

# Proactively preventing adoption and guardianship disruption

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# Before we begin



This webinar will be recorded and shared with you.



Submit your questions via Q&A and join the conversation in chat.



Please complete our survey at the end of the webinar.

# Our mission



Raise public awareness about the need for foster and adoptive families for children in the public child welfare system



Assist US states, territories, and tribes to recruit, engage, develop, and support foster and adoptive families

# Goals for this webinar

- 1 Break down the complex challenge of adoption and guardianship stability into parts to help you take action.
- 2 Discuss the risk and protective factors associated with adoption and guardianship stability.
- 3 Provide strategies for using these risk and protective factors to be proactive in preventing adoption and guardianship disruption.
- 4 Offer tips throughout to start taking action—even with limited resources.

## A note on language



Adoption or guardianship  
**disruption:** Pre-finalization



Adoption or guardianship  
**dissolution:** Post-finalization



Post-permanency  
**discontinuity:** Temporary or permanent out-of-home care

# Remember our “why.”

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As we work to solve complex problems, let's remain focused on the families—and especially the youth—who are impacted.





# Outlining the challenge

Adoption and guardianship instability is a complex problem.

Even if we don't have a clear way to **solve** this problem, we can still **act**.



# Continue the conversation!

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Join us for a peer meeting on this topic on **July 12 and July 13 at 3:00 p.m. eastern.**

Register at the link in the chat and come ready to share successes and challenges with your peers.



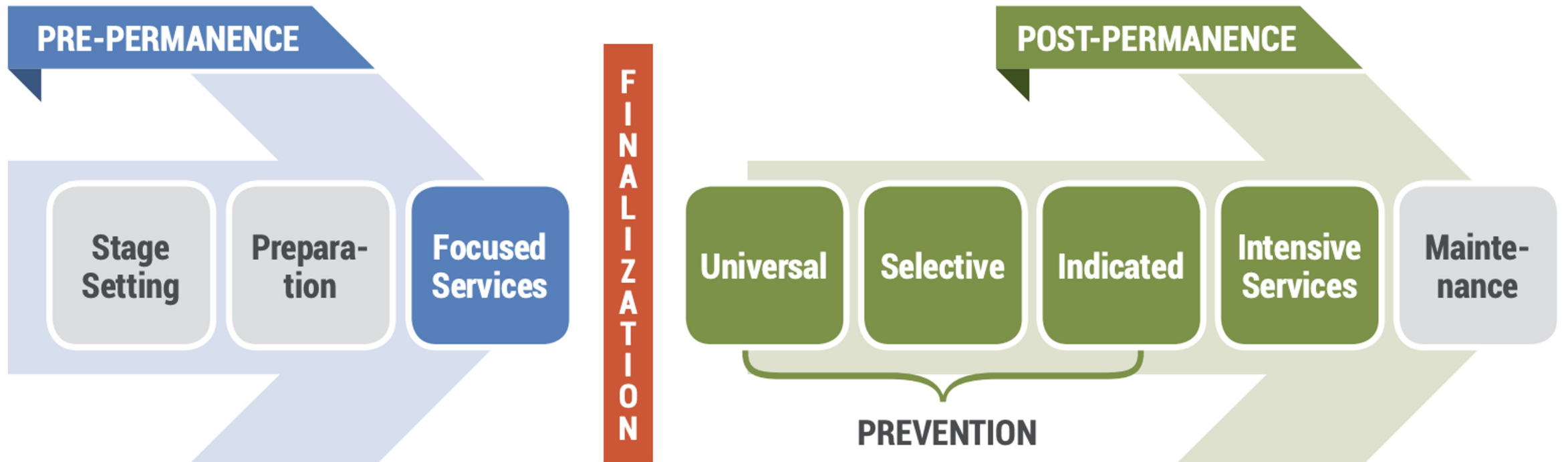
# Limited reliable data

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- Between 5 and 20 percent of children exiting foster care to guardianship or adoption experience post-permanency “cutoff.”
- ACF is working to better understand the challenge of post-adoption and guardianship instability via two recent studies.

**Type in chat:** Does your jurisdiction collect and analyze data on permanency discontinuity?

# QIC-AG Permanency Continuum





# Risk and protective factors in permanency stability

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Three categories of risk and protective factors:

- Child factors
- Parent factors
- Systemic factors

# Risk and protective factors

## Child

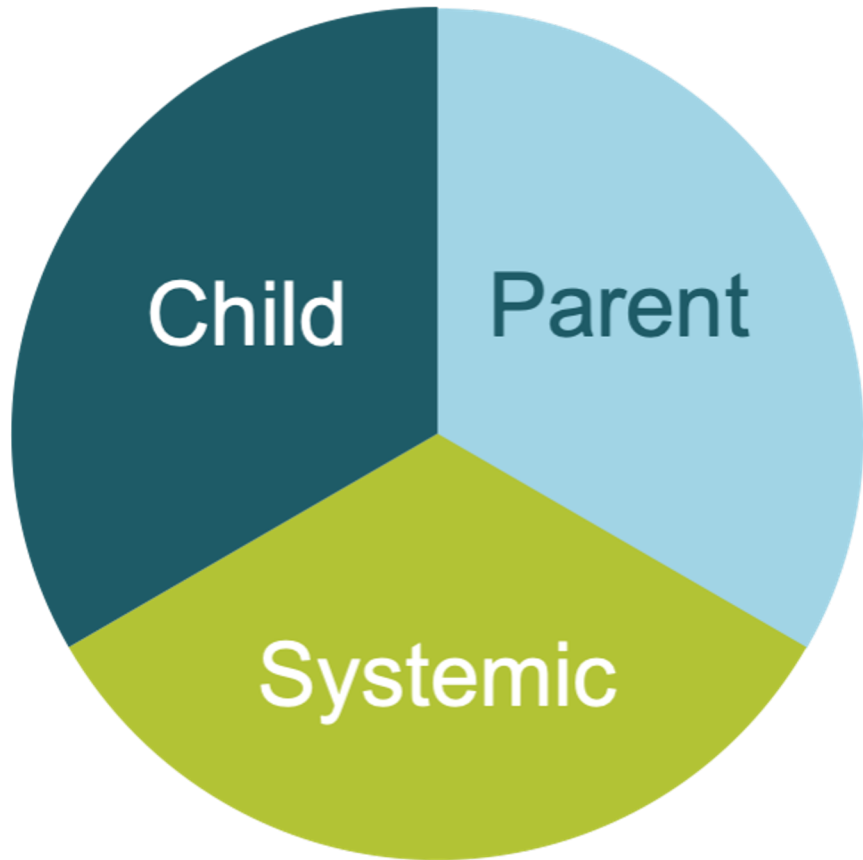
- Age
- Number of placements
- Time spent in care
- Behavioral challenges
- Race & ethnicity
- Placement with siblings

## Parent

- Caregiver commitment
- Realistic expectations
- Parental relationship status
- Kinship relationship with child

## Systemic

- Access to post-adoption supports
- Information sharing
- Parent-child matching
- Caseworker experience
- Subsidy



**These categories are interconnected.**

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Addressing any of these factors requires a systemic *approach*.



# Always seek input from those with lived experience in foster care, adoption, and guardianship.

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With any approach, it is vital to be led by youth, young adult, and caregiver priorities.



# Addressing child factors

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- Increase engagement and support for families adopting youth with more risk factors
- Do preventative check-ins—starting pre-permanency and continuing post-permanency
- Offer child-specific training for parents
- Place siblings together
  - We know this! What's preventing us from doing this more often?







## Placement within culture and community is protective.

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Your diligent recruitment efforts to engage, prepare, and support families who reflect the race and ethnicity of children in foster care is **directly connected** to your ability to prevent adoption disruption.



# Take action: Are your services culturally responsive?

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- Read this article about culturally responsive engagement of BIPOC families and discuss it as a team: [Recruitment alone isn't enough.](#)
- Use this [Cultural Competence Assessment Tool](#) to start examining your support services.

# Addressing parent factors

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- Who are you recruiting?
- Listen to caregivers about what “sufficient” support looks like.
- Encourage ongoing self-assessment and assessment of their support network.
- Use right-time trainings available through NTDC.
- Engage youth in family finding and place with kin whenever possible.



# Take action: What's in your diligent recruitment plan?

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- Does everyone know what's in your agency's diligent recruitment plan?
- What data was used to develop your diligent recruitment plan? What data was missing?
- Use the Diligent Recruitment Navigator.
- Reach out to AdoptUSKids for support.

# Take action: Seek caregiver input

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- Surveys
- Listening sessions
- Advisory group
- Workgroups
- Interviews

Remember to close the feedback loop!



# Supporting kinship caregivers

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- Offer kin-specific supports.
  - Help in navigating changing family dynamics
  - Kinship navigators
  - Kin-specific support groups
- Provide parity in available subsidy and support to guardians.
- Use the Children's Bureau's guidance on implementing waivers to licensing requirements for kin.





# Strong relationships are protective

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Attachment between caregiver  
and child is crucial.

View this webinar recording and  
discuss it as a team:

[Stabilizing placements through  
relationships](#)



# Addressing systemic factors

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- Consider risk and protective factors when matching parents and youth.
- Collect better data on how this problem manifests in your community.
- Improve supervision and coaching of caseworkers to address signs of placement instability.
- Improve quality and accessibility of post-adoption support services.



# Take action: Continuous system improvement

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## Smaller lifts:

- Look at the data you collect. What's missing?
- Imbed the risk factors into training for staff and caregivers.
- Establish a permanency stability workgroup to keep this issue at the forefront.



# Take action: Continuous system improvement

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Larger lifts:

- Use the new PAPI toolkit from the recent PAPI project.
- Use the Support Services Assessment Tool and develop an action plan based on the results.



**How could we break bigger projects into smaller tasks to help us take action?**



Questions?



**Small steps build into  
lasting action!**

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# Remember to join the peer meeting!

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July 12 and 13, 3:00 p.m.  
eastern

Grab the registration link from  
the chat!





# Contact information

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Reach out to discuss system-specific support at

[consultation@adoptuskids.org](mailto:consultation@adoptuskids.org).

# Resources

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Find all the resources mentioned during the webinar, and many more, at [professionals.adoptuskids.org](https://professionals.adoptuskids.org)

- Tools
- Recorded webinars
- Articles and tip sheets
- Resources for parent group leaders





# Stay in touch!

Learn about new AdoptUSKids resources by subscribing to our newsletter for professionals and following us on LinkedIn.

NEWSLETTER

<https://adoptuskids.org/newsletter-sign-up>

LinkedIn

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