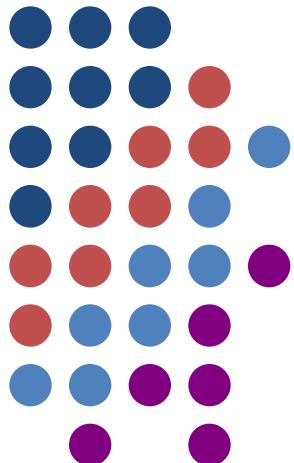
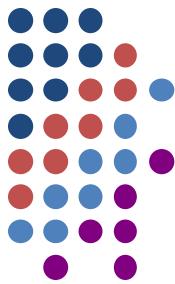


Child Welfare Waivers

Mark Testa
Spears-Turner Distinguished Professor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



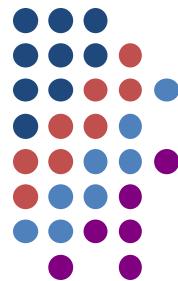
Presentation to the National Academies Policy
Roundtable of the Behavioral and Social Sciences
Stimulating Effective Innovation In Government
Washington, DC October 30, 2014



Three Points

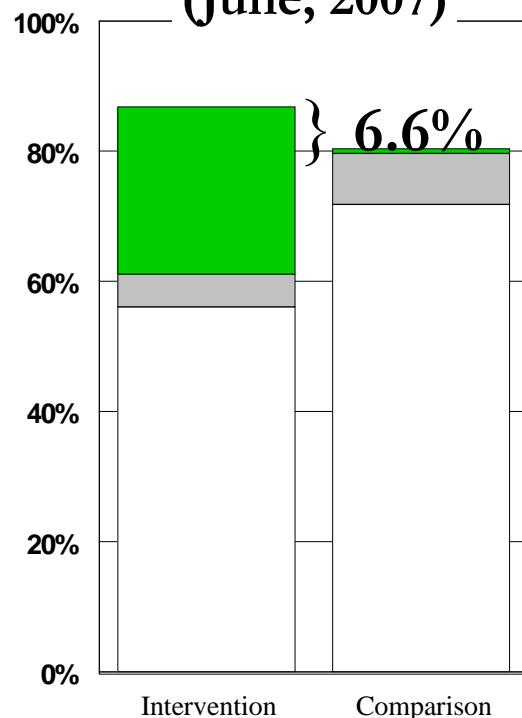
- IV-E child welfare waiver program is an established federal funding vehicle for efficiently learning about whether promising innovations produce positive impacts.
- IV-E waivers offer huge potential for stimulating states and local governments to develop, replicate, and evaluate new approaches to child welfare service delivery.
- Lessons from child welfare waivers have been incorporated into the Children's Bureau's *Framework to Design, Test, Spread, & Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare* to build evidence for promising innovations and scale-up evidence-supported practices and policies.

SG Waivers Paved the Way for Federal Guardianship Assistance Program



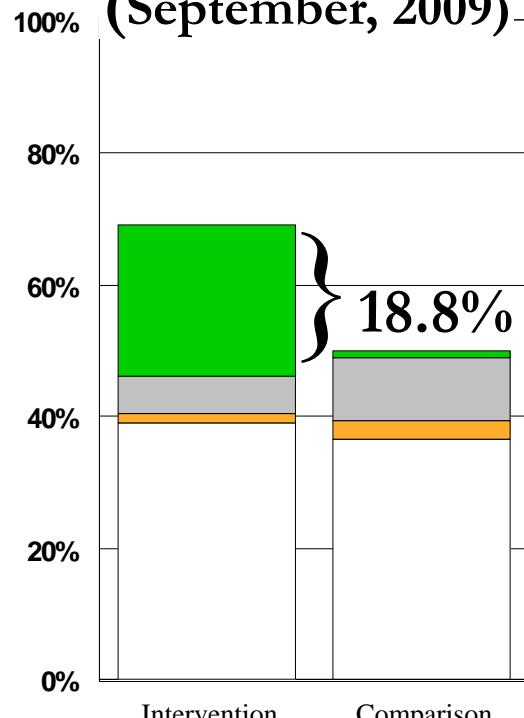
Illinois

(June, 2007)



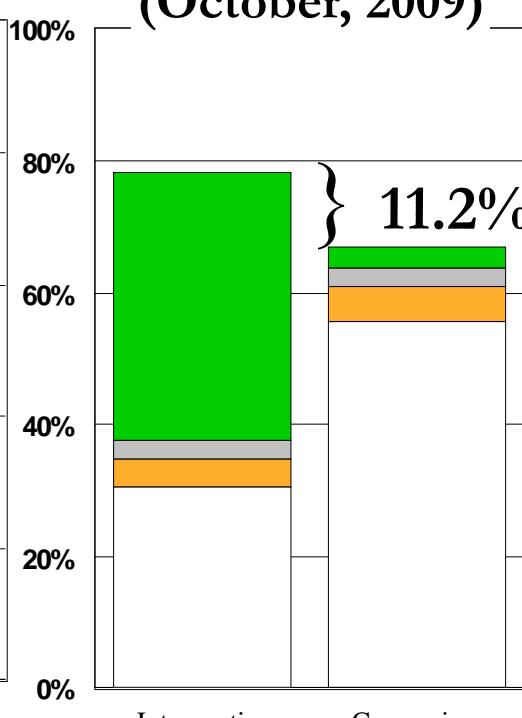
Wisconsin

(September, 2009)



Tennessee

(October, 2009)

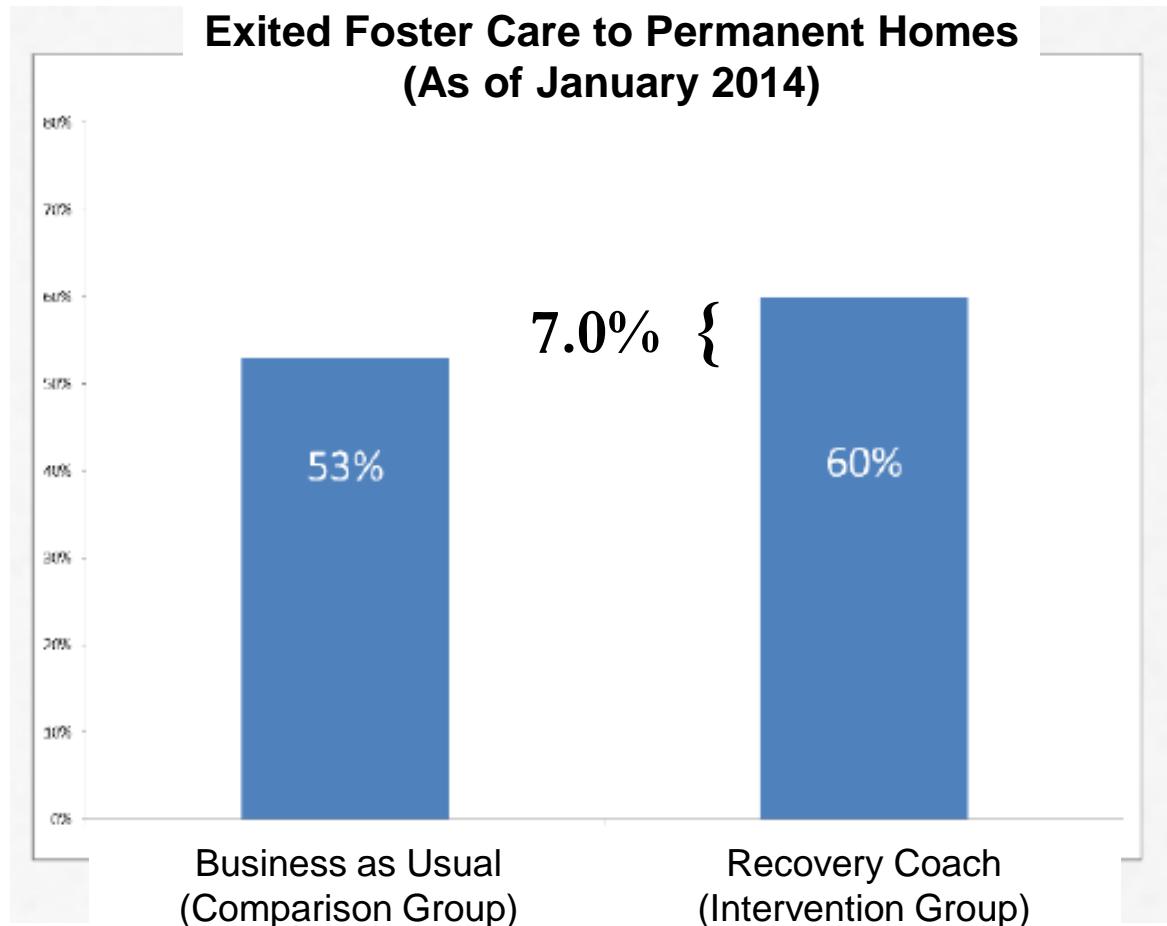
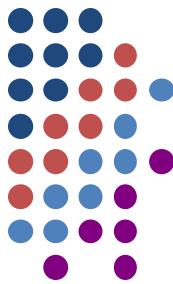


Guardianship
Custody to Kin
Reunification
Adopted

Guardianship
Custody to Kin
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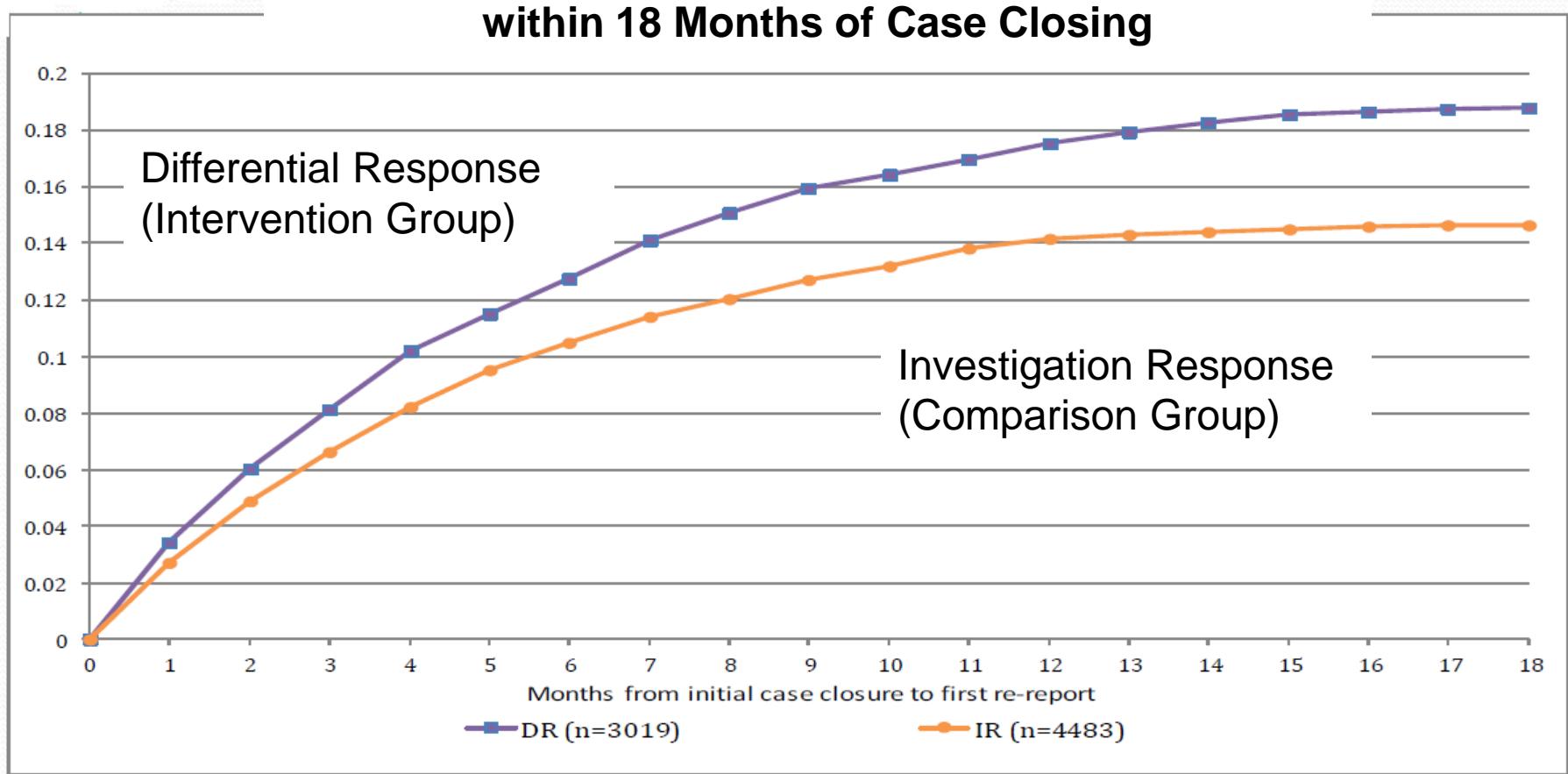
Child Welfare Waivers Demonstrated Efficacy of Recovery Coach Innovation



