

**National Report on Court
Improvement Program Projects
and Initiatives FY 2022**



Capacity Building
CENTER FOR COURTS

Summary

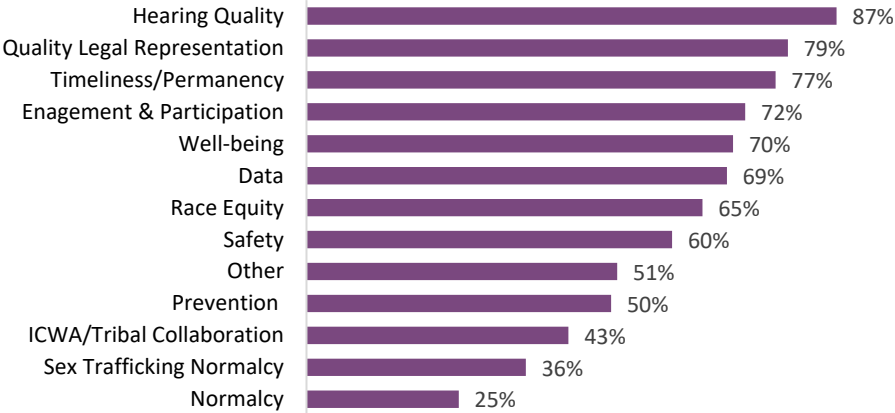
All fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands participate in the Court Improvement Program (CIP). Under the program, CIPs complete and submit an annual self-assessment to the Children's Bureau. The self-assessment is intended as an opportunity for CIPs to reflect 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 2022

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 the Family First Prevention Services Act, followed by crossover or dual status youth and substance use.

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. Responses varied widely, with many unable to provide estimates. When estimates were provided, the average for CIPs was 22 training events, ranging from 1 to 200. These included online and in-person trainings, as well as statewide and regional trainings. In addition, CIPs estimated an average of 398 judges and attorneys trained annually (range of 20 to 2400).



Average: 22
Trainings Held



Average: 399
Judges &
Attorneys Trained

Family First Prevention Services Act Efforts

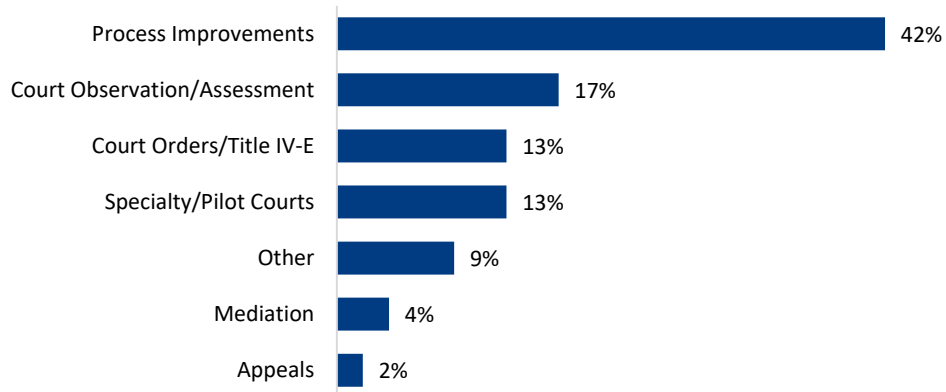
91% of CIPs reported being involved with the agency in implementing Family First.

87% of CIPs reported they had been involved with developing their Family First judicial training plan.

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.. 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	CIP staff has measured the quality of dependency court proceedings, including hearings and reviews, through surveys of stakeholders 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 will collect baseline and ongoing data during the operational review process to identify the extent of engagement of and advocacy for children and parents and discussion of safety threats, protective capacities, conditions for return, and child well-being during dependency hearings
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
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	Best Practices in Child Welfare workgroup that examines best practices across the state through court observations, file review, focus groups, and stakeholder surveys

	in order to identify local gaps, needs, and successes and implement county-based projects that will lead to consistency in 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 has engaged with the Judicial, Court, Attorney Measures of Performances (JCAMP) Pilot as part of the Hearing Quality Project this year. The JCAMP Pilot includes engaging statewide stakeholders to review the JCAMP needs assessment and determine the measures of performance to be evaluated
District of Columbia (DC)	Examines the quality of hearings from the disposition stage through the achievement of permanency to measure the level of judicial engagement with parents and youth
Florida	In 2019, Florida's Dependency Court Improvement Panel established a workgroup of stakeholders to determine how involved and in-depth a quality hearing assessment plan will be, what data sources will be relied upon, what measures and indicators will be used to identify quality hearings, and how this information will be used to address issues and improvements in these hearings
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
Hawaii	Each judicial circuit will be assessed for current court hearing practices in light of the Enhanced Resource Guidelines and 2019 CFSR PIP, which focuses on achieving timely permanency decisions
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	The ICIP is leading the development and implementation of a quality hearing court project with an emphasis on family engagement leading to timely adjudication and timely permanency
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 has trained staff on court hearing assessments and court observations using a common assessment tool for reporting; Desk reviews on timeliness, continuances, and reasonable efforts have also become routine.
Kansas	SCTFPP approved the revision of Supreme Court Rule 174 to add disposition and post-termination form orders, as well as QRTP forms (which include the required findings under the Family First Prevention Services Act) to the list of mandated forms
Kentucky	Open Courts Pilot Project (The KCOJ) has worked on a formalized court observation and data collection process; A draft tool has been created and piloted with the judges on the CIP Taskforce
Louisiana	Child in Need of Care (CINC) Benchbook and Court Documents Project, Court Hearing Project, Race Equity, Disproportionalities, Disparities Project, Appellate

