

BIRTH AND FOSTER PARENT PARTNERSHIP

Directory of Strategies and Resources

This directory includes strategies and resources that build strong partnerships between birth parents, foster families, kinship caregivers and agency staff and improve systems to support children and families nationwide.

Updated September 12, 2023



Birth and Foster Parent Strategies

The Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) was formed in 2016 to support birth parents, foster families and kinship care providers in building connections and using their voices to transform systems, policies, and practices to improve permanency outcomes for children and families. The partnership is being managed through a collaboration between the Children's Trust Fund Alliance (Alliance), Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative, and Casey Family Programs.

This document includes strategies nationwide that the BFPP has collected to help birth parents and caregivers work together to keep children safe at home whenever possible to facilitate reunification and prevent re-entry when foster care is necessary. The matrix includes the name and a description of the strategy, contact information, and the locations where the strategy currently exists.

Please note that this is an evolving list of strategies and will be updated as new information is received. To submit information to be added and/ or to update existing information, please email info@ctfalliance.org.

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Birth and Foster Parent Partnership Strategies

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York	<p>We do a live radio broadcast every Sunday night entitled <i>After the Kids Move In</i>. This broadcast airs from 6:30pm to 7pm Eastern Time and can be listened as a live-stream as the program is airing here: www.am1240wgbb.com</p> <p>One can also listen to all past broadcasts on our website by clicking here: www.affcny.org/radio</p> <p>Our Coalition also has a 24-hour 7 day per week Helpline for adoptive/foster/kinship families. That number is 1-888-80-HELPLine. Or 888-804-3575.</p>	<p>New York State</p> <p>We are the Statewide Coalition for Foster, Adoptive, and Relative Caregivers.</p>	<p>OCFS Funding. Grants. Donations.</p>	<p>Pat O'Brien 718-570-5134 24-hour helpline – 1-888-80-HELPLine or 888-804-3575.</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Arkansas Parent Advisory Council	The Parent Advisory Council is composed of a group of birth parents and kinship caregivers who work together in partnership with the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services to promote policies and improve services and practices in the child welfare system. The council has been in existence since 2018.	Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services	Community- Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds	Website: https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/children-family-services/pac/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
<i>Better Together: Building Blocks to Successful Partnerships Training</i> (curriculum copyrighted by Casey Family Programs and Trainings managed by Children's Trust Fund Alliance)	This training is designed to help foster parents, birth parents and staff to help build equal and mutually respectful partnerships among each other. It is a two-day experiential workshop that fosters equal, mutually respectful partnerships among staff, foster parents and birth parents. The core components of the program include: (1) The benefits of partnering with constituents. (2) Key aspects of meaningful partnerships (3) The value of interacting with other participants to learn from each other and understand others' perspectives (4) Exploring culture as it relates to foster care and meaningful partnerships; and (5) The importance of developing a vision of effective partnerships by discussing the skills needed and identifying the barriers and bridges to partnerships.	New Hampshire Hawaii New Mexico		Meryl Levine, National Director of Parent Partnerships Children's Trust Fund Alliance 818-523-9410, Meryl.levine@ctfalliance.org Website: https://www.epicohana.org/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP)	<p>The Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) was formed in 2016 to support birth parents, foster families, kinship caregivers, and staff in improving relationships, building connections and using their collective voices to transform systems, culture, policies and practices to improve outcomes for children and families. The partnership is being managed through a collaboration between Children’s Trust Fund Alliance, Youth Law Center’s Quality Parenting Initiative and Casey Family Programs. As a collective group, the partnership is working together to accomplish the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identify strategies to help birth parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers work together to keep children and youth safe at home whenever possible and to facilitate reunification and prevent re-entry when foster care is necessary. 			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.org/partnering-with-parents/bfpp/</p>

- Increase involvement of birth parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers in advocacy for improved policies and practices that benefit families, children and youth.
- Change culture and practice in child welfare systems to recruit and retain foster parents and kinship caregivers eager to and capable of partnering with birth parents.

In 2019, BFPP members and the three partnering organizations created two complementary tools that are listed below:

Birth and Foster Parent Partnership: A Relationship Building Guide
<https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sfbf4965b0cb04a4cb3aee4a034aa2042>
Birth and Foster Parent Partnership: A State and Local Leader's Guide to Building a Strong Policy and Practice Foundation
<https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sec3f22c53ca04100a128ff2369207b82>

Strategy/Program name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding source	Contact Information
<i>Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) Relationship Building Guide</i>	The BFPP Relationship Building Guide includes recommendations from and for birth parents and foster parents/kinship care providers on ways they can build a stronger relationship to meet the needs of the child or youth and also work collaboratively with the child welfare worker and other service providers. It is organized with four distinct relationship-building topics followed by a conclusion, glossary, recommended readings, and other resources.			Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/sha/re/view/sfbf4965b0cb04a4cb3aee4a034aa2042

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
<i>Birth and Foster Parent Partnership: A State and Local Leader's Guide to Building a Strong Policy and Practice Foundation</i>	<p><i>The BFPP's A State and Local Leader's Guide to Building a Strong Policy and Practice Foundation</i> shares lessons learned from Quality Parenting Initiative jurisdictions and the national Birth and Foster Parent Partnership movement about culture, practice and policy transformation. This resource provides agency leaders and other stakeholders with strategies for creating the right conditions for culture changes that facilitate strong birth and foster parent partnerships. The practices and policies and implementation tips included reflect the lessons jurisdictions are learning as they listen to parents and shift agency culture. They also reflect direct feedback and suggestions from birth parents and foster parents who have co-parented successfully and who have learned from their own experiences what practices and policies work to help them co-parent well. It also integrates information about how to instigate and sustain a change process that engages all</p>			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sec3f22c53ca04100a128ff2369207b82 </p>

