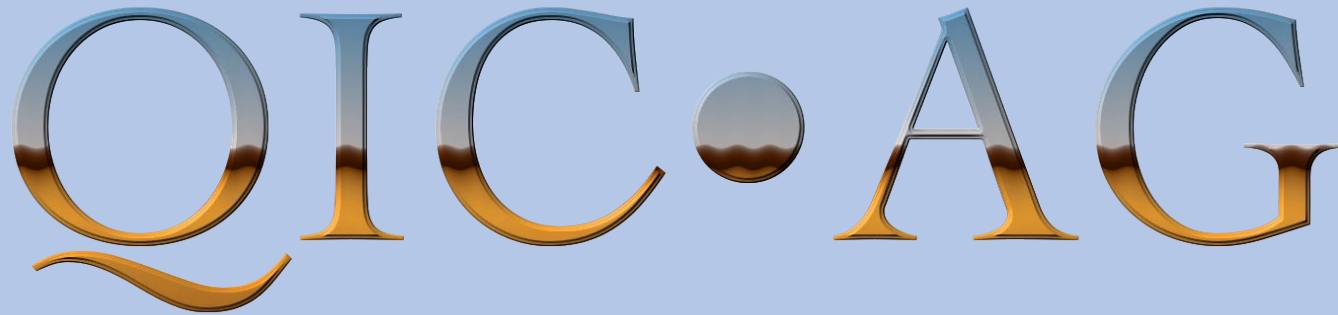


National Quality Improvement Center



Adoption & Guardianship Support and Preservation

A Program funded through a five-year cooperative agreement with
Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau in partnership with:
Spaulding for Children

ASSESSING SYSTEMS TO BETTER SUPPORT ADOPTION AND GUARDIANSHIP FAMILIES: USING THE QIC-AG CONTINUUM ASSESSMENT

April 21, 2021

OBJECTIVES

- Learn practical information about the QIC-AG assessment process pertaining to exploration of the target population, macro level organizational structure, and direct services and interventions.
- Understand how to use the assessment tool through hands-on instruction.
- Gain insights about how the assessment process informs decision-making and prioritization of services in order to best serve families.

PRESENTERS

- Leslie Cohen
 - *QIC-AG Project Director, Spaulding for Children*

- Stephanie Hodge Wolfe
 - *QIC-AG Site Consultant*

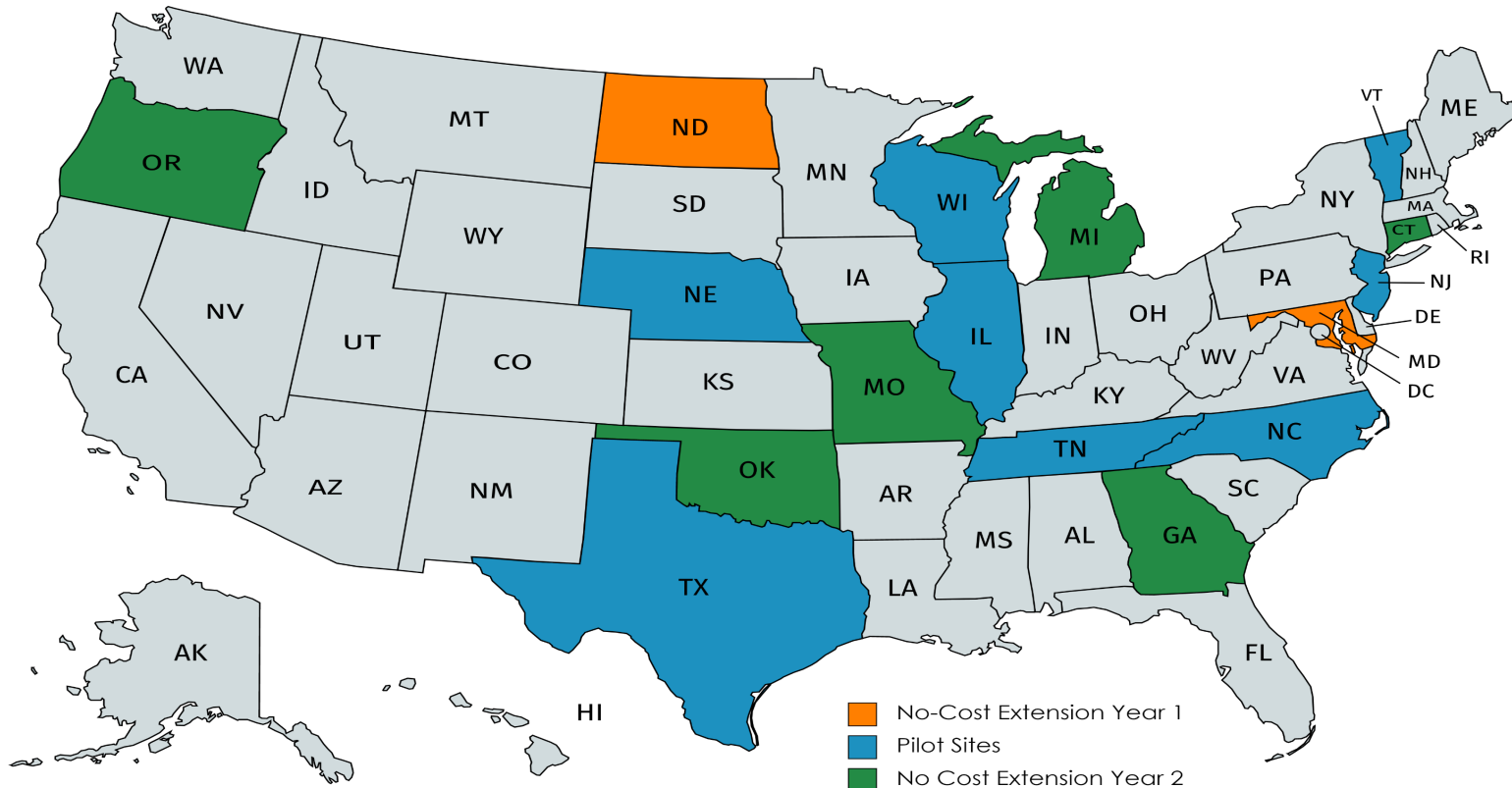
- Julie Hoffman
 - *Administrator, Adoption Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services*

QIC-AG OVERVIEW

QIC-AG OVERVIEW

- A five year cooperative agreement est. 2014
- Worked with 8 pilot sites
- **Target populations:**
 - **Target Group 1:** Children with challenging mental health, emotional or behavioral issues who are awaiting an adoptive or guardianship placement as well as children in an identified adoptive or guardianship home, but the placement has not resulted in finalization for a significant period of time.
 - **Target Group 2:** Children and families who have already finalized the adoption or guardianship. This group includes children who have obtained permanency through private guardianship and domestic private or international adoptions

QIC-AG SITES

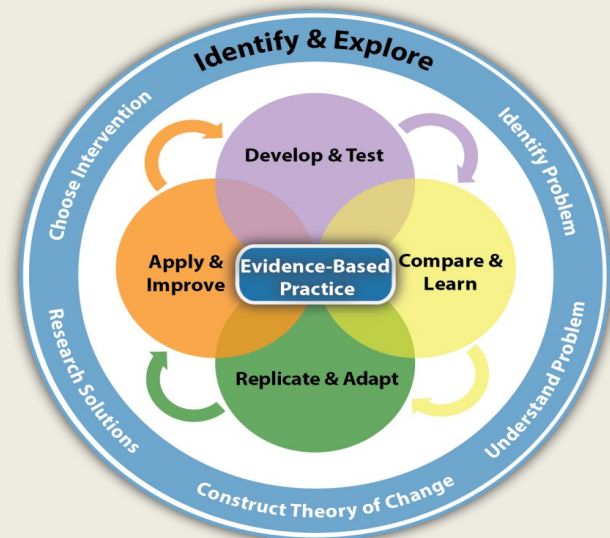


THE HISTORY AND FOUNDATION

QIC-AG PROCESS

The work in each of the QIC sites followed a structured progression through the various phases of implementation science informed by the National Implementation Science Network (NIRN, 2010) and “A Framework to Design, Test, Spread, and Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare (Children’s Bureau, 2014).

- Identify and Explore
- Implementation Planning
- Installation
- Initial Implementation
- Full Implementation



CONTINUUM ASSESSMENT

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- Clarify the existing services, organizational structure and population needs
- Identify gaps and strengths
- Supporting decisions related to capacity building



