



COLORADO

**Office of Children,
Youth & Families**

Division of Child Welfare

**Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project
2017 Annual Report**

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Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project
26-5-105.4(8)(a), C.R.S. (2017)
12/31/2017

Statutory Reporting Requirement

This report is provided pursuant to 26-5-105.4 (8) (a) C.R.S. (2017), that requires the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to report on the status of the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project (Waiver):

“On or before December 31, 2013, and each December 31 thereafter, the state department shall prepare a report concerning the status of the Title IV-E waiver demonstration project, as described in this section. The state department shall deliver the report to the joint budget committee, the health and human services committee of the senate, the health, insurance, and environment committee of the house of representatives, and the public health care and human services committee of the house of representatives, or any successor committees, no later than December 31 of each year.”

I. NUMBER OF COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT

A total of \$9,999,997 was awarded to counties in FY 2017-18 to implement or administer the Waiver interventions and related projects. Of this \$9,999,997, forty-nine counties were awarded \$8,043,328 for FY 2017-18 to implement or administer five interventions: Family Engagement, Permanency Roundtables, Kinship Supports, Trauma Informed Assessment and Trauma Focused Treatment. The remaining \$1,956,669 has been awarded to seven counties participating in intervention expansion projects. Of this \$1,956,669:

- \$140,963 has been awarded to the county participating in the Family Engagement expansion project;
- \$239,638 has been awarded to the county participating in the Kinship Supports expansion project;
- \$398,974 has been awarded to the two counties participating in Trauma Informed Services expansion projects;
- \$850,094 has been awarded to the seven counties participating in the Resiliency Center project;
- \$327,000 has been awarded to the eight counties participating in the Level of Need Tool pilot.

Waiver implementation began in July 2013 with the Family Engagement, Kinship Supports and Permanency Roundtables interventions. Implementation of the Trauma Informed Services interventions began in July 2014, and implementation of the Resiliency Center and Level of Need Tool pilot began in July 2015. Implementation of the Family Engagement, Kinship Supports and Trauma Focused Treatment expansion projects began in July 2016. There has been no reduction in the number of interventions occurring since the beginning of the Waiver. The counties coming onboard or expanding their interventions have engaged in new intervention rollout efforts, including: hiring

positions, creating the infrastructure to support funding flexibility, and developing policy to support the intervention practice.

II. INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY EACH COUNTY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT

Family Engagement

The Family Engagement intervention employs family meetings at pre-determined times to ensure families are engaged early and often, while involved with child welfare. Currently, forty-two (42) counties are participating in this intervention.

Permanency Roundtables

Permanency Roundtables (PRT) are a series of meetings focused on achieving permanency for youth and children in out-of-home placement. Twenty-four (24) counties are currently participating in this intervention.

Kinship Supports

The Kinship Supports intervention focuses on providing supports to both certified and non-certified kinship care providers to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes of children residing in the kin's home. Currently, twenty-nine (29) counties are participating in this intervention.

Trauma Informed Services

The Trauma Informed Services intervention utilizes trauma exposure and symptom screens, as well as trauma specific assessment tools, to identify traumatic exposure and develop appropriate service plans for those children and youth affected by trauma. The intervention supports the service plan through service coordination efforts, and supplementation of other payment sources. Fifteen (15) counties are currently participating in this intervention.

Family Engagement, Kinship Supports and Trauma Focused Treatment Expansions

The intervention expansion projects increase the scope, while maintaining the intended outcome of one or more of the original interventions. Two (2) counties are currently participating in expansion projects.

Resiliency Center

The Resiliency Center project is an expansion of the existing Trauma Informed Assessment and Trauma Focused Treatment interventions. A seven (7) county consortium developed the project to enhance the impact of the trauma assessment and treatment interventions.

Level of Need Tool Pilot

The Department proposed the Level of Need Tool Pilot project to develop a tool that will uniformly identify the needs of children and youth in care across the State. The intended outcome would be an overall statewide reduction of out-of-home placements in higher levels of care (e.g., residential facility and group home/center), by placing children in the

least restrictive and most appropriate environment to meet their safety and well-being needs. Seven (7) counties are currently collecting data from the use of two (2) different nationally recognized tools.

III. INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTATION BY COUNTY

Table 1 indicates which interventions have been implemented in each of the forty-nine (49) participating counties.

Table 1- Intervention Implementation by County

COUNTY	Family Engagement	Family Engagement Expansion	Permanency Roundtables	Kinship Supports	Kinship Supports Expansion	Trauma Informed Services	Resiliency Center	Level of Need Tool Pilot	Trauma Focused Treatment Expansion
Adams	X		X	X					
Alamosa						X			
Arapahoe	X			X		X	X	X	
Archuleta	X								
Baca	X		X						
Bent			X	X					
Boulder	X			X		X	X	X	
Broomfield	X			X					
Chaffee	X			X					
Cheyenne	X								
Conejos						X			
Costilla						X			
Crowley	X		X	X					
Custer	X		X						
Denver	X			X		X	X	X	
Douglas	X		X			X	X	X	
Eagle	X		X			X	X	X	
El Paso	X	X		X	X	X			X
Elbert	X		X	X		X			
Fremont	X		X	X					
Garfield	X			X					
Huerfano	X		X						
Jefferson	X		X	X		X	X	X	
Kiowa	X		X						
Kit Carson	X								
La Plata	X			X					

COUNTY	Family Engagement	Family Engagement Expansion	Permanency Roundtables	Kinship Supports	Kinship Supports Expansion	Trauma Informed Assessment	Resiliency Center	Level of Need Tool Pilot	Trauma Focused Treatment Expansion
Larimer	X			X		X	X	X	X
Las Animas	X			X					
Lincoln	X		X	X					
Logan	X		X	X		X			
Mesa	X		X	X					
Moffat	X			X					
Montrose	X		X						
Morgan				X					
Otero	X		X	X					
Ouray	X		X						
Park	X								
Pitkin	X		X						
Prowers	X		X	X					
Pueblo	X		X	X					
Rio Blanco	X		X	X					
Rio Grande						X			
Saguache						X			
San Juan	X			X					
San Miguel	X		X						
Summit	X								
Teller	X		X	X					
Weld	X			X					
Yuma	X			X					
Total	42	1	24	29	1	15	7	7	2

IV. OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY THE PROJECT AS REPORTED TO THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF)

Waiver Evaluation

The evaluator, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), began work on August 30, 2013. The evaluation is an ongoing effort to determine systemic impact, as well as outcomes related to the Waiver interventions, for children, youth and families during their involvement with the child welfare system.

The State provides a semi-annual report to the ACF that includes all evaluation findings for that reporting period. Additionally, in February 2016, HSRI completed an Interim Evaluation Report. This report includes the sum total of all of the evaluation methodology and findings from the first two years of the Waiver. These reports are publicly available at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/publications-reports>.

The following steps were completed to assist the evaluation process:

- One batch of administrative case level data on delivered Waiver interventions has been provided to HSRI. The most recent batch is continually undergoing analysis for outcomes and intervention fidelity.
- HSRI and the CDHS performed nine site visits to the counties/regions between April and August 2016 with the intent of understanding the local level administration of the Waiver interventions.
- In March 2017, HSRI administered the fourth annual Implementation Index survey to all counties regarding their effectiveness to implement the Waiver interventions. The Implementation Index survey will be administered annually for the duration of the Waiver.
- An analysis of administrative and Implementation Index data has examined implementation successes as predictors of model fidelity. Further analysis was conducted on associations between individual fidelity components and child safety and permanency outcomes.
- A kin caregiver survey was developed and administered to assess the impact the Kinship Support intervention on caregivers' knowledge and capacity to provide care to children under the Waiver.
- Cost study findings have been updated with an additional year of data.

The following findings have been extracted from the aforementioned reports:

- The major finding of the most recent cost study analysis indicates Waiver counties have experienced a change in placement mix towards less restrictive and less expensive placement types. This change has resulted in an estimated \$27M reduction in out of home placement costs (as compared to projected expenditures) in participating Waiver counties from SFY2014-SFY2016.
- In the aggregate, counties participating in the waiver experienced an overall reduction in out-of-home placement expenditures by 12 percent over the first three years of the waiver when compared to SFY 2013 levels, a reduction of about \$10M. This reduction in out-of-home placement expenditures occurred alongside

an increase in all other child welfare expenditures which increased 13 percent from SFY 2013 to SFY 2016, an increase of about \$35M.

