



CFSR Round 4: Stakeholder Engagement

**MEANINGFUL STRATEGIES AND
EXPECTATIONS FOR STAKEHOLDERS**

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Children's Bureau Presenters

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Purpose

- Provide states with ideas, and resources to support their efforts with child welfare system partners/stakeholders throughout the CFSR process



POLLS





Lessons Learned

Group 1

- Young persons with lived experience and experience working alongside federal staff to provide assistance to state and evaluate state programs.

Group 2

- Young persons with lived experience recruited from national organizations to provide alternate perspectives that are not informed by experience partnering with federal staff on monitoring efforts.

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Reflections of Lessons Learned

- *“Young people [young adult consultants] need to know what the ramifications are to taking part in a review. Knowing what tangible results might stem from playing a crucial part in a review.”*
- *“I like the idea of having a young person [young adult] with lived expertise co-facilitate case-related interviews with young people. I think having that ally presence in the room for those interviews could be very empowering for both parties.”*
- *“Youth should be involved in all areas and not so much with an emphasis on any but representation at all levels at the discretion of the youth. There are plenty willing to give input in an area they are interested in given prep and support.”*
- *“[Provide] a clear understanding of how their feedback will be used and acted on. Sometimes it feels like feedback from young people is ‘heard’ but then never used/acted on.”*



CB Expectations for Stakeholder Involvement in the CFSR





Guiding Principles/ Foundations for Including Family Voice in the CFSR

Families and Youth are our best source
of information

Shared decision-making and planning
approaches increase engagement

Empowering Youth & Families to
make critical decisions in their lives

CFSRs Promote Shared Responsibility and Collaboration



Improving System Performance



Approaches to Collaboration



FOCUS GROUPS

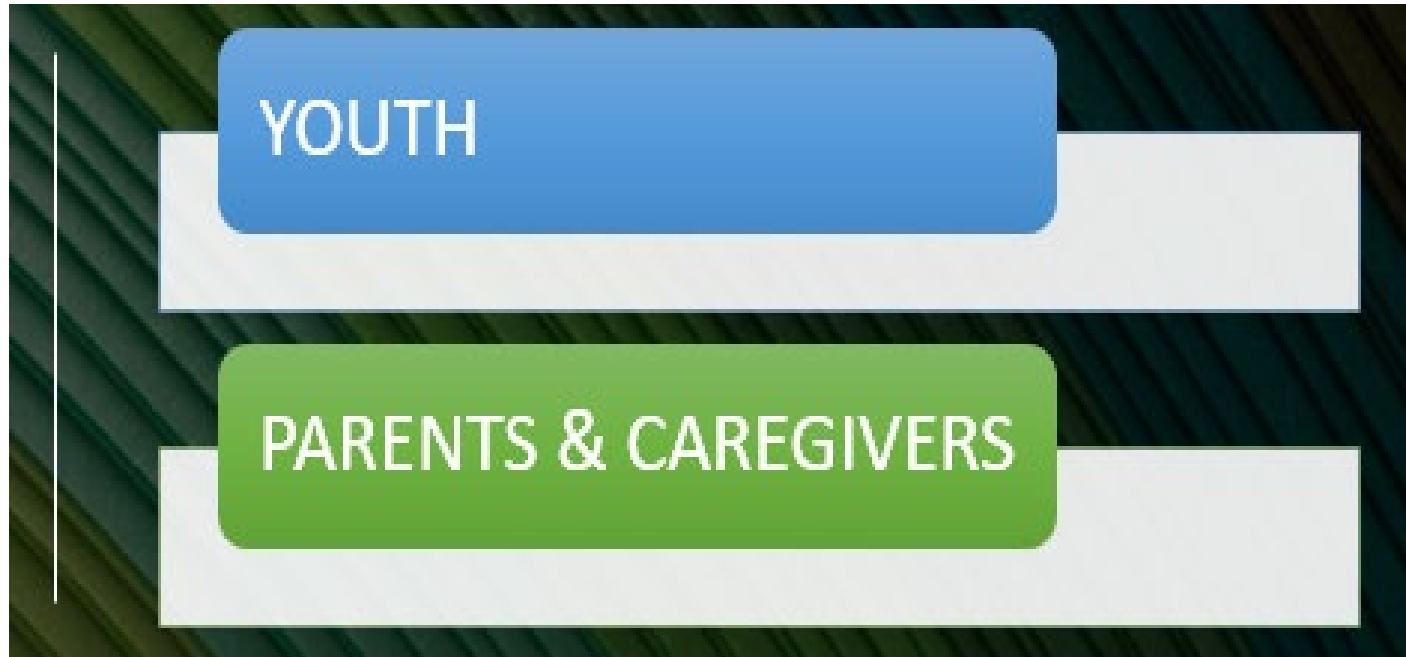


SURVEYS



JOINT PLANNING
FORUMS

Stakeholders With Lived Experience



What We Know About Youth Voice

Benefits to Organizations	Benefits to Young People
Involves young people in program evaluation for better results	Supports resiliency, autonomy, and well-being
Encourages comprehensive understanding of young people and their changing needs in “real time”	Teaches young people how to take initiative, and builds accountability
Utilizes young peoples’ knowledge and insights to promote developmentally appropriate services	Empowers young people to advocate for themselves
Improves an organization’s cultural responsiveness	Provides opportunities for leadership, critical thinking, decision-making, and community engagement
Creates youth buy-in; increases retention and engagement in services	Encourages young people to build professional skills in a professional environment



How States Can Operationalize Youth Voice in Round 4



Polls

What We Know About Parent/Caregiver Voice

Benefits To Organizations	Benefits To Parents/Caregivers
Improved Child Welfare Outcomes	Key Partners in Decision-Making
Enables organizations to effectively design and deliver services that best meet the needs of children and families who are accessing their services	Motivation to improve parental protective capacities
Improved policy perspectives	Empowers parents/caregivers to take initiative and builds accountability
Drives sustained collaboration of a broad range of stakeholders	Builds long-term strengths, skills, and capacity to engage with other systems

Operationalizing Parent/Caregiver Voice in Round 4



Other Considerations for Engaging Both Youth and Parents & Caregivers



SUPPORTING INCLUSIVITY



LOCATING PEOPLE WITH
LIVED EXPERIENCE

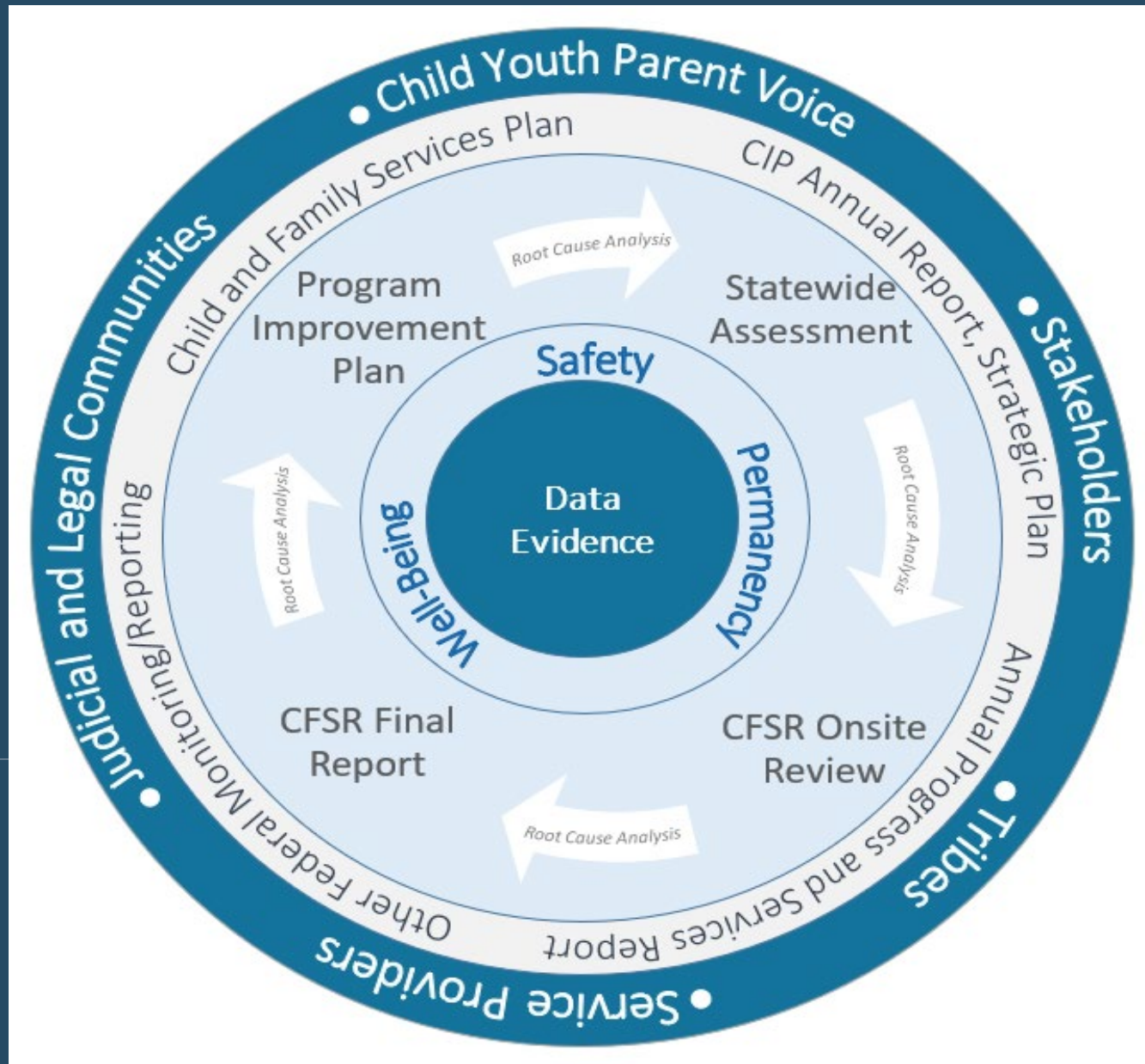


OVERCOMING OBSTACLES
AND BARRIERS

Evidence of State Collaboration

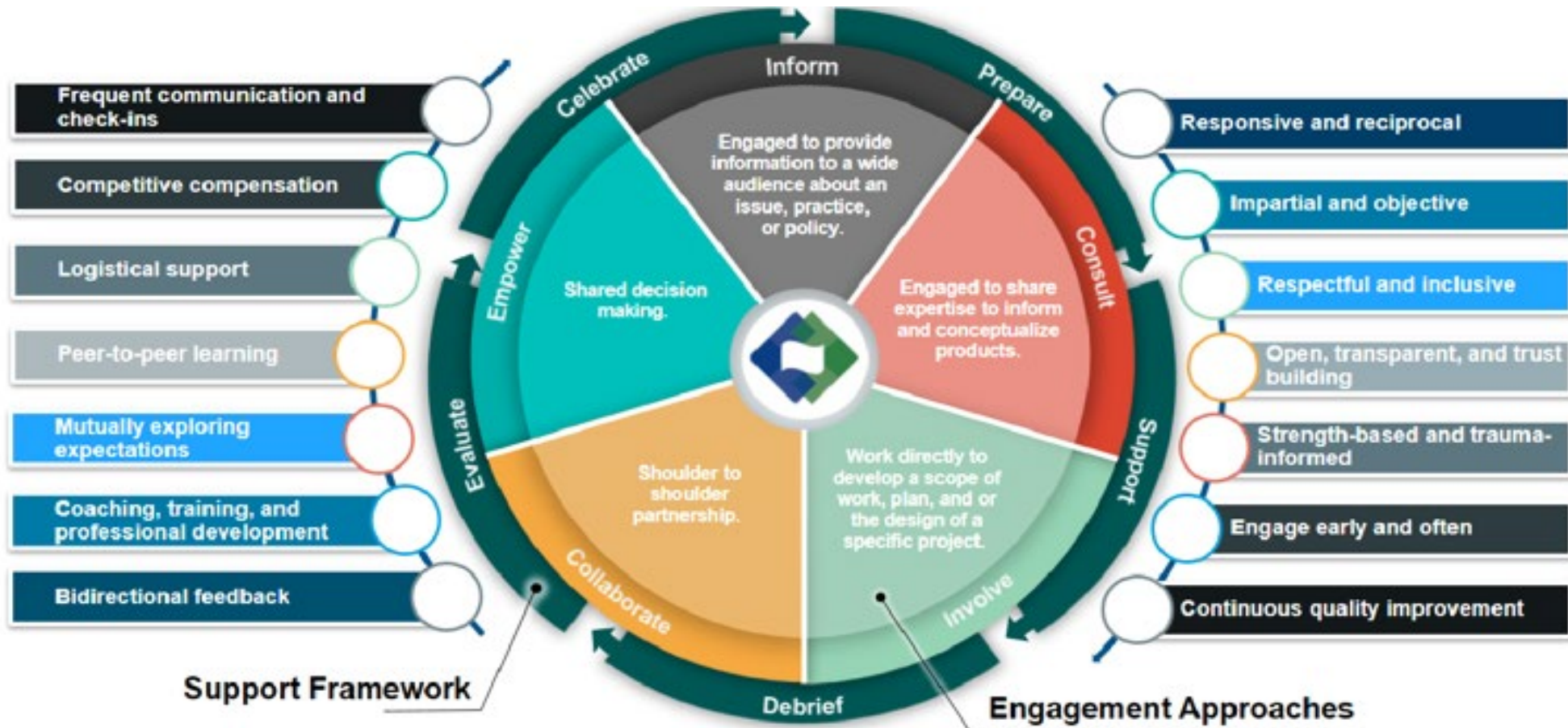


- Engaging a broad group of stakeholders in the development and ongoing analysis of the PIP and new statewide assessment
- Sharing ownership of the statewide assessment and PIP processes by internal and external partners
- Establishing standing meetings and ensuring they are regularly attended by key partners
- The state agency and its partners assigns responsibility (and authority) to key staff for communicating regularly, internally and externally, about the Child and Family Services Reviews process.



Technical Assistance Available From the Capacity Building Center for States

TA Model for Lived Expertise Engagement



Engaging Center for States' Services

MAJOR AREAS OF SERVICES



Providing tailored, expert coaching and consultation on projects that aim to improve child welfare outcomes and support agencies' strategic and long-term goals



Supporting peer groups that allow child welfare professionals to virtually connect with colleagues working in similar practice areas or on common initiatives



Developing and disseminating publications, tools, and learning experiences on a variety of child welfare topics to increase awareness and knowledge of federal child welfare initiatives and child welfare policy and practice



Providing access to national child welfare expertise, including young adults and families with lived experience and expertise in child welfare



