



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



# VALHSO Conference

Newport News, Virginia

September 30, 2024

# Families First Update

# Family First Focus Areas

- Create Kinship Navigator workgroup
- Identify community Kinship service needs
- Add Kinship Navigator model to IV-E reimbursable services

Kinship Navigator Expansion



- Provide training to LDSS on EBPs
- Expand EBP providers

EBP Outreach and Education



- Identify potential community pathways
- Expand eligible candidacy population

Candidacy Definition



- Add Home Visiting models to eligible IV-E reimbursable services

Implement Home Visiting program



- Create workgroup to assist evolving and expanding EBPs and supporting families

Family First Workgroup

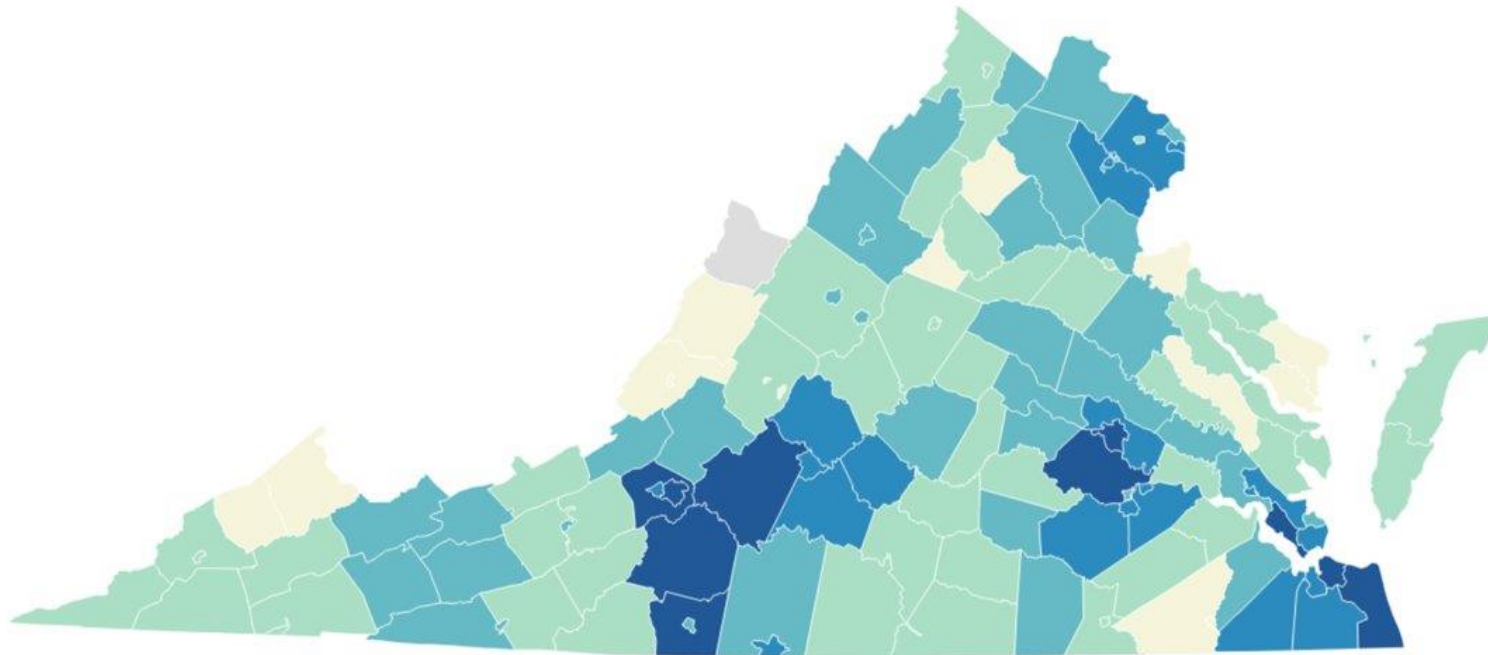


# Family First Evidence-Based Programs

## Family First EBP Coverage in Virginia

The number of BSFT, FCU, FFT, HFW, or MST teams serving each locality as of June 2024