	key stakeholders and utilizes input to create real, lasting system improvements.			
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Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) Relationship Building Guide BFPP Chart 1 - Building the Relationship	<p>This chart can be used to promote discussions between child welfare staff, birth parents and foster parents to help in building positive relationships between the birth parent and the foster parent/kinship caregiver at the beginning of the placement. The chart provides tips on how to create a smooth transition so that the children or youth are able to experience the love, support and care of two families. When both families are willing to work together to coordinate the care of the children or youth, it allows them to maintain a sense of identity and family history and helps them understand the new relationships in their life. It also helps the birth parent and the foster parent feel more supported.</p>			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/s9c67265f80b64adda16e41b6354c2513 </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
<i>BFPP Relationship Building Guide: Chart 2. Supporting the Relationship</i>	<p>This chart can be used to promote discussions between child welfare staff, birth parents and foster parents/kinship caregivers that support open communication between the parents, caregivers and the child to help build trusting and lasting relationships while the child is in placement. The chart provides tips to help birth parents stay connected and share information when the foster parent/kinship caregiver is willing to support and encourage the birth parent and child or youth to ask for help whenever needed. Regular communication between them can help them stay up-to-date on all matters relating to the child and family.</p>			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sc4b35d4a3c8643658f457b8adfa56b9d </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
<i>BFPP Relationship Building Guide: Chart 3. Keeping the Relationship Strong while Working with the System and Planning for Reunification</i>	<p>This chart can be used to promote keeping relationships strong while the children are in care. The chart provides tips to help the birth family and the foster parent/kinship caregiver keep their relationship strong by working as a supportive and unified team. It is especially helpful when the foster parent/kinship caregiver and the birth parent decide together how they will share consistent information about the child with the various other professionals who may be involved in working with the family.</p>			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sead83d392f4745eea3efe06733a40a58 </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
<i>BFPP Relationship Building Guide: Chart 4. Keeping the Relationship Strong after the Family Leaves the Child Welfare System</i>	<p>This chart can be used to promote keeping relationships strong after the child(ren) or youth and parents are reunited and learning how to readjust to living together. In many situations, it is the positive and supportive relationship that the birth parent experienced with the foster parent/kinship caregiver that helped the parent gain the necessary skills and tools to successfully provide a nurturing and stable home for their children. During post reunification, a birth parent may wish to continue having contact and communication with foster parents/kinship caregivers to keep them involved as a support. The birth parent may ask the foster parent/kinship caregivers to attend family celebrations or to help with babysitting or respite care as is done in an extended family system.</p>			<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/share/view/sa1d8aac45baa4a18ab029081fe3cf070 </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Building a Better Future Training (developed by Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF))	The <i>Building a Better Future</i> training is a 3-day interactive training that is implemented by a child welfare worker trainer and a birth parent trainer. Attendees include birth parents, foster/kin/adoptive parents, and child welfare professionals.	Iowa Department of Human Services – With permission from Annie E. Casey Foundation, adapted this curriculum to meet the needs of families in Iowa.	Iowa Department of Human Services	Sara Persons, Iowa Parent Partner Program State Director 641.799.9081 sarap@cfiowa.org

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Caring Connections Calls	<p>A Caring Connections Call is a phone or video call that connects birth parents and caregivers so they can exchange important information about the child/youth. Caring Connections Calls:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Reassures birth parents that their children are safe •Provides the opportunity for the birth parent to share their perspectives and information that they feel is important for the care of the child/youth •Provides caregivers with the opportunity to learn more from the birth parent about the home environment and routines of the child/youth •Helps the child/youth experience love from two families 	Rhode Island		<p>Website: https://ctfalliance.sharefile.com/d-s5968396cefa343e7913350b15c97609e </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Caring Conversations	Children's Trust Fund Alliance manages a mutual support group for parents and caregivers that meets on a weekly basis. The group offers participants the opportunity to build positive social connections. In addition, participants have the opportunity to share their experiences, successes, and concerns.	Nationwide	Children's Trust Fund Alliance	<p><i>Kara Georgi</i> kara.georgi@ctfalliance.org</p> <p>Website: https://ctfalliance.org/partnering-with-parents/bpnn/</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Child Family Teams	Child & Family Teams bring families together with natural supports, service providers, trusted community members, professionals, and others with the goal of providing safety and stability for the children and families. (Requirements of CFT's in California are described in: Assembly Bill (AB) 1068 and practice guidance for the Child and Family Team (CTF) process.	<p>** This is state mandated in all California counties</p> <p>This practice is supported by policy</p>		<p>Integrated Services Unit 744 P Street, MS 8-11-86 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-6600 cwscoordination@dss.ca.gov</p> <p>Website: https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/foster-care/child-and-family-teams</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Circle of Parents (Mutual Support Group)	Free, mutual support groups that foster open exchange of ideas and support in raising children.	<p>Colorado, Washington, Montana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, Illinois, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, DC, Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland</p> <p>Circle of Parents support groups are available nationwide</p>		<p>Toni Miner Birth Parent 303-618-0806 tminer@illuminatecolorado.org</p> <p>National Contact: Julie Rivinak McAdams circleofparentsac@gmail.com 540.412.5826.</p> <p>Website: http://circleofparents.org/</p>

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Comfort Calls	Comfort calls are sometimes arranged by agencies between foster parents and birth parents within 24 hours after the child has been removed. During the call the foster parent introduces himself/herself, tells the birth parent how the child is adjusting. The foster parent also lets the birth parent know of their interest in working in partnership with the parent to minimize the trauma of foster care and support reunification if possible. During the call, the foster parent may try to gather some information from the birth parent regarding sleeping habits, food preferences, likes and dislikes, etc.			Website: https://www.qpi4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Comfort-Calls-Brochure.pdf

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Community Cafés	<p>Community Cafés are guided conversations based on the Strengthening Families™ Protective Factors Framework, leadership development, and parent partnership. These conversations are hosted by parent leaders who use the World Café technique to increase community wisdom, build parent voice, and facilitate action to improve lives for children and birth and foster relationships. These provide a space for collective thoughts to be shared and bring a common thread between birth and foster parents. This approach can provide a way to explore how to begin partnerships between birth and foster parents. The Alliance offers three guides that support the Community Café best practice: 1) Community Café Guide for Hosts: Changing the Lives of Children Through Conversations that Matter, 2) Community Cafés: Revealing Un-foreseen Partnerships, and 3) Guide to Forming A Community Café Leadership Team. To</p>			<p>Children's Trust Fund Alliance info@ctfalliance.org</p>

	download these guides, visit https://ctfalliance.org/building-healthy-communities/#CommunityCafes			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Community Health Services, Peer and Family Support	<p>Bayou Lotus is a Community Health, Peer and Family Support organization, dedicated to providing quality intervention, prevention, recovery, and support programs and services for overall healthier impacts, and quality of life for individuals, children, families, and our communities. After two years of planning and development, the organization launched in 2023. Bayou Lotus promotes strengthening protective factors in families and communities through the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance’s Protective Factors training (<i>Bringing the Protective Factors Framework to Life in Your Work</i>) and by building <i>HOPE</i> (Healthy Outcomes Positive Experiences). Bayou Lotus works with strength-based, person/family centered approaches to increase individual and family resilience, strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of adverse childhood experiences, increase resilience and strengthen recovery from chronic diseases, mental illness,</p>	<p>Louisiana Statewide In-Person Virtual</p>	<p>Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Private donors</p>	<p>Bayou Lotus</p> <p>Danell "Danny" Spillman, Program Director +1 (225) 500-6403 bayoulotuscorp@gmail.com</p> <p>Pasqueal Nguyen Founder +1(337) -577-0044</p> <p>Website: www.bayoulotus.org</p>

and substance use and improve future physical and mental health outcomes. The organization works to engage individuals, families and communities as well as other service providers to help people build resilience, establish positive social connections, increase knowledge, locate and access resources and build social and emotional competence for the people and communities we serve.