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23

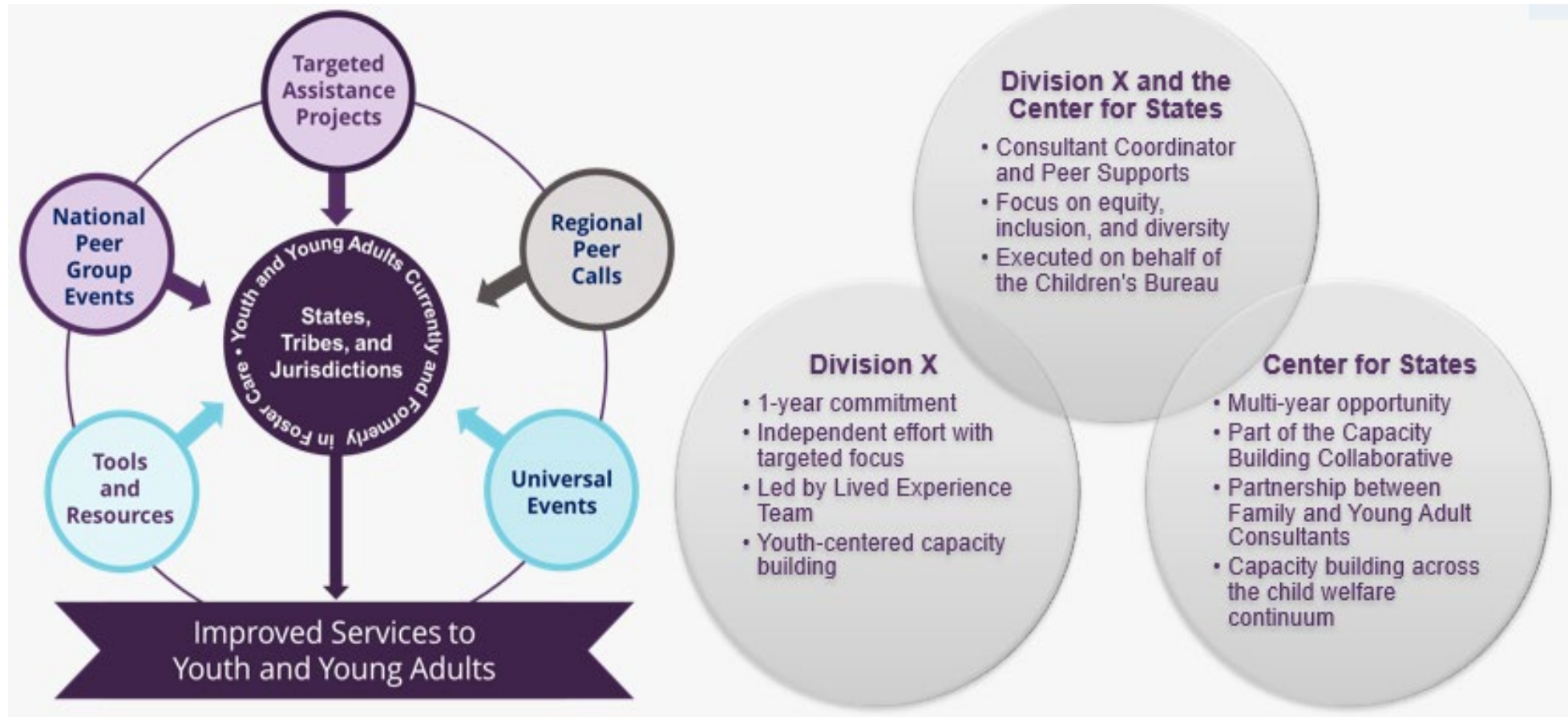


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Capacity Building Center for States Lived Expertise Consultants



Division X Technical Assistance



Legal and Judicial Integration and Engagement in CFSR Round 4



Purpose

Provide support to state child welfare agencies and state CIPs in their efforts to engage with lawyers, judges, and other court personnel throughout the CFSSR



Goals for Legal and Judicial System Engagement for Round 4

Lawyers, judges, CIPs and court personnel are involved early and throughout the CFSR beginning with the release of the SWDI and preparation of the Statewide Assessment

Lawyers and judges are educated about the CFSR and the critical role they play in achieving positive outcomes for families

States are supported in obtaining legal and judicial system integration throughout the process



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28



Compliance versus Engagement



Child Welfare Agencies' Requirement to Collaborate

- State child welfare agencies must demonstrate substantial, ongoing and meaningful collaboration with State courts in the development and implementation of their State plans under titles IV-B and IV E and any PIPs developed as a result of the Child and Family Services and IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews.

See Section 422(b)(13) of the Act.

Court Improvement Program Requirements to Collaborate

- State courts are required to demonstrate “meaningful, ongoing collaboration” among the courts in the state, the title IV-B/IV-E agency, and, where applicable, Indian Tribes in their CIP applications in order to receive funding (Section 438(b)(1)(C) of the Act.)
- “Meaningful, ongoing collaboration” means that: state courts, title IV-B/IV-E agencies, and Tribes will identify and work toward shared goals and activities to increase the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in the child welfare system.
- State courts must also commit to participating in all stages of child welfare program planning and improvement efforts, including the CFSP/APSR, CFSR, and Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Review processes within required timeframes.

Court Improvement Program Considerations

- CIP is one representative of these systems
- Lawyers, GALs, judges, court administrators integrated throughout
- State plans for engagement to be developed
- Conduit to obtaining participation of judges and maybe lawyers



Compliance versus Engagement

Intersection of Legal/Judicial and Child Welfare Agency Interests Relevant to the CFSR

Data of interest

- Example: An analysis of AFCARS data on exits for children and youth entering foster care shows us that while over 85 percent of children and youth will eventually achieve permanency through reunification, guardianship, or adoption (after 4 to 5 years), less than 50 percent will return to their families of origin through reunification.
(ACYF-CB-IM-21-01)

Intersection of Legal/Judicial and Child Welfare Agency Interests Relevant to the CFSR

The CFSR is linked with legal requirements

- Example: Federal law and regulation clearly emphasize the importance of working to preserve families and for agencies to make reasonable efforts to prevent removal and finalize permanency goals. The law also emphasizes preserving family and community connections for children and youth in foster care. CFSR findings related to these requirements indicate that states need to make improvements in these areas.

(ACYF-CB-IM-21-01)

Intersection of Legal/Judicial and Child Welfare Agency Interests Relevant to the CFSR

Legal and judicial practice intersects with the CFSR

- Example: The following areas are examined by the CFSRs and are opportunities for systemic and case improvement:
 - The timeliness of hearings that affect the permanency goals of reunification, guardianship, and adoption
 - The appropriateness of permanency goals
 - The effectiveness of notification to foster care parents and other caregivers of permanency hearings and opportunities to be heard
 - The effectiveness and availability of the array of services made available to children and families

(Round 4 CFSR Fact Sheet)



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36



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How Does Engagement Look?



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Intersection of Legal/Judicial and Child Welfare Agency Interests Relevant to the CFSR

Statewide Assessment

- Members of the legal and judicial communities can help develop the statewide assessment by providing data, information on relevant legal and/or judicial issues, and/or sharing their experiences (*Round 4 Legal-Judicial Fact Sheet*)



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38



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Lessons Learned From Involvement of the Legal and Judicial Systems in Round 3 of the CFSTRs



Figure 3: Descriptive Statistics of Legal and Judicial Strategies and Activities²



² All states had a strategy.

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Figure 4: Percentage of Strategies by Outcome

