

**National Report on Court
Improvement Program Projects
and Initiatives FY 2023**



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR COURTS

Summary

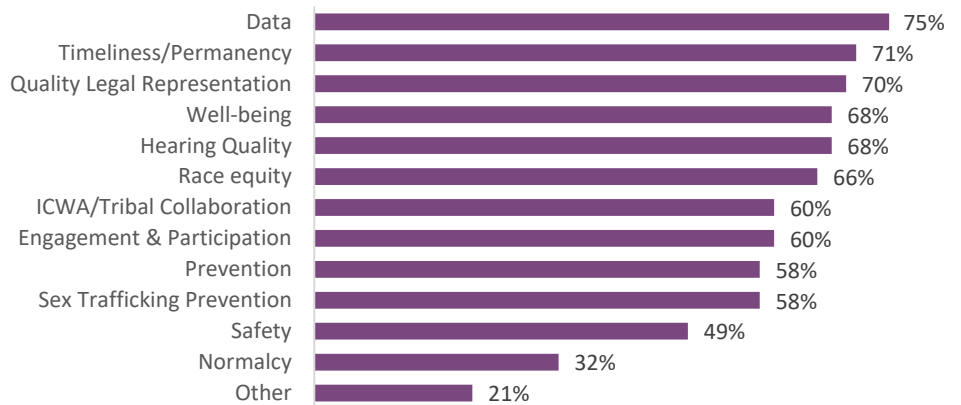
All fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands participate in the Court Improvement Program (CIP). Under the program, CIPs complete and submit an annual self-assessment to the Children's Bureau. The self-assessment is intended as an opportunity for CIPs to reflect on their work, identify what is working, where midcourse adjustments may be necessary, and to identify areas where capacity building services may be helpful. The data collected from the CIP Self-Assessments can serve as a valuable tool for providing a national landscape of the breadth and diversity of projects being undertaken by the CIPs, as well as provide some insight into the creative ways CIPs are approaching the work. This CIP Self-Assessment Report provides an overview of specific CIP responses regarding activities related to:

- ❖ Trainings
- ❖ Data projects
- ❖ Hearing quality projects
- ❖ Improving timeliness/permanency projects
- ❖ Quality legal representation projects
- ❖ Engagement and participation of parties' projects
- ❖ Well-being projects
- ❖ ICWA/Tribal collaboration projects
- ❖ Preventing sex trafficking projects
- ❖ Normalcy/reasonable and prudent parent projects
- ❖ Prevention projects
- ❖ Safety projects
- ❖ Disproportionality/Disparity/Race equity projects
- ❖ Title IV-E partner training and legal representation funding

Trainings

Percentage of CIPs that Have Engaged in the Following Trainings in FY 2023

CIPs reported on whether they held or developed a training on one of the 13 areas indicated on the graph to the right.



Among “other” topics, the most commonly reported trainings were related to mental health and neurological and developmental disorders (e.g., Autism), followed by Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and judicial bench books.

CIPs were asked to estimate how many training events on average they hold per year and a best prediction of how many judges and attorneys are trained annually. The average for CIPs was 20 training events, ranging from 1 to 200. These included online and in-person trainings, as well as statewide and regional trainings. CIPs estimated an average of 579 judges and attorneys trained annually (range of 45 to 3300).



Family First Prevention Services Act Efforts

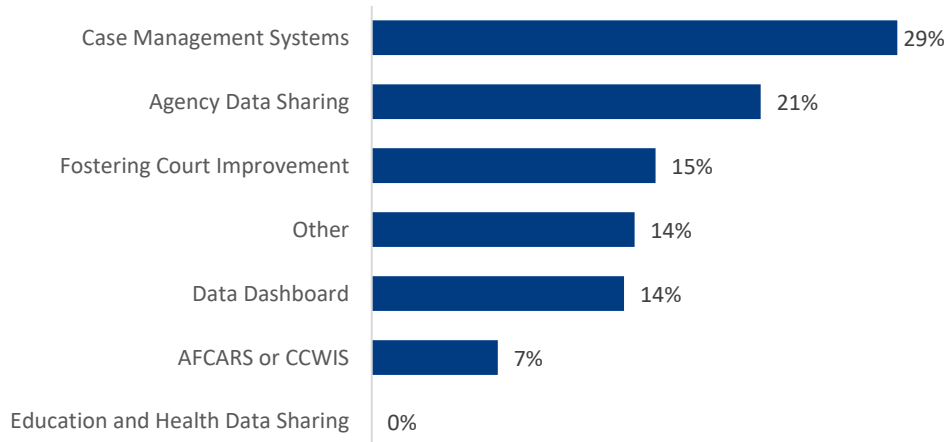
87% of CIPs reported being involved with the agency in implementing Family First.

85% of CIPs reported they had been involved with developing their Family First judicial training plan.

Data Projects

CIPs reported whether they had projects with administrative data sets (e.g., AFCARS, CCWIS), data dashboards, data reports, fostering court improvement data, case management systems, and data sharing efforts. All CIPs had at least one data project. Ninety-one percent of CIPs report that they have data reports that they review regularly.

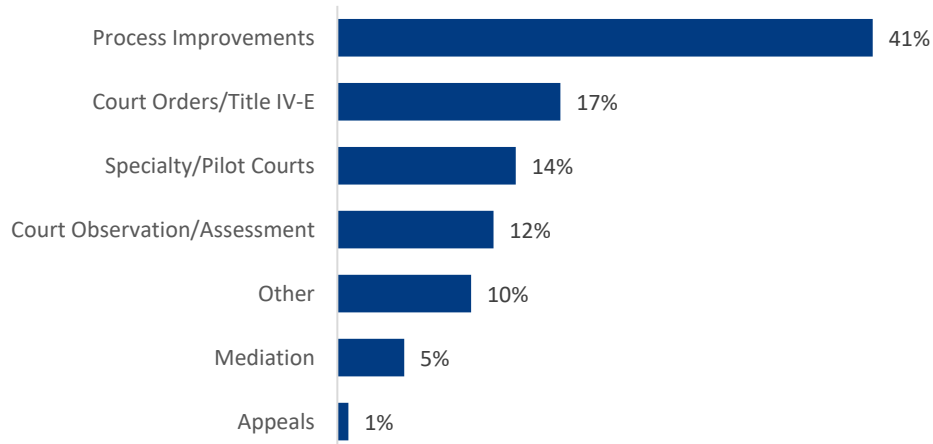
Percentage of Sub-Categories of Data Projects



Hearing Quality

All CIPs are required to work on one project to improve the timeliness or quality of dependency court hearings. These projects include efforts to improve case management, court observation, specialty/pilot court projects, projects related to court orders or title IV-E determinations, mediation, or appeals. In addition to the required hearing quality project, forty-seven percent of CIPs self-reported that they engaged in additional hearing quality projects. Below are percentages and examples of reported projects within each of the aforementioned sub-categories.

Percentage of Hearing Quality Sub-Category



CIP Examples of Hearing Quality Projects	
Alabama	The AOC and CIP staff have measured, and plan to continue measuring, the quality of juvenile court proceedings, including hearings and reviews primarily in dependency and termination-of-parental-rights cases, through surveys of those who are involved in these proceedings and court observations.
Alaska	The CINA Core Curriculum project complements well with the project to continuously improve the quality of CINA court proceedings, with the concept that high-quality, multi-disciplinary training for all CINA practitioners will assist in ensuring the provision of high-quality CINA hearings and reviews.
Arizona	Arizona has collected baseline and ongoing data during the operational review process to identify the extent to which the following occur during dependency hearings: (1) Engagement of and advocacy for children and parents and (2) Discussion of safety threats, protective capacities, conditions for return, and child well-being.
Arkansas	Collaboration with the Supreme Court Commission on Children, Youth, and Families to create Youth Engagement Videos for those children and youth entering the child welfare system. The videos will be a resource shared statewide and available through the Commission’s website.
California	California CIP plans to spend this strategic planning period developing and providing resources, researching and implementing best practices exploring all aspects of Access 3D to help the courts, attorneys, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) with in-person, remote, and equal access to court hearings.

Colorado	Creation of a Best Practices in Child Welfare Multidisciplinary Workgroup and a Best Practices Court Team that has facilitated group exercises. One such exercise led to the identification of assessing existing best practices in court hearings as the first step for implementing best practices.
Connecticut	The Child Protection Memorandum of Hearing (CP MOH) is an automated, real-time courtroom data entry system that enables court staff to enter hearing quality indicators to produce documents (e.g., court orders), hearing quality data, and reports that can be immediately available to DCF and attorneys of record.
Delaware	CIP engaged with the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performances (JCAMP) Pilot as part of the Hearing Quality Project last year. The findings suggest that there should be a focus on quality legal representation as the Parent Attorney Standards were recently completed and this would help us to assess the impact the standards have on court engagement.
District of Columbia (DC)	Examining the quality of hearings from the disposition stage through the achievement of permanency to measure the level of judicial engagement with parents and youth. Feedback will be gathered from judges, attorneys, prosecutors, social workers, parents, and youth through focus groups and surveys.
Florida	Worked with CBCC on a project to inform the creation of national Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) to help the field understand and improve child welfare court practice. Florida helped with field testing the JCAMP measures by selecting performance measures to test, collecting data to inform those performance measures, and providing feedback to the JCAMP team.
Georgia	Targeting local and regional trainings based on identified needs of the county juvenile courts and designed to improve hearing quality in child welfare court.
Idaho	Strive to ensure timely hearings where parents, youth, and resource parents are engaged in meaningful hearings so children can achieve permanency as quickly and safely as possible and maintain well-being.
Illinois	ICIP led the development and implementation of a quality hearing court project with an emphasis on family engagement leading to timely adjudication and timely permanency. Participating pilot sites implemented a sample script and benchcard for the temporary custody and permanency hearings.
Indiana	CIP staff will gather baseline data on permanency hearings through surveys, focus groups, data analysis, or other methods. Once the baseline data is analyzed, a permanency hearing checklist or toolkit will be developed that incorporates elements of the CIP Indicators of Quality Hearings, the Enhanced Resource Guidelines, and other best practices.
Iowa	Children’s Justice is working on guidance on what information should be submitted to the court and when it should be provided.
Kansas	CBCC hosted a virtual Judicial Academy on Reasonable and Active Efforts for 32 of Kansas’ child in need of care (CINC) judges and two Supreme Court justices. The academy was 11.5 hours and focused on an overview of federal and state reasonable efforts law, a reasonable efforts demonstration, evaluating reasonable efforts findings, the impact of reasonable efforts on practice, reasonable efforts ‘monsters’, four simulations, and a leadership roundtable.
Kentucky	Committed to pursuing the implementation of the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP). Select members of the CIP team have been conducting an in-depth review of all JCAMP materials and supporting resources and

	are planning a meeting with all CIP staff to provide a detailed look at the set of measures and take the initial steps towards implementation.
Louisiana	Committed to improving the quality of CINC hearings and reviews in Louisiana in the following areas: (1) CINC Benchbook and Court Documents Project, (2) Court Hearing Project, (3) Race Equity, Disproportionalities, and Disparities Project, (4) Appellate Project, (5) Remote Hearings Project, (6) Youth Voice Project, (7) ICWA Project, and (9) Guardianship as a Permanent Plan Project.
Maine	Quality Hearing Transformation Zone Project: Focuses on enhancing parent and caregiver engagement at child welfare judicial reviews and permanency planning hearings.
Maryland	Enhance trauma responsiveness during court practice and process for children and families involved in dependency cases.
Massachusetts	CIP supports efforts designed to improve permanency for children by ensuring quality court hearings.
Michigan	The Michigan CIP Youth Advocacy Project (YAP) aims to increase meaningful and appropriate involvement of youths in their foster care cases through education about the child welfare system and the development of self-advocacy skills.
Minnesota	Sponsored and delivered by the Children’s Bureau’s Capacity Building Center for Courts, the “Reasonable Efforts Judicial Academy” is a highly interactive, experiential learning event that uses the “learn-by-doing” method. The Judicial Academy uses juvenile protection case simulations to build the capacity of juvenile court judicial officers to make meaningful, specific, and legally compliant reasonable/active efforts findings required under federal and state law.
Mississippi	The Commission on Children’s Justice meets quarterly and in previous meetings this year created a task force to address redefining the term neglect in the Mississippi Code Annotated. The current definition tends to include abject poverty as “neglect” the goal of the task force was to create a definition that would still encompass actual neglect while excluding parents who simply cannot afford basic necessities to provide for their children.
Missouri	Improving the quality of child abuse and neglect proceedings by increasing engagement with foster parents and caregivers, increasing timeliness of required hearings, and improving judicial inquiry and determinations, resulting in improved time to permanency.
Montana	Pre-hearing conference project
Nebraska	The JCAMP measures were developed to help professionals understand and improve child welfare court practices in five topical categories - family engagement, due process, high-quality legal representation, safety measures, and permanency. CIP has selected youth engagement and experience and will use the JCAMP performance measures to examine a young person’s experience within the context of their court case and the parties involved.
Nevada	A hearing quality project that is a multimethod approach, including JCAMP and Community Improvement Councils (CICs). The courts developed a workgroup to address the need to reduce barriers to adoption and TPR.
New Hampshire	The CIP, in collaboration with the multi-disciplinary New Hampshire Model Court Project that includes DCYF, identified a need for Protocols Relative to Post-Permanency Hearings for Older Youth with a Permanency Plan of APPLA.

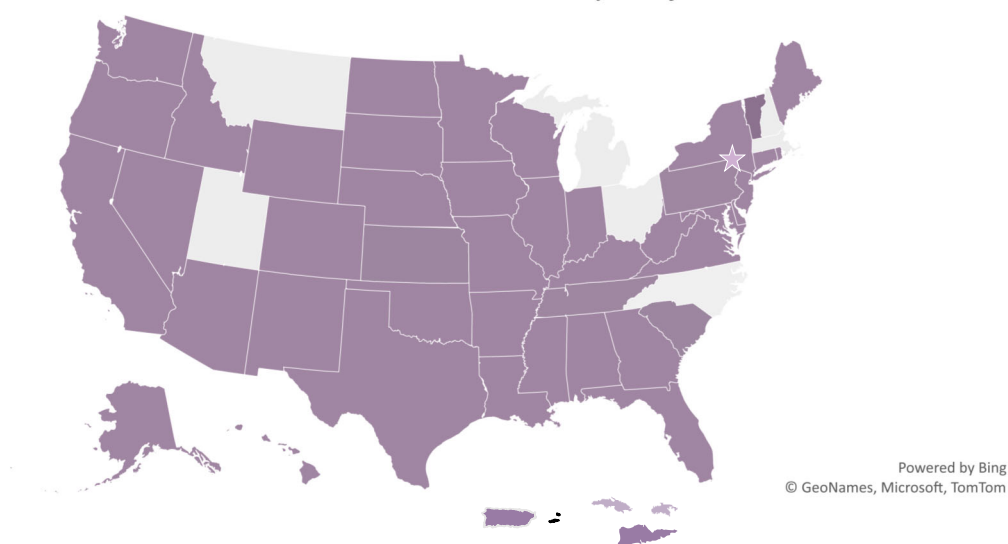
New Jersey	A judiciary team comprised of judges, court management, and AOC staff visited all 21 county courts to conduct onsite court observations, interviews, and case file reviews to determine each county's strengths, best practices, and areas needing improvement.
New Mexico	The Order on Family Time Pilot Project is a project created in the Enhanced Family Supports Workgroup. The purpose is for the court to address family time in every setting allowing for a platform for barriers to family time to be discussed.
New York	The Child Welfare Court Improvement Project is partnering with the CBCC and the American Bar Association (ABA) to implement a 2-day, highly interactive, and fully online Reasonable Efforts Judicial Academy.
North Carolina	Drafting and annual update of the Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina manual. It has been expanded to include an online training that should be live this year.
North Dakota	In collaboration with the ND ICWA Partnership Grant, the CIP will provide surveys to court professionals such as state attorneys, parent attorneys, guardian ad items, and judicial officers to receive feedback on ICWA compliance and process within deprivation and termination of parental rights court hearings.
Ohio	The CIP continues to contract with researchers to improve hearing quality in Ohio's Juvenile Courts.
Oklahoma	Continuation of updating and making orders more user-friendly based on changes in statutes or requests/recommendations by juvenile court judges.
Oregon	CIP created a project concept for model court teams to support, monitor, and evaluate local initiatives to improve practice in shelter hearings. The project included a guide to develop the local project with recommendations around best practices to implement after looking and considering current local needs and practices.
Pennsylvania	The Family Engagement Initiative includes a mandatory Family Finding Report to the Court, including elements of Family Finding, ACEs, Resiliency, Connections, and Calendaring.
Puerto Rico	Promoting judge's engagement in the judicial process and compliance with the requirements of Title IV-E.
Rhode Island	Monitoring and tracking continuance data within the child welfare court calendars via a "Probable Cause Hearing Form" and our online case management system.
Tennessee	CIP seeks to improve hearing quality and attention to the child and parent voice in foster care review boards by establishing Motivational Interviewing as the common language used by all non-parties engaged with foster care review boards.
Texas	CIP continues to increase awareness about the law and the importance of making reasonable efforts. They further encourage judges and attorneys in child welfare cases to adopt and implement appropriate policy and practice changes that ensure reasonable efforts are understood and applied.
Utah	Implementation of a bench card for judges and a permanency planning guide for attorneys and DCFS caseworkers to improve permanency goals discussions inside and outside the courtroom.
U.S. Virgin Islands	A Comprehensive initiative to change the culture of the Judicial and Legal field on youth attendance and participation in their court hearings.
Vermont	Creating and applying a universal Trauma Informed court framework in the Family Division.

Virginia	Completing a study of the juvenile and domestic relations district court system to assess district court diligence and attention to child dependency court hearings and make recommendations as to whether a separate docket or court would result in better service for children and families involved in child dependency hearings.
Washington	The Safety Summit Project is the result of a training partnership between the AOC and DCYF. Originating from a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) strategy initiative (Strategy 4.2), Safety Summits were held in five Washington counties in 2021, and two counties in 2022. Safety Summits provide local court jurisdictions with high-quality training on safety framework practices within the context of a guided change management process that includes organization, planning, action, and evaluation phases.
West Virginia	Looking at the multi-disciplinary team meeting as a tool to increase the quality of the subsequent hearing.
Wisconsin	The Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act (WICWA) Continuous Quality Improvement Project is designed to improve compliance with the WICWA requirements in the circuit court system, such as providing qualified expert witness testimony, notice, active efforts, making the required findings orally in court and on written orders, and complying with placement preferences in child in need of protection or services.
Wyoming	Gathering input from parents and children with lived experience, as well as attorneys, regarding the quality of court hearings through an exit survey.

Improving Timeliness of Hearings or Permanency Outcomes

Forty-five (85%) CIPs reported projects improving timeliness of hearings or permanency outcomes. Timeliness and permanency projects include any activities or projects meant to improve the timeliness of case processing or achievement of timely permanency. This could include general timeliness, focusing on continuances or appeals, working on permanency goals other than APPLA, or focusing on APPLA and older youth. See map below for which CIPs reported these projects. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs With Timeliness/Permanency Projects



CIP Examples of Timeliness or Permanency Outcomes Projects	
Arizona	The High Quality Legal Representation Working Group is developing a checklist for transition-aged youth. The use of this checklist is to ensure success in a number of domains important to the success of older children leaving care (whether aging out or attaining another permanency outcome).
Colorado	Appeals Working Group: CIP has assisted in the formation and management of an appeals working group that is designed to examine how to reduce appellate delays.
New York	Achieving permanency through Adoption and Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program Finalizations Project.
Ohio	Ohio Legal Representation Pilot Programs. Ohio CIP launched its first legal representation pilot in January 2021. In May 2021, Ohio released a Request for Applications for up to 5 additional pilots. Potential pilot sites may choose to implement multi-disciplinary legal representation and/or pre-petition legal representation
North Dakota	Collaboration with DCFS to develop a policy for child welfare workers on when to submit affidavit for permanency hearing to state’s attorneys.
South Carolina	Court liaisons observe court and track the status of merits hearing completions. These observations are tracked in each county and results are updated in the Child

	law Data Tracking database each day. Results are shared each month in court liaison monthly reports.
Tennessee	CIP data and information assisted in the passing of an amendment to the Magistrate appeal statute which will affect the efficiency of courts with Magistrates and shorten the time to permanency for youth in custody.
Washington	CIP staff was involved in the creation of the HB 1227 Court Readiness Toolkit which is a suite of tools and resources to help court systems prepare for HB 1227 implementation by providing tools that help court systems assess current system capacity and start building capacity in identified areas.
Wyoming	Child Welfare Compliance Tracking: The Wyoming Judicial Branch is currently rolling out a new case management system.

Quality Legal Representation

CIPs are required to work on a quality legal representation project. Some CIPs have hearing quality or joint projects that also focus on the quality of legal representation. The table below includes examples of reported projects focused on quality legal representation.

CIP Examples of Quality Legal Representation Projects	
Alabama	Guardian ad litem (GAL) certification and recertification sessions are provided several times annually to have better trained GALs for children in dependency and TPR cases.
Alaska	The Curriculum Committee decided to convert our training modules, typically delivered in person, to an eLearning format. Learners can test and apply their knowledge in a series of learning interactions following a case study at the end of each subject matter session.
Arizona	Launched the Juvenile Video Conferencing Pilot Project to improve dependency neglect case outcomes by increasing participation and improving the quality of out-of-county participants through video conference technology.
Arkansas	CIP has been speaking with NITA officials on requesting a training for children’s counsel, attorneys ad litem, and parent counsel; Creation of the Quick Reference Guide for Dependency Neglect Proceedings will be organized pragmatically to allow quick and efficient use and will include a flowchart and statutory references
California	Court-appointed dependency counsel funds are administered by the California CIP staff pursuant to a workload-based methodology adopted in April 2016
Colorado	Collaborating with DHS to share data and identify opportunities to share more meaningful data to inform our work together.
Delaware	The CIP launched a Social Services Intervention Project (Pilot Project), which paired parent attorneys with a social worker as soon as a dependency/neglect case was opened in Family Court.
District of Columbia (DC)	Seeking to create a multi-disciplinary representation program is to provide parents with a dedicated social worker to create a defense team. The goal is for attorneys to handle the legal aspects of the case while allowing social workers to provide social work support to the parents to assist them with accomplishing the tasks outlined in their case plan.
Georgia	Plans to partner with the Georgia Public Defender Council to place full-time parent attorneys in counties to represent parents who qualify for appointed counsel.
Florida	Developed a workgroup of the statewide multidisciplinary Dependency Court Improvement Panel to focus on quality legal representation
Hawaii	Provide the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Red Book Training to parent counsel across the state.
Idaho	Provision of date resources and training.
Illinois	Utilization of several appointment models, including attorneys employed by the public defender’s office, contracted special public defenders, attorneys on contract with the county to provide parent representation, and contracted conflict attorneys.
Iowa	Establishing processes and procedures to ensure equal and fair access to the appellate courts to safeguard the parent and/or child’s due process rights.

Kansas	The Guardian ad Litem Brainshark Training consisting of six pre-recorded webinars that cover the education and training requirements under a Kansas Supreme Court Rule. Under the Rule, attorneys are mandated to obtain the prescribed training within six months of being appointed a GAL.
Kentucky	Legal Training for child welfare cases; Since 1999, the AOC has been responsible for preparing attorneys to provide legal representation to children, parents, and custodians in child welfare cases.
Maine	A statewide child protection training conference is an ongoing priority listed in the Maine CIP Strategic Plan to improve Maine’s response to child protection cases to increase the safety, permanency, and well-being of youth in care.
Maryland	Provide a system for legal support to families to address issues that could prevent further child welfare involvement in pre- and post-petition stages.
Massachusetts	Through interdisciplinary, collaborative trainings, CIP works to support efforts to provide excellent legal counsel to all children and indigent parents upon the filing of a care and protection petition.
Michigan	Quality Legal Representation pilot projects in two courts as described in the 2019 Michigan CFSR Program Improvement Plan; Working with courts to adopt new strategies and attorney requirements that can be funded through the Title IV-E Child & Parent Legal Representation Grant.
Minnesota	Staff are collaborating with justice partners to explore the need and options for pre-petition multidisciplinary legal representation for parents and legal guardians on topics such as housing issues, chemical and mental health issues, and access to other services to prevent removal of the child and entry into the court process.
Mississippi	Serving on the parent representation taskforce to ensure that there is a seamless transition of funding to the counties between our offices; serves as a liaison between the State Public Defender’s Office and the counties.
Missouri	CIP will develop a communication method to reach child welfare attorneys in Missouri, as well as provide resource materials and ongoing training opportunities
Montana	The Attorney Practice Standards Project is focused on the lack of practice standards in Montana.
Nebraska	CIP worked with the Guardian Ad Litem subcommittee to update the GAL report template with a view towards revising the form to provide information for the court regarding youth engagement (e.g. attending court hearings, completing the Youth Court Questionnaire, explaining reports/recommendations to the juveniles).
Nevada	Evaluate current representation models and quality of legal representation for all parties in dependency cases in Nevada. The evaluation includes fair and equitable impartial representation of all individuals, particularly underserved and marginalized populations.
New Hampshire	In collaboration with DCYF and the Judicial Council, the CIP seeks to develop a high-quality legal representation initiative for attorneys representing parents (petitioned and non-petitioned household parents) in child protection cases by making training opportunities available and accessible to attorneys and reviewing the counsel fee structure and fee caps in child protection cases.
New Jersey	Improvement of the quality of legal representation by focusing interventions on (1) the early assignment and access to an attorney for parents and children, (2) improving the quality of legal representation, and (3) enhanced funding to improve the quality legal representation

