

# The Los Angeles IV-E Waiver Story



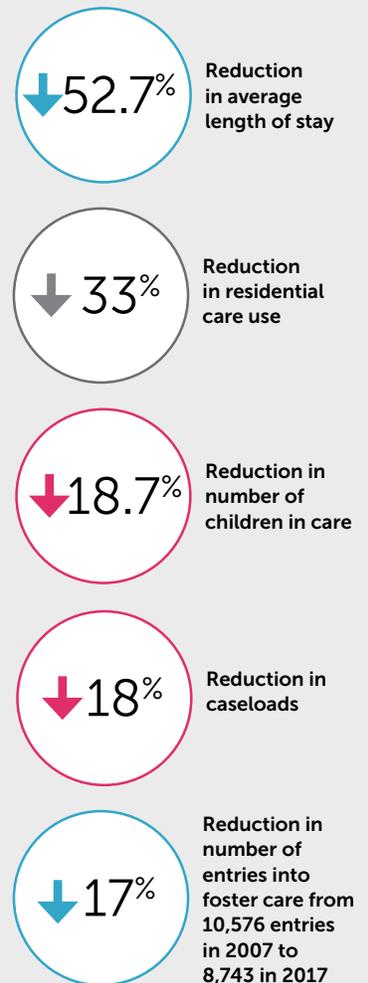
## AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEM THAT STRENGTHENS FAMILIES

The number one priority of the child welfare system is to keep children safe from neglect and abuse. To achieve this mission, child welfare agencies are funded primarily through Title IV-E of the Social Security Act. These funds can only be used to support children after a court determines that they cannot remain safely at home. In 2007, the federal government offered States and Tribes a time-limited opportunity to use Title IV-E funds to test innovative approaches for working with children and families and the flexibility to use those funds before children are removed from home. This is known as the IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project (Waiver). The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Department of Probation have used the Waiver to improve the services and supports provided to children and families. As a result:

- **DCFS invested in community-based prevention and aftercare support** for children, parents and relative caregivers.
- **DCFS lowered social worker caseloads** which allowed for deeper work with families through the Core Practice Model (CPM) and development of Child and Family Teaming.
- **Probation implemented Functional Family Therapy (FFT)** to improve rehabilitation and reintegration of youth into the community.
- **Probation expanded Wraparound services** reducing the use of out of home placement and incarceration.
- **Probation and Child Welfare worked collaboratively** to support youth and families that touch both systems.

The Waiver also has spurred learning about use of data and evidence in decision-making, program fidelity, and continuous quality improvement. However, this opportunity for flexible funding and innovative approaches, is scheduled to end on September 30, 2019.

### CHILD WELFARE IMPACT



### PROBATION IMPACT

THE WAIVER HELPED FACILITATE A CHANGE IN THE WAY THAT LOS ANGELES PROBATION APPROACHES JUVENILE JUSTICE.

WITHOUT THE WAIVER, ONLY 15-20% OF CURRENT YOUTH BEING SERVED WOULD BE ELIGIBLE.



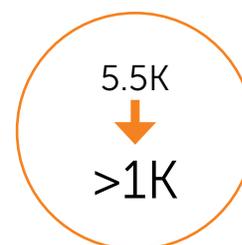
Since start of the Waiver project in 2007, the Probation department saw a 70% reduction in system-involved kids in out-of-home care



70% caseload reduction since 2006



75% decrease in the population of L.A. County probation halls and camps.



Only those youth at imminent risk would be eligible to receive these services.

Reduction of those eligible to receive services.

# Rose and Huynh: A Family's Journey With and Without the Waiver

Rose and Huynh failed drug tests when Rose gave birth to their youngest child and DCFS became involved to determine whether the infant was at risk for neglect or abuse.



# Child Welfare and Probation Interventions: What we have gained and what we may lose

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Under the Waiver, Los Angeles has learned what works in supporting children and families. Without it, we stand to lose the flexibility we need to offer a broad range of services that help stabilize families, and prevent children from entering into foster care.

– Bobby Cagle, Director, Department of Children and Family Services.

## Core Practice Model

### David and Isabela

David and Isabela's children entered foster care after their oldest daughter told school staff that her mother hit her and her siblings. After being assigned to three different social workers, David and Isabela were frustrated and hopeless. But then they were assigned a social worker and supervisor who had been trained in the Core Practice Model. They took the time to listen to David and Isabela's family story and came to understand their underlying needs. They also set up a Child and Family Team meeting where David and Isabela could invite all their supports and lead their own meeting. During the CFT Isabela realized that she hit her children because her father hit her and she did not know any other methods to discipline. After the CFT Isabela's father called her. He apologized for how he had treated her as a child and he urged her, "Don't make the same mistakes that I made." The CFT was an opportunity for Isabela to heal from the effects of her own abuse and the social worker was able to provide parenting classes to meet her needs. With the help of the social worker using the Core Practice Model approach the family reunified successfully.



## Wraparound

### Michael and family

Michael was referred for Wraparound services by his Probation officer in 2017. His Wraparound provider assembled a Child Family Team (CFT) with Michael and his family. The team included a Parent Partner who linked his mother to medical insurance and low-cost medical services, and coached her on how to have appropriate and effective conversations with her son. With positive and strength-based support at every meeting, Michael and his mother were able to develop a better relationship. The team used flexible auxiliary funds to purchase a new refrigerator and other basic necessities to achieve stability in the home, and a laptop for Michael as a high school graduation gift. Michael made incredible progress with the support of Wraparound. He caught up on over 130 credits in 6 short months, graduated high school and enrolled in college. Michael completed his probation mandates and community service hours 2 months before his court date and is looking forward to a bright future.



“The waiver has allowed Probation to employ innovative and proven services to support our high risk and high need youth and their families. Our fear is that the loss of the funding and flexibility will lead to fewer community-based services, resulting in more youth in detention and reversing the trend of fewer youth in our facilities since the waiver has been in place.

–Terri McDonald, Chief Probation Officer

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DCFS practices a uniform service delivery model that measurably improves: Child Safety, Permanency, and Access to effective and caring service. Learn more about us here: [dcfs.co.la.ca.us/aboutus](https://dcfs.co.la.ca.us/aboutus)