THE ASSESSMENT TOOL

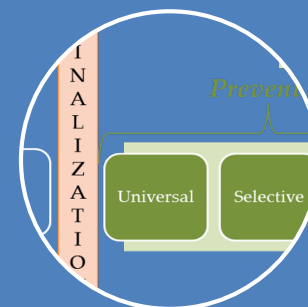
ELEMENTS OF THE ASSESSMENT



Population



Organizational
Systems



Services and
Interventions



POPULATION



Population

- Numbers of Children in Foster Care
- Numbers of Adoptions and Guardianships

POPULATION EXAMPLE

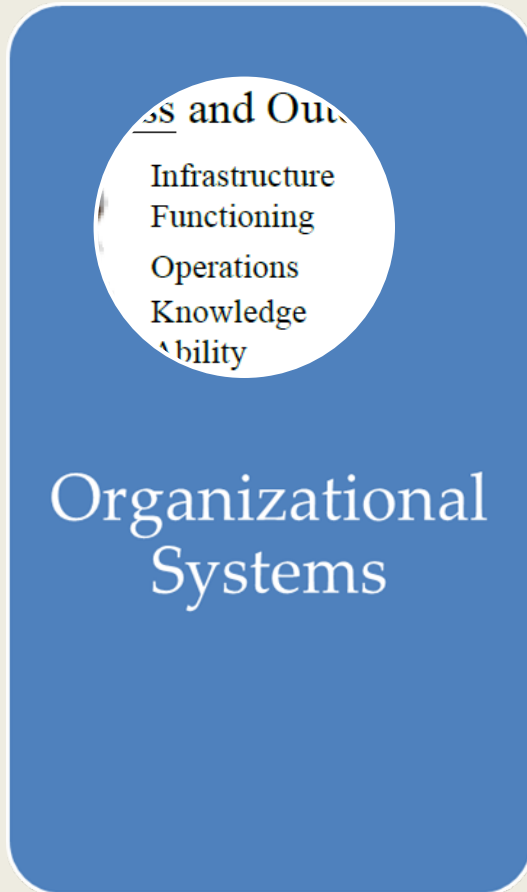


Who is at Risk?

What is known about the characteristics of children with a goal of adoption or guardianship who have not finalized for two years or more?

- What are the ages of these children?
- To what degree are sibling groups part of this population?
- What types of special needs characterize this population?
- What types of behavioral challenges exist for this group?
- What is the average number of placements?
- In which geographical region do these children reside?

ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS



- Process
 - Infrastructure
 - Functioning
 - Operations
- Outcomes
 - Knowledge
 - Ability

ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEMS EXAMPLE

ss and Out

Infrastructure
Functioning

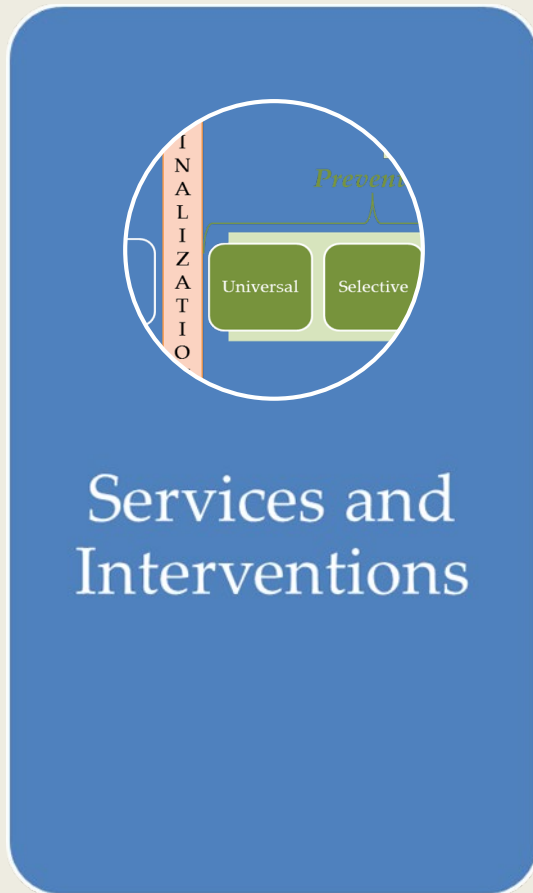
Operations

Knowledge

Ability

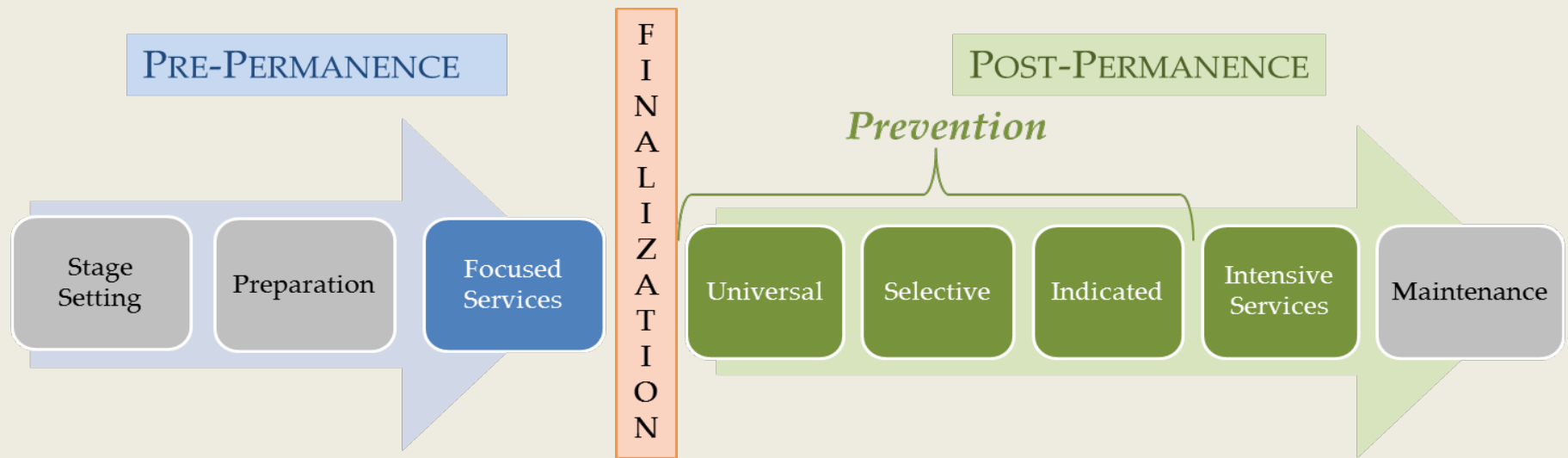
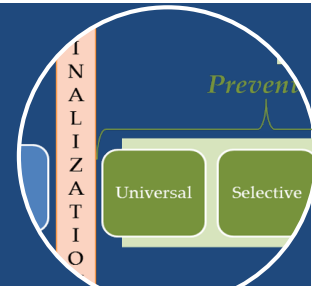
- **Communication**: The agency has developed strategies to ensure information about the needs of the target groups is consistently shared among key service providers and stakeholders relevant to the populations.
 - How is information related to the needs of each target group shared across departments, systems, and private and voluntary sectors, to ensure service providers working with the target populations understand the issues facing children/families?
 - What mechanisms are in place to ensure that information collected about the needs of the target populations is accessible to service providers (i.e. performance dashboard, monthly QA reports, survey results, policy transmittals)?
 - How is information collected from adoptive and guardianship families communicated to services providers and stakeholders?

SERVICES AND INTERVENTIONS

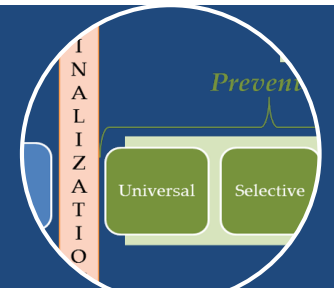


- Interval
 - Stage setting
 - Preparation
 - Focused
 - Universal
 - Selective
 - Indicated
 - Intensive
 - Maintenance
- Quality and Accessibility

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERMANENCY CONTINUUM



QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY METRICS



Quality Metrics

- Adoption/ permanency-competent
- Trauma-informed
- Designed with family and youth input and feedback
- Family-focused
- Outcome-evaluated/ evidence-based (with positive results)

Accessibility Metrics

- Broad eligibility
- Financially accessible
- Geographically accessible
- Well known/publicized
- Rapid availability
- Ongoing availability/sustainability
- Culturally relevant and accessible

THE PROCESS

TEAMING



STAKEHOLDERS

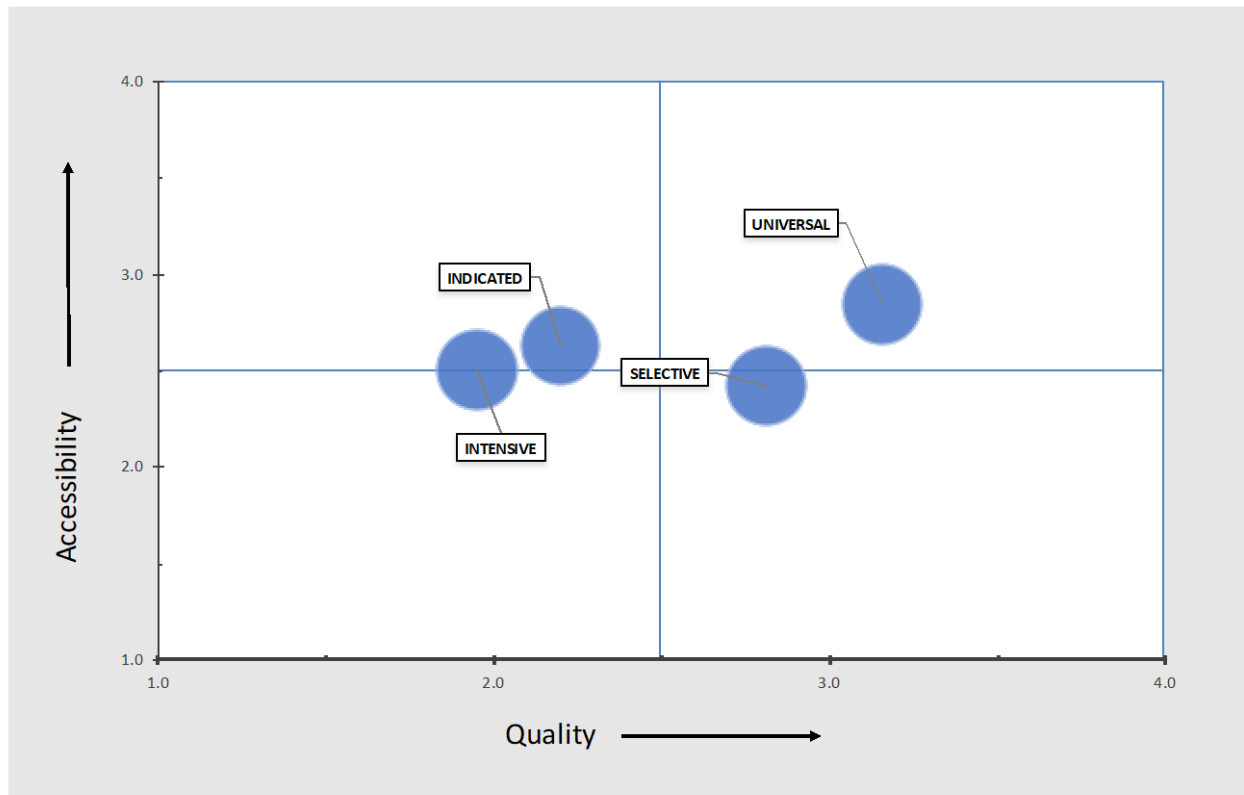


DOING THE WORK



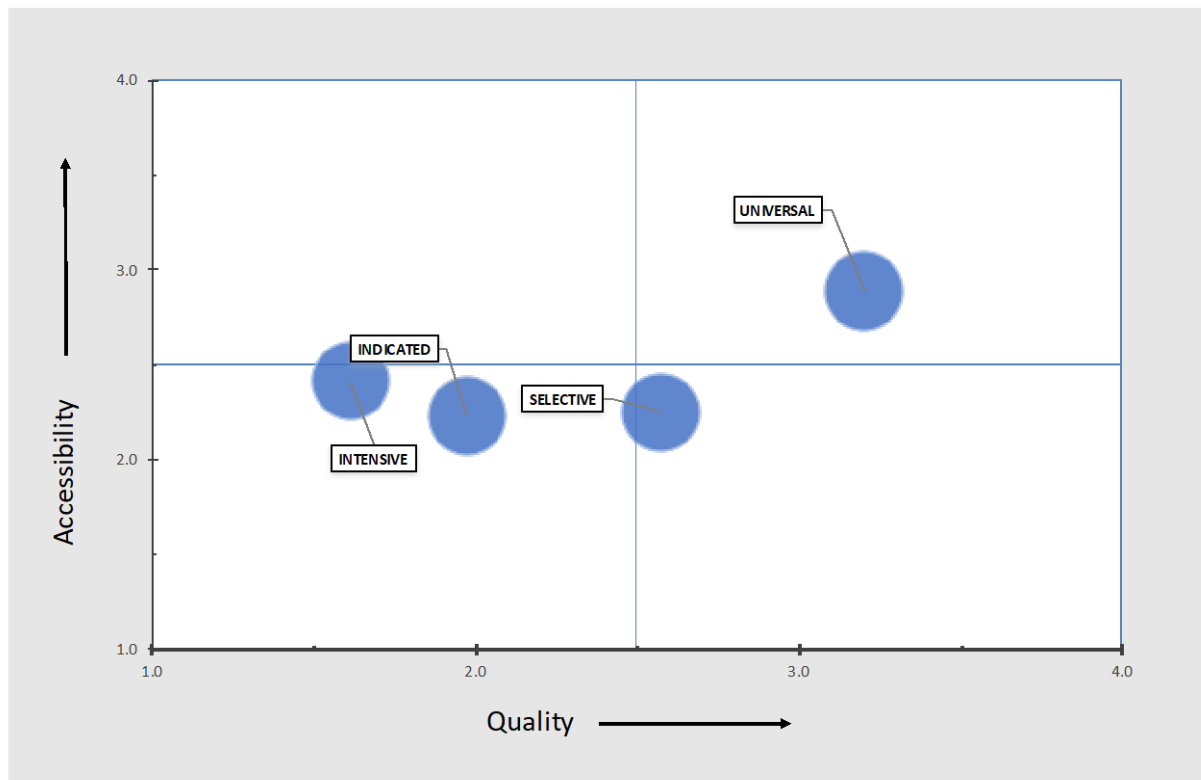
STATEWIDE

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



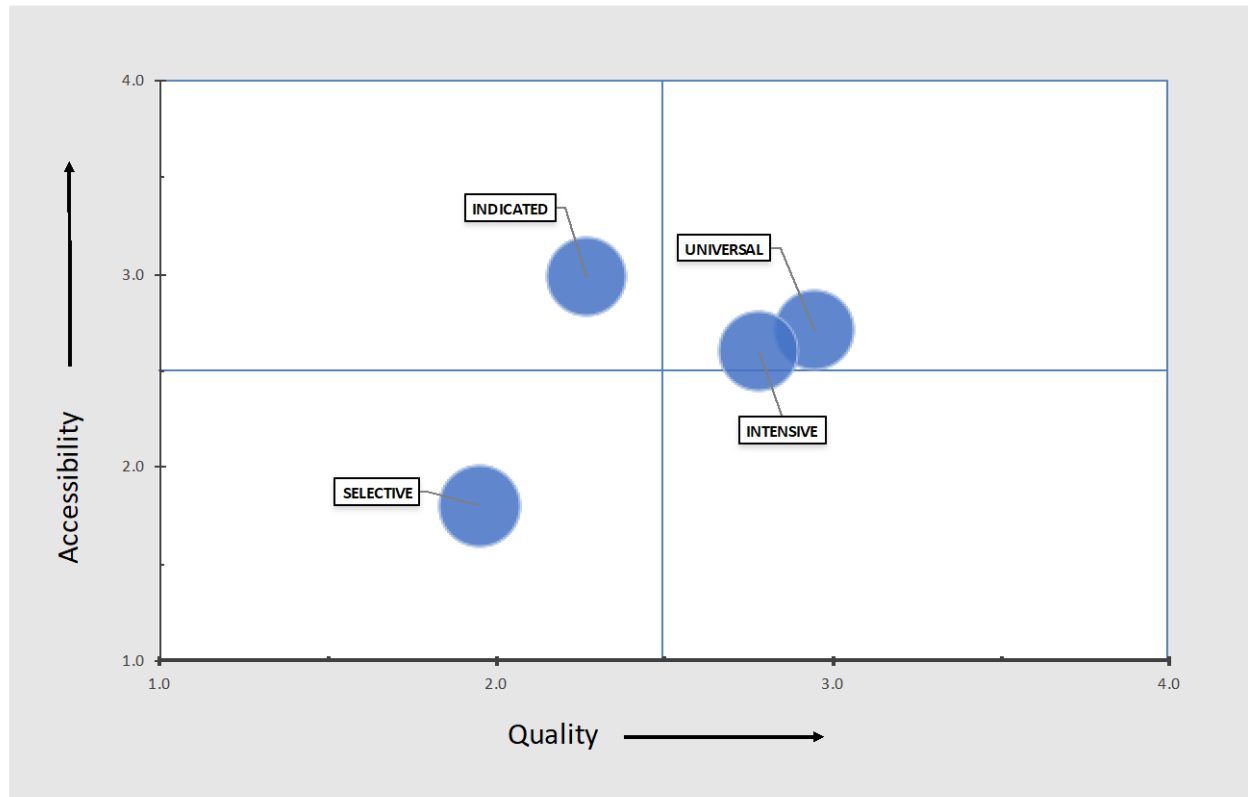
FARGO

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



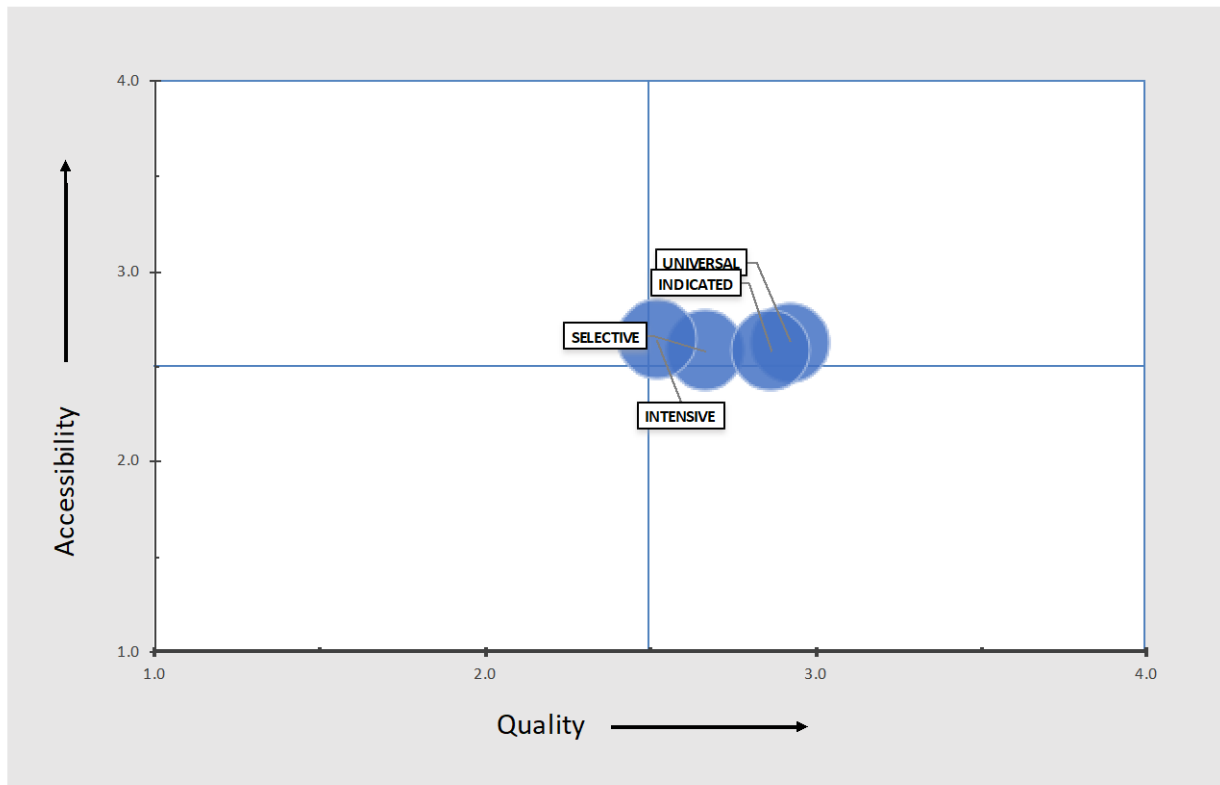
