AGENDA

01  Priority Goals During This Administration
02  National Effort To Advance Equity
03  National Stats At A Glance
04  Moving Forward With Action
“The number one reason I do what I do is because I love the children and the families that we serve. I don’t feel like we talk about love enough.”
THE CHILDREN’S BUREAU
PRIORITY GOALS

Prevent children from coming into foster care
Support for kinship caregivers
Ensure youth leave care with strengthened relationships, holistic supports, and opportunities
Invest in the child welfare workforce
**Priority Goal #1:**

**Prevent Children from Coming Into Care**

**Distinguish Poverty from Neglect**

Encouraged jurisdictions to amend definitions of neglect.

**Independent Legal Representation**

Expand access to legal representation for children in foster care, tribal children, and families in need of civil legal support.
PRIORITY GOAL #2: SUPPORTING KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

Separate Licensing Standards for Kinship Caregivers:
Flexible licensing standards and equal pay for kinship caregivers.

National Convening on Kinship Care:
In partnership with Think of Us, highlighted caregivers’ experiences and explored opportunities for jurisdictions to implement the kinship caregiver regulation.
PRIORIT GOAL #3:
ENSURING YOUTH LEAVE CARE WITH STRENGTHENED RELATIONSHIPS, HOLISTIC SUPPORTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

**Lived Experience**
Engaging with and directly incorporating young adults’ perspectives across regions to guide our decision-making.

**National Convening of Youth Ambassadors**
Partnered with 20 youth ambassadors to explore federal supports for transition-age youth.
PRIORIT GOAL #4: INVEST IN THE WORKFORCE

Center for Workforce Equity and Leadership
Allocated $5 million towards strengthening workforce practices through diversity and innovation.

Quality Improvement Center on Workforce Analytics
Dedicated $1.2 million to explore innovative ways to enhance recruitment, performance, and retention.
ADVANCING EQUITY

Communicating Equity as a Top Priority

Issued a letter to the national child welfare community.

Regulatory Agenda

Leveraged federal regulatory power to advance equity.

Community-Initiated Funding Opportunity

Inspired by the feedback of impacted parents, awarded a $4 million grant to address racial bias in child welfare.
ADVANCING EQUITY

ACF Equity Advisory Group
Coordinated the development and implementation of equity action plans for all ACF offices.

Black Experience Community Roundtables
We heard members of the Black community regarding their experience with ACF programs.
NATIONAL STATS AT A GLANCE
FOSTER CARE ENTRY

American Indian children: 0.8% of child population | 2.3% of foster care entries
Black children: 13.8% of child population | 20.8% of foster care entries

Circumstances associated with entry into foster care, 2022

- Neglect (Only): 13.8%
- Neglect and Another Reason Besides Abuse: 29.1%
- Physical or Sexual Abuse (Alone or in Combination): 16.4%
- Child’s Behavior Problem (Only): 3.8%
- Caretaker’s Inability to Cope (Only): 3.8%
- Drug Abuse, Parent (Only): 8.6%
- Other Category(ies) Not Shown: 13.8%

186,602 entries
CHILD MALTREATMENT

American Indian children: 0.8% of child population | 1.5% of unique victims
Black children: 13.8% of child population | 21.7% of unique victims

Maltreatment type, 2022

- Neglect Only: 63.0%
- Medical Neglect Only: 0.7%
- Physical Abuse Only: 9.8%
- Sexual Abuse Only: 8.3%
- Sex Trafficking Only: 0.1%
- Psychological Maltreatment Only: 3.0%
- Multiple Maltreatment Types: 12.9%

547,655 victims

Notes:
- This analysis counts victims with a single type of maltreatment, for example neglect only.
- If a victim is reported with two or more maltreatment types, the victim is counted in the multiple maltreatment type category once.
- If a victim is reported with the same maltreatment type twice, the victim is counted in the category once.
FOSTER CARE EARLY REUNIFICATIONS

Of all reunifications that occur, 8.6% are for stays in foster care of seven days or less

Circumstances associated with entry into foster care for children reunified within 7 days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neglect (Only)</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglect and Another Reason Besides Abuse</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical or Sexual Abuse (Alone or in Combination)</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Behavior Problem (Only)</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caretaker’s Inability to Cope (Only)</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Abuse, Parent (Only)</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Category(ies) Not Shown</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISPARITY IN SHORT AND LONG FOSTER CARE STAYS

SHORT STAYS
Percent of reunifications that occur within seven days after removal
- American Indian children: 12.7%
- Black children: 10.3%
- White children: 6.9%

LONG STAYS
Percent of children still in care five years after removal
- American Indian children: 5.5%
- Black children: 5.5%
- White children: 2.7%
MOVING FORWARD WITH ACTION
WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE?

- Ongoing partnerships with lived experience experts
- Knowing your data
- Listening to impacted to people
- Traveling outside of jurisdiction to see what else is working
- Taking of advantage of federal support, such as FFPSA
- Having a strategic plan that is steeped in advancing equity (access and outcomes)
THANK YOU