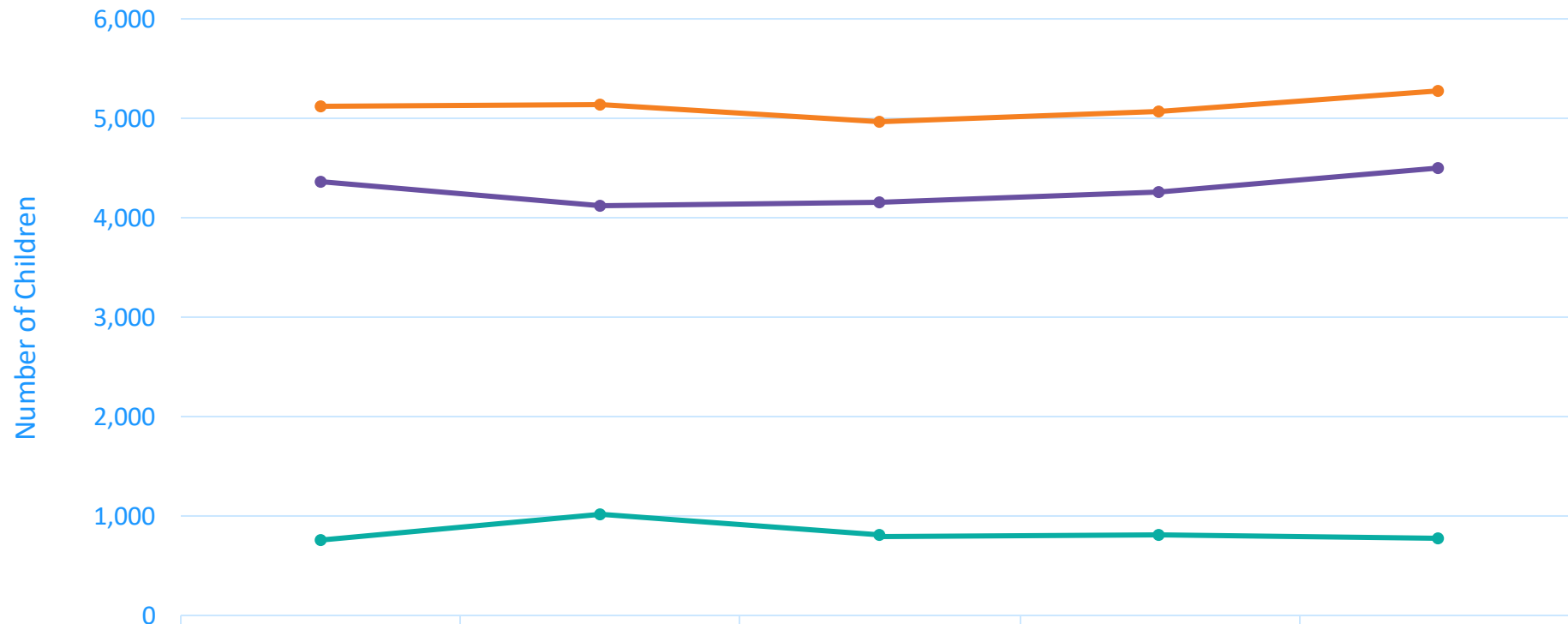
■ 1 Team
 ■ 2-3 Teams
 ■ 4-5 Teams
 ■ 6-7 Teams
 ■ 8+ Teams



Provider Agency	Number of Providers
Brief Strategic Therapy (BSFT)	3
Family Check Up	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	15
High Fidelity Wrap-Around	40
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	17
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)	16
Homebuilders	0
Motivational Interviewing <i>(have not begun claiming yet)</i>	LDSS

# Foster Care

# Children/Youth in Foster Care At Start of Fiscal Year 2021-2025



	SFY2021	SFY2022	SFY2023	SFY2024	SFY2025
All	5,133	5,150	4,972	5,075	5,284
Under 18	4,373	4,131	4,161	4,260	4,508
18+	760	1,019	811	815	776

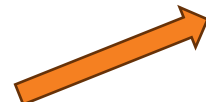
**SFY = July 1st  
of each year  
in table**

# Expiration of Pandemic Relief


In 2021, stimulus payments, in conjunction with other relief measures, spurred the largest one-year drop in child poverty on record.

In 2022, the expiration of that aid led to a historic increase in child poverty. As a result, 5 million more children lived in poverty in 2022 compared to 2021 (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, June 2024).

Expanded benefits provided in Virginia ended in the first half of 2023.



