

Why Kinship Priority

Kinship

- Kin placements are shown to increase placement stability.
- Casey Family Programs found initial placement with relatives were least likely to have placement changes (2018).
 - Children who have placement stability:
 - Experience less loss and trauma by moves, losing adult supports, leaving siblings, changing schools, leaving friends, etc.
 - Maintain the same services and service providers.
 - Create stronger bonds with caregivers.
 - Create support systems in their current setting.
 - Research has shown the more a child is moved the longer permanency is delayed (Casey Family Programs, 2018).



Positive Impact of Kin Connections on Safety

- Children placed in kinship care are less likely to be maltreated than children placed in foster care (Winokur et al., 2015).
- Casey Family Programs (2018) found:
 - There were fewer Critical Incident Reports (CIRs) for children who were placed with family for more than half of the time in placement.
 - 77% of children that spent 100% of their time with family while in out-of-home care had no CIRs.
 - CIRs were defined as “any reported actual or alleged event or situation that creates a significant risk of substantial or serious harm to the physical or mental health, safety, or well-being of a youth.” Examples include:
 - Run-aways
 - Self-harm such as cutting

- Physical altercation with a peer
- Physically assaulted by an adult

For Caseworkers, Working with Kin Can Create a Stable Workload

- Stable placements lead to better outcomes for the children and families and potentially lower workload for the caseworker.
- Diligently engaging, supporting, and empowering kinship caregivers early on can lead to:
 - Less work in the long-term overall for the caseworker, or at least less crisis driven work.
 - Reduced number of court filings.