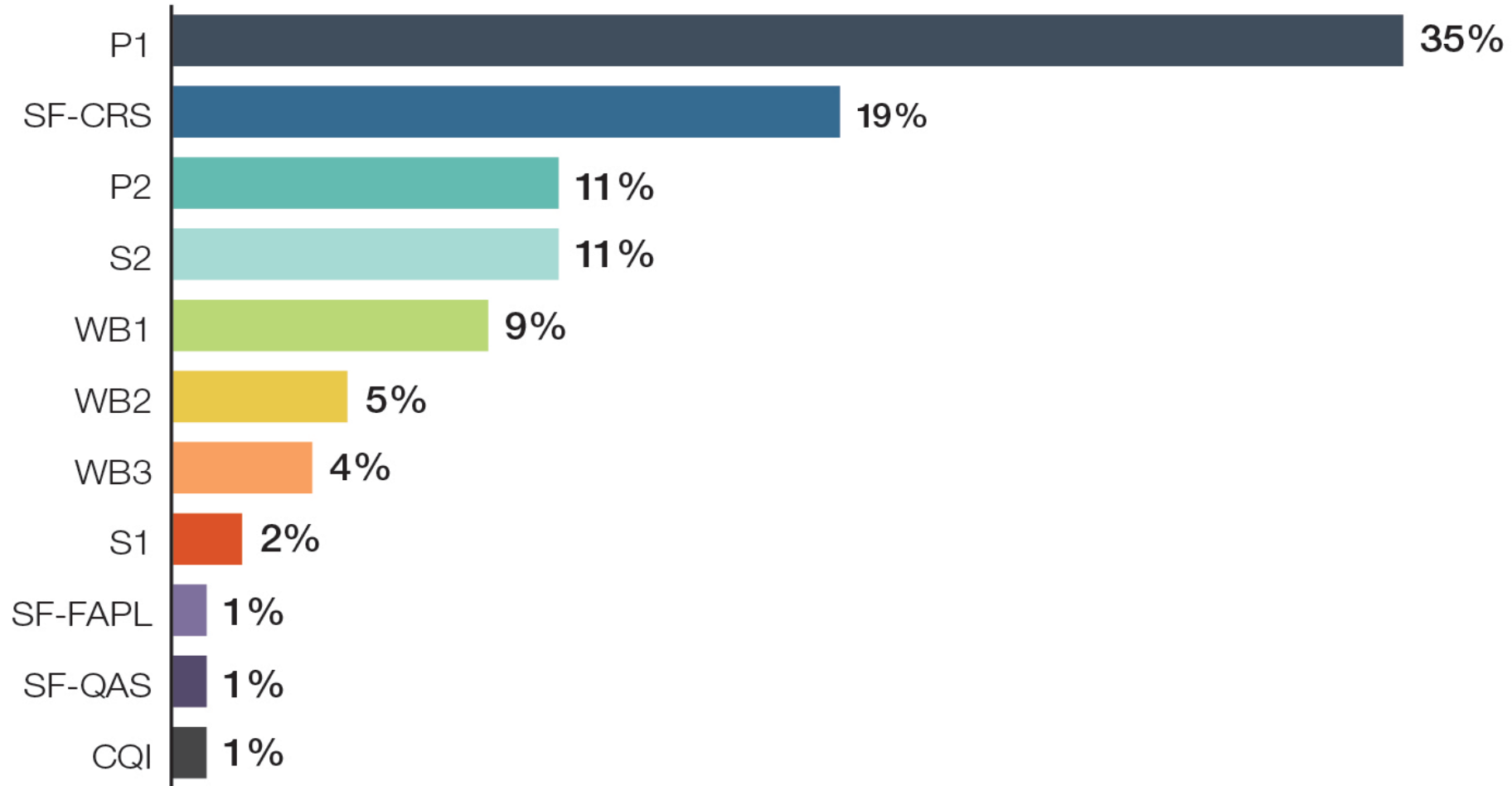


Figure 5: Percentage of PIP Strategies That Required Practice Changes of Judges and Lawyers, and CIP Efforts to Implement