In addition, Bayou Lotus promotes the voices of birth parents and caregivers through the Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) and the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership ((BFPP). Bayou Lotus staff promote and utilize the BFPP tools in their community-based work.

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Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model - Interim System (CAPMIS) Training	<p>CAPMIS (Comprehensive Assessment and Planning Model - Interim System). CAPMIS is a structured assessment and decision-support model. It assists workers in making accurate and effective decisions that promote children's safety, permanence, and well-being. CAPMIS guides the casework process throughout the life of a case.</p> <p>This tool was developed by IHS for the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program- http://www.ocwtp.net/PDFs/CW%20Readiness/Section%201/Introduction%20to%20CAPMIS.pdf </p>	<p>Louisiana - Extra Mile Parent Partnership Program</p> <p>Ohio - they are training birth and foster parents on the screening and assessment tools used by caseworkers</p>		<p>Ohio Child Welfare Training Program</p> <p>https://sacwistraining.knowledgeowl.com/help</p>

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Family Connections Program™ (FCP)	<p>The Family Connections Program™ (FCP) focuses on developing a network of support for families involved in the child welfare system by establishing relationships between parents and caregivers that are focused on wellbeing and maintaining essential connections for children placed in out-of-home care. The goal of the program is to ease the transition and reduce the trauma experienced by families involved in the child welfare system by supporting and facilitating a positive working relationship between the child's parents and caregivers.</p> <p>Length of time in existence – 5 years</p> <p>FCP Program Resources (available free for public use) FCP Tidbit Trainings – short online self-paced training modules designed to support parent/caregiver partnerships through education</p>	<p>10 counties in WA state</p>	<p>Signed into law 4/2020</p> <p>Pilot program fully funded in 2021 legislative session</p> <p>Program changed from pilot to permanent and funded for another 2 years during 2023 legislative session</p>	<p>Katie Biron Katieb@amarafamily.org</p> <p>Website: Family Connections Program - Amara (amarafamily.org)</p>

- As of 8/23, 9 trainings are available ranging from Caregivers, Families and Substance Use Disorder to Partnering with Incarcerated Parents and Managing Relationships When Engagement is Inconsistent

FCP Films and Film Discussion Guide for Caregivers and Professionals

Connections 101 – Reoccurring training

Amara's Family Connections Program's Connections 101 is for anyone interested in learning about relationships between parents with child welfare involvement and caregivers of children placed out of home. We encourage case workers, parents, and caregivers to attend this free virtual conversation.

Connections 101 shows how parents and caregivers involved in the child-welfare system can partner to make the experience of foster care less traumatic for everyone involved. We will talk about the value of building child and family-centered relationships, and hear from professionals with lived experience in "the system." Come learn how authentic partnering has

	the potential to transform foster care for kids and families.			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Family Engagement Advisory Boards and Councils	Family engagement advisory boards and councils that include birth parents, foster parents, and kinship caregivers, can help to strengthen programs and policies that impact children and families. This type of advisory body can help to build partnerships and shared responsibility among birth parents, foster parents, kinship care providers, child welfare staff and other service providers in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies that are responsive			Children's Trust Fund Alliance info@ctfalliance.org

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Family Group Decision-Making	Family group decision making is a generic term that includes a number of approaches in which family members are brought together to make decisions about how to care for their children and develop a plan for services.			Website: https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/famcentered/decisions/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Family Voices United	Family Voices United is a collaborative project among Casey Family Programs, Children's Trust Fund Alliance, FosterClub, and Generations United. This collaborative supports prevention services for struggling families, support for kinship caregivers, standardized requirements for residential treatment placements, and services that assist older youth aging out of care. They work closely with partners in multiple states and jurisdictions to elevate the voice and perspective of young people, parents, and kinship providers.		Casey Family Programs	Darius Gordon Darius@fosterclub.com 929-444-3210 Website: https://www.familyvoicesunited.org/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Father Mentor Program and Support Groups	<p>Young Fathers are paired with older more experienced father mentors. Father mentors may help in building partnerships between young fathers and foster parents when appropriate.</p> <p>https://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/services/agency.aspx?pid=paternalopportunitiesprogramsandservicesfathersadvocacyandinclusionservices 61 2 0</p> <p>https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dcss/PaternityOpportunityProgram.html</p> <p>https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-35/september-2016/michael-huesca--making-reunification-possible-for-fathers-/</p>	California Arizona		<p>Contact: Michael Huesca Birth Parent 619-793-9352 michael@sandiegopos.org</p> <p>Edward Casillas Birth Parent edward@familyinvolvementcenter.org</p>

	<p>Fatherhood Organizations gathered by the Children's Bureau: https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=23#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20FatherhoodFirst.org,the%20lives%20of%20their%20children.</p>			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
First Five Nebraska Policy Leadership Academy	<p>The Nebraska Early Childhood Policy Leadership Academy (PLA) is our state's premier, non-partisan leadership development program focused entirely on creating momentum to influence policy issues that affect the care, education and healthy development of young children. PLA members and alumni are part of a dynamic, statewide network of advocates who serve as a valued resource to their communities and the public officials who represent them.</p> <p>This includes Birth, Foster and Kinship Parents.</p>	Nebraska		<p>Website: https://www.firstfivenebraska.org/ </p>

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Foster Parent Advisory Board; Part of the Arc Northern Chesapeake, Region Treatment Foster Care Program	<p>Platform where foster parents meet quarterly to discuss issues, celebrate and highlight accomplishments, review policies/regulations, plan events, and network.</p> <p>Reestablished November 2020</p>	<p>Harford County, Aberdeen, MD</p>	<p>Dept. of Human Services</p>	<p>Marquetta King Foster Parent Advisory Board member Bel Air, MD; kita_ck@hotmail.com</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Foster Parent Support Groups (Amara Agency)	Amara has a bold vision to change the world when it comes to how we support and care for children, adults, and families experiencing foster care and considering adoption, in our communities. We believe all people, regardless of circumstance, deserve the opportunity to thrive. As a nonprofit 501(c)3, we partner with people and communities most impacted by our child welfare system, to address trauma, build connections, and ultimately ensure all children, adults and families feel safe and supported, with a commitment to equity every step of the way.	Washington		Website: https://amarafamily.org/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Foster Parent/ Birth Parent Relational Approach	<p>Foster parents invite birth families to take part in different activities to work on the relationships between child, birth family and foster family while placed in out of home care. Foster Parents invite the birth family to participate in their child's activities, appointments and events such as doctors' appointments, school conferences, major events and family dinners at the foster home. The foster parent and birth parent collaborate and work together while the child is placed in foster care. There are clear roles discussed between the foster parent and birth parent.</p> <p>For WI's definition of partnership parenting see: https://www.qpi4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Partnership-Parenting-WI.pdf </p>	Florida Illinois California North Carolina Wisconsin		

