

# Braiding Is Not Just for Hair



Collaborating with Sister Program to  
Fund Whole Family Services





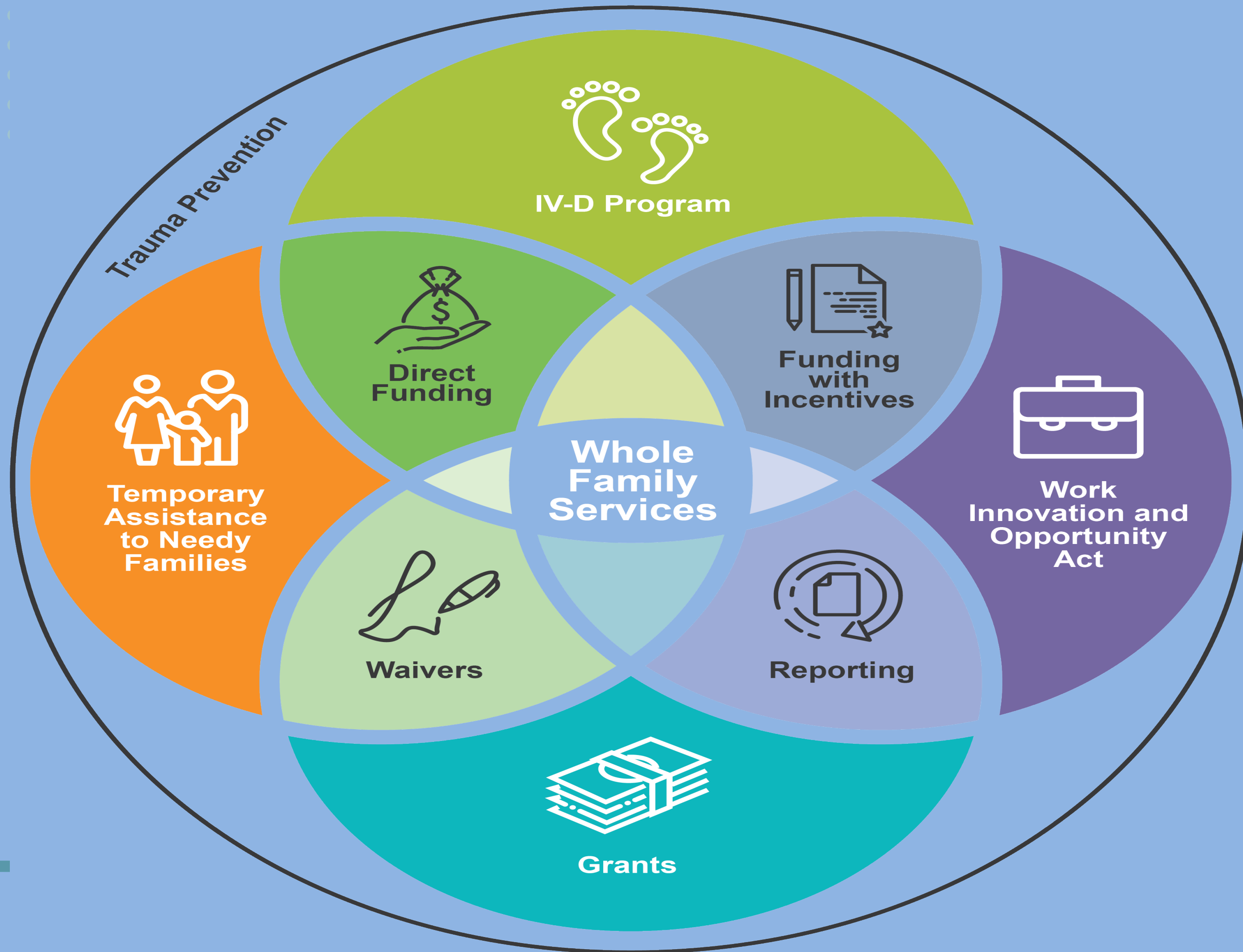
# The Team

**Chad Edinger**-Program Specialist, Office of Child Support Services, ACF, US Department of HHS

**Kristie Gordy**-Wyoming Senior Administrator Economic Security Division and IV-D Director