PIP Strategy Required Practice Change of Judges to Improve System



33%

PIP Strategy Required Practice Change of Lawyers to Improve System



32%

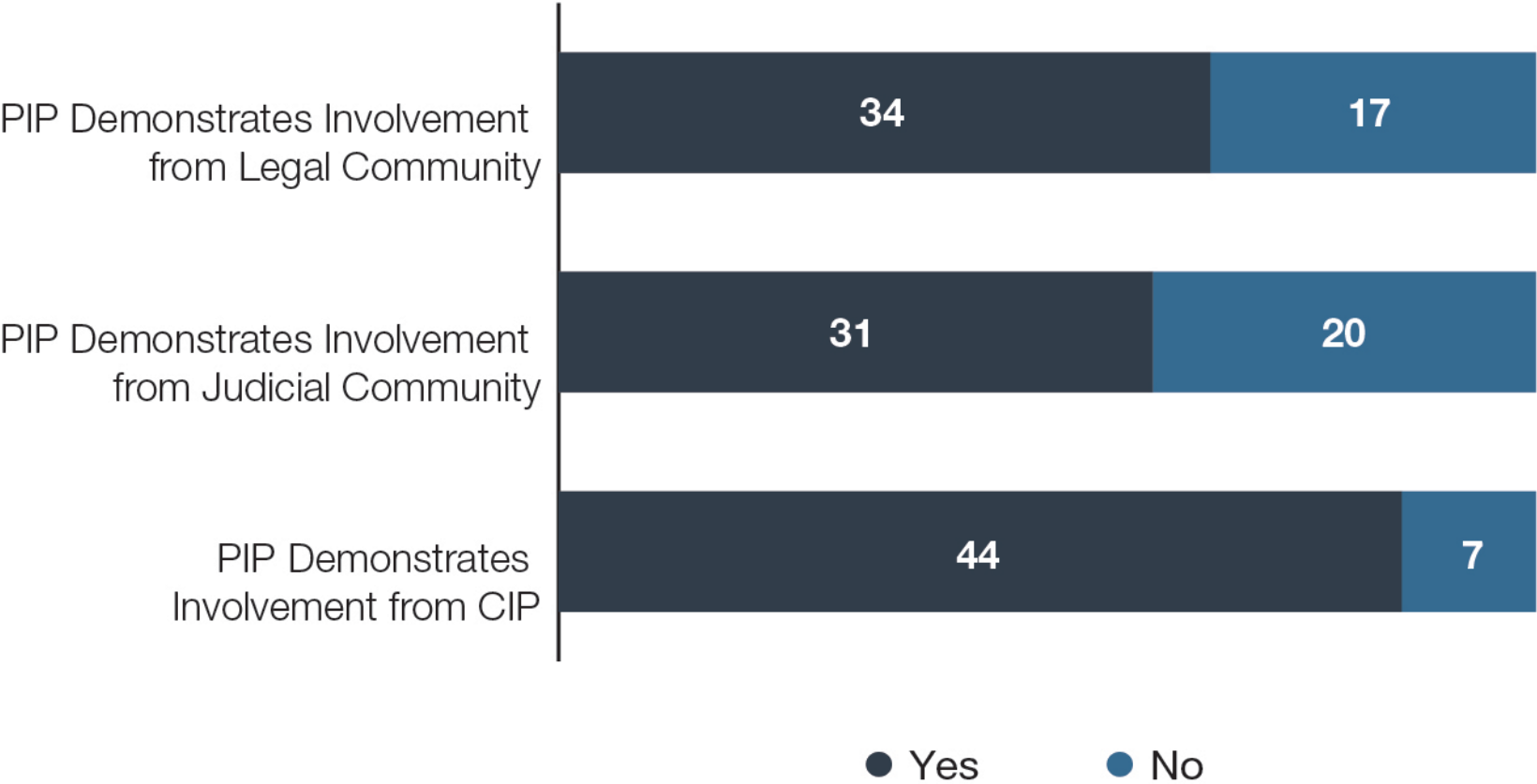
PIP Strategy Required Efforts of CIP to Improve System



93%

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Figure 6: Number of Times PIPs Demonstrated Legal, Judicial, and CIP Involvement



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CB Support for Legal & Judicial Engagement in Round 4

Joint letters to
Chief Justices
& Agency
Directors

Follow-up
meetings with
Chief Justices &
Agency Directors

Educating about
the key roles of
legal, judicial,
and court
representation in
the CFR

Support for
developing legal
and judicial
engagement plans
at CIP
Multidisciplinary
Task Force
Meetings



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44



Legal & Judicial Engagement

Letters to Chief Justices and Agency Directors

Legal & Judicial Engagement

Meetings with CIP multi-disciplinary task forces



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Legal & Judicial Engagement

CIP self-assessments

State plans for legal/judicial engagement

Reference Materials

Fact Sheet for
Legal &
Judicial
Communities

Round 3
Report for
Legal and
Judicial
Communities

Spotlight
Series
Documents

Legal & Judicial Engagement

Technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for Courts

Questions ?