**Important Changes to Benefit Programs**  
Federal and state benefit programs that provided temporary eligibility and enrollment procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic will begin returning to regular operations over the coming months. These programs will have specific requirements and unique timeframes for returning to pre-pandemic services. Please use the information below to find details concerning these important updates.

 VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES	SNAP Emergency Allotments	SNAP for College Students	Medical Assistance	TANF	P-EBT
<b>WHAT</b> <i>does this program do?</i>	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides monthly food benefits to eligible households and individuals. SNAP emergency allotments were a temporary federal benefit provided to active SNAP households.	The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for college students provides monthly benefits to eligible college students. Eligibility was temporarily expanded to allow greater participation by students enrolled at least half-time in an institution of higher education.	The Medicaid and Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) programs provide medical and dental health care coverage to eligible children, adults and families. Participants were provided continuous coverage during the previous period and were not required to submit for annual renewal of benefits.	The Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides monthly cash payments to eligible households. TANF families were temporarily provided benefits beyond the usual 24- and 60-month limits. Requirements for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) program were also waived.	The Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program provides free meals to school eligible aged children at participating schools. This program supplemented school meals that students missed while schools were closed or placed on part-time schedules due to COVID-19 restrictions.
<b>WHY</b> <i>is this changing?</i>	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency	Passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023	The end of the temporary program allowances was based on planned administrative decisions.	The ending of the federal Public Health Emergency
<b>WHEN</b> <i>will changes occur?</i>	February 16, 2023	June 10, 2023	April 1, 2023	January 1, 2023	May 11, 2023
<b>WHERE</b> <i>can I learn more?</i>	<a href="https://dss.virginia.gov/SNAP">dss.virginia.gov/SNAP</a>	<a href="https://dss.virginia.gov/SNAPcollege">dss.virginia.gov/SNAPcollege</a>	<a href="https://coverva.org/en/phe-planning">coverva.org/en/phe-planning</a>	<a href="https://dss.virginia.gov/TANF">dss.virginia.gov/TANF</a>	<a href="https://pebtva.com">pebtva.com</a>
VDSS Assistance	<a href="https://dss.virginia.gov/benefitchanges">dss.virginia.gov/benefitchanges</a>				



For program eligibility or to apply for assistance online, visit [CommonHelp](https://CommonHelp.virginia.gov).  
 For phone assistance, contact the Enterprise Call Center at (855) 635-4370.  
 For deaf or hard-of-hearing (TTY/TTD) assistance, contact (800) 552-7917 or (866) 246-9300.

# Increased Parental/Family Stress

Parents and caregivers have been consistently more likely to report experiencing **high levels of stress** compared to other adults.

**33% of parents reported high levels of stress in the past month (Aug. 2024) compared to 20% of other adults.**

When stress is severe and/or prolonged, it can have **harmful effects on the mental health of parents and caregivers.**