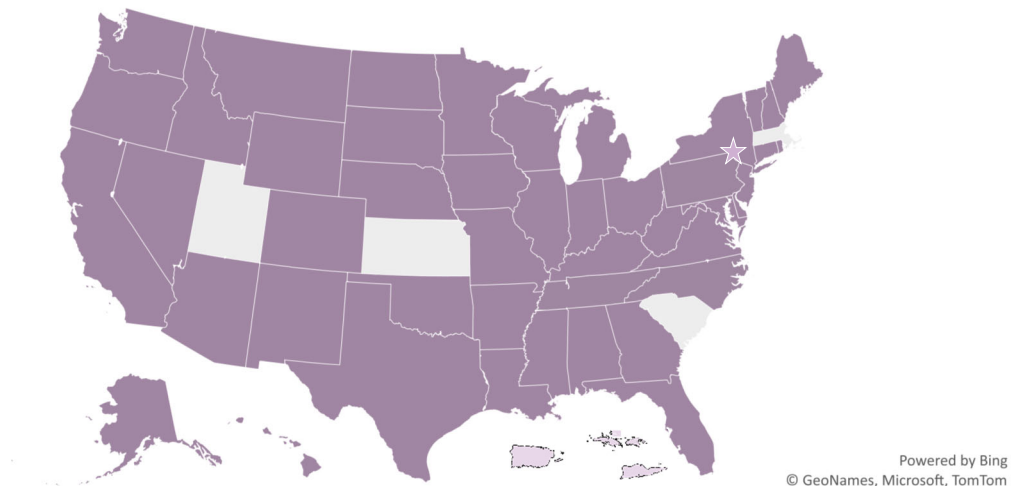
	Project, Remote Hearings Project, Youth Voice Project, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Project, Guardianship as a Permanent Plan Project
Maine	Quality Hearing Transformation Zone Project: Focuses on enhancing parent and caregiver engagement at child welfare judicial reviews and permanency planning hearings
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 aims to increase meaningful and appropriate involvement of youth in their foster care cases
Minnesota	In collaboration with Mitchell Hamline School of Law's Institute to Transform Child Protection (ITCP), this project is an effort to expand upon and redesign the Emergency Protective Care (EPC) Hearing Training
Mississippi	Coordinating the three branches of government in assessing the impact of government actions on children who are abused or neglected; Recommending changes to improve children's safety, strengthening and supporting families, and promoting public trust and confidence in the child welfare system
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	PHC project
Nebraska	Court Observation Project that focuses on judicial engagement of youth and families
Nevada	CIP contracted with researchers to survey our child welfare court and agency professionals' to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of remote hearings while identifying areas for improvement
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 RSA 169-C 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 CCIC 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 (REJA)
North Carolina	Drafting and annual update of the Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina manual
North Dakota	The ND CIP, in collaboration with the ND ICWA Partnership Grant, 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 Ohio CIP continues to contract with researchers to improve hearing quality in Ohio's Juvenile Courts
Oklahoma	The CIP will continually assess the courts to ensure they adhere to all due process measures when serving the children and families involved in the dependency court system
Oregon	Use of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Model to identify areas of need and to identify and adapt interventions to improve the quality of hearings and reviews in dependency cases
Pennsylvania	The FEI 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	Assessing the quality of Probable Cause hearings to monitor and track continuance data within the child welfare court calendars via a "Probable Cause Hearing Form" and our online case management system
South Dakota	Permanency hearings are held every six months from when a child enters custody until the case is either dismissed or the permanency plan is met
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	A retrospective and prospective data analysis of the practices employed by the Permanent Managing Conservatorship Court as well as other resources and tools to encourage youth engagement in court hearings
Utah	Focusing on improving discussions inside and outside the courtroom around identifying the appropriate permanency goal(s) and achieving them in a timely fashion
U.S. Virgin Islands	Requiring that notice of hearings shall be provided to any party to the proceeding and places additional duties on attorneys, judges, and DHS to meet with children in advance of court hearings
Vermont	Creating and applying a universal Trauma Informed court framework in the Family Division
Virginia	Implement a court observation process with a case file review component
Washington	Seeking to apply the ABA Safety Guide to the context of Family Time (parent/child visit) decisions by courts. Hearing Quality Project evaluation will be used to determine improvement in outcomes related to the application of the Safety Frameworks in the Courts and to develop a plan to follow up with additional support for areas that are not showing improvement in outcomes or fidelity to the application of the Safety Framework
West Virginia	Looking at the multi-disciplinary team meeting (MDT) as a tool to increase the quality of the subsequent hearing
Wisconsin	The Tailored Dispositional Orders Project is a joint strategy between DCF and CCIP within the current Program Improvement Plan (PIP)
Wyoming	More individuals will participate in high-quality training through the utilization of an on-demand LMS; Practitioners will be able to improve their knowledge and skills through access to high-quality training materials; Participants throughout the state will be able to better engage in the child welfare process through collaboration

Improving Timeliness of Hearings or Permanency Outcomes

Forty-nine (92%) 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	
District of Columbia	Permanency Mediation addresses delays in reaching permanency through adoption by enabling a timely change of the permanency goal in appropriate cases
Louisiana	MIS for Children’s Attorney. MISs can calculate the time between different types of hearings, from removal to permanency, from free for adoption to adoption, etc. MIS also tracks continuances granted and parties asking for continuances
New Jersey	New Jersey Judiciary was able to implement a virtual hearing format with litigants, attorneys, caseworkers, stakeholders, and judges appearing by video and telephone
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
South Dakota	The CIP Committee completed revisions of the South Dakota Guidelines for the Judicial Process in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases in 2019. The manuals were distributed in January 2020 and made available on the UJS website. The manual has examples of quality court orders and hearing checklists
Tennessee	CIP will partner with the NACC to provide Red Book virtual training to parents’ attorneys, children’s attorneys, and attorneys from the Department of Children’s