- Colorado’s Family Engagement intervention has had a broad reach; in the 42 counties that have implemented this intervention, it has reached 9,805 families in the first four years of the waiver. Further, it has positively impacted the permanency and safety of those families who have received it. Compared to matched children and youth in families that did not receive waiver-funded Family Engagement meetings, the 18,836 children and youth in families that did receive the intervention were significantly:
 - More likely to spend most (50 percent or more) out-of-home removal days in certified or non-certified kinship care as opposed to foster or congregate care.
 - Less likely to have a founded or inconclusive re-report of abuse and/or neglect.
 - More likely to remain or reunify with parents, be adopted, or be placed with a relative guardian at case close.
- During the first four years of the waiver, a total of 1,315 youth in 28 counties that received waiver intervention funding for PRT received at least one PRT. Compared to matched children and youth who did not receive PRT meetings:
 - The 954 children and youth who received the intervention after 12 or more months in care and/or were under 16 with an OPPLA goal spent, on average, significantly more days in kinship care and had significantly fewer step ups in placement restrictiveness.
 - Although not statistically significant, the 230 youth who received the intervention with a high rate of fidelity (i.e., meeting timeliness, consistency, and required participant attendance) were more likely to have permanency at the end of their out-of-home removal.
- The 361 youth age 16 and older with an OPPLA goal who received PRTs had, on average, significantly fewer step ups in placement restrictiveness.
 - The 70 youth who received the intervention with a high rate of fidelity were significantly more likely to have a permanent residence at emancipation or case close, and spent, on average, fewer days in congregate care.
 - Although not statistically significant, the 70 youth who received the intervention with a high rate of fidelity were more likely to step down in placement restrictiveness from congregate care.
- Throughout the PRT process, positive permanent connections have been fostered. Across all youth who have received waiver funded PRTs in the first four years of the waiver, a total of almost 2,000 additional permanent connections not known at the initial PRT meeting have been identified.
- During the first four years of the waiver, a total of 7,372 youth have been placed with 4,665 kin caregivers that received waiver intervention funding for the Kinship Supports intervention.
 - The intervention has allowed workers to identify and meet caregiver needs. Eighty-one percent of kin caregivers served through the intervention received services corresponding to most (50 percent or more)

of their assessed needs, and 29 percent received services corresponding to all of their identified needs.

- Compared to matched children and youth whose kin caregivers did not receive kinship supports or services through the waiver, the 7,372 children and youth whose kin caregivers (n=4,665) did receive at least one kinship support or service spent, on average, significantly more days in kinship care and fewer days in foster or congregate care. Further, only 2.9 percent of the children and youth whose caregivers were served experienced an inconclusive or substantiated re-report of abuse and/or neglect, which is slightly lower than the 3.3 percent of matched children and youth who experienced such a re-report.

V. MONEYS EXPENDED FOR THE PROJECT

A. Moneys Expended to Counties:

Table 2 indicates which counties have been awarded funding for each Waiver interventions and related projects.

Table 2- Moneys Expended to Counties

County	Family Engagement	Family Engagement Expansion	Permanency Roundtables	Kinship Supports	Kinship Supports Expansion	Trauma Informed Services	Resiliency Center	Level of Need Tool Pilot	Trauma Focused Treatment Expansion	Total Budget
Adams	\$92,836		\$58,635	\$178,184						\$329,655
Alamosa						\$25,882				\$25,882
Arapahoe	\$215,154			\$132,299		\$25,064	\$51,553			\$424,070
Boulder	\$90,358			\$171,189		\$104,006	\$148,063			\$513,616
Broomfield	\$30,720			\$2,359						\$33,079
Chaffee	\$31,454			\$10,000						\$41,454
Crowley	\$56,245									\$56,245
Denver	\$629,296			\$824,367			\$206,640			\$1,660,303
Douglas	\$48,890		\$8,628				\$91,463			\$148,981
Eagle							\$75,829			\$75,829
El Paso	\$258,809	\$140,963		\$550,377	\$239,638	\$14,096			\$98,674	\$1,302,557
Elbert	\$26,505		\$2,000	\$10,000						\$38,505
Fremont				\$160,266		\$89,210				\$249,476
Fremont	\$4,933		\$1,713							\$6,646
Garfield	\$88,000									\$88,000
Garfield				\$85,483						\$85,483
Huerfano	\$25,073		\$11,771							\$36,844
Jefferson	\$127,487		\$85,453	\$312,699		\$11,177	\$199,737			\$736,553
La Plata				\$5,000						\$5,000
La Plata	\$137,064									\$137,064
Larimer	\$429,124					\$700,570	\$76,809	\$327,000	\$300,300	\$1,833,803
Las Animas	\$5,900			\$13,608						\$19,508
Lincoln	\$1,236		\$7,210	\$5,631						\$14,077
Logan	\$39,277		\$10,000	\$20,000		\$8,000				\$77,277