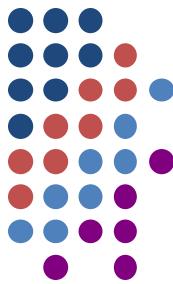
Not All Promising Innovations Work Out as Expected



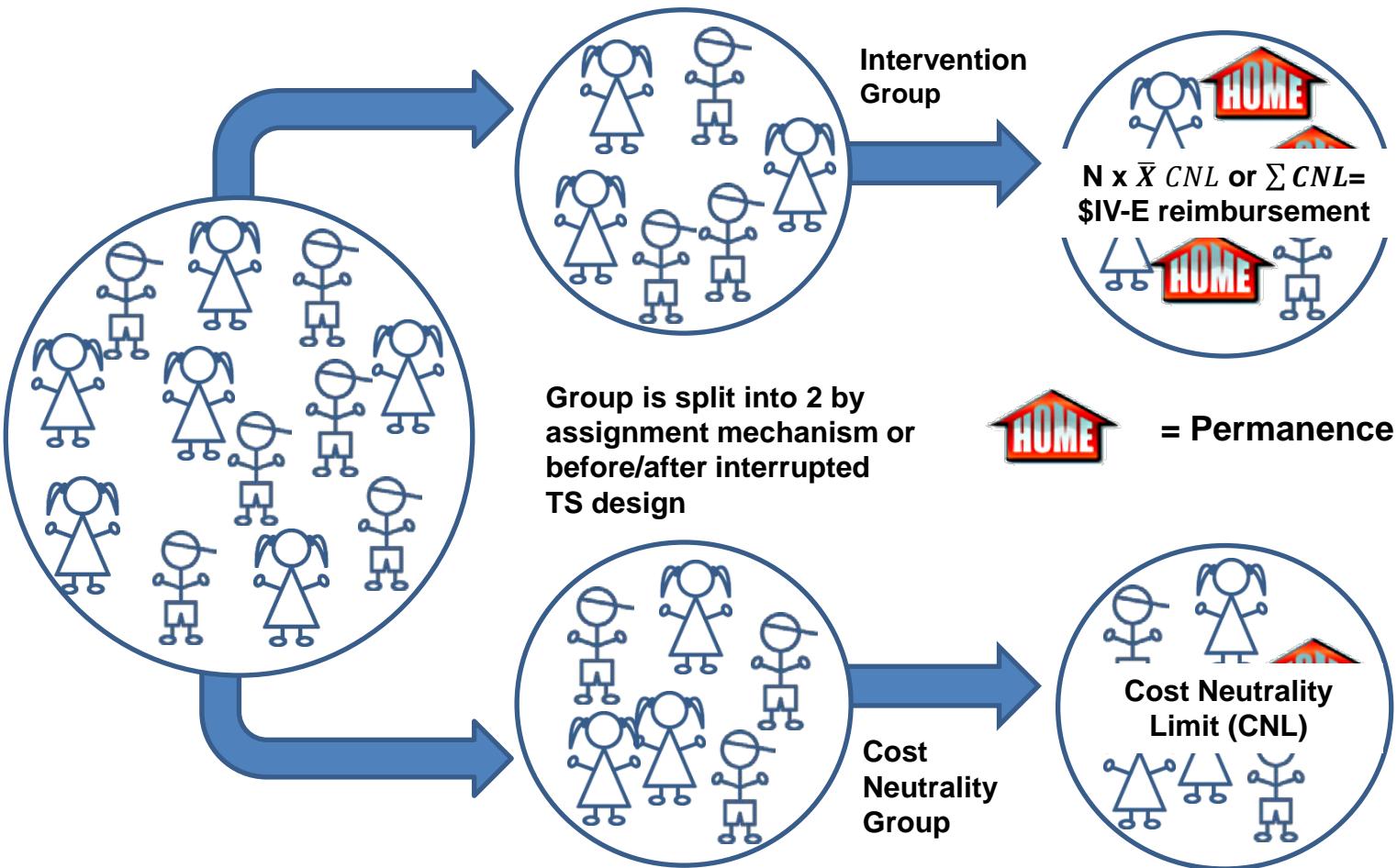
Cumulative Probability of Maltreatment Re-Report within 18 Months of Case Closing



