



Strengthen Families and Keep Kids Safe

By Promoting Effective Implementation of Child Welfare Reforms and Investments

With passage of House Bill 1 and state budget investments in 2018, Kentucky demonstrated its commitment to improving the system that protects children and strengthens families. These reforms and investments support change within the courts, the Cabinet for Health and Family Service (CHFS), and the organizations and agencies serving kids who come to the attention of child protective services to ensure all these components work together and lead to better outcomes for Kentucky kids and families.

When children have experienced — or are at risk of experiencing — abuse or neglect, Kentucky can improve how it responds to and supports kids and families:

- Focus on quality of, and access to, family preservation services that keep families together safely.
- Ensure that cost is not a barrier for youth in foster care who request copies of their birth certificate from the state.
- Implement a kinship care program and other supports for grandparents and other relatives who step up to help raise relative children.
- Establish processes, procedures, and requirements to ensure children in foster care receive timely reunification with their parents or achieve other permanent placement with a family.
- Notify foster parents and appropriate school personnel before a child in their care moves placements to help with a smoother transition for the child.
- Require the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) to regularly report average caseloads of child protection workers.
- Submit findings of the performance-based contracting study and the privatization of foster care services study to the Governor and legislators to emphasize the permanent placement outcomes for children in the care of DCBS.
- Utilize the investments for technology and for the recruitment and retention of child protection workers.
- Maximize the investments to better support children awaiting adoption.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Promote effective implementation of House Bill 1 and investments in child welfare to strengthen families and keep kids safe.