**Parents and caregivers today face tremendous and unique pressures!**

**(U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents, August 2024)**

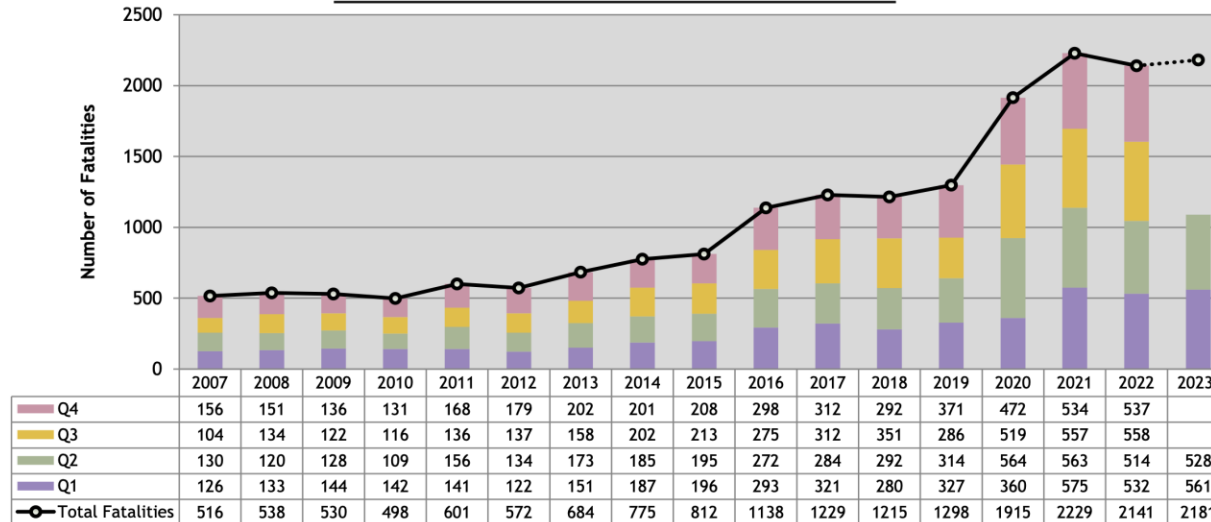


# The Opioid Crisis

**Local departments of social services continue to be disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis; they are struggling with the increase in cases resulting from parental death and substance-exposed children entering foster care in their communities.**

(Final Report of the Commission on Youth, 2023)

Total Number of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Quarter and Year of Death, 2007-2023\*  
Data for 2023 is a Predicted Total for the Entire Year



<sup>1</sup> All Opioids include all versions of fentanyl, heroin, prescription opioids, U-47700, and opioids unspecified

<sup>2</sup> Opioids Unspecified are a small category of deaths in which the determination of heroin and/or one or more prescription opioids cannot be made due to specific circumstances of the death. Most commonly, these circumstances are a result of death several days after an overdose, in which the OCME cannot test for toxicology because the substances have been metabolized out of the decedent's system.

<sup>3</sup> Fatal opioid numbers have changed slightly from past reports due to the removal of fentanyl from the category of prescription opioids, as well as the addition of buprenorphine, levorphanol, meperidine, pentazocine, propoxyphene, and tapentadol added to the list of prescription opioids.



**About 30% of foster care cases are related to parental drug abuse. The trend seems to be growing.**

# Other Considerations for Increased Foster Care Numbers

## Relief of Custody:

**Local departments of social services across the state have seen an increase in the use of “relief of custody” to deal with a troubled teen or child which often results in entry into foster care and increased caseloads (Final Report of the Commission on Youth, 2023).**

## Kinship:

**While there has been an increase of children entering care, there has also been an increase of children entering foster care being placed in kinship foster homes.**

**The kinship rate in Virginia has increased due to concentrated efforts in placing children with kin or fictive kin – especially within the last year due to Kin First Now.**

## Workforce:

**Currently, there is a shortage of child welfare workers, which is a cause of high caseloads (Final Report of the Commission on Youth, 2023).**

**Provisional Child Care License  
Impact on IV-E Funding  
&  
Timeline for IV-E Review**

# Provisional Childcare Licenses and the Impact on Title IV-E Funding

## Title IV-E Guidance 1.7.1.4 Childcare

- Title IV-E funds can be used for childcare when the childcare is provided in a legally operating facility or home that provides daily supervision.
- Title IV-E funds are not allowable for a provisionally licensed childcare facility.

## Child Welfare Manual 8.3A.8c Title IV-E, Foster Care Maintenance Payments

### Question:

- Can a State claim title IV-E reimbursement for an eligible child placed in a child-care institution that has a provisional license? Can the State claim title IV-E if the childcare institution has a probationary license due to a violation of State procedures?

### Answer:

- If a child-care institution is granted a provisional license or placed on probationary status due to its failure to fully satisfy all of the State's licensing standards, then children placed in such facility are not eligible for title IV-E foster care maintenance payments. The child-care institution becomes eligible for Federal financial participation when it comes into full compliance with the State's licensing standards.



