



Los Angeles County

Office of Child Protection

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created the Office of Child Protection (OCP) in February 2015 to improve communication, coordination, and accountability across agencies that help and protect vulnerable children and families.

Our goal is to give children a better chance of growing up safer and healthier.

The OCP's 2016–2021 strategic plan—developed in concert with more than 500 stakeholders from across Los Angeles County—focuses on the work of the system and the OCP in five areas:

The OCP's plan, *Paving the Road to Safety for Our Children: Los Angeles County's Prevention Plan*, is a blueprint for partnering with our county's diverse communities to coordinate and expand existing prevention-focused networks to further **strengthen families, prevent child maltreatment, and, when possible, keep children out of the child-welfare system to begin with.** In implementing the plan to date, the OCP and County departments have:

PREVENTION

- Improved connections to services from the existing Prevention and Aftercare (P&A) networks for families referred to the Department of Children and Family Services child protection hotline whose circumstances do not rise to the level of a formal investigation
- Created a universal home-visiting model for all new mothers interested in participating
- Begun work on identifying ways to objectively measure our progress and track data to help us do better
- In response to the tragic death of Anthony A. in June 2018, the OCP has developed and is working with its partners to implement a set of recommendations to improve child safety throughout the system.
- The OCP has launched an electronic data-sharing mechanism—the Emergency Referral Investigation Service (ERIS)—across eight County departments to better inform investigations of child abuse and neglect.
- We are also working to connect the Department of Children and Family Services and others to improve access to health records for youth in their care.

SAFETY

The goal here is for **no child to leave the child-welfare or juvenile-justice systems without a permanent family or a responsible, caring adult in his or her life.** To that end, the OCP is:

- Overseeing a successful family-finding pilot in several Department of Children and Family Services offices to locate appropriate relatives or close family friends to make the “first placement a kin placement”
- Collaborating with multiple County departments to use existing efforts to build a multi-year countywide strategy to support the self-sufficiency goals of transition-age foster youth and create permanency for foster and probation youth as early as possible
- The OCP is collaborating with multiple education agencies to implement the school-stability and transportation provisions of the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act*, so foster youth need not change schools so often.
- We are also working with the County's Health Agency and its departments to improve the coordination of health and mental services for system-involved youth, including those available at the County's medical hubs.
- We are partnering with the Juvenile Court and multiple other stakeholders to enforce the protocols in place for approving and monitoring the use of psychotropic medications for youth in out-of-home care.

WELL BEING

CROSS CUTTING

Our cross-cutting approaches include:

- Collaboratively developing a plan to prevent youth from “crossing over” from the dependency to the delinquency system (from foster care to probation)
- Working with partners to identify innovative practices and pilot-test promising ideas across all goal areas

For more information, please visit

<http://ocp.lacounty.gov/>