	<p>The Child Welfare Information Gateway offers these great general, state and local examples: https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/reunification/parents/reunification/#:~:text=Foster%20parents%20play%20a%20critical,increase%20the%20likelihood%20of%20reunification.</p>			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Fostering Relationships (formerly known as ABC-V)	<p>The goal of the project is to make visitations between children, foster parents, and birth parents more comfortable and less awkward. The program focuses on: (1) Strengthening the relationship between foster parents and birth parents; (2) Helping parents to have a successful visit and positive interactions with their children; and (3) Increasing experiences for the foster parent and birth parent to work together in supporting parent-child relationships during visitation.</p>	<p>Nevada Florida</p>		<p>Wellpoint Care Network</p> <p>Website: https://wellpointcare.org/media-and-events/blog-stories/abc-v-is-now-fostering-relationships </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Georgia Parent Advisory Council	<p>The Georgia Parent Advisory Council works with the Prevention and Community Support (PCS) Section within the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services to help expand meaningful partnerships between parents, caregivers and staff throughout the system. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Division and PCS on changes to child welfare services and systems, particularly prevention programming. The Council is a sounding board for decisions, ideas and questions that shape the PCS and the Division. The Division and PCS are committed to partnering with the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthen and support families •Engage all community sectors in child abuse and neglect prevention strategies and services •Reduce the need for out-of-home placement of children 	Georgia	TANF Funds - this covers stipends, travel, economic supports to parents in times of need, training, technical assistance, meeting space, etc.	

	<p>The Council includes a diverse group of up to 16 parents (including birth parents, kin caregivers, foster parents and adoptive parents) from across the state who have a range of expertise and personal experiences within the child welfare system or who have successfully used community supports or services to strengthen their own families and overcome challenges in their lives. The Council will serve as partners with PCS and the Division to inform services and practices and to provide a greater understanding of family needs and service gaps.</p>			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Helping Ohio Parent Effectively (HOPE)(Public Children Services Association of Ohio)	HOPE – Coalition of State and Local child welfare agencies engaging parents with “lived experiences” in a variety of ways – cultural, training, parent-led orientations, and serving as advocates / mentors. Its mission is to utilize parent partners to engage and advocate for parents currently involved with the child welfare system ensuring they have the knowledge and support to achieve the best permanency plan for their children.	Ohio		Website: https://www.pcsao.org/programs/primary-parents

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Icebreaker Meetings	<p>Icebreaker meeting is the practice of scheduling and facilitating a meeting between the birth parent(s) and foster caregiver(s) for the purposes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sharing information about the child to support quality care for the child; •reinforcing that birth parent is the expert about their child; •initiating and building a relationship between the caregivers with a common focus on the child 	<p>Alameda County, California (Use CHATs in this county)</p> <p>Louisiana in Covington Regional DCFS Parish Offices</p> <p>Nevada</p>		<p>Website: https://www.aecf.org/resources/ice-breaker-meetings </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Indiana Shared Parent Advisory	The Shared Parent Advisory is a part of DCS's efforts of improving out-of-home care for children, birth parents, and resource parents. The board collaborates on topics like foster parent training, Child and Family Team Practice Module, the Co-Care initiative, ways birth and foster parents can work together while the child is in out of home care, etc. Birth parent and foster parents are able to come together and engage in meaningful discussion on improvement methods based on their own experiences. Currently the board is working on developing a small panel to incorporate in the DCS Super Saturday Trainings. These trainings are facilitated by our foster parent training division and are mainly for foster parents to gain ongoing knowledge on various topics including those listed above. Super Saturdays are all virtual and open to anyone to attend.	Indiana	Indiana Department of Child Services	<p>Monica Roose Birth Parent Advocate Monica.Roose@dcs.in.gov 317-719-0418</p> <p>Information requests can also be sent to our Permanency Initiatives Mailbox at permanencyinitiatives@dcs.in.gov</p>

	<p>All birth parents that participate are from the Birth Parent Advisory Board. In order to be a member of that board, the DCS case has to have been closed a minimum of 12 months or longer. The foster parents participating are members of the federally mandated Citizens Review Panel titled the Foster Parent Advisory Board (I am the coordinator of this board). The Shared Parent Advisory board meeting are held bimonthly and cofacilitated by Monica Roose (Birth Parent Advocate & Permanency Consultant), Melissa Winkler (one of the Foster Care Division Manager) and LaKesha Thomas, (Foster Parent Communication & Support Liaison) as needed.</p>			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Information Sharing Agreements among Birth Parents and Foster Parents	Agreement about how and why birth parents and foster parents will communicate and share information regarding the child and case.	Illinois California		Website: https://www.qpi4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Partnership-Agreement-Form-Sonoma-County-CA.pdf

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Lifebok	<p>According to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange, "a Lifebok is a record of a child's memories, past and present, in his or her own words. As a child moves through foster care, oftentimes his or her life story gets lost. The Lifebok pages are used to document important events and celebrations, honoring a child's life. It is also used as a way to open up discussion and help a child work through losses.</p> <p>These Lifebok pages are a tool that can be useful in any stage of foster care or adoption. The pages can be individually downloaded and printed, allowing the child to hand- select pages they are interested in. It is important to note that not all pages need to be used, only the pages appropriate to the child. Once the pages are printed, it is recommended they be placed in a three-ring binder."</p> <p>https://adoptioncouncil.org/publications/adoption-advocate-no-114/</p>	Iowa Illinois Michigan		<p>Website: https://www.lssi.org/life-books/what-is-a-lifebok/</p>

	http://www.ifapa.org/publications/IFAPA_Lifebook_Pages.asp			
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	https://www.mare.org/Resources/Lifebook			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Mockingbird Family™	Mockingbird Family™ is an innovative foster care delivery model that creates an extended family network to support, develop, and retain quality foster families so they can meet the challenging and complex needs of children and youth experiencing foster care.	Kent, Washington		Website: https://mockingbirdsociety.org/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Oklahoma Parent Partnership Board	The Parent Partnership Board at the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth includes members who represent the multiplicity of Oklahoma's communities. The board includes birth parents, foster parents and kinship caregivers. They are passionate about improving child-serving systems and are motivated to inspire and influence positive outcomes since 2021.	Oklahoma		Isabel Rodriguez (405) 640-3511 Isabel.Rodriguez@occy.ok.gov