Basic Waiver Model

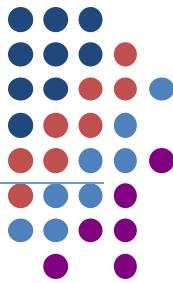


IV-E Eligible Candidate/Recipient Group



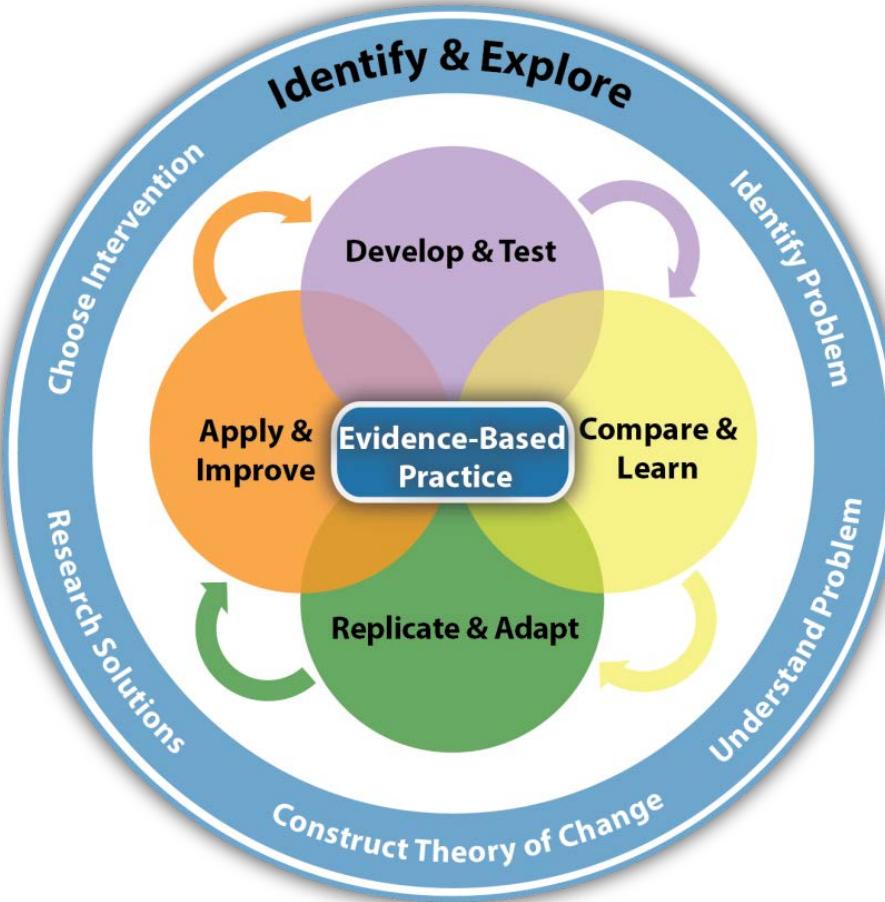
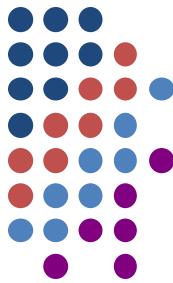
Savings Returned to Investors

IV-E Savings



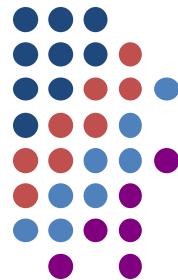
- The randomized, cost-neutrality control group is the approach that Illinois, Tennessee, Wisconsin and many other states used to capture IV-E savings.
- SG Waiver (Illinois) recouped over \$90 mil. in federal reimbursements over 10 years, which would have been forfeited in the absence of the waiver.
- AODA Waiver recouped \$10 mil. over 10 years.
- In principle, some of the savings could be returned to Pay for Success investors who cover up-front investments associated with IV-E waivers.

Framework to Design, Test, Spread, & Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare



CHILD WELFARE
**RESEARCH &
EVALUATION**
FRAMEWORK WORKGROUP

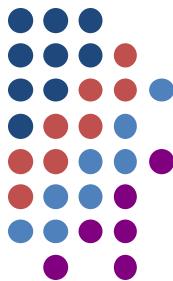
Illinois Birth Thru Three (IB3) Waiver Demonstration



Will children aged birth thru three years old, who are initially placed in foster care, experience reduced trauma symptoms, increased permanency, reduced re-entry and improved child well-being if they are provided child-parent therapy or other trauma-informed parent support programs compared to similar children who are provided IV-E services as usual?

Source: Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (2012). Title IV-E Child Waiver Demonstration Project, last accessed August 22, 2012
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/programs_fund/il_waiver_proposal.pdf.

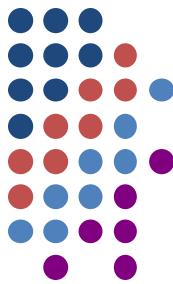
Agency Clusters



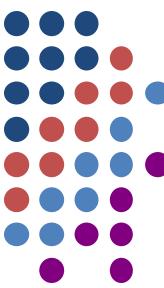
Cost Neutrality	Trad. Foster Care PRO	Kinship Foster Care PRO	Waiver Services	Trad. Foster Care PRO	Kinship Foster Care PRO
DCFS COOK SOUTH REGN	20.70%	5.00%	DCFS COOK NORTH REGI	7.60%	4.50%
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERV	6.80%	11.20%	DCFS COOK CENTRAL RE	0.90%	4.00%
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY C	6.10%	5.30%	CHILDRENS HOME & AID*	14.30%	26.00%
CHILDLINK	3.90%	3.00%	UHLICH CHILDREN'S AD*	8.20%	3.60%
ABJ COMMUNITY SERVIC	0.90%	2.60%	ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF	6.60%	1.60%
CHILDSERV	0.40%	8.20%	LUTHERAN CHILD & FAM*	3.80%	3.60%
UNITY PARENTING AND	3.80%	0.50%	SHELTER, INC.	3.70%	0.00%
LYDIA HOME ASSOCIATI	2.80%	3.90%	ONE HOPE UNITED	2.80%	1.40%
VOLUNTEERS OF AMERIC	2.40%	2.20%	ADA S MCKINLEY COMM	0.20%	4.10%
LAWRENCE HALL YOUTH	1.30%	1.20%	CENTERS FOR NEW HORIZ	0.70%	3.50%
AUNT MARTHAS YOUTH S	1.70%	1.30%	UNIVERSAL FAMILY CON	0.50%	3.30%
TOTAL	50.80%	44.40%		TOTAL	49.30%
					55.60%

Safe Families for Children

Innovation



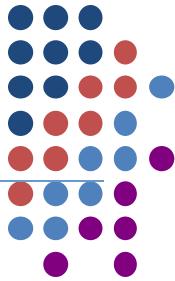
- **Assignment Mechanism:** This study is using the existing rotational case assignment process that the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) programmed into its data tracking system to allocate 470 families that are recommended for SAF to participate in the program and another 470 families to receive services as usual.
- **Administrative Data:** The study is using existing FCI data linked to assignment groups to evaluate whether children of families referred to SFC are less likely to enter the child welfare system (primary outcome) and more likely to avert subsequent abuse/neglect episodes and to be maintained in or reunified with their birth families (secondary outcomes) compared to children from similar families who are served through child protective services as usual.



Summary

- The IV-E child welfare waiver program (that expired on September 30, 2014) is the best vehicle for sharing evaluation costs (50/50), ensuring federal cost-neutrality, and efficiently learning about whether promising child welfare innovations produce positive results.
- Combining Pay for Success Projects that support up-front investments with IV-E waivers that return future savings offers huge potential for stimulating practice and policy innovations at the state and local levels.
- There are many overlooked opportunities to encourage rigorous evaluations as part of routine operations in child welfare. Many of these evaluations can be done on a shoe-string budget with existing administrative data & built-in rotational assignment mechanisms or easily programmable randomization routines.

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