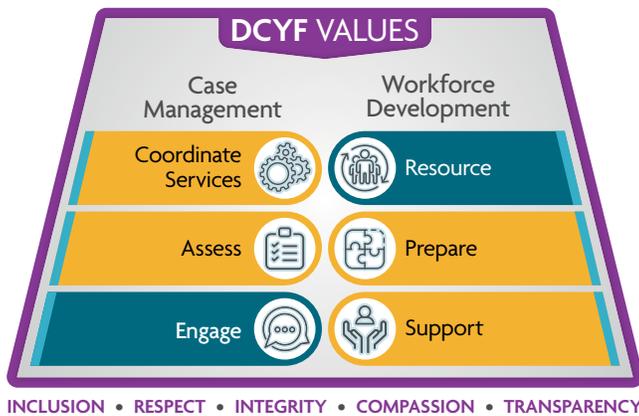


Thriving Families: Caregiver Supports

The vision of the Caregiver Supports Project is to implement a continuum of placement resources that enable safe, stable, and supported placements for children in the care of DCYF. The continuum will increase access to caregiver supports and align supports to the diverse needs of youth and children in out-of-home placement.



FAMILY PRACTICE MODEL FRAMEWORK



How will families be supported?

All caregivers, licensed and unlicensed, including all formal kinship caregivers, will be authorized to receive support services through a community-based organization. Caregivers will automatically be authorized to receive the standard level of support services plus additional supports based on the child's experiences, characteristics, and needs.

How will staff be supported?

Staff will get access to more information about project impacts through handouts, FAQs, and webinars and will receive training on new processes. The project will be rolled out in phases in consideration of workforce capacity to ensure a smooth transition to the new model.

How do we demonstrate we are prioritizing prevention?

Caregiver supports will support stability, relational permanency, well-being, and better outcomes for children, and youth.

How are we reducing disparities?

Kinship caregivers are primarily Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). This results in racial inequities since the current system directs resources to non-relative family foster homes more than kinship caregivers. The new model will address bias and racial inequality in the current system by implementing a data-informed, objective and standard process to ensure caregivers have the resources and supports needed to care for a child based on the needs of the child.

*This project is part of the **Thriving Families** campaign, which is made up of multiple ongoing projects in the child welfare space.*

***Thriving Families** will allow DCYF to strengthen its work with children and families, and support staff.*

The campaign will improve outcomes for families by safely reducing the number of children in out-of-home placements, supporting families so children remain safely at home, placing children with kin if they cannot remain safely at home, and ensuring placements are safe, stable, and support permanency.

DCYF does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, veteran's status, or presence of any physical, sensory, or mental disability.

If you would like free copies of this publication in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations at 1-800-723-4831 or email communications@dcyf.wa.gov.

DCYF PUBLICATION CWP_0104 (03-2023)



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES