

Partners for Our Children 2019 priorities

Our 2019 goal: Using an equity lens, ensure that Washington's children, youth, and families have the services and support they need to thrive.

PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION

- ❖ *Provide services and supports to families before they end up in crisis*
- ❖ *Ensure children have the best start in life, including opportunities for their parents to give them a safe and nurturing home and access to quality early learning programs*
 - Implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act
 - Expand Home Visiting and other quality early learning programs
 - Ensure successful implementation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families
 - Expand community, as well as court-based services, for families in crisis

FAMILY STABILITY

- ❖ *Help parents/caregivers meet basic needs so they can be the people they want to be*
- ❖ *Ensure that if more intensive services are necessary, they are effective, available, and accessible*
 - Increase access to effective substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, including treatment related to suicide prevention
 - Eliminate barriers to housing for child welfare involved families
 - Increase placement options, including relative care, support for caregivers, and appropriate housing for children/youth, including youth with developmental disabilities
 - Implement supported visitation, including *Strive*

ECONOMIC STABILITY

- ❖ *Reduce poverty to create positive effects, leading to healthier children and adults:*
 - *Decrease the number of children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems*
 - *Improve educational outcomes*
 - Implement inter-generational strategies that reduce poverty
 - Increase services for youth and young adults who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless

WORKFORCE STABILITY

- ❖ *Implement strategies that stabilize the child welfare workforce, allowing professionals to do the jobs they were trained and want to do*
- ❖ *Decrease high turnover among caseworkers (since we know the impact is that children stay longer in foster care and that children and families are not able to receive the quality services)*
 - Address outstanding issues related to forecasting Child Welfare Workers (per HB2008)
 - Improve retention and reduce case worker turnover rates by addressing workload

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ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES (POC SUPPORTS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TAKING THE LEAD)

- Address barriers created as a result of past criminal history or child abuse/neglect situations
- Expand the Parents for Parents Program
- Implement recommendations related to education outcomes
- Implement recommendations related to early learning/trauma
- Address statutory and programmatic issues related to CSEC
- Retain the Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Account resources for early learning through higher education
- Expand the Parent Alternative to Incarceration Program