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Parent Collaboration Group	The Parent Collaboration Group (PCG) seeks input from biological parents in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Child Protective Services (CPS) program. This initiative encourages collaboration with clients who are affected by the CPS service delivery system and provides a unique perspective on how to improve services to families and children. This collaboration group meets quarterly to discuss current issues facing children and families in the state of Texas. This group makes recommendations to the State Commission.	Texas – Collaboration Group includes representatives from all across the state.		Paula Bibbs- Samuels Birth Parent and Kinship Provider 806-790-6776 Pk3bkkh@gmail.com

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Parent Mentor Program (ICWA Law Center)	The ICWA Law Center Parent Mentors teams with an ICWA Law Center Attorney to provide support and advocacy to Native American families affected by the child protections system. The Parent Mentor works with families to build relationships with tribes, community service providers, and child protection workers to provide a meaningful approach to address the families' strengths and barriers for a successful case plan. This work is done while recognizing the importance of cultural connections as healing and includes providing traditional supports consistent with the mandates and spirit of ICWA.	Minnesota		Shana King Birth Parent 612-879-9165 shana@icwlc.org

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainabilit y/Funding Source	Contact Information
Parent Mentor Program/Preventative Intervention and Peer Services Morrison Child and Family Services	<p>Our Parent Mentor Program at Morrison Child and Family Services was established in 2005. The Parent Mentor Program is both an intervention and prevention program where parents and their children and youth are empowered to create positive and long-term change for their families. Mentors with lived experience with addiction, recovery, navigating their personal Child Welfare case, and successfully parenting in some type of way is the hope they bring to the parents they support and help navigate parents through their case. Mentors help to bridge the gap between parents between DHS and with the resource family by collaboration.</p>	<p>Portland, OR (Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Clatsop, Columbia, Marion, and Polk counties)</p>	<p>DHS and OHA</p>	<p>Belinda Kjensrud 503-260-9157 Belinda.kjensrud@morrisonkids.org</p> <p>Website: www.morrisonkids.org</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Parent Partners	<p>Parent Partners train new foster parents. Parent Partners are parents with prior experience in the child welfare system who help advocate and support new parents entering the system.</p> <p>Parent Partners assist parents: (1) in more fully engaging in the child welfare case planning and services process; (2) providing guidance in working with foster parents; and (3) providing support, modeling, and linkages to assist families in meeting their safety, permanency and well-being goals.</p>	<p>Iowa Louisiana Ohio Oklahoma Colorado Springs Daytona Beach South Carolina</p>		<p><i>Sara Persons, Iowa Parent Partner State Director</i> sarap@cfiowa.org C: 641-799-9081</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Parenting Education and Support (City of Philadelphia)	<p>The Department of Human Services (DHS) offers family classes and support groups for all families. Some services might be required as a step towards reunification.</p> <p>They offer classes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Parents with children in placement •General parenting, open to the public •Women’s empowerment •Incarcerated fathers and mothers •Parenting for non-offending parents who have children who were sexually abused •Parenting for parents raising Black children •Teenage parents 	Philadelphia Department of Human Services (DHS)		(215) PARENTS (727-3687)

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Parent for Parents Program	<p>This court-based peer-to-peer intervention connects parent allies with parents new to the system to provide them with tips, tools, and strategies to navigate their dependency case most effectively. This includes court support, classes, and ongoing mentoring. This program started in one county in 2005 and became a statewide, legislatively funded program in 2015, with the last county beginning in 2021.</p> <p>The law, RCW 2.70.060-100 states, “child welfare parent mentor means a parent who has successfully resolved the issues that led the parent’s child into the care of the juvenile dependency court system, resulting in family reunification or another permanency outcome, and who has an interest in working collaboratively to improve the lives of children and families.”</p>	<p>Washington State</p> <p>It is a statewide program but with some current vacancies.</p>	<p>Funded by the state legislature and some support from grants and local dollars</p>	<p>Ambrosia Eberhardt Statewide Family Impact Manager for the Parents for Parents program at Children’s Home Society of Washington 509-310-3020 Ambrosia.eberhardt@chs-wa.org</p> <p>Heather Cantamessa Director of Family Impact 509-440-3663 Heather.cantamessa@chs-wa.org</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainabili ty/Funding Source	Contact Information
Peer Support for Birth Parents and Parent/Caregiver Support Groups	<p>Families' Anchor, LLC was founded in 2019. Families' Anchor provides peer supports for birth parents with current DFCS involvement via foster care, investigation, or Family Preservation. As well as for parents/caregivers of private dependencies.</p> <p>Families' Anchor provides biweekly parent support groups for parents/caregivers currently in the child welfare system/private dependency matters; as well as Reunification support groups for parents/caregivers post reunification.</p> <p>Families' Anchor also works with birth parents and foster parents to help them build partnerships and navigate the systems together.</p>	<p>Snellville, GA; Gwinnet County Serves All of Georgia</p>		<p>Families' Anchor Colleen Puckett, CEO 678.570.9642 familiesanchor@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.facebook.com/familiesanchor</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Peer Support Recovery Coaches	<p>Formalized in 2017, Peer Support Recovery Coaches are advocates who work in partnership with child welfare protection specialists to assist women involved with the child welfare system and who also test positive for drugs. The Peer Support Recovery Coaches assist parents in finding treatment for addiction and also providing other supportive services. Peer support recovery coaches are commonly involved in programs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentucky S.T.A.R.T (Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Team); This program is included as a promising practice in the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse • S.T.A.R.T is a specialized unit of the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services. • Summit County STARS – Regional Partnership Grant <p>The peer support recovery coaches are Medicaid trained and certified. They are clinically supervised by a Behavioral Health Agency</p>	Ohio	<p>Medicaid reimbursable,</p> <p>Public Children’s Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) OhioSTART funding</p> <p>Ohio Speciality Dockets (Ohio Supreme Court) - Family Treatment Dependency Courts</p>	<p>China Darrington Birth Parent 330-871-9702 China.k.darrington@gmail.com</p>

	Treatment team along with the child welfare agency.			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Post Adoption Support with Birth Families	Supporting birth family connections, and maintaining birth family connections for children in an adoptive home are important, whether those are physical or emotional connections. However, there are often complicated dynamics at play and adoptive parents can struggle with knowing how to best support their child's birth family connections. Therefore, we focus on helping families achieve openness in adoption, whether or not that includes contact with birth family. When contact is an option, we help adoptive families not only assess and make decisions regarding that contact, but we can also facilitate contact.	<p>Wilmington Site: A Better Chance for Our Children office, 1307 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE</p> <p>Milford Site: A Better Chance for Our Children office: 805 S. DuPont Blvd., Milford, DE</p>	Contracts with the state agency	<p>A Better Chance for our Children</p> <p>For more information please call our offices in Milford (302-725-5008) or Wilmington (302-746-7265).</p> <p>Website: https://abcfoc.org/post-adoption-support/ </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Project Succeed (Ohio Family Care Association)	<p>Project Succeed: Primary parent led peer support groups. Four Ohio counties participated in a pilot project that included support groups for child welfare involving caregivers and a curriculum was developed to train parents to run the groups. This pilot project was created by the Ohio Primary Parent Advisory Council. This Council is part of the Ohio Family Care Association and was chaired by Karen Ezirim, a primary parent and BFPP member.</p> <p>Ohio Family Care Association- The Ohio Family Care Association (OFCA) serves as the statewide voice for the thousands of Adoptive, Foster, Kinship, and Primary Families caring for children impacted by Ohio's child protection system. Our mission centers on connecting, empowering, and serving these families through Advocacy, Education, and Support.</p>	Ohio	Project Succeed funded by ODJFS and Casey Family Funds	