VALLEY CITY/JAMESTOWN

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



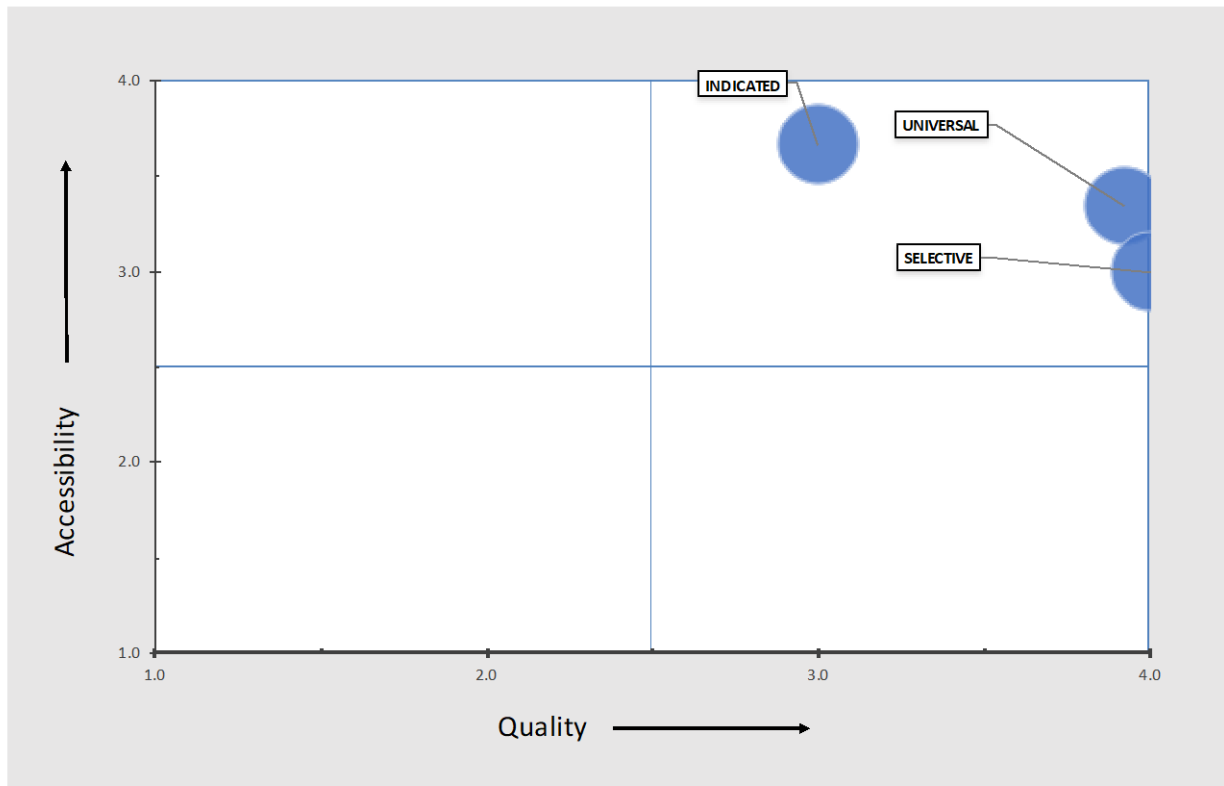
WILLISTON

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



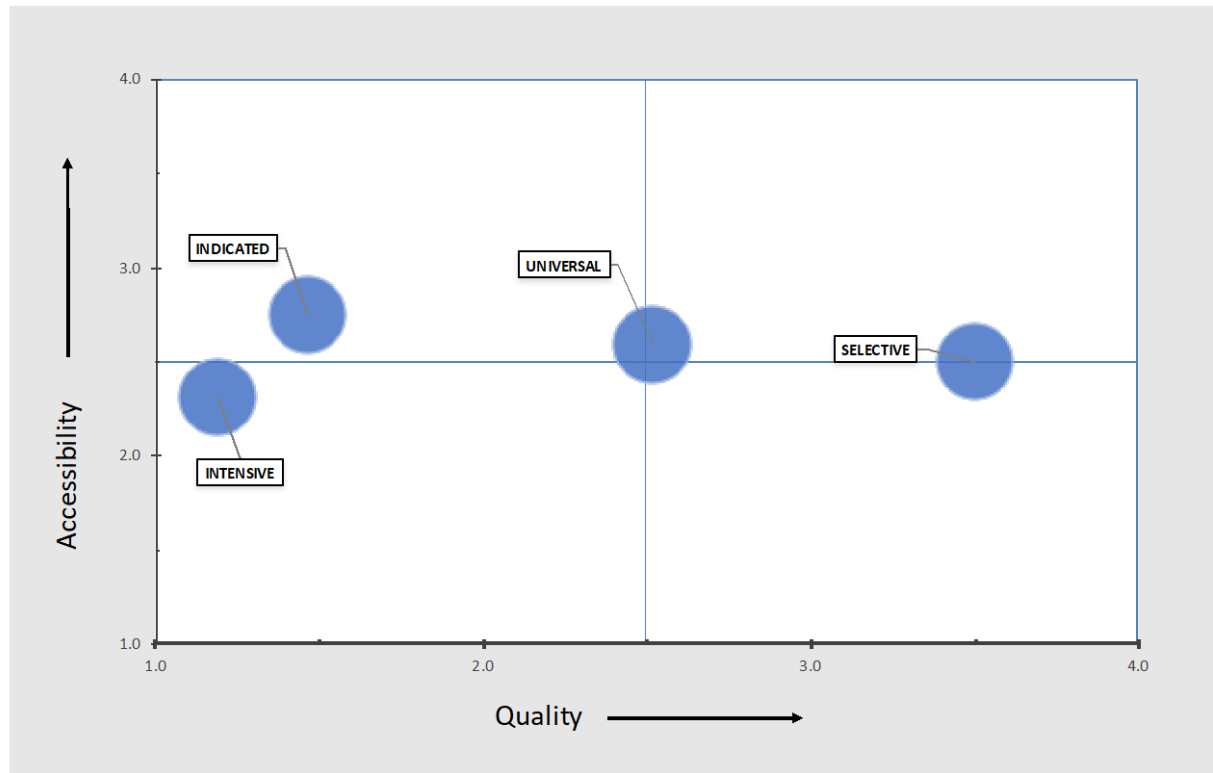
DEVIL'S LAKE

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



MINOT

Service Quality and Accessibility Assessment



QIC-AG INTERVENTION OR CAPACITY BUILDING

Prevalent unmet needs

Intervals where there are gaps

What areas would have the most impact

NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH
Dakota | Human Services
Be Legendary.™



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INSIGHTS

LESSONS LEARNED



PRACTICAL USES

Data Collection

Priority Setting

Maximization of Funding

CONTACT

- ❖ For more information visit: www.qic-ag.org
- ❖ Contact: Leslie Cohen, Project Director
lcohen@Spaulding.org
- ❖ **AdoptUSKids Assessment:**
<https://professionals.adoptuskids.org/tool-and-guide-for-assessing-and-improving-family-support-services/>



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QUESTIONS