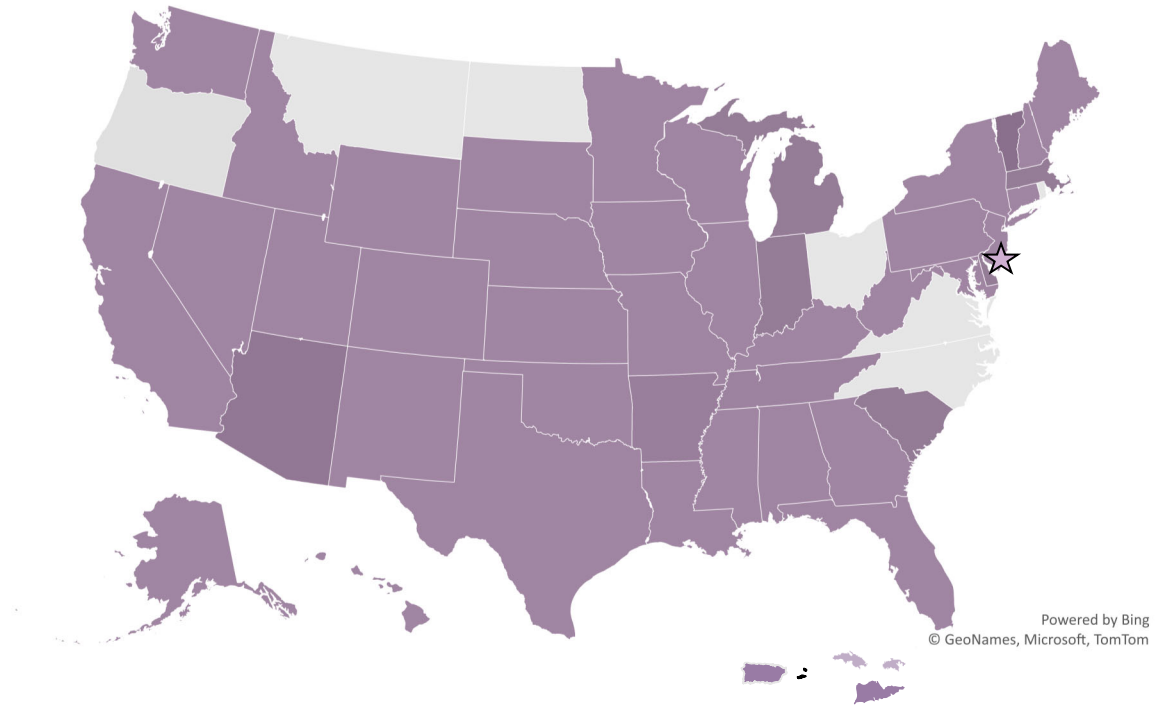
New Mexico	Family Representation Task Force researched and recommended new models of representation (both structural models and practice models) for children and respondents in New Mexico.
New York	Standard III of the Office of Indigent Legal Services Standards for Determining Financial Eligibility for Assigned Counsel, which provides for immediate assignment of counsel and presumptive entitlement to counsel in child welfare proceedings, will be implemented consistently throughout the state, thereby supporting the assignment of counsel in a timely manner to all parents.
North Carolina	CIP has partnered with (1) our state Indigent Defense Services to fund the creation of the information system to house pertinent data related to parent representation and (2) the Family and Children’s Resource Program at UNC-Chapel Hill to fund oversight of the program model, creation of the implementation guide, and training of selected social workers.
North Dakota	Collaboration with Legal Services of North Dakota and Children and Family Services to develop and implement a model pre-petition legal representation program for the Burleigh County Zone for families with children at risk of being placed in foster care
Ohio	Created momentum to improve the quality of legal representation by establishing Ohio's Child Welfare Quality Legal Representation Workgroup.
Oklahoma	An oversight committee appointed by the Supreme Court decided, after research, that the best way to provide high-quality representation is through interdisciplinary practice. The committee meets monthly to address dissemination of information to inform attorneys and judiciary, compensation, program structure, and data/evaluation.
Oregon	Identified the need for (1) Access to comprehensive, foundational training for attorneys new to dependency law, (2) Increased compliance with Oregon’s attorney practice standards, (3) Increased recruitment and retention of attorneys to dependency practice, and (4) Increased supports for attorneys practicing dependency law, including attorney (e.g., for secondary trauma) and case (e.g., social workers and/or parent advocates) support.
Pennsylvania	CIP developed an online educational session for attorneys new to dependency practice.
Puerto Rico	Improvement of reasonable efforts knowledge and findings across the judicial and legal system by training judges and lawyers on reasonable efforts and evaluating change in practice.
Rhode Island	Provide ongoing consultation and education to attorneys in relation to their client’s mental health concerns; Provide drop-in consultation for attorneys to attend.
South Carolina	Track, assess, analyze, and evaluate the multidisciplinary representation program. The Interdisciplinary Parent Representation approach seeks to address safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for families with youth served in foster care. It seeks to ensure parents with service needs are adequately matched with appropriate providers through the help of trained, qualified family advocates or social workers.
South Dakota	Developed a plan to implement information sharing and best-practice training opportunities
Tennessee	Developed a year long comprehensive and connected training experience for GALs, parent attorneys and DCS attorney. The training is focused on increasing their skills

	and best practice in the representation of parents and children in child welfare proceedings.
Texas	The creation and adoption of Texas specific standards of representation; The implementation of model representation pilots; Tool kits for attorneys representing parents and children and attorneys representing DFPS; Creation of materials for parents and children explaining the attorney-client relationship
Utah	Partnering with the Utah Indigent Defense Commission to evaluate two counties that have piloted multi-disciplinary parent representation projects
U.S. Virgin Islands	Employed researchers to provide deliverables for the Quality Legal Representation Project and Data Project within the Family Divisions territory-wide, which will include data collection, data entry and data analysis.
Vermont	Devising strategies in partnership with the Office of the Defender Generals office to recruit and retain attorneys specially trained in Family law
Virginia	Build system capacity to strengthen the quality of parent representation in child dependency case proceedings
Washington	Convene a diverse workgroup to review, develop, and update the standards of practice, caseload limits, and training guides for the Children’s Representation Program
West Virginia	CIP will support an externship for third-year law students.
Wisconsin	The Committee of Chief Judges and District Court Administrators convened a subcommittee to identify best practices and develop resources to assist circuit court judges as they oversee guardians ad litem appointed under the Wisconsin Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code.
Wyoming	Developing trainings and resources that are role-specific to support high-quality legal representation

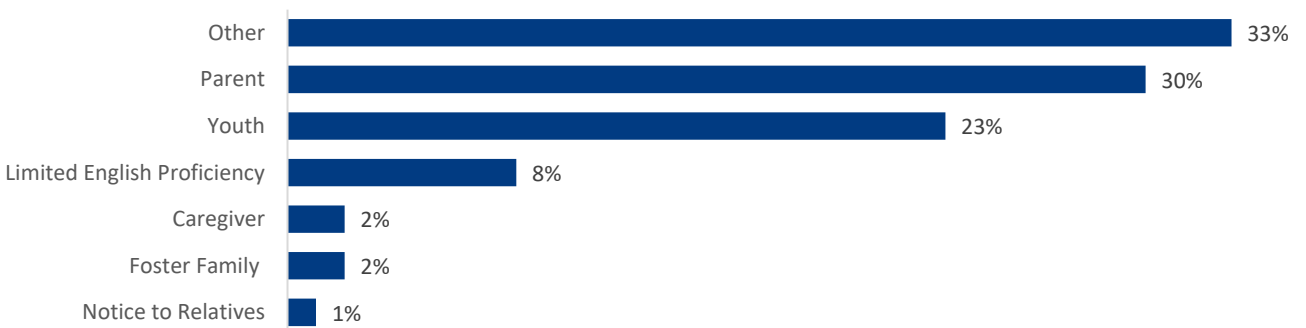
Engagement and Participation of Parties

Engagement and participation of parties include any efforts centered around youth, parent, foster family, or caregiver engagement, as well as projects related to notice to relatives, limited English proficiency, or other efforts to increase presence and engagement at the hearing. Forty-five (85%) CIPs implemented projects related to the engagement and participation of parties during the 2023 fiscal year. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs with Engagement Projects