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
QPI Birth and Resource Parent Partnership	Birth Parents, Resource Parents, and agency staff work together to promote successful connections and partnerships for specific families navigating the child welfare system.	Sonoma County, CA		Rachelle Lynch lynchr@schsd.org Katie Huemer katieh@calparents.org

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Shared Family Care	In Shared Family Care (SFC), parent(s) and children are placed together in the home of a host family who is trained to mentor and support the parents as they develop the skills and supports necessary to care for their children independently. SFC can be used to prevent out-of-home placement, to provide a safe environment for the reunification of a family that has been separated, or to help parents consider other permanency options, including relinquishment of parental rights.			Website: https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/support-services/familycare/

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Shared Parenting	<p>This process engages parents and caregivers in a partnership aimed at supporting permanency and child well-being. Shared parenting is a form of engagement that links parents and caregivers in the development of an actual partnership focused on the well-being of the child. Within the shared parenting framework, permanency workers, parents and caregivers work as a team.</p> <p>Great Resources and Information from the Child Welfare Information Gateway: https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/support-services/familycare/</p> <p>https://imprintnews.org/child-welfare-2/co-parenting-children-foster-care-safer-faster</p> <p>Training developed in North Carolina- https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/dss/training/Shared-Parenting-Participant-Workbook-6-2019.pdf</p>	<p>Illinois Iowa New York Pennsylvania North Carolina California Vermont</p>		

Strategy/Program name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding source	Contact Information
Rhode Island Stakeholders' Group and Stakeholders' Guide	The Rhode Island Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) has had an ongoing commitment to the inclusion of youth, family and community partner input. The Department engages with dozens of parents, youth, foster parents, child welfare professionals, staff, and experts from related fields such as schools and healthcare. As the Department strengthened its stakeholder engagements throughout 2022 – 2023, a core group of stakeholders was formed to help develop a stakeholder's guide with their lens of authentic engagement and partnership. This guidebook is intended to serve as a planning tool for DCYFS staff and its partners who are	Rhode Island		Dee Bonnick

	<p>leading or supporting stakeholder engagement efforts.</p> <p>This guide is a commitment that DCYF will authentically and meaningfully partner with its many critical stakeholder groups to improve the overall experience of children, youth and families who work with DCYF; and enhance the Department's advocacy for families and communities across the services and systems that touch their lives and leads to systemic change.</p> <p>For stakeholders, the benefits of engagement include the opportunity to contribute to policy and program development, have their issues heard and participate in the decision-making process. For DCYF, the benefits of stakeholder engagement include: 1) improved communication between DCYF and other individuals, groups and organizations that work with the department; 2) access to critical information on the past experiences of the community and families, and</p>			
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	<p>others involved in the system; and 3) the ability to consider the implications of policy initiatives or proposals to inform strategy development. Together, these benefits are intended to lead to better organizational outcomes, strengthened relationships and trust, and a more positive view of DCYF. Experience has also shown that the earlier stakeholders are engaged, the more likely benefits will be realized.</p>			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Strengthening Families Program (Strengthening Families Foundation)	The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a nationally and internationally recognized parenting and family strengthening program for high-risk and general-population families. SFP is an evidence-based family skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency, and alcohol and drug abuse in children and to improve social competencies and school performance. Child maltreatment also decreases as parents strengthen bonds with their children and learn more effective parenting skills.	USA and International	Strengthening Families Foundation (a 501©3 non-profit foundation)	Sole Authorized Provider for: SFP7-17 Course Materials Group Leader Training DVD Discussion Leaders & In- home Family Coaches Training Jaynie Brown Executive Director 385-226-3396 Strengtheningfamiliesprogram1@gmail.com

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Structured Decision-Making	The California Department of Social Services initiated the Structured decision-making (SDM) Project in 1998. SDM is highly effective in helping Child Welfare Service workers assess and make decisions when engaging families. When effectively implemented, it increases the consistency and validity of case decisions, reduces subsequent child maltreatment, and expedites permanency.	Alaska California Michigan Oklahoma Wisconsin Rhode Island Indiana Georgia New Mexico New York Washington, D.C. Colorado Minnesota Ohio New Hampshire Missouri Vermont Virginia Florida New Jersey Tennessee		Website: https://www.cebc4cw.org/search/results/?keyword=Structured+Decision+Making

		Connecticut Massachusetts Washington Louisiana Nevada North Carolina Maryland Kansas Nebraska Utah Delaware Arizona Texas		
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
The Achieving Permanency through Kinship Placement Investing in Co-Parenting with Natural Parents (AKIN) Program	<p>The program initially began with foster parent support specialists and mentors in 2017. The addition of the parent partner component and the launch of the full plan occurred in July, 2022.</p> <p>The AKIN Program assigns all new families entering the program to a parent partner and caregiver support specialist. Each peer specialist begins working on the support plan (centered on the five protective factors), and the “Meet My Family, or Get to Know my Child” documents to prepare stakeholders for the shared parenting meeting. The shared parenting meeting is facilitated by the two peer specialists and is a safe place to discuss what shared parenting looks like for the family. During these meetings the focus is not on mandated family times, but additional opportunities for parenting, key categories include education, medical, hygiene, family connections, and more.</p>	<p>The program is managed through Brightpoint, formerly known as Children’s Home and Aid, a nonprofit organization. Brightpoint headquarters are in Chicago. But it also has four Illinois regions.</p> <p>The AKIN Program exists throughout Illinois, primarily Metro Chicago region, Northern Illinois (Rockford</p>	<p>All funding at this time comes from DCFS state contracts. Brightpoint has committed to supporting families by utilizing funding that may normally allow for additional case managers, to employ additional peer specialists.</p>	<p>Ashley Akerman, Program Manager-Family Support aakerman@brightpoint.org 815-520-7287</p> <p>Podcast link about this work: https://www.brightpoint.org/policy-innovation/policy-advocacy/the-ahlquist-agenda-podcast/</p> <p>Website: https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/divisions-shared-services/children-family-services/pac/</p>

	<p>The AKIN program is focused on empowerment of participants and support of relative caregivers and parents to have healing and supportive relationships and success.</p>	<p>region) and East St. Louis (Southern Region)</p>		
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
The Journal/ Resource Parent Handbook	<p>The Journal is a form of documentation that starts at the time of placement of the child. The Philadelphia Department of Human Services mentions journals as well as other helpful tips in their Resource Parent Handbook.</p> <p>The journal works with the foster parent being provided with a journal by the child welfare caseworker. The caseworker will explain that the purpose of the Journal is to assist the foster parent and the birth parent to become acquainted with each other and to share information and ask questions about the child. The birth parent can write something to her child. The foster parent will introduce him/herself and tell a little about their family. The Journal is then given to the caseworker who gives it to the birth parent. The birth parent has the opportunity to introduce herself/himself and answer questions/ask questions. The Journaling will continue until the birth parent and foster parent meet face-to-face. If for some reason a face-to-face meeting</p>	Philadelphia		<p>Website:</p> <p>https://www.phila.gov/media/20170926145732/DHS-Resource-Handbook-FINAL-VERSION-small.pdf</p>

	cannot happen, they will continue to use the Journal.			
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Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
The Luke Nicholas Fatherhood Group	The Luke Nichols Fatherhood Group provides weekly peer support and opportunities to discuss parenting challenges and life skills specific to fatherhood. The participants share and promote strategies and resources that build resilience, model healthy behaviors and create strong social connections. The group is open to all dads with specific support for birth parents and foster parents working together as they navigate the different systems of support for families.	Sonoma County, California		Jody Rodgers jodyr@calparents.org Robyn Robbins robynrobbins@hotmail.com

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Treatment Foster Care; Arc Northern Chesapeake, Region	<p>Treatment Foster Care (TFC) Licensing Agency. Provides therapeutic foster homes to children, youth, medically fragile, and teen moms. Also provides 24-hour emergency on-call services; respite care and financial support; pre-service training with ongoing training; personalized treatment plans and assessments; academic, employment, and independent living planning; court system support and medical coordination; supports Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP)</p> <p>The organization was founded in 1953. TFC program began in 2000.</p>	Harford County, Aberdeen, MD	Dept. of Human Services	<p>Marquetta King licensed treatment foster care parent for 13 years Bel Air, MD kita_ck@hotmail.com</p> <p>Steven Acerno, TFC Director 410-618-6126 sacerno@arcncr.org</p> <p>Website: https://arcncr.org/</p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability/ Funding Source	Contact Information
Virginia Advisory Councils	<p>The Virginia Department of Social Services actively collaborates with several advisory councils. The VDSS Division of Family Services manages a parent advisory council to promote parent leadership development and expand the meaningful roles and voices throughout child welfare.</p> <p>VDSS strives to champion diversity, equity and inclusion for all. The Division of Family Services also has other advisory groups for kinship and resource families.</p>	Virginia	Virginia DSS is currently using Adoption savings funding. CFP provided funds for the Alliance to provide training and technical assistance to develop this group	Brenda Sampe (804) 338-7781 b.sampe@dss.virginia.gov

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Visit Coaching/Family Time Coaches	<p>Visit Coaching supports families to meet the unique needs of each child during their family time in the community, family homes, visitor centers, or office. Visit Coaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Supports parents in articulating their children’s developmental and separation-related needs •Encourages parents to give their children their full attention at each visit • Appreciates a parent’s responsiveness to their child and coaches them to enhance how they tune into their child’s unique needs. 			<p>Website: https://www.visitcoachingcommunity.com/contact </p>

Strategy/ Program Name	Brief Description/ Length of time in existence	Location of Strategy/ Program (city, county, and/or state)	Sustainability /Funding Source	Contact Information
Washington State Parent Ally Committee (WSPAC)	<p>WSPAC was launched in 2007 by Brenda Lopez with support from Casey Family Programs and Children’s Home Society of WA. The mission of the Washington State Parent Ally Committee (WSPAC) is to bring the parent voice into the development of child welfare policy and practice; promote equity for those in the child welfare system, develop parent leadership and elevate diverse lived experience and public awareness activities that strengthen and support those families. Through this work the WSPAC instills hope in parents, stakeholders and the child welfare system.</p> <p>WSPAC members are parents across the state who have successfully navigated the child welfare system, and who are known as parent allies.</p> <p>WSPAC provides training and professional development opportunities for parent allies, a</p>	<p>Throughout Washington state.</p> <p>Current Voting Members include representatives from the following counties in WA:</p> <p>Benton Clallam Cowlitz Grant Grays Harbor King Kitsap Lewis Mason</p>	<p>Seeking ongoing funding. Amara serves as the administrator of the WSPAC.</p> <p>WSPAC is an independent coalition lead by and for parents.</p>	<p>WSPACLeadershipwspac39@gmail.com</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>https://amarafamily.org/initiatives/parent-allies/</p>

	<p>modality for policy and practice impact, and a community of connection and support.</p> <p>Since 2012, WSPAC has helped to pass over 20 pieces of state legislative and fiscal reform.</p> <p>WSPAC members have the opportunity to become WSPAC leaders, and gain access and opportunity to a variety of employment opportunities within child welfare.</p> <p>WSPAC is lead by parent allies who are voted into the following roles: Facilitator, Co-Facilitator, and Secretary. These positions are held for two years.</p>	<p>Pierce Snohomish Spokane Thurston Whatcom Whitman</p>		
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Additional Resources and Links relating to Birth and Foster Parent Partnerships

1. Building birth and foster parent relationships

<https://www.casey.org/birth-and-foster-parent-partnerships/>

In this audio series members of the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) and Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) discuss the movement of promoting a practice change within child welfare to encourage relationship-building and co-parenting.

2. Comfort calls and icebreakers

<https://www.casey.org/initial-calls-icebreakers/>

This Casey Family Programs issue brief discusses comfort calls and icebreakers as a strategy to build trust and open communication between the birth parents, foster parents and/or kinship caregivers to ease the difficulty of separation and maintain family connections.

3. Icebreakers

<https://www.aecf.org/blog/resources-for-holding-icebreaker-meetings-between-birth-and-foster-parents>

Annie E. Casey Foundation highlights resources for holding Icebreaker meetings between birth and foster parents.

4. Quality Parent Initiative

<https://www.casey.org/quality-parenting-initiative/>

This Casey Family Programs issue brief highlights information about Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative, a process to strengthen foster care and improve permanency and well-being for children by shifting systems away from a bureaucracy and working toward an approach based on relationships. QPI has expanded to more than 75 jurisdictions in California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

5. Co-parenting with birth families

<https://www.casey.org/qpi-q-and-a/>

This Casey Family issue brief focuses on how the Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative supports healthy childhoods and co-parenting with birth families.

