

Develop a Continuum of Permanency Support and Preservation Programs/Services Throughout the Journey

Even with the best preplanning and preparation, child welfare systems need to have a continuum of supports and services available after permanency has been attained. Most child welfare systems recognize that adoption/ guardianship neither begins nor ends on the day the adoption is finalized or guardianship is obtained. Increasingly child welfare systems are recognizing that adoption/guardianship is a lifelong developmental journey and that they have some level of responsibility to the children and families throughout the journey. However, even with this recognition, child welfare systems need invest more time and resources on how to develop robust, post-permanency services.

Child welfare systems need to implement a continuum of response strategies that provide a range of services and supports, starting with minimal involvement such as engagement and outreach, and then extending to more intensive service provision such as in-home crisis intervention. This wide array of services helps children and families obtain the supports that will meet their needs. Child welfare agencies need to begin to identify creative ways to engage the community in service provision. Communities can become integral partners in developing and enhancing a system of support.