County	Family Engagement	Family Engagement Expansion	Permanency Roundtables	Kinship Supports	Kinship Supports Expansion	Trauma Informed Services	Resiliency Center	Level of Need Tool Pilot	Trauma Focused Treatment Expansion	Total Budget
Mesa	\$140,000		\$50,000	\$125,455						\$315,455
Moffat	\$29,536			\$14,805						\$44,341
Montrose	\$134,337		\$12,251							\$146,588
Morgan				\$35,946						\$35,946
Otero				\$49,085						\$49,085
Park	\$15,201									\$15,201
Pitkin	\$15,794									\$15,794
Prowers			\$23,500	\$5,500						\$29,000
Pueblo	\$120,089		\$110,989	\$89,210						\$320,288
Rio Blanco	\$7,623		\$487	\$9,732						\$17,842
Summit	\$27,221									\$27,221
Teller	\$37,977		\$15,981	\$8,489						\$62,447
Weld	\$569,033			\$401,150						\$970,183
Yuma	\$3,545			\$7,154						\$10,699
Total	\$3,438,717	\$140,963	\$398,618	\$3,227,988	\$239,638	\$978,005	\$850,094	\$327,000	\$398,974	\$9,999,997

* Counties acting as a regional fiscal officer (for those counties that chose to collaborate using a regional model, a single designated county received the funding/resources and is charged with allocating resources or services to the other participating counties in their collaboration). For example, Alamosa is the regional fiscal officer for Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. The table illustrates funds allocated to Alamosa on behalf of these counties, but does not show how funds were allocated to each individual county.

B. Moneys expended to the evaluator, Human Services Research Institute:

INVOICE	AMOUNT
December 2016	\$41,667
January 2017	\$41,667
February 2017	\$41,667
March 2017	\$41,667
April 2017	\$41,667
May 2017	\$41,667
June 2017	\$41,663
July 2017	\$41,667
August 2017	\$41,667
September 2017	\$41,667
October 2017	\$41,667
November 2017	\$41,667
TOTAL	\$500,000

C. Savings from the project:

C.R.S 26-5-105.4 (4) defines how IV-E Waiver savings to the State can be earned, and how earned savings may be spent. During FY 2016-17, counties, as a collective, did not earn additional Waiver savings by reducing out-of-home placement costs among the IV-E eligible population. Those counties that had earned savings prior to FY 2016-17 have until the end of the Waiver to spend those funds.

VI. ANY NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO FURTHER THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GOALS OF THE PROJECT RELATED TO CHILD SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING

To continue efforts to reduce congregate care and invest in infrastructure needed for long term sustainability of best practice, CDHS is proposing legislation to financially incentivize placement of children in the least restrictive setting.

VII. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Efforts to ensure the Waiver's success include:

- The use of the Title IV-E Waiver Executive Oversight Committee consisting of 24 members representing the Department, counties, families, and community stakeholders. The oversight committee meets quarterly, and is informed by the work of four subcommittees: three of which convene monthly (Planning, Operations and Finance; Evaluation; and Level of Need); and two that may convene as needed (Judicial/Legal and Communication).
- The continued administration of a comprehensive communication plan that includes:
 - informational memorandums with opportunity updates;

- operation and intervention-specific teleconferences; and,
- regional convening and training both ongoing and as needed by participant counties.

VII. EXPECTATIONS FOR FY 2017-18

Counties will continue to align their child welfare services and expenditures to prevent and reduce congregate care as well as out-of-home placement. In the coming year, the Department will work with the Title IV-E Waiver Executive Oversight Committee workgroups to submit an application to the ACF for an additional year of Waiver funding. Intervention sustainability remains the common focus for participating Waiver counties.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

For additional information regarding Colorado's Title IV-E Waiver, please contact Tyler Allen, Title IV-E Waiver Administrator at tyler.allen@state.co.us.