



# Office of Adoption and Child Protection

## *Executive Office of the Governor*

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### *Executive Summary*

## *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*

*Developed pursuant to §39.001, Florida Statutes*

### *Vision*

Florida's highest priority is that children are raised in healthy, safe, stable, and nurturing families.

### *Mission*

To serve as a blueprint that will be implemented to provide for the care, safety, and protection of **all** of Florida's children in an environment that fosters healthy social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development.

### *Overarching Goal*

**All** families and communities ensure that children are safe and nurtured and live in stable environments that promote well-being.

### *Desired Population-Level Results of Plan Implementation*

1. **Child Maltreatment Prevention** – By 30 June 2015, the child abuse rate will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008-09 statewide rate of 10.94 per 1,000 children.
2. **Adoption Promotion** – By 30 June 2015, the percent of children adopted within 12 months of becoming legally free for adoption will increase from the State Fiscal Year 2008-09 rate of 66.4 percent.
3. **Adoption Promotion** – By 30 June 2015, the percent of children legally free for adoption who have been waiting for adoption since the date of termination of parental rights (TPR) for more than 12 months will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008-09 rate of 92.9 percent.
4. **Adoption Support** – By 30 June 2015, the annual number of adopted children who are returned to foster care (regardless of when the adoption was finalized) will be reduced from the State Fiscal Year 2008-09 number of 98.



## *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*

The *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015* consists of three plans and articulates the strategies, objectives, tactics and action steps that address specific prevention and permanency needs of families, children, teachers, school personnel, and law enforcement personnel. These strategies are especially important as Florida faces the downturn in the economy. The strategies and objectives of this plan are:

### *Florida Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment and Neglect Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*

**Prevention Strategy 1: Infuse the *Five Protective Factors* into Florida Systems that Serve Parents and Children.** By 30 June 2015, Florida-based programs, supports and services will have intentionally incorporated the *Five Protective Factors* as a foundation for their work.

- 1.1 **Early Education and Care.** [Lead: Agency for Workforce Innovation]
- 1.2 **Home Visiting Programs.** [Lead: Healthy Families Florida]
- 1.3 **Head Start Programs.** [Leads: Florida Head Start Collaboration Office, Florida Head Start Association]
- 1.4 **Medicaid Child Health Check-Up Program.** [Lead: Agency for Health Care Administration]
- 1.5 **Technical Assistance to Circuits.** [Lead: Department of Children and Families]
- 1.6 **Faith-Based Efforts.** [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]

**Prevention Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Systems to Better Serve the Needs of Florida Families.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have supported and built the capacity of Florida-based parenting and support programs and services to incorporate the *Five Protective Factors* as a foundation for their work and provide sustainable, accessible quality services for Florida families.

- 2.1 **Whole Child.** [Lead: Lawton Chiles Foundation]
- 2.2 **Healthy Families Florida.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, Healthy Families Florida]
- 2.3 **Healthy Start.** [Leads: Department of Health, Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions]
- 2.4 **Education Services for Parents/Caregivers of Newborns.** [Leads: Department of Health, Florida Association of Healthy Start Coalitions, Florida Home Visiting Coalition]

**Prevention Strategy 3: Provide Information on Ways to Ensure that Children are Safe and Nurtured and Live in Stable Environments that Promote Well-being.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented statewide, public awareness and education campaigns that provided information to the general population on child development, positive parenting practices, community action that promotes and supports each of the *Five Protective Factors*, and ways to prevent child deaths.

- 3.1 **Public Awareness and Education.** [Lead: Prevent Child Abuse Florida]
- 3.2 **Evidence-Based Parenting Programs.** [Lead: Department of Children and Families]
- 3.3 **Child Death Review.** [Leads: Child Abuse Death Review Team, Department of Children and Families]

**Prevention Strategy 4: Inform and Instruct the Education Communities.** (*Florida Education Cooperative Child Abuse Prevention Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*) By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have collaboratively worked through Florida’s educational communities to prevent and respond appropriately to child abuse, abandonment and neglect.

- 4.1 **Professional Development Opportunities for School Personnel.** [Leads: Department of Education , Cooperative Education Planning Team]
- 4.2 **Parent Resources for Parents of School Children.** [Leads: Department of Education, Cooperative Education Planning Team]
- 4.3 **Resource Awareness.** [Leads: Department of Education, Cooperative Education Planning Team]
- 4.4 **Multidisciplinary Curricula.** [Leads: Cooperative Education Planning Team, Monique Burr Foundation]

**Prevention Strategy 5: Inform and Instruct Law Enforcement Communities.** (*Florida Law Enforcement Cooperative Child Abuse Prevention Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*) By 30 June 2015, the *Cross Agency Memorandum of Understanding on Training* with the embedded core learning objectives will be viable and working to promote cross agency prevention training in the law enforcement community.

- 5.1 **MOU Implementation Review.** [Leads: Executive Office of the Governor, Cooperative Law Enforcement Planning Team]
- 5.2 **Annual Reviews and Updates.** [Lead: Cooperative Law Enforcement Planning Team]
- 5.3 **Future Plans.** [Lead: Cooperative Law Enforcement Planning Team]

**Prevention Strategy 6: Monitor and Evaluate Plan Implementation.** By 30 June 2015, leadership of plan implementation will have monitored and annually assessed the progress and effectiveness of the plan-based initiatives.

- 6.1 **Instrumentation and Procedures Design.** By 30 March 2011, the State of Florida will have created procedures and instrumentation for use by the plan workgroups for monitoring and annually reviewing progress. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]
- 6.2 **Progress Monitoring.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented an ongoing monitoring of plan implementation progress and used the findings to refine the action plans for future implementation. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]
- 6.3 **Annual Review and Assessment.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented annual progress reviews and used the findings to refine the strategies and objectives for future implementation. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]

### *Florida Promotion of Adoption Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*

**Adoption Promotion Strategy 1: Infuse the Five Protective Factors into Florida Systems that Recruit Adoptive Parents.** By 30 June 2015, Florida-based adoptive parent recruitment systems will have intentionally incorporated the *Five Protective Factors* as a part of the foundation for their work.

- 1.1 **Local Recruitment Efforts.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, Community Based Care (CBC) Lead Agencies]
- 1.2 **Parent Preparation and Training.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]

**Adoption Promotion Strategy 2: Strengthen Florida Recruitment Systems to Better Recruit Families to Meet the Needs of Children and Youth Awaiting Adoption.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented systems and efforts to better target recruitment of families to meet the needs of children and youth awaiting public adoption.

- 2.1 **Faith-Based Efforts.** [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]
- 2.2 **Targeted and Child Specific Recruitment.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]
- 2.3 **Information and Support for Prospective Adoptive Parents.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]

**Adoption Promotion Strategy 3: Monitor and Evaluate Plan Implementation.** By 30 June 2015, leadership of plan implementation will have monitored and annually assessed the progress and effectiveness of the plan-based initiatives.

- 3.1 **Instrumentation and Procedures Design.** By 30 March 2011, the State of Florida will have created procedures and instrumentation for use by the plan workgroups for monitoring and annually reviewing progress. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]
- 3.2 **Progress Monitoring.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented an ongoing monitoring of plan implementation progress and used the findings to refine the action plans for future implementation. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]
- 3.3 **Annual Review and Assessment.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented annual progress reviews and used the findings to refine the strategies and objectives for future implementation. [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]

### **Florida Support of Adoptive Families Plan: July 2010 – June 2015**

**Adoption Support Strategy 1: Strengthen Florida Service Systems to Better Support Adoptive Families to Meet the Needs of their Adopted Children and Youth.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have implemented post adoption services that provide for mental health, emotional, physical and other needs of adoptive families.

- 1.1 **Information and Support for Adoptive Families.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]
- 1.2 **Adoption Competent Professionals.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]
- 1.3 **Post Adoption Services Counselors.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]

**Adoption Support Strategy 2: Provide Information and Supports to Adoptive Families.** By 30 June 2015, the State of Florida will have provided information and supports to Florida adoptive families on ways to build competence in meeting the needs of their adopted children and youth.

- 2.1 **Adoption Support Groups.** [Leads: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]
- 2.2 **Education Opportunities for Adoptive Parents.** [Lead: Department of Children and Families, CBC Lead Agencies]
- 2.3 **Faith-Based Efforts.** [Lead: Executive Office of the Governor]

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In accordance with state law (§39.001, Florida Statutes), this five-year *Florida Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Plan: July 2010 – June 2015* comprises three statewide plans as well as copies of 20 local plans:

- *Florida Prevention of Child Abuse, Abandonment and Neglect Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*
- *Florida Promotion of Adoption Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*
- *Florida Support of Adoptive Families Plan: July 2010 – June 2015*

Collectively they provide strategies and plans of action for the prevention of child abuse, abandonment and neglect; promotion of adoption; and for the support of adoptive families. This plan reflects Florida’s commitment to engage state agencies and local communities in a collaborative effort to prevent child abuse, abandonment and neglect; promote adoption; and support our adoptive families. “Connecting our communities and empowering families will strengthen Florida with the goal of preventing our children from ever entering into foster care as a result of child abuse, abandonment and neglect,” said Jim Kallinger, Florida’s Chief Child Advocate and Chairman of the Governor’s Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council. “Additionally, with a sense of urgency, Florida’s foster children must be safely placed with permanent families, either through reunification with their biological families or by placing them into loving and nurturing adoptive families.”

The Governor’s Office of Adoption and Child Protection convened the 33-member Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council, 15 statewide workgroups, and two cooperative planning teams to advise and lead the development of these plans for prevention and permanency. This Advisory Council, the workgroups, the cooperative planning teams, along with input from 20 local planning teams involving over 700 individuals from across Florida, diligently constructed proposals for the selection of realistic low- or no- cost prevention and permanency strategies for our state. To ensure proper implementation, a monitoring component involves all levels of the state.

This plan is based on the *positive deviance premise* that in every community there are certain individuals whose uncommon practices and behaviors enable them to find better solutions to problems than their neighbors who have access to the same resources ([www.positivedeviance.org](http://www.positivedeviance.org)). Using this premise, *Five Protective Factors* serve as a foundation for the plans’ strategies and objectives. These protective factors (i.e., nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development, parental resilience, social connections, and concrete supports for parents) have been shown to make a difference for families and are correlates of lower child maltreatment and family resilience ([www.strengtheningfamilies.net](http://www.strengtheningfamilies.net)).

This planning effort sought to create a statewide model for preventing abuse, abandonment and neglect; promoting adoption; and supporting adoptive families that can be embraced across branches of government, state agencies, and professional disciplines, thus providing state agency staff, state and local service providers, advocates, and the citizens of Florida with clearly articulated action steps for the realization of optimal child growth, development and well-being. A model of this nature required a multi-pronged approach ranging from individual interventions to professional development protocols, from agency standards of practice to population-based intervention mechanisms.