# Federal Timeline

**Dates of the Federal Review:**

***February 24-28, 2025***

**Period Under Review (PUR):**

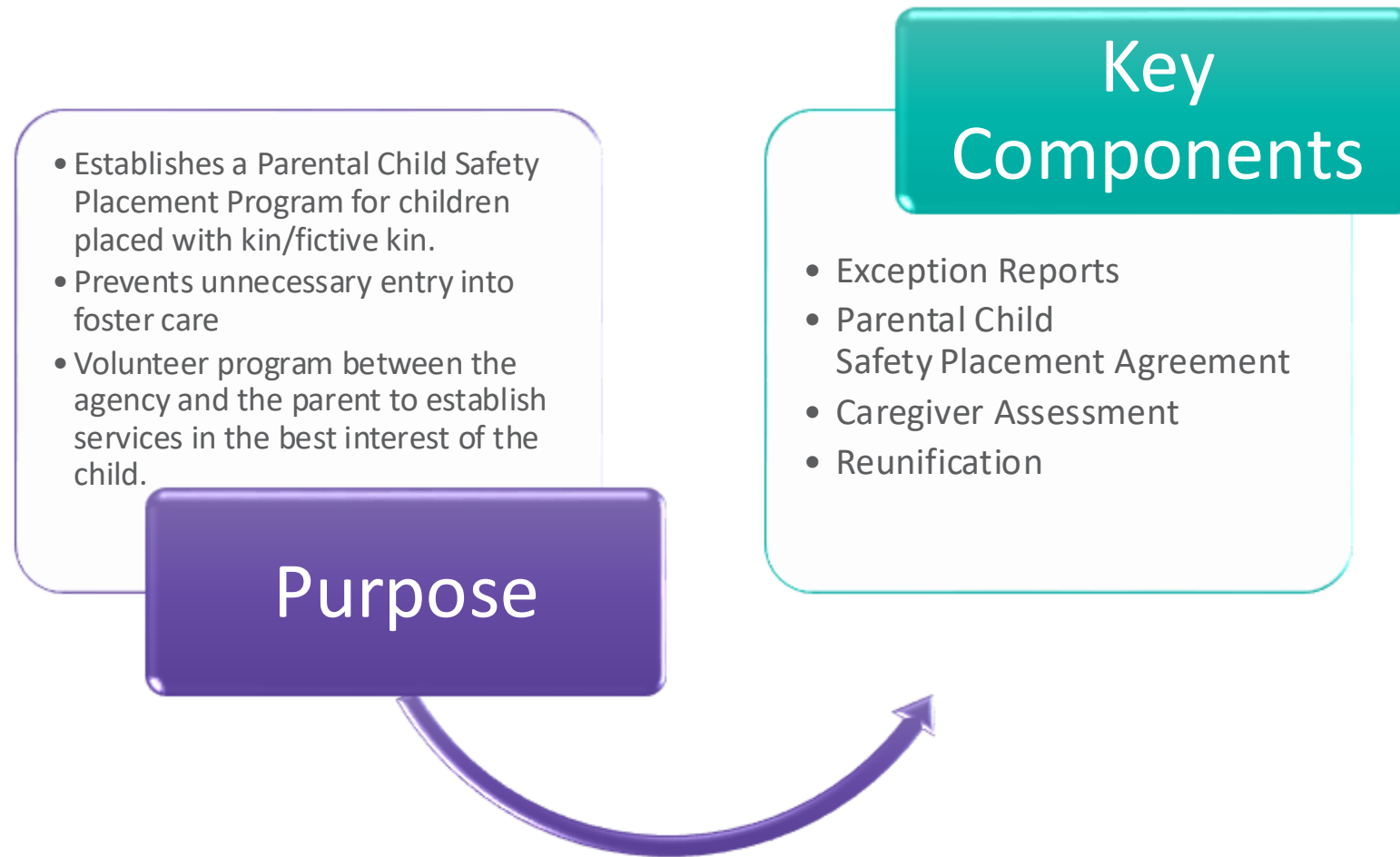
***April 1 – September 30, 2024***

**[April 2024 DYK - 2025 FEDERAL IV-  
EFCELIGIBILITY AND PAYMENT  
REVIEW REMINDER.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)**



# **Kinship Bill: Parental Child Safety Placement Program**

# SB 39: Parental Child Safety Placement Program



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Establish guardrails to protect children and families

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Promote family driven decisions

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Increase placements with kin and fictive kin

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Child-focused and family centered practice

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Preservation of parental rights

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Transform prevention services for families

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Establish streamlined processes for LDSS