6. Rethinking how resource parents can support the reunification process

<https://www.isnj.org/PovertyInFocus.aspx?v=Foster-Parent-System-Webinar>

In the webinar, Rethinking how resource parents can support the reunification process, sponsored by Legal Services in New Jersey, birth parents, resource parents, and former foster youth discuss the various ways resource parents can support reunification.

7. Positive relationships between birth and resource families

<http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/video/qpi/california/partnersinparenting/start.html>

In this Quality Parenting Initiative training video, a birth parent and resource parents provide their expertise on the importance of positive relationships between birth parents and resource families and how these relationships impact child well-being. They provide some recommendations and tips on best practices to develop relationships between birth parents and resource parents.

8. Reunification and birth-foster parent mentoring teams

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/cwig_podcasts/transcript_cwig_birth_foster_mentoring_teams.pdf

This Child Welfare Information Gateway Podcast discusses the importance of reunification and offers valuable strategies that birth-foster parent mentoring teams can help implement to move toward reunification as quickly as possible.

9. Cultivating a culture in which birth and resource parents work together

<http://centervideo.forest.usf.edu/video/qpi/2019nationalconf/supportingbirthandfoster/start.html>

This Quality Parenting Initiative training video discusses how to cultivate a culture in which birth parents and resource families work together to improve relationships, communication, and involvement in decision-making.

10. Comprehensive look at child welfare issues

https://cascw.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CW360_2022_temp.pdf

This publication, CW 360°, developed by the School of Social Work at University of Minnesota, provides a comprehensive look at prevalent child welfare issues and how these issues impact children and families involved with the system.

11. Cultivating positive relationships between birth and foster parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMpXr6e5Neo>

This YouTube video, highlights a workshop entitled, It's Possible: Cultivating Positive Relationships Between Birth and Foster Parents, conducted at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare 2022 Conference. Dr. Ericka Lewis presents findings from an external evaluation of the Quality Parenting initiative (QPI), one effort to promote high quality foster care by strengthening partnerships among foster care stakeholders.

12. Building and supporting meaningful partnerships

<https://cblcc.acf.hhs.gov/topic-areas/engaging-communities/building-birth-and-foster-parent-relationships-to-promote-reunification/>

In this digital dialogue sponsored by the Children's Bureau Learning and Coordination Center (CBLCC) a service of the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, two representatives from the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) share their experiences in building and supporting meaningful partnerships and discuss how children/youth are more likely to thrive when the important adults in their lives cooperate with each other and share responsibilities and decision-making. The BFPP is working to promote lasting relationships between birth parents, foster parents, and kinship caregivers to support families and to help child welfare systems prioritize these relationships through culture, practice, and policy. Research and experience both demonstrate the value when staff, birth parents, and foster parents work in partnership to achieve better outcomes for families and children. The BFPP is supported by three partnering organizations: the Children's Trust Fund Alliance, Youth Law Center's Quality Parenting Initiative, and Casey Family Programs.

13. Shared Family Care and Shared Parenting

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/supporting/support-services/familycare/>

The Child Information Gateway shares resources with more information about shared family care and shared parenting.

14. Foster Care is a Support to Families (Information Memorandum published by the Administration for Children and Families)

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im2006.pdf>

This memorandum issued by the Administration for Children and Families provides information on best practices, resources, and recommendations for using foster care as a support for families in a way that mitigates the trauma of removal for the child and parents, expedites safe and successful reunification, and improves parent and child well-being outcomes.

15. Birth-Foster Parent Mentoring Teams Podcast Episode

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/more-tools-resources/podcast/episode-41/>

This episode, 'Birth-Foster Parent Mentoring Teams,' features a conversation with both birth and foster parent mentors and leaders, along with the 2018 California Social Worker of the Year. Together, the group describes the work toward changing the culture around foster care to support reunification by creating relationships and partnerships between birth and foster parents. While the birth and foster parent relationship has long been assumed to be adversarial, there is a growing movement, led by birth and foster parents themselves, to shift thinking and promote a practice change within child welfare to encourage relationship-building and co-parenting.

16. The Love Tree

https://www.amazon.com/Love-Tree-Katie-Biron/dp/B0BYBF4MS2/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3ENLZJXHULXQT&keywords=the+love+tree+-book&qid=1693955918&srefix=the+love+tree+book%2Caps%2C118&sr=8-1

The Love Tree introduces a new way of looking at the family tree that works for ALL families! Many children, including adoptees, youth in foster care, those with same-sex and single parents, and more look at the traditional family tree and think "My family doesn't fit at all. What is wrong with me?" Embarrassment, shame, and confusion follow. Inclusivity matters and The Love Tree gives all kids a beautiful way to proudly showcase their unique families!

17. The 21st Century Research Agenda

<https://www.casey.org/21st-century-research-agenda/>

Since 2020, Lived Experience Experts, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs (CFP) and the William T. Grant Foundation have worked in partnership with more than fifty individuals representing a broad array of experts, stakeholders and people with lived experience to draft research gaps that span community-based family support, child protective services, out-of-home care and post permanency services. Partnering organizations include Black Administrators in Child Welfare, the National Indian Child Welfare Association, Child Trends Hispanic Institute, the American Public Human Services Association, the Child Welfare League of America, and the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare. People with lived experience have included birth parents, foster parents, kinship caregivers, and former foster youth. The 21st Century Research Agenda is a transformative research agenda grounded in the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion and was created to identify gaps in research needed to improve the well-being of children and families.

18. Washington Fosters Blog

<https://foster.wachildrenandfamilies.org/blog/understanding-foster-care-from-three-perspectives>

For many, becoming foster parents has long been in the back of their minds. It can be daunting to make the jump to opening your home to foster children, but the results are truly rewarding. That's why we have created this resource to share the real stories of people in the foster care system. It's a must-read for any person who is considering becoming a foster parent. These stories share the unique perspectives and experiences of individuals in the foster care system.

19. The “F” Word: Foster Care Podcast

www.facebook.com/thefwordfostercare

The “F” Word: Foster Care is a podcast to elevate personal experience in child welfare, prevention services, and more.

This podcast provides a platform to elevate partnership parenting between birth and foster parents, the highs and lows of foster care from different perspectives, as well as other stakeholder's voices. We are always looking for voices around the world to elevate their experiences, and services on our podcast.

20. Presentations at Meetings and Conferences on Birth and Foster Parent Tools

Members of the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership (BFPP) are frequently asked to present about the Birth and Foster Parent Partnership and the tools at the local, state and national levels. Some examples of events where BFPP members have presented include:

- National Foster Parent Association
- Missouri foster and adoptive parents
- Florida Foster/Adoptive Parent Association (FAPA)
- National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Birth Parent National Network (BPNN) webinar

Members have also discussed the BFPP work and tools in strategic planning work sessions as well as at legislative advocacy events with the goal of sharing information about co-parenting, comfort calls, and other BFPP goals.

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