



Family & Children's Services System Improvement Plan

2025-2029



Today's Conversation

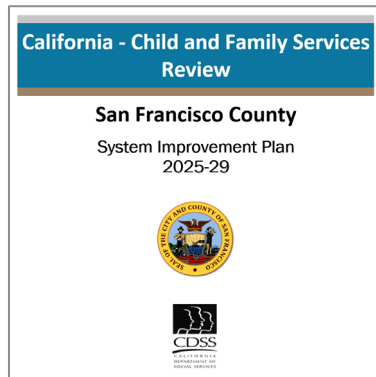
- 🎯 Children & Family Services Review
- 🎯 Permanency Performance Area 3: Primary Focus Area
- 🎯 2025-2029 System Improvement Plan
- 🎯 Implementation Framework



Children & Family Services Review Process



- California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR)
- County Self Assessment (CSA)
 - CWS Cares Data- FCS Reports & CA Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP)
 - Peer Review
 - Stakeholder Feedback
- System Improvement Plan (SIP)
- Innovative Strategies



County Self Assessment Findings



Parent Engagement

Better assist families to build their natural support network early in the case and include the network in safety planning, CFT meetings, transition planning, etc.

Post-Reunification Support

Link family to community resources and natural support network that provide services & support matching what families need to maintain stability.

Permanency Performance Area 3 (P3)

Selected to focus on long-staying youth, with the goal of addressing barriers that impede timely achievement of permanency outcomes.

Permanency Performance Area 3 (P3)

What P3 Measures

Of all children in foster care on the first day of a 12-month period who had been in foster care for 24 months or more, what percent discharged to permanency within 12 months?



Children in foster care
24+ months
on the first day of a
12-month period



**12-Month
Measurement
Window**



Discharged to permanency
within 12 months
through:

- Reunification
- Guardianship
- Adoption

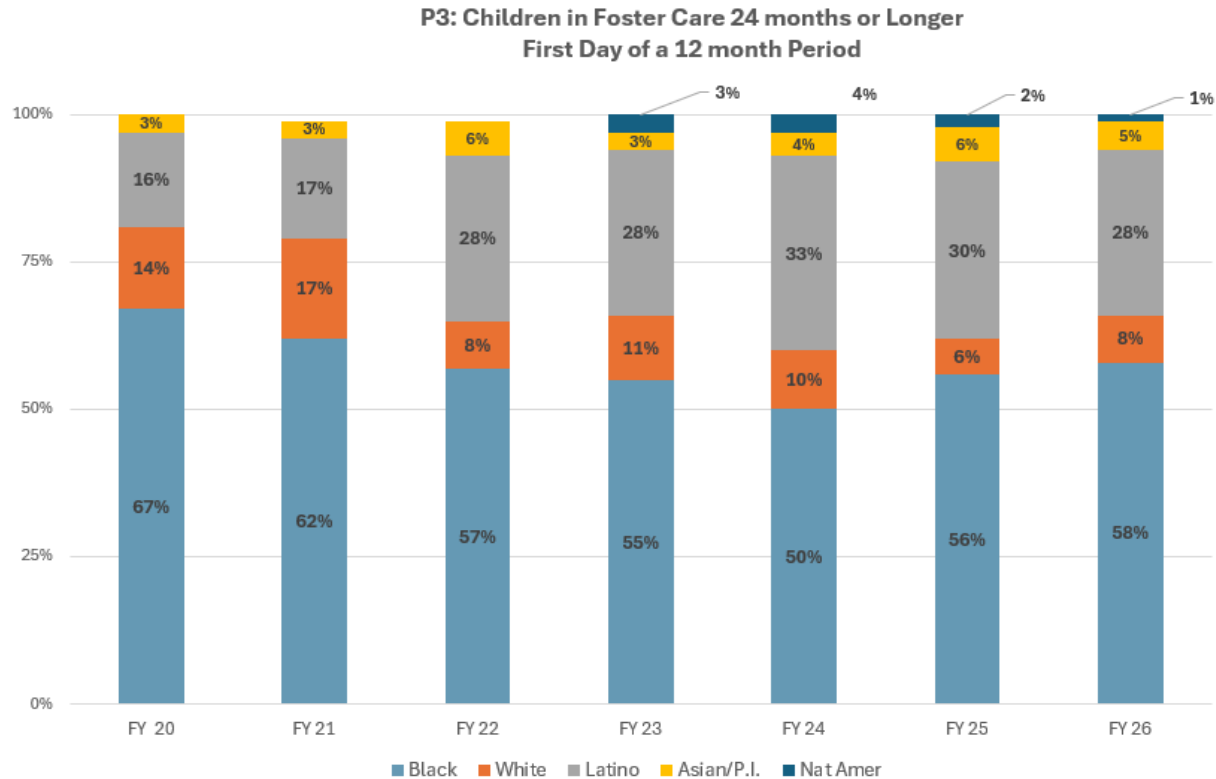
Quarter 4 Performance (P3)

2023 (Q4)	18.8%
2024 (Q4)	29.1%
2025 (Q4)	29.4%

**National Performance
Benchmark**

≥ 37.3%

P3 Population | Race & Ethnicity



- Disproportionate representation among African American/Black youth and Latino youth.



SIP Strategy 1

Family Finding and Engagement (FFE)

Family Finding & Engagement

Expand Family Finding Efforts to be activated along the full continuum of care including improved documentation for ongoing access to and engagement of the child's family network.

- Family Finding & Engagement (FFE) Program- a specialized unit within the agency that focuses on building and strengthening relational permanency for children and youth involved in the child welfare system.
- FFE works to identify, engage, and reconnect youth with supportive family and community members who can provide both immediate placement options and long-term connections.



Family Finding & Engagement

FFE activity is coordinated with the youth's existing case and permanency planning.

- A child or youth has been removed from their home and not placed with a relative or NREFM on an emergency basis.
- A PSW submits a referral due to:
 - a failed kin placement,
 - an alleged father gaining presumed status, or
 - an out-of-county transfer without prior kin identification.
- Automatically through the Relative Notification process prior to Disposition.



Strategy 1 Implementation Framework

Explore & Define 2025

- Defined permanency goal for strengthening lifelong connections
- Develop a Family Finding & Engagement Policy & Procedures



Implementation 2026

- Observation of referral process & staff communication
- Identify training, documentation, and workforce support needs



Monitor & Refine 2027

- Develop an evaluation methodology & implementation plan
- Strengthen consistency in kin-first practice
- Analysis of data & documentation to identify gaps, barriers, and challenges



Evaluation Readiness 2028

- Clarify implementation and outcome questions
- Is sufficient evidence available to assess implementation and results?





SIP Strategy 2

Parent and Youth Reunification

Parent and Youth Reunification

Reconsider permanency through potential reunification of children with their parents for all youth who did not achieve permanency one year after Family Reunification (FR) services were terminated.

- Reduce barriers to timely permanency by strengthening the process for identifying and pursuing appropriate reunification opportunities.
- Establish a structured process for reconsidering whether reunification may be viable when family circumstances have changed.



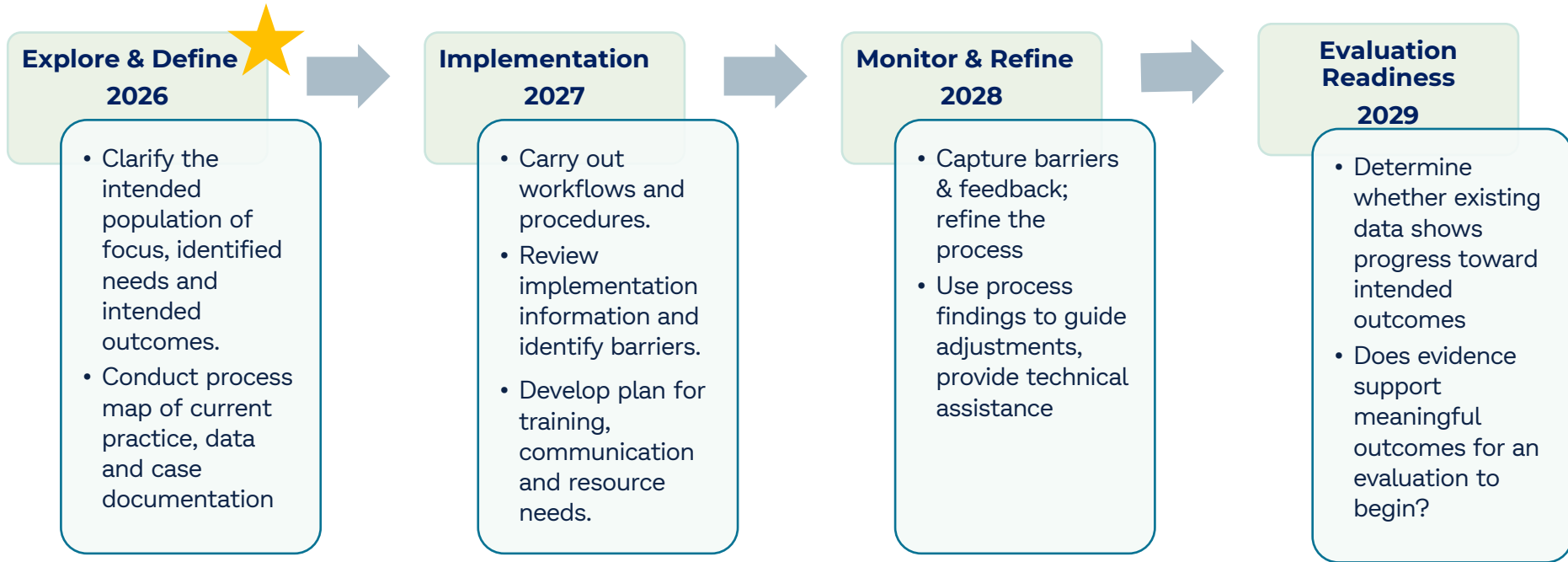
Workgroup Focus Areas | 2026-2027

A workgroup is being convened to bring together subject matter experts to support the development and validation of this process.

- Eligibility criteria for reviewing cases of long staying youth, reassessment steps, decision points, and connections to existing casework.
- Identify required tools and documents, including those to be retained and noting additional needs. staff communication strategies to support consistent practice.
- Outline staff communication and training methods to reinforce consistent practice.



Strategy 2 Implementation Framework



Questions?

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