Percentage of Sub-Categories of Engagement/Participation Projects

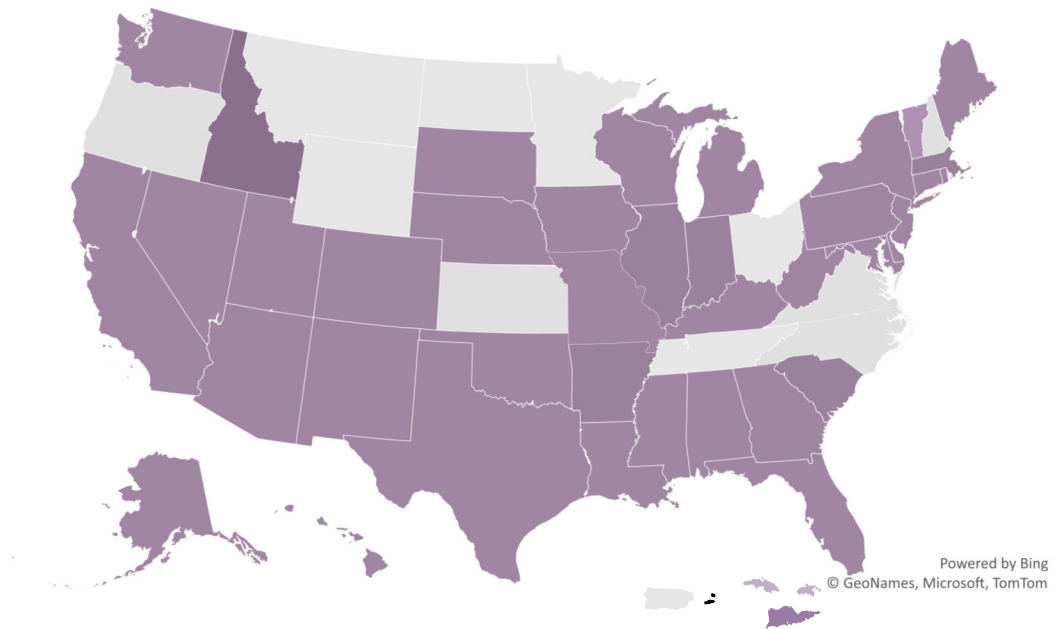


Other projects included projects focused on notice to parents and caregivers, COVID funding to courts for virtual participation, incorporating lived experience to committees/task forces, motivational interviewing training, various trainings, best practice implementation, family treatment court implementation, improving parenting time, implementing family meetings, tailoring court orders, implementing a bench card into practice, and funding CASA.

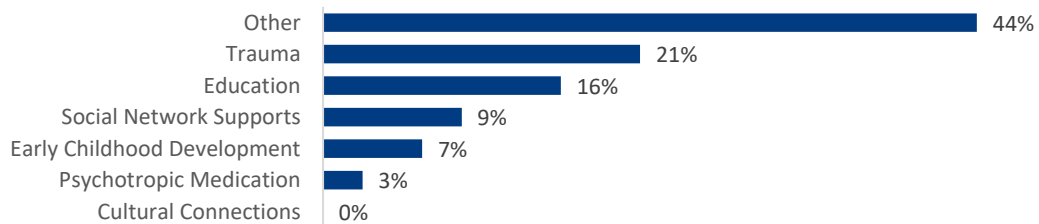
Well-Being

Well-being projects include any efforts related to improving the well-being of youth. Projects could focus on education, cultural connections, social network supports, early childhood development, psychotropic medication, trauma, or other well-being related topics. Forty (75%) of CIPs implemented well-being projects in the 2023 fiscal year. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs With Well Being Projects



Projects in Specific Topical Areas

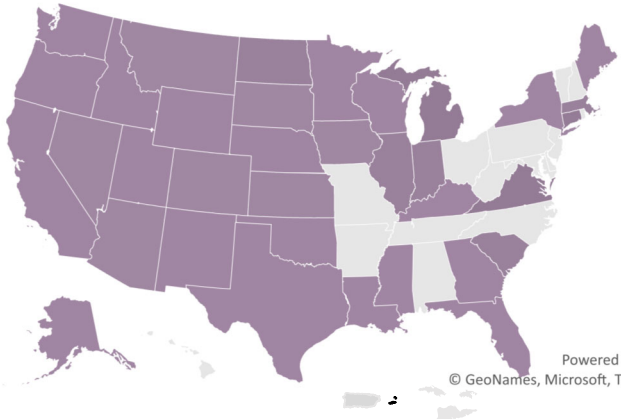


Other projects include CIPs involvement in committees/subcommittees focused on aspects of health (behavioral, reproductive, etc), trauma or education; creating a youth advisory board; projects related to cross-over youth; providing training or supporting conference attendance; collecting data on current practice (e.g., hearing quality, reports) which include a well-being component; hearing quality projects; supporting parents in recovery; literacy programs; preparing youth for adulthood; and visiting facilities that house foster youth for treatment.

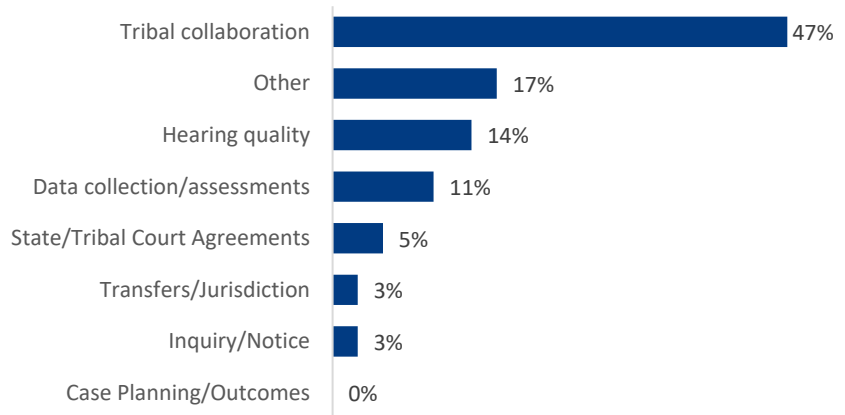
ICWA or Tribal Collaboration

CIPs were asked whether they had any projects focused on enhancing ICWA or tribal collaboration, including data collection and assessment, hearing quality, inquiry and notice, state and tribal court agreements, or transfers/jurisdiction. Thirty-eight (72%) CIPs indicated they had projects that focused on ICWA or tribal collaboration. Purple indicates that the state/territory participated in such projects. DC, Puerto Rico, and US Virgin Islands did not have projects.

ICWA / Tribal Collaboration Projects



Percentage of Projects by Topic



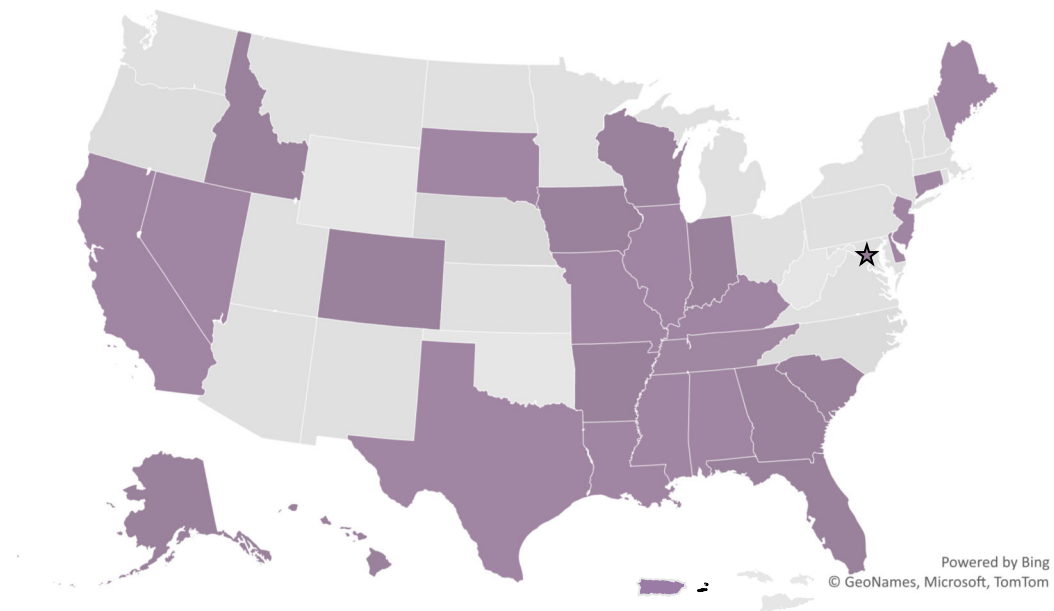
States Working on Specific Topics

Transfers/Jurisdiction
Alaska
Inquiry/Notice
Alaska, Georgia
Hearing Quality
Alaska, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Virginia, Washington
State/Tribal Court Agreements
Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota
Data Collection/Assessment
California, Iowa, Kentucky, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin
Tribal Collaboration
Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas, Wisconsin
Other
Alaska, Maine, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah

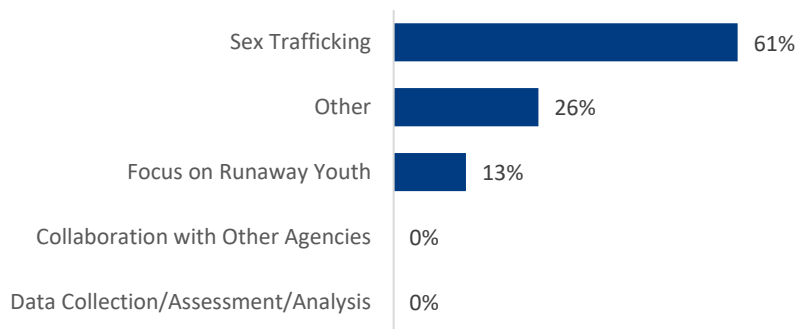
Preventing Sex Trafficking

Twenty-eight CIPs (53%) had projects related to preventing sex trafficking in the 2023 fiscal year. Projects preventing sex tracking include work around domestic child sex trafficking, a focus on runaway youth, collaboration with other agencies, data collection and analysis, data sharing, or other efforts to fully implement these sections of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act into practice. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs With Preventing Sex Trafficking Projects



Percentage of Projects Focused on Specific Topics



Normalcy/Reasonable and Prudent Parent

CIPs were asked whether they had any projects that included work around normalcy or the reasonable and prudent parent standard or practices, collaboration with other agencies around this topic, data collection and analysis, data sharing, or other efforts to fully implement these sections of the Preventing Sex and Strengthening Families Act into practice. Only twenty-five CIPs (47%) reported projects that fell under this category. Purple states or territories indicates they had such projects.

CIPs With Normalcy/Reasonable Prudent Parent Projects

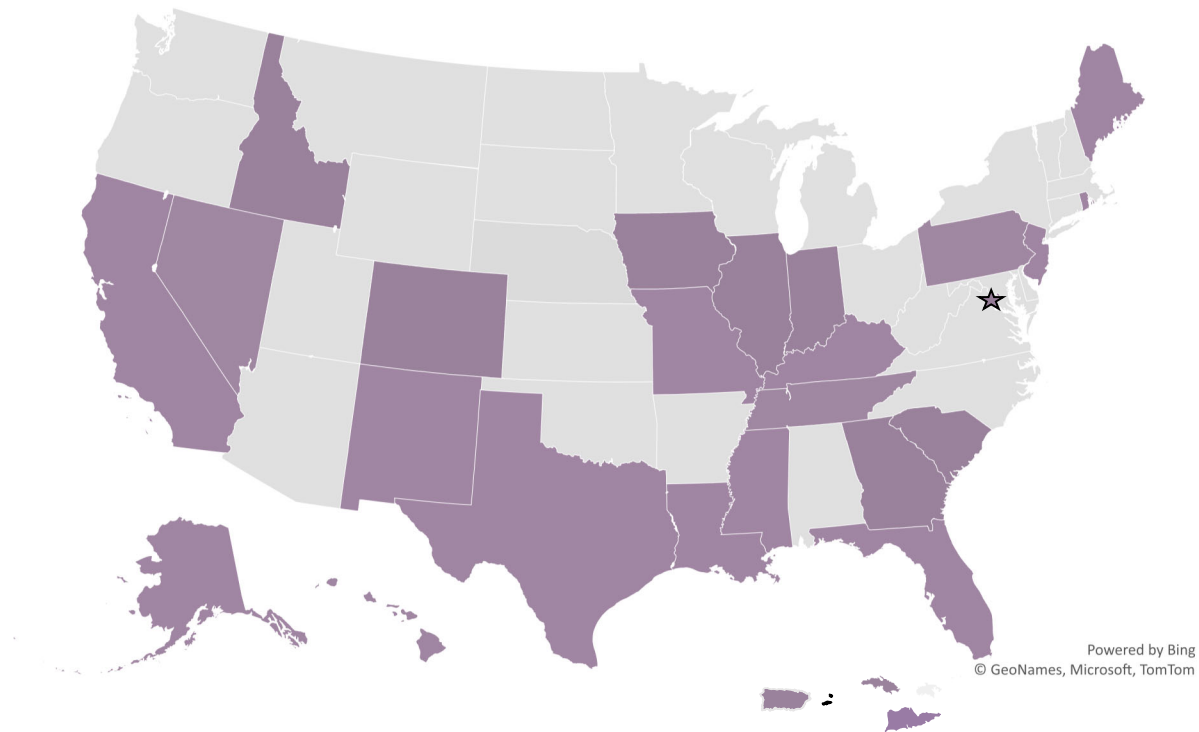


Table of Project Sub-Categories

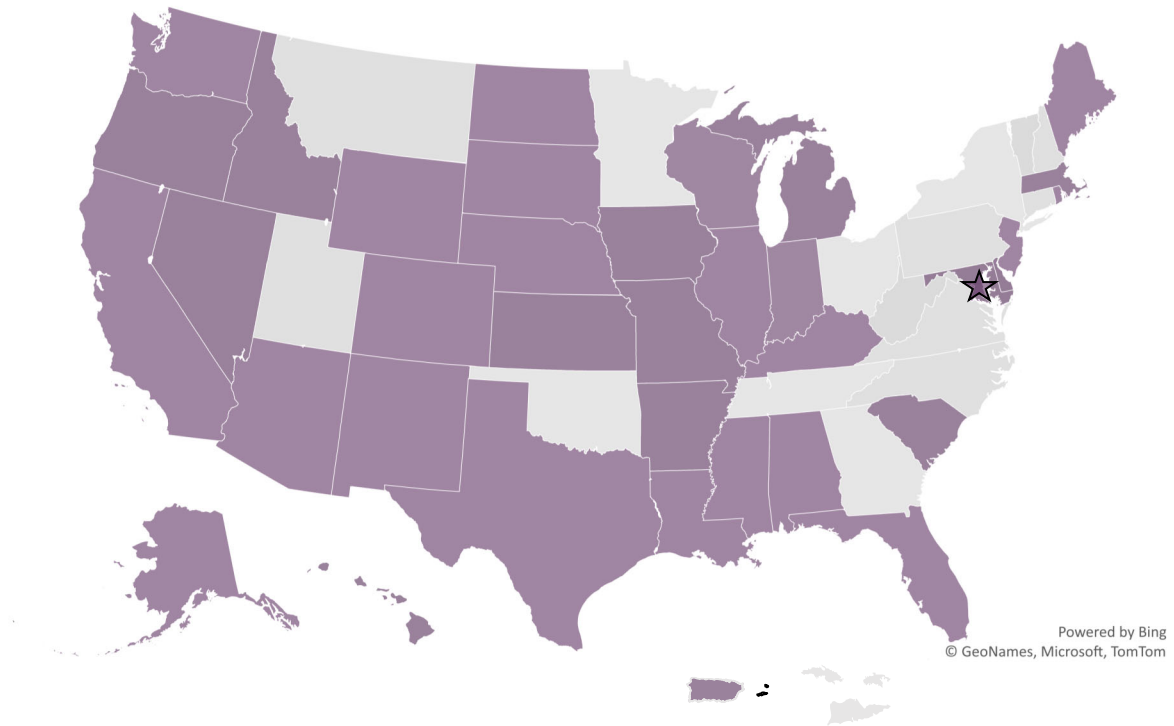
The table below identifies the normalcy sub-categories and reports on which states identified projects or activities in this area in FY 2023. No CIPs reported projects in the “collaboration,” “data sharing” and “data collection and analysis” sub-categories.