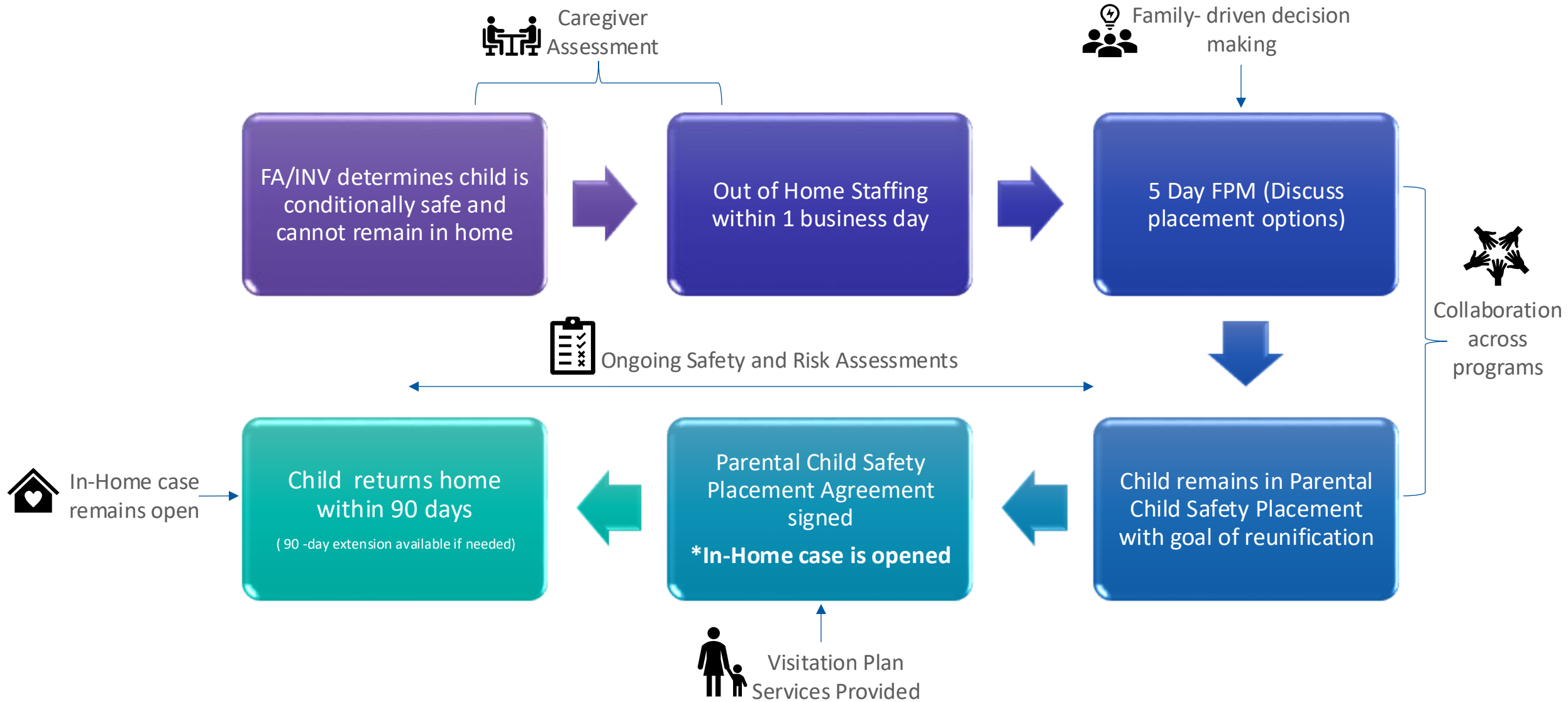
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# Goals of the Parental Child Safety Placement Program (PCSPP)





# Parental Child Safety Placement Program (PCSP)



# Kinship Legislation



Regulations have posted to Town Hall.

Open for public comment until  
October 11, 2024.

[Link to Town Hall.](#)

# **CCWIS: Human Centered Design**

# Human Centered Design (HCD) Approach to CCWIS

## Goals

**Improved user experience and downstream outcomes for children, youth, families, providers, and community stakeholders.**

**Streamlined processes and consolidated systems to improve efficiency and reduce time spent navigating the system which means more time with families.**

**Intentional integration of diverse stakeholder needs to promote buy-in and system adoption. Provision of greater consistency in service delivery across the Commonwealth.**

# HCD User Experience Sessions

## Time Well Spent

- **Depending on the topic's complexity, we'll spend 1-3 hours in sessions. Your time is precious, and we aim to make every minute count.**

## Share Your Experience

- **What works? What doesn't? Your experience is crucial for understanding how to better serve the children and families of Virginia.**

## No Prep Necessary

- **Just bring your authentic self. There's no homework or preparation required. We want to hear the real story – your story – as it is.**



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