



Information Sheet

PURPOSE

Pennsylvania’s **Family Engagement Initiative** is designed to assist select counties in furthering collaborative efforts between the judiciary and child welfare agency to **enhance meaningful family involvement in the dependency system**.

Meaningful family involvement increases the likelihood that children will safely remain in their own home or will be placed with family/kin if out of home placement is necessary. In addition, the Initiative focuses on the well-being of children and families.

The Family Engagement Initiative builds upon the county’s implementation of the Permanency Practice Initiative by focusing on three additional components:

1. *Family Finding—Revised*
2. *Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings*
3. *Enhanced Legal Representation*

OUTCOMES

The Family Engagement Initiative outcomes were jointly decided by the Administrative Office of PA Courts, Office of Children and Families in the Courts & the PA Department of Human Services, Office of Children Youth and Families.

INCREASE

- **Meaningful Family Involvement in the Dependency System**
- **Timely Permanence for Children**
- **Use of Kinship Care**
- **Child Well-being**

DECREASE

- **Children Entering Foster Care**
- **Children Reentering Foster Care**
- **Use of Congregate Care**

Participating Counties

Phase 1 Counties

Adams	Blair	Clinton	Lackawanna	Lehigh	Northampton	Union
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Phase 2 Counties

Beaver	Butler	Fayette	Snyder	Tioga	Venango
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For More Information on the Family Engagement Initiative

please visit

<http://www.ocfcpacourts.us/childrens-roundtable-initiative/family-engagement-initiative>