

Permanency Resources

Achieving Permanency for Children in Care: Barriers and Future Directions

While permanency is a federally legislated goal for children in out-of-home care, many children do not achieve a permanent placement in a timely manner, if at all. A multitude of factors impact the likelihood that a permanent placement will be attained for a child in care: system-level factors, case-level factors, and child and family factors. This paper explores these factors in greater depth.

Upbring (March 2017)

https://www.upbring.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Achieving_Permanency_040417.pdf

Belonging Matters – Helping Youth Explore Permanency

The following are tips based on the shared experiences of youth formerly in foster care, along with links to resources that may help you in your work.

Child Welfare Information Gateway (September 2019)

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/bulletins_belongingmatters.pdf

Creating and Maintaining Meaningful Connections

Finding a permanent family is often the primary goal when children and youth enter out-of-home care, but they also may need to establish, re-establish, or strengthen meaningful connections with people who are not immediate members of their permanent families.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/planning/connections/>

“Every Kid Needs a Family” Attorney Advocacy Guide

NACC partnered with the ABA Center on Children and the Law and the Annie E. Casey Foundation to create an attorney advocacy tool to assist attorneys in understanding and making arguments to ensure that children are placed in family settings. The tool also provides a framework for advocacy in cases where congregate care placement is recommended, or in cases where that placement has been made. Questions to ask in court are provided in detail, as are helpful advocacy tips.

National Association of Counsel for Children, American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law.

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.naccchildlaw.org/resource/resmgr/advocacy_guide_for_attorneys.pdf

Permanency for LGBTQ Youth

The resources on this page can help child welfare professionals better understand the unique needs of LGBTQ youth and provide strategies for achieving permanency for this population.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/specific/youth/lgbtq/>

Preparing Youth for Adoption or Other Family Permanency

Children, including youth, leaving out-of-home care for adoption or other family permanency require preparation and support to help them understand past events in their lives and process feelings connected to their experiences of abuse and neglect, separation, and loss. This bulletin will help child welfare professionals better understand the feelings and emotions children may experience regarding permanency and prepare them for placements with permanent families.

Its focus is on adoption, but much of the information is also applicable to children with other permanency goals, such as kinship care or guardianship.

Child Welfare Information Gateway, Children's Bureau

https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/bulletins-preparingchildren/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=elertmar20

Supporting Sustained Permanency (Webinar)

CWLA and Casey Family Programs co-hosted a two-part webinar series on national re-entry and sustained permanency. In 2015, nearly 1 in 5 children in out-of-home care had been in care before, some more than once. Stable, nurturing families can bolster youth resilience and lessen negative long-term effects—but these protective factors can't be nurtured if children keep re-entering care. This series included constituents' perspectives and jurisdictional approaches on sustaining permanency, information on re-entry rates, funding opportunities and practical recommendations to support sustained permanency.

Casey Family Programs, Child Welfare League of America (2018)

<https://www.casey.org/sustained-permanency-webinar/>