CIPs that Report Normalcy/Reasonable and Prudent Parent Projects	
Staff Training	Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, Tennessee
Foster Parent Training	Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico
Judicial Oversight	Alaska; California; D.C., Maine, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina
Other/Not Stated	Alaska, Hawaii, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands

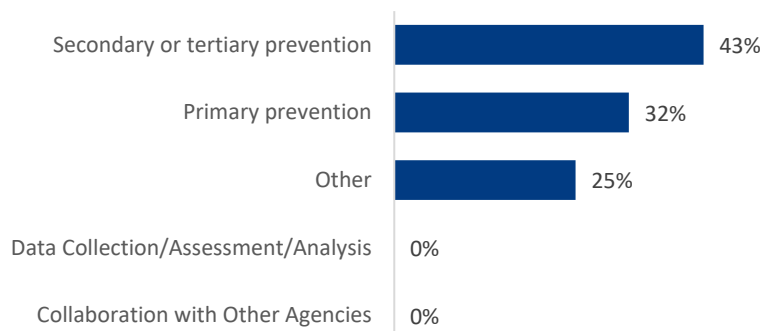
Prevention

Thirty-seven CIPs (70%) self-reported they conducted work around preventing child maltreatment, including primary prevention (preventing maltreatment from occurring in the first place), secondary, and tertiary prevention. Purple states or territories indicates that they had such projects.

CIPs with Prevention Projects



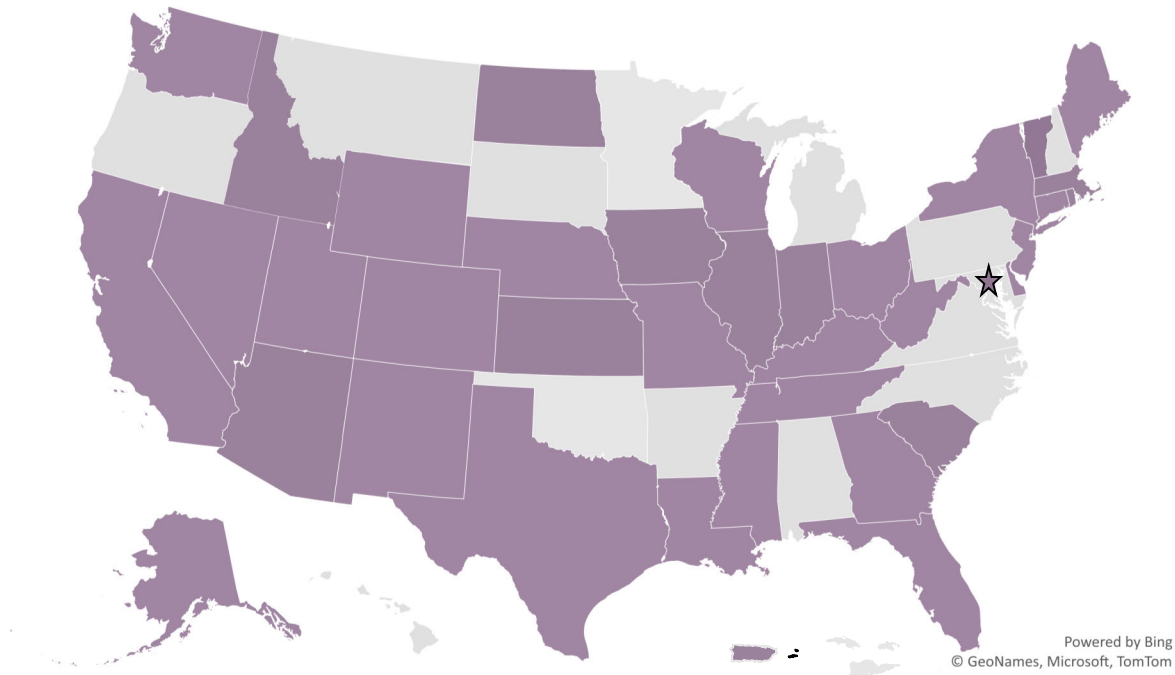
Percentage of Sub-Categories of Prevention Projects



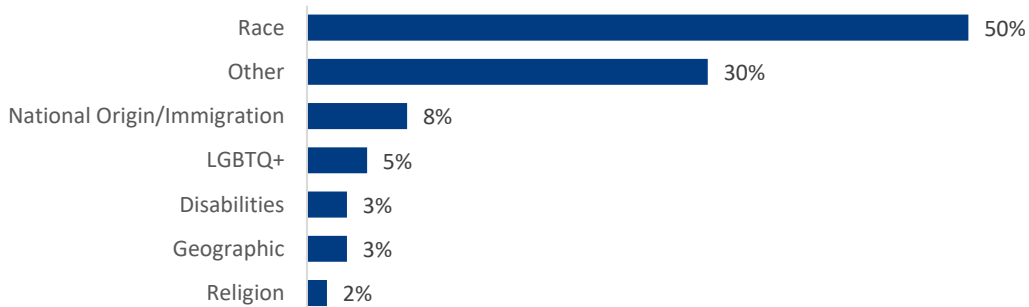
Disproportionality/ Disparity/Race Equity

CIPs for the 2023 Self-Assessment were asked to report any disproportionality, disparity, or equity projects they were working on. This includes needs for persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, geographic disparities, national origin or immigration, and race equity. Thirty-seven states (70%) reported a project related to disproportionality, disparity, or equity.

CIPs with Reports Equity Projects



Percentage of Projects by Topic



CIPs reported varying types of race equity projects. Many reported training opportunities, and often there is overlap with ICWA projects. Other equity projects included providing laptops/tablets to remote locations or to parents to ensure equal access to virtual hearings, engaging lived experience, redefining neglect to mitigate the effects of poverty, working to build a more diverse CASA program, trainings on poverty, and exploring data to better understand the challenges for different groups. The table below provides some examples of equity projects.

Example Equity Projects	
Alaska	NACC Race Equity Virtual Training Series.
California	California CIP is supporting a Dependency Attorney's summer legal intern program to increase diversity and gain interest in the field.
Colorado	CIP has convened a DEIA workgroup whose purpose is threefold: 1) to ensure that DEIA is considered and infused through CIP's work and trainings; 2) to use the CQI process to either identify a state-wide project to implement or assist local best practice court teams to identify locality-based implementations; and 3) to ensure that the CIP taskforce itself considers DEIA in making budgetary decisions and workgroup assignments.
Delaware	The CIP Data Subcommittee has engaged with the CBCC and their CQI Race Equity Constituency Group to receive support to create a Delaware-specific race equity project. This has included received technical assistance to ensure family court and the agency are collecting the same race and ethnicity demographic information.
District of Columbia	The CIP is collaborating with the city's collaboratives located in areas of the District with the least access to transportation. The goal of the project is to place laptops at these centers so residents in the community with abuse and neglect cases before the court can confer with their attorney and access hearings, mediations, service providers and meetings. A pilot program will begin at a selected collaborative in the coming months.
Georgia	County-Based Race Equity Project conducted a root cause analysis that revealed that racial disparities were likely related to toxic court culture, lack of zealous advocacy, and lack of evidentiary hearings. CIP plans to provide trial skills training to the county's attorneys and to begin a series of multidisciplinary meetings to build rapport and consensus among child welfare professionals in the county.
Kentucky	The Kentucky Court of Justice highlights its journey to culture change with local court jurisdictions and other organizations in the development of A Guide for Identifying, Addressing and Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities. The guide further outlines the methods used to reduce disparities within the court system.
Louisiana	The Disproportionality & Disparate Outcomes Committee (DDOC) collects, tracks, evaluates, and shares data with the CIP CQI Subcommittee to inform decision-making, training, and strategies around improving racial inequities, disproportionalities, and disparities in child welfare in Louisiana.
Maine	The Race and Equity Data Collection Committee was formed as an initiative of the Justice for Children Task Force in recognition that the collection and sharing of data on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender identity, location, income, and disability between the Maine Judicial Branch and the agencies that interface with the child welfare system.
Mississippi	Redefining neglect to mitigate the effects of poverty.
Nevada	Contracted with researchers to do a race/equity analysis of court data. CIP also participates in Gender Identity and the LGBTQ+ Community in Child Welfare and Dependency Cases CIC Summit Training.

New Jersey	Each county completes a structured data worksheet to periodically review their decision points by race and ethnicity and establish goals to reduce or eliminate disparities; Courageous Conversations on Race: Counties began viewing licensed educational films and holding facilitated dyad and group discussions on race.
New York	WCIP is forming a committee of individuals with lived experience to work with CWCIP to raise up the voices of those with lived child welfare system experience in all CWCIP projects. WCIP also conducts the poverty simulation is designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live in a family experiencing economic insecurity and struggling to meet their obligations each month. The objective is for participants to develop or enhance their empathy towards individuals experiencing poverty.
Puerto Rico	Implementation of materials for children with disabilities on the topic of sexual abuse.
Tennessee	CIP developed Immigration Training in collaboration with Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR), Legal Services of Tennessee, Catholic Charities, and a private attorney.
Wyoming	trainings on working with LGBTQI+ individuals and rural child welfare practice as part of the Wyoming Joint Symposium on Children and Youth every year.

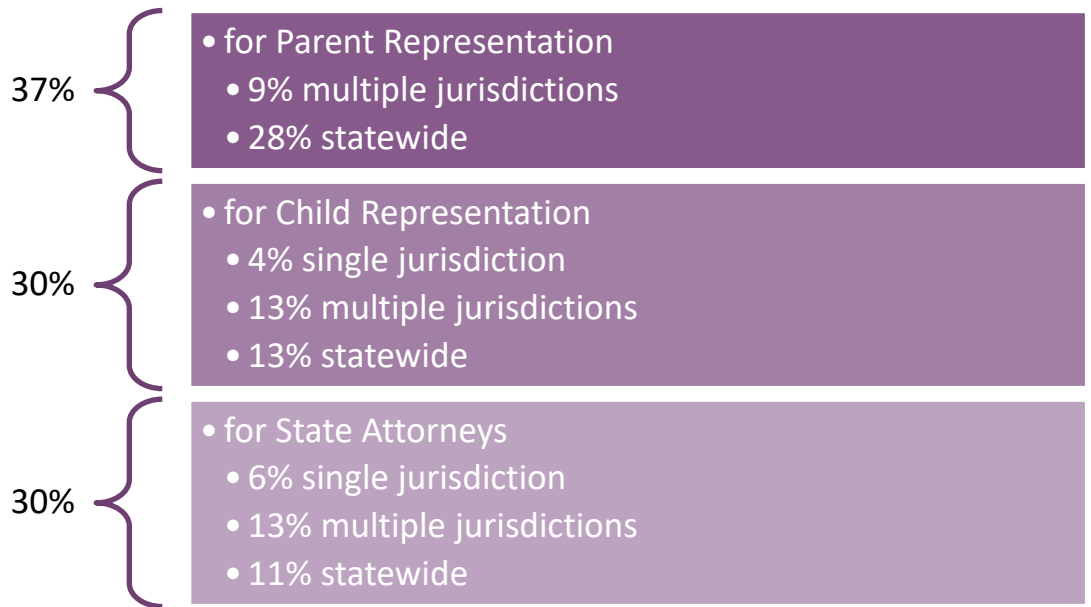
Title IV-E Partner Training and Legal Representation Funding

The CIPs were asked if the state child welfare agency currently offers professional partner training to judges, attorneys, and court personnel as part of its title IV-E Training Plan.

14 States (34%) currently offer professional partner training.

Of the states who do not currently offer professional partner training, **46%** have had conversations with the agency about this.

CIPs were also asked if their state utilizes Title IV-E funding to help pay for representation? Twenty-five CIPs (47%) indicated they utilize Title IV-E monies to help pay for at least one type of representation.



Using JCAMP for Performance Measurement

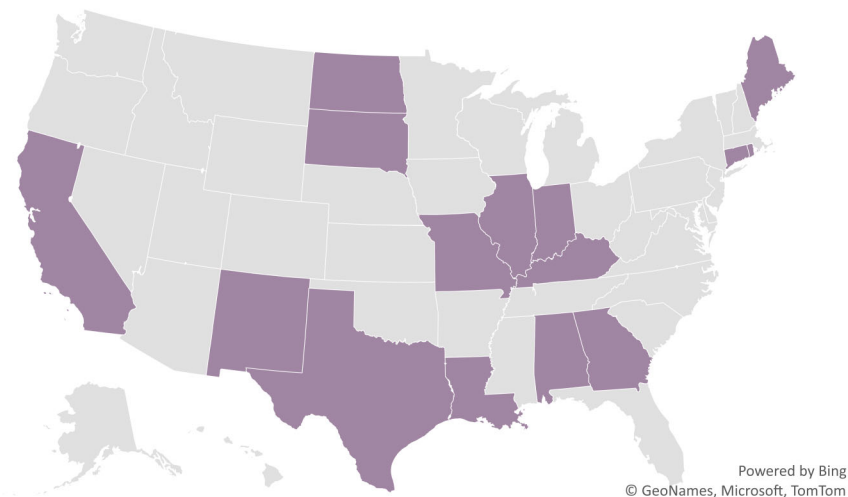
In 2021, the Capacity Building Center for Courts, in collaboration with national partners and a cadre of experts, developed the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP). JCAMP was designed to complement existing measures and fill a gap in the field by exploring court practice and the family’s experience in child welfare cases. Three CIPs and one tribe piloted JCAMP in 2022. In 2023, nine additional CIPs were implementation sites. In addition, CIPs reported in the Self-Assessment if they had or planned to use JCAMP for monitoring/evaluating their joint project, quality legal representation project, or hearing quality project.

Field Testing Sites	Implementation Sites	CIPs who Plan to Use JCAMP for Joint/ Hearing Quality/ Quality Legal Representation Project
Delaware	California	Alaska
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Nebraska	New Hampshire
Florida	New Mexico	Wisconsin
Georgia	Nevada	
	North Carolina	
	Oklahoma	
	Oregon	
	Tennessee	
	West Virginia	

Intersection of Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

While CIP funding is focused on improving the child welfare court system, there are children who are involved in both child welfare and the juvenile justice system and this has come up as a focus in cross-department Health and Human Services discussions. There is not a specific segment of the Self-Assessment that asks CIPs to report on any work related to cross-over cases. However, a key word search of self-assessment reports was used to identify states working on projects related to youth involved in both child welfare and delinquency. The key word search included cross-over, dual status, dually involved, dually adjudicated, juvenile justice, and juvenile delinquency. It is important to note that projects related to this topic that did not include any of these key words may have been missed and this may underrepresent the number of states working on this issue.

States Reporting Cross-Over Work



Trainings	
Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, North Dakota	
Hearing Quality Projects	
California	California CIP is also working on a hearing quality project to support our foster youth in juvenile justice placements to improve outcomes. The Judicial Council, staffed by California CIP, was given the task under Senate Bill 92 to develop a sentencing matrix for children in the juvenile justice system. Along with the sentencing matrix, the working group has been looking at the needs for evidenced based trauma informed services.
Texas	Hearing Quality Project Dual Status Child Protection Court Evaluation
Kentucky	Family Law Technical Assistance Network
Data Projects	
Rhode Island	Data project: Assessing Likelihood of Detainment Among Dually-Involved Youth
Illinois	Dual status youth project
Timeliness and Permanency Projects	

Connecticut	Crossover youth program is examining how, where, and what effects are common to children involved in both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system in an effort to identify issues that affect the rate and timeliness of permanency
Quality Legal Representation Projects	
Indiana	Juvenile delinquency early intervention pilot program
Well-being Projects	
Maine	Update website regarding child protection and juvenile justice matters
Missouri	The Crossover Youth State Advisory Team, led by CIP Staff, was guided by Georgetown University. Upon completion of a statewide training, staff worked to enhance expertise in services and practice to assist individuals across the state in working with multiple issues youth face while dually involved in child welfare and delinquency.
Joint CIP/Agency Projects	
North Dakota	North Dakota Dual Status Youth Initiative. The dual status youth project specifically targets the safety and well-being of North Dakota's dually identified youth. Dual status youth initiative protocol and practice guide.
Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act Projects	
South Dakota	The Dual Status Youth Initiative. The group will identify high risk youth as early as possible, coordinate services and support the community response teams. Members of the CIP Committee are involved in the Initiative and support any training efforts identified.