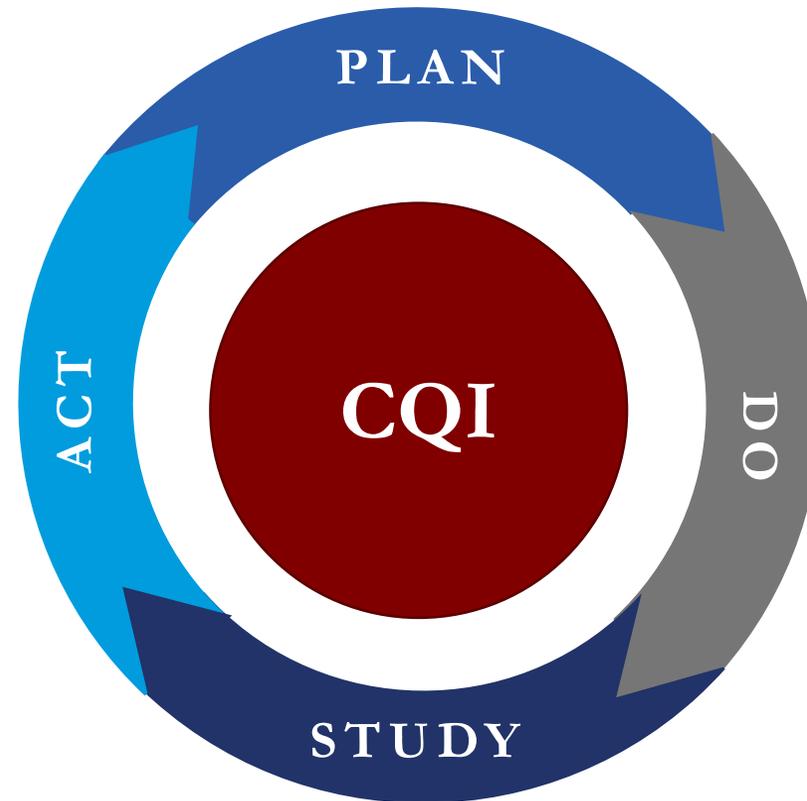


# Continuous Quality Improvement

*“The ultimate goal of CQI is to enable organizations to improve their overall performance on an ongoing basis”*

(“Section 3: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Child Welfare”, n.d.)

- Incorporate CQI and capacity building to become a learning system.



# Foundations of CQI

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CQI relies on an **organizational culture** that is proactive, supports continuous learning and is firmly grounded in the overall mission, vision, and values of the agency.

(Casey Family Programs & the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement, 2005)

Quality CQI efforts are dependent upon the **active inclusion and participation** of staff at all levels of the agency, children, youth, families, and stakeholders throughout the process.

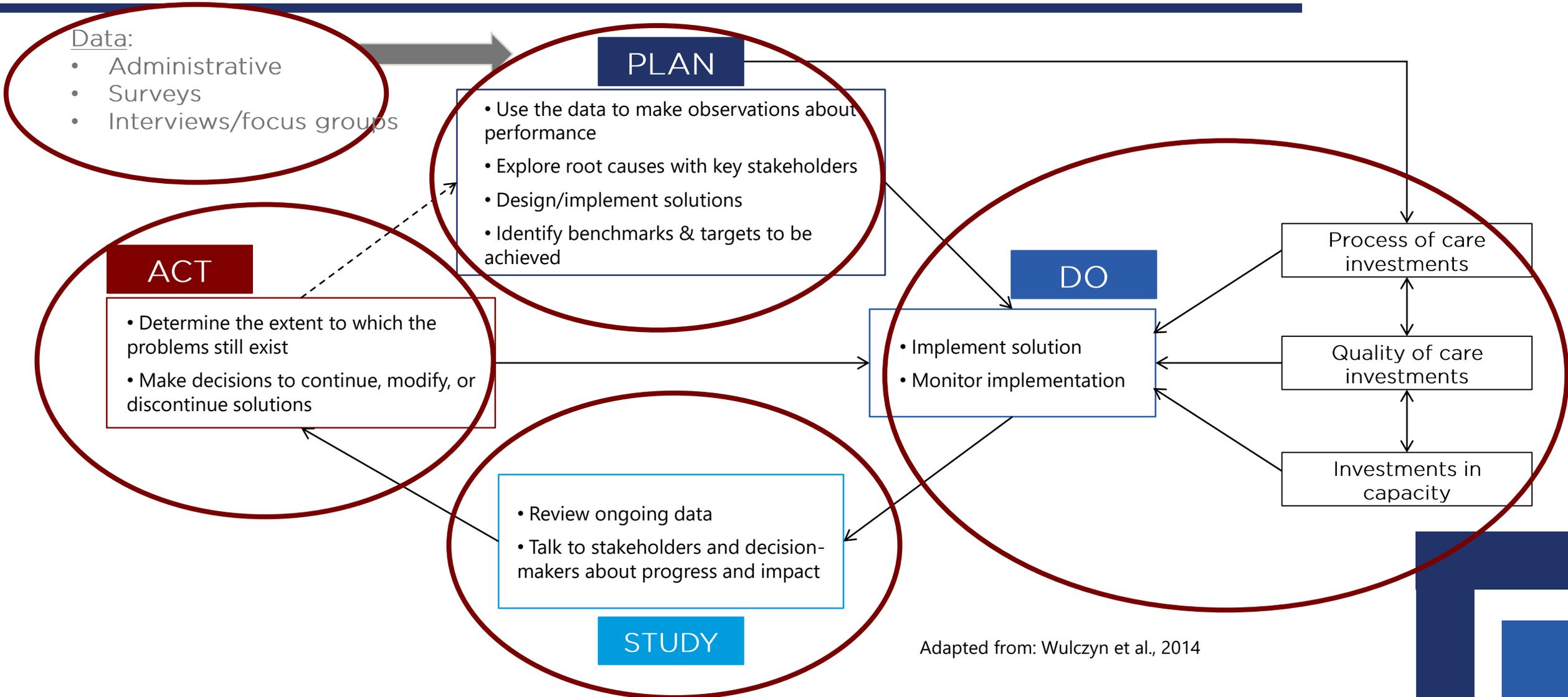
(Administration on Children, Youth and Families, 2012)

A high quality CQI approach incorporates the **rigorous use of evidence**.

(Wulczyn et al, 2014)



# Improvement planning & decision-making



# Closing Reflection

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- What are the challenges to using a CQI approach to policy implementation?
- What strategies could you use to address these challenges?



# Contact Information

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