	Services (DCS) who have not been able to participate in traditional trainings and continual learning opportunities
United State Virgin Islands	Reduction of continuances in child abuse cases; Reduction in cases returning to court; Reduction in new cases
Washington	Judicial ASFA Training-Module 1: Introduction to Child Dependency, an online and on-demand course was created to provide judicial officers with a high-level view of child dependency cases, including the importance of permanency, types of permanent plans, and case processing timelines
West Virginia	New View - this project focuses on youth who have lingered in care and aging out without reaching permanency

Quality Legal Representation

CIPs are required to work on a quality legal representation project. Some states are early in the process or in early discussion to determine whether these projects are feasible/sufficient to meet their needs. 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. It is important to note that this information is only from the first question on the self-assessment about the quality legal representation project.

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	“Advisory Counsel” of the DAP model which is used to meet with prospective clients in cases where a safe, alternative legal action might forgo the need to file a dependency petition
Arkansas	CIP has been speaking with NITA officials on requesting a training for OCC, 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	Quality Legal Representation is a key component in each of our projects, CO CIP has also decided to focus on safety-based decision-making in partnership with the Office of Respondent Parent Counsel, the Office of the Child’s Representative, and County Attorney representatives
Connecticut	DCF and the Office of Chief Public Defender (OCPD) have been in discussions regarding payment to attorneys for previously non-billable work, including pre-petition representation; CIP has been participating in a collaborative court program which has DCF providing educational brown bag lunch hours to attorneys on a variety of issues such as fatherhood engagement, racial disparity, permanency teaming, etc
Delaware	The CIP launched a Social Services Intervention Project (Pilot Project), which pairs parent attorneys with a social worker as soon as a dependency/neglect case was opened in Family Court
District of Columbia (DC)	The multi-disciplinary representation program provides parents with a dedicated social worker
Florida	Florida CIP is working with the CBCC on a project to create national Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) to help the field understand and improve child welfare court practice
Georgia	CIP will partner with the Georgia Public Defender Council (GPDC) to place full-time parent attorneys in counties to represent parents who qualify for appointed counsel

Hawaii	Provide the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Red Book Training to parent counsel across the state
Idaho	Parents for Parents Program IDHW and the Idaho Supreme Court are working together to investigate models and potentially implement the Parents for Parents program in Idaho
Illinois	Several models of parent attorney appointment, including attorneys employed with the public defender's office, contracted special public defenders, attorneys on contract with the county to provide parent representation, and conflict attorneys on contract with the county
Indiana	A multidisciplinary parent representation model is piloted in one or more counties that participate in the Public Defense Fund reimbursement program
Iowa	The creation of a task force that will develop an annual training plan that incorporates training identified by assessments and those identified by practicing attorneys and assuring that all attorneys who want to serve in juvenile court can obtain the requisite hours of juvenile topics and a plan of continuous quality assurance for attorney representation
Kansas	The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Brainshark Training consists of six pre-recorded webinars that cover the education and training requirements under Kansas Supreme Court Rule 110A
Kentucky	Legal Training for Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse (DNA) Cases; Since 1999, the AOC has been responsible for preparing attorneys to provide legal representation to children, parents, and custodians in child welfare cases.
Louisiana	Child Representation Protection Commission Project; Title IV-Funding Project; Engagement and Advocacy Project; Multidisciplinary Representation Program; Mediation Project; Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS) Certification; Motion Practice Project
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 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	CJI 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	A multiagency collaboration to provide legal support to indigent parents accused of abuse or neglect and facing the possibility of losing their children to CPS with direct representation at the trial phase and on appeal in such matters
Missouri	CIP will develop a communication method to reach child welfare attorneys in Missouri, as well as provide resource materials and ongoing training opportunities

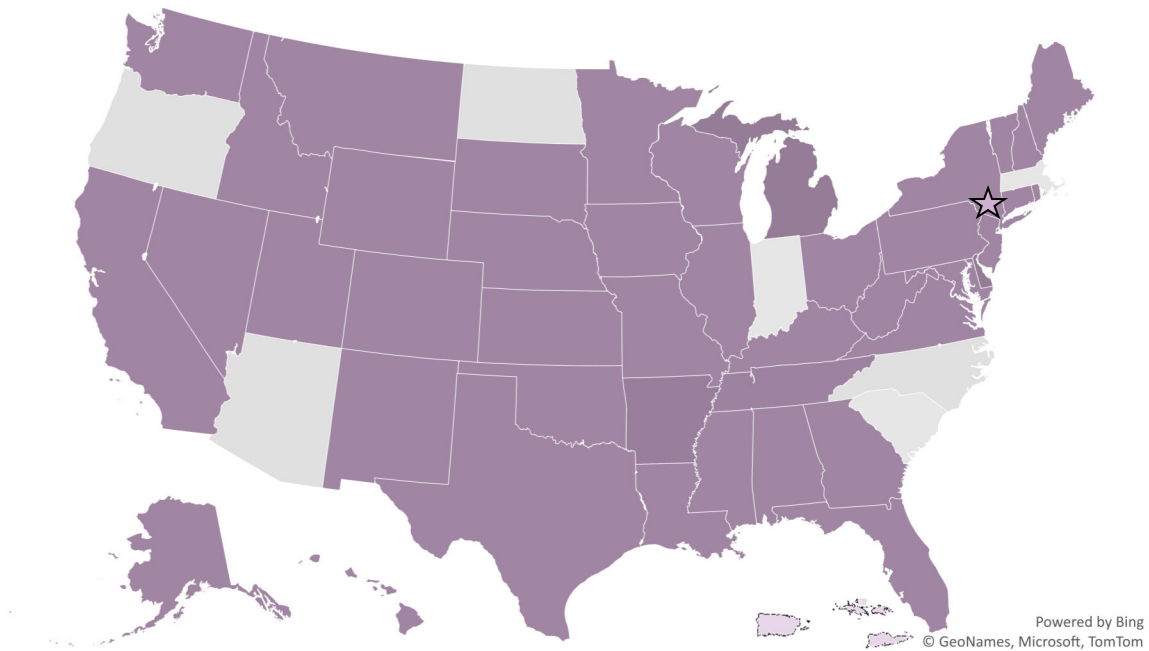
Montana	One-day workshop to help QLR subcommittee members develop a work plan
Nebraska	NE CIP and DHHS partnered together to bring the National Association of Counsel for Children Redbook training to Nebraska
Nevada	Evaluate current representation models and quality of legal representation(QLR)for all 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 RSA 169-C 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 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	Timely access to counsel, the recently adopted Office of Indigent Legal Services standard III that supports immediate assignment and presumptive entitlement to counsel.
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	Looking at representation across the state and making recommendations to the Court about improvements around representation, including caseloads, compensation, training, oversight, and appeals
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 de judicial and legal system by training judges and lawyers on reasonable efforts and evaluating change in practice

Rhode Island	Every youth involved in the family court is automatically assigned a CASA attorney, who is employed by the state
South Dakota	Developed a plan to implement information sharing and best-practice training opportunities
Tennessee	Improving the quality of child and parent representation in child welfare proceedings by increasing attorney knowledge and understanding of reasonable efforts requirements and analyses through training and ongoing mentoring
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 (IDC) to evaluate two counties that have piloted multi-disciplinary parent representation projects
U.S. Virgin Islands	Continued training and sponsoring of trainings for our members of the Juvenile and Guardian Ad Litem Panel to provide high-quality legal representation in child welfare proceedings
Vermont	Leverage Title IV-E match funding to hire, train and support attorneys working in family court to reduce caseloads and improve the quality and outcomes of representation
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	The Court Improvement Program 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 (Chapter 48) or Juvenile Justice Code (Chapter 938)
Wyoming	CJP will work with Tribal Court authorities to establish a case management system for the Tribal Court; JP will gather input from parents and children with lived experience, as well as attorneys, regarding the quality of court hearings

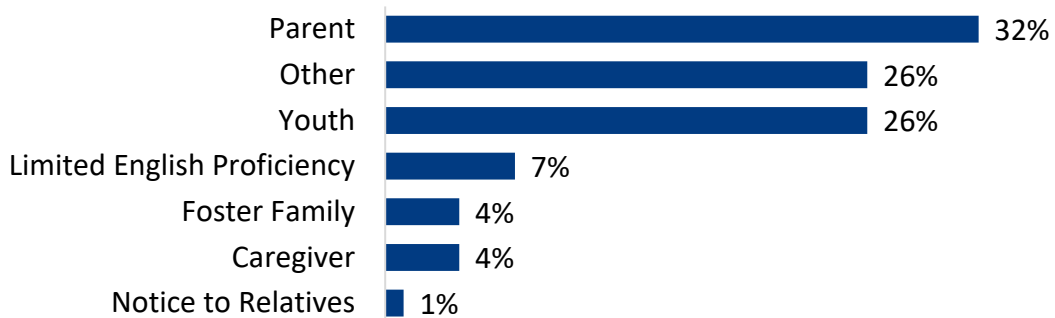
Engagement and Participation of Parties

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-six (87%) CIPs implemented projects related to the engagement and participation of parties during the 2022 fiscal year. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs with Engagement Projects



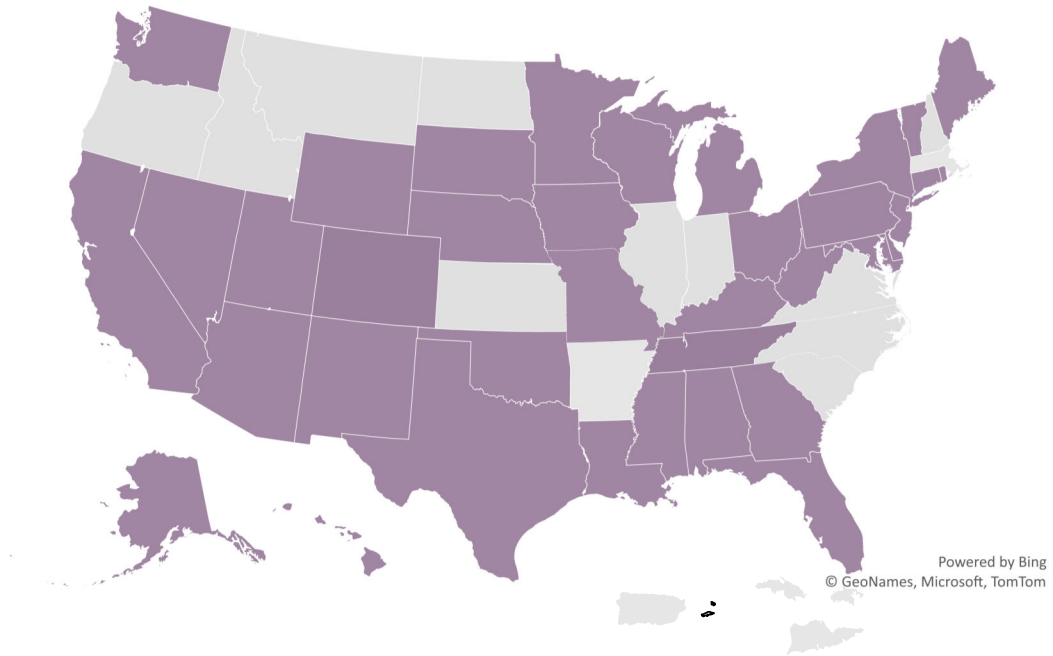
Percentage of Sub-Categories of Engagement/Participation Projects



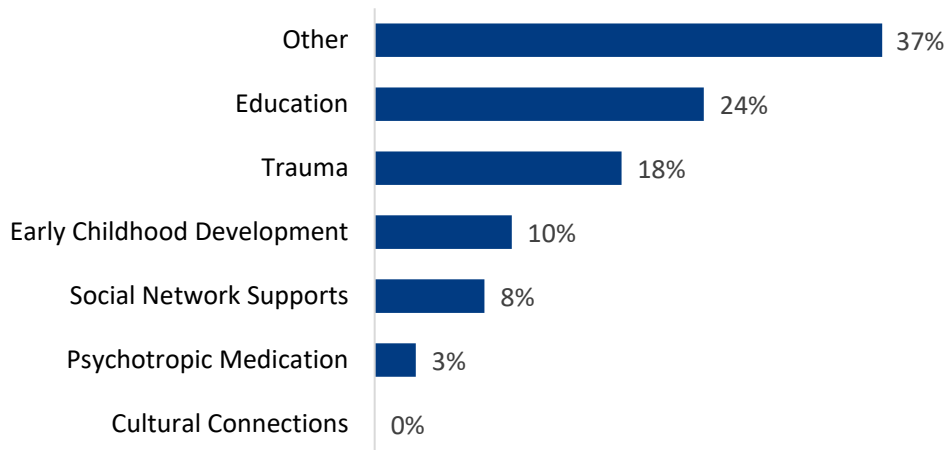
Well-Being

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. Thirty-eight (72%) of CIPs implemented well-being projects in the 2022 fiscal year. Purple states or territories indicate that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs With Well Being Projects



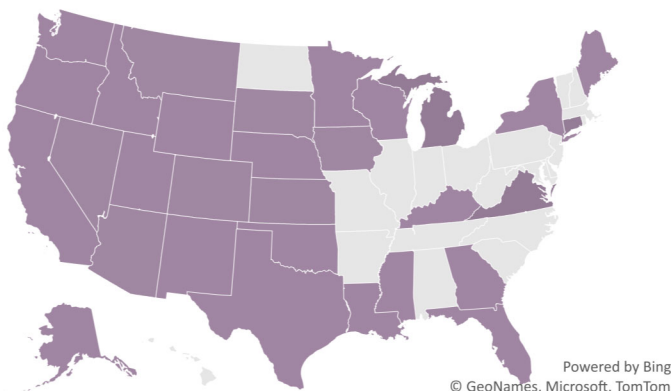
Projects in Specific Topical Areas



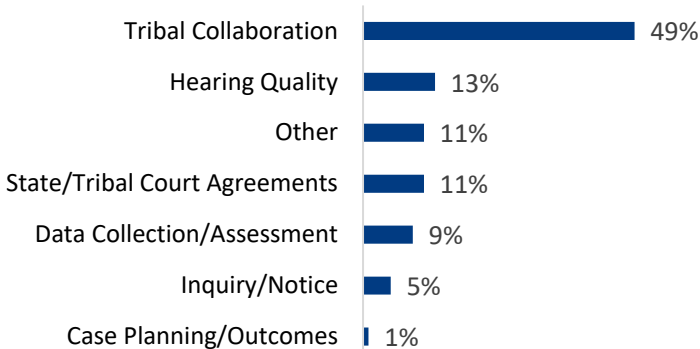
ICWA or Tribal Collaboration

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. A little over half of CIPs (57%) 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 / State Court Collaboration Projects



Percentage of Projects by Topic

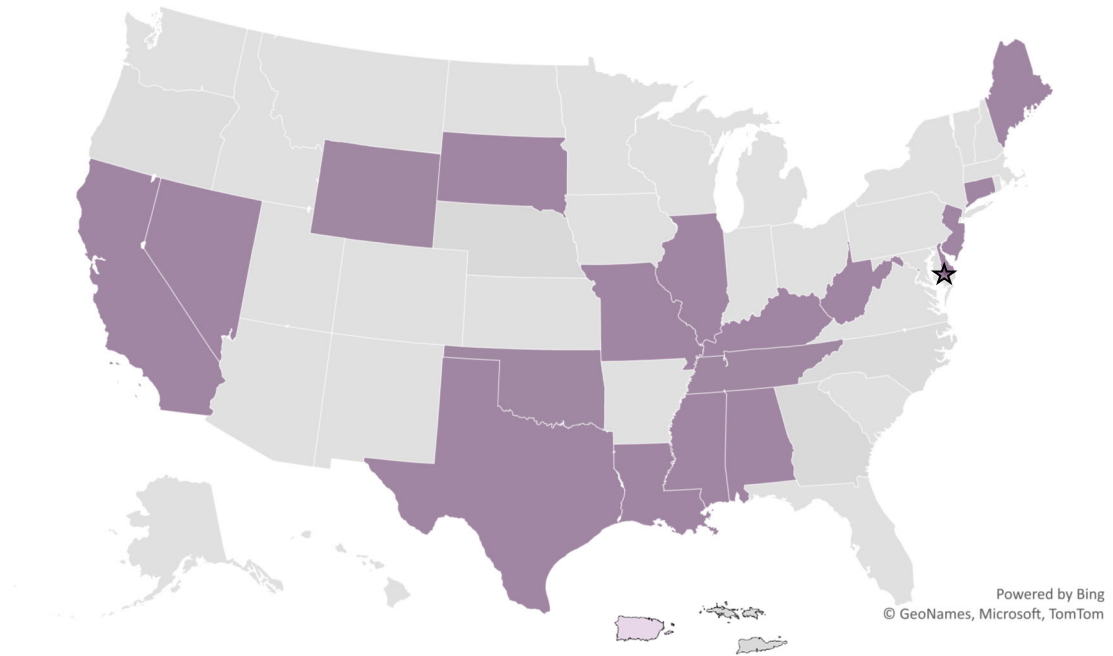


States Working on Specific Topics
Case Planning/Outcomes
Alaska
Transfers/Jurisdiction
Kentucky
Inquiry/Notice
Alaska, Georgia, Minnesota, New York
Hearing Quality
Alaska, Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, Virginia, Washington
State/Tribal Court Agreements
Alaska, California, Mississippi, New Mexico,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

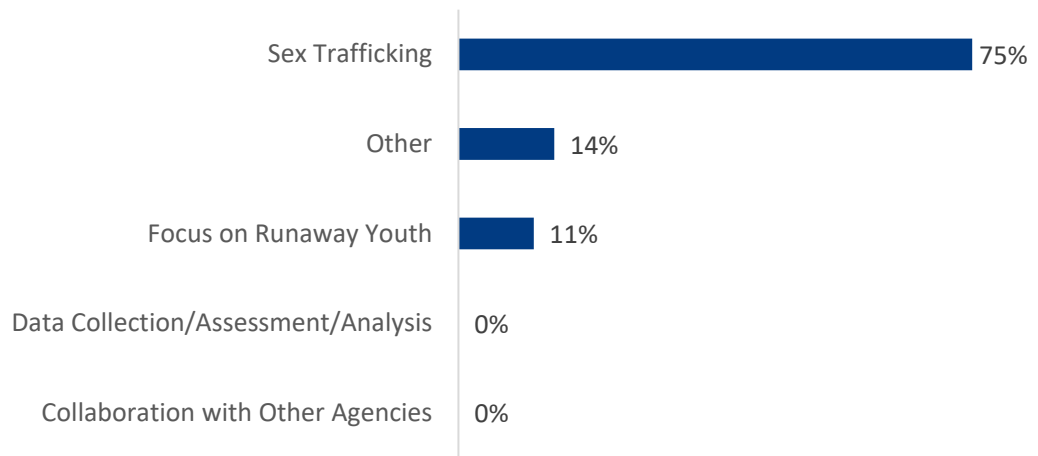
Preventing Sex Trafficking

Twenty CIPs (38%) had projects related to preventing sex trafficking in the 2022 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 indicates 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 18 CIPs (32%) reported projects that fell under this category. Purple states or territories indicates that the state participated in such projects.

CIPs With Normalcy/Reasonable Prudent Parent Projects

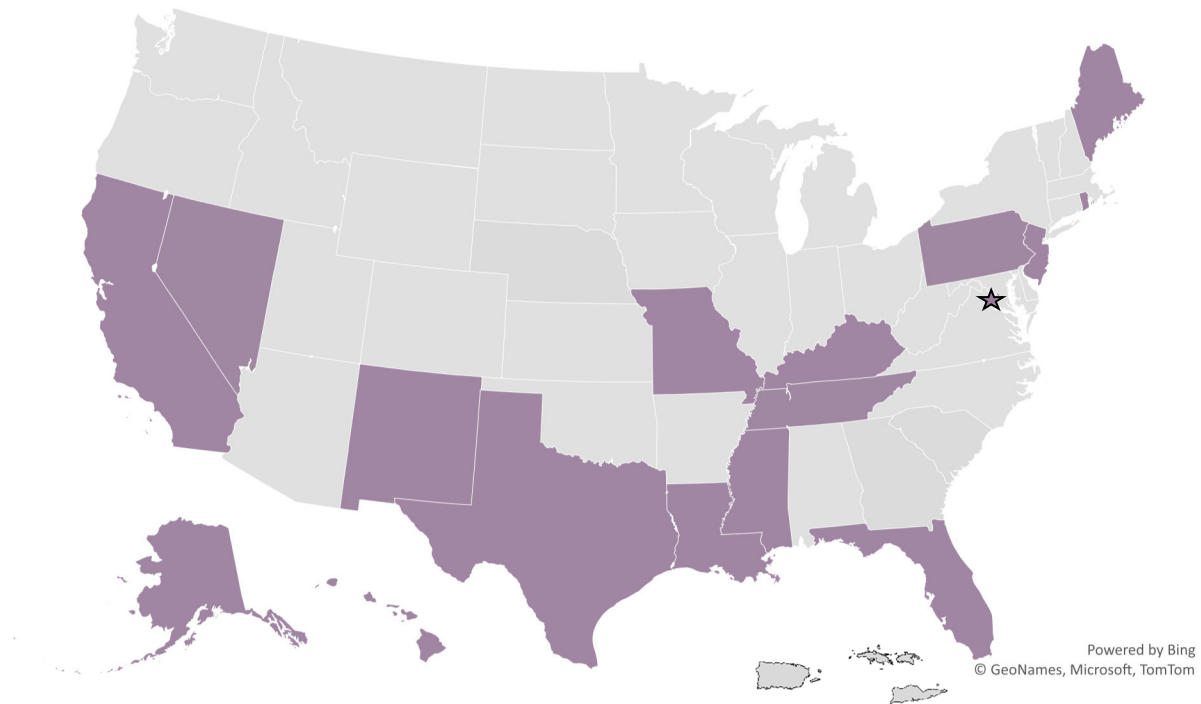


Table of Project Sub-Categories

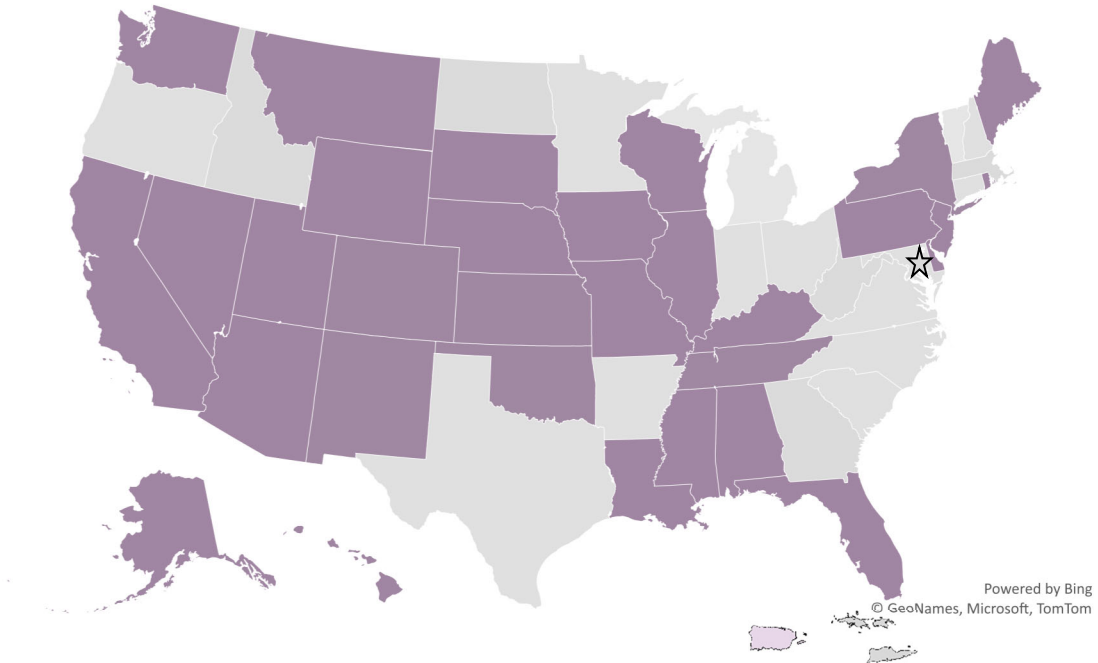
The table below identifies the normalcy sub-categories and reports on which states identified projects or activities in this area in FY 2022. No CIPs reported projects in the “data sharing” and “data collection and analysis” sub-categories.

CIPs that Report Normalcy/Reasonable and Prudent Parent Projects	
Staff Training	Kentucky, Mississippi, Nevada
Foster Parent Training	Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico
Judicial Oversight	Alaska; California; D.C., Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Maine
Collaboration	Alaska, Kentucky,
Other/Not Stated	Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New Mexico, Tennessee

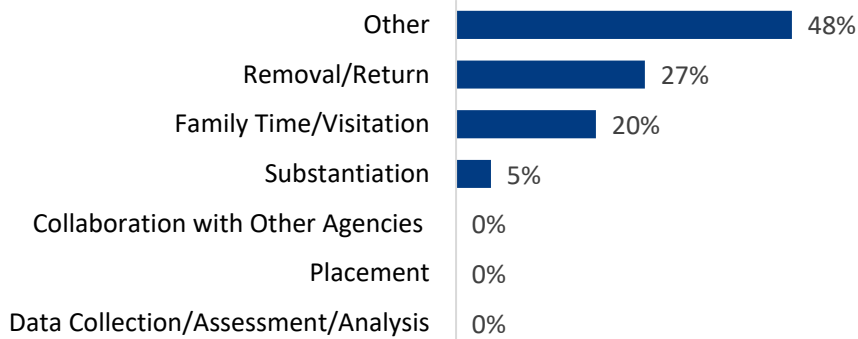
Safety

Thirty-three CIPs (60%) self-reported participating in safety projects, which included work that focuses on decision-making around safety, including practices in substantiation, removal/return, family time/visitation, and decisions about safety in out-of-home placements. Projects in the “other” category included safety decision-making models or trainings, bench cards for judges, and trainings related to safety decision-making broadly or reasonable efforts.

CIPs With Safety Projects



Percentage of Sub-Categories of Safety Projects

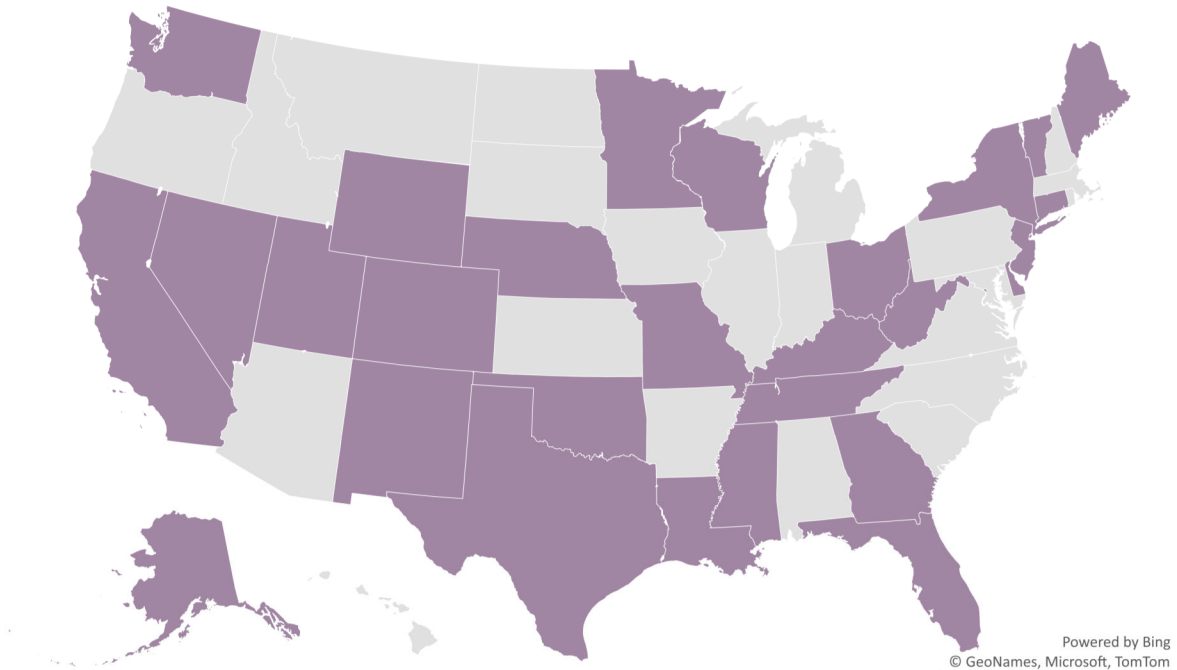


“Other” projects included safety decision-making trainings, either training curriculum or integrated as part of larger trainings, safety decision-making benchcard, and other discrete projects that did not fit well into other categories.

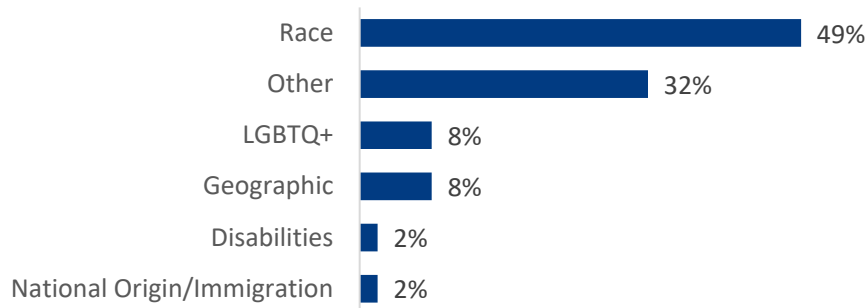
Disproportionality/ Disparity/Race Equity

CIPs for the 2022 Self-Assessment were asked to report any disproportionality, disparity, or equity projects they were working on. In prior years, these were typically reported under the topic of well-being but were expanded last year to include work to better address needs for persons with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, geographic disparities, national origin or immigration, religious discrimination, and race equity. Twenty-nine states (55%) 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. The table below provides some examples.

Example Race Equity Projects	
Alaska	Multi-disciplinary training Effectively Representing Youth in Court was presented that included specific training around LGBTQ+ issues
California	California CIP is working on a joint project with CDSS on evaluation of tribal court interventions and is working with CBCC to develop a project on race equity to address disparities in black youth that linger in foster care
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.
Connecticut	The Racial Justice Committee is working to identify areas of disparity in court outcomes and make improvements with stakeholder input
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.
Kentucky	Cultural Awareness Bench Card—The CIP team drafted a Cultural Awareness Judicial Bench Card. Litigants may face challenges when courts are not responsive to their cultural identity. This bench card provides reference to language, appearance, familial correlation, unwillingness to involve authorities, medical conditions, holistic health care, faith and medicine, and stigma associated with therapy.
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

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	Equal Justice in the Courts (EJIC)The CWCIP is participating in the implementation of the New York State Court System’s Equal Justice in the Courts (EJIC) work, specifically in relation to the recommendation to develop and provide mandated bias training starting with judicial leaders and court managers. The Rules of the Chief Judge have been amended mandating bias training for all judges, court employees, and court staff including justices and court staff in local town and village courts.
Tennessee	CIP developed Immigration Training in collaboration with Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR), Legal Services of Tennessee, Catholic Charities, and a private attorney
Utah	Our child-welfare system's core principles and guiding practices focus on equity and individualized interventions regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, cultural heritage, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.
Vermont	Vermont Communication Support Project-The VCSP assists people with disabilities who have difficulty understanding court and administrative and may need assistance in communicating with attorneys, judges and other officials. CIP continues to partner with VCSP to assist in delivering and expanding these services.
Washington	Equity and Engagement Framework-CIP facilitates a design team that includes youth, parent and caregiver lived experts and a consultant to create a framework for safely engaging lived experts in systems change work, and creating spaces of belonging in meetings and task forces.

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.

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

Of the states who do not currently offer professional partner training, **29%** have had conversations with the agency about this.

CIPs were also asked if they had talked with the agency about accessing title IV-E funds for legal representation.

91%

- CIPs talked to agency about accessing Title IV-E funding for legal representation for parents and children.

77%

- Agency is planning to seek reimbursement

The 2020 Self-Assessment Report includes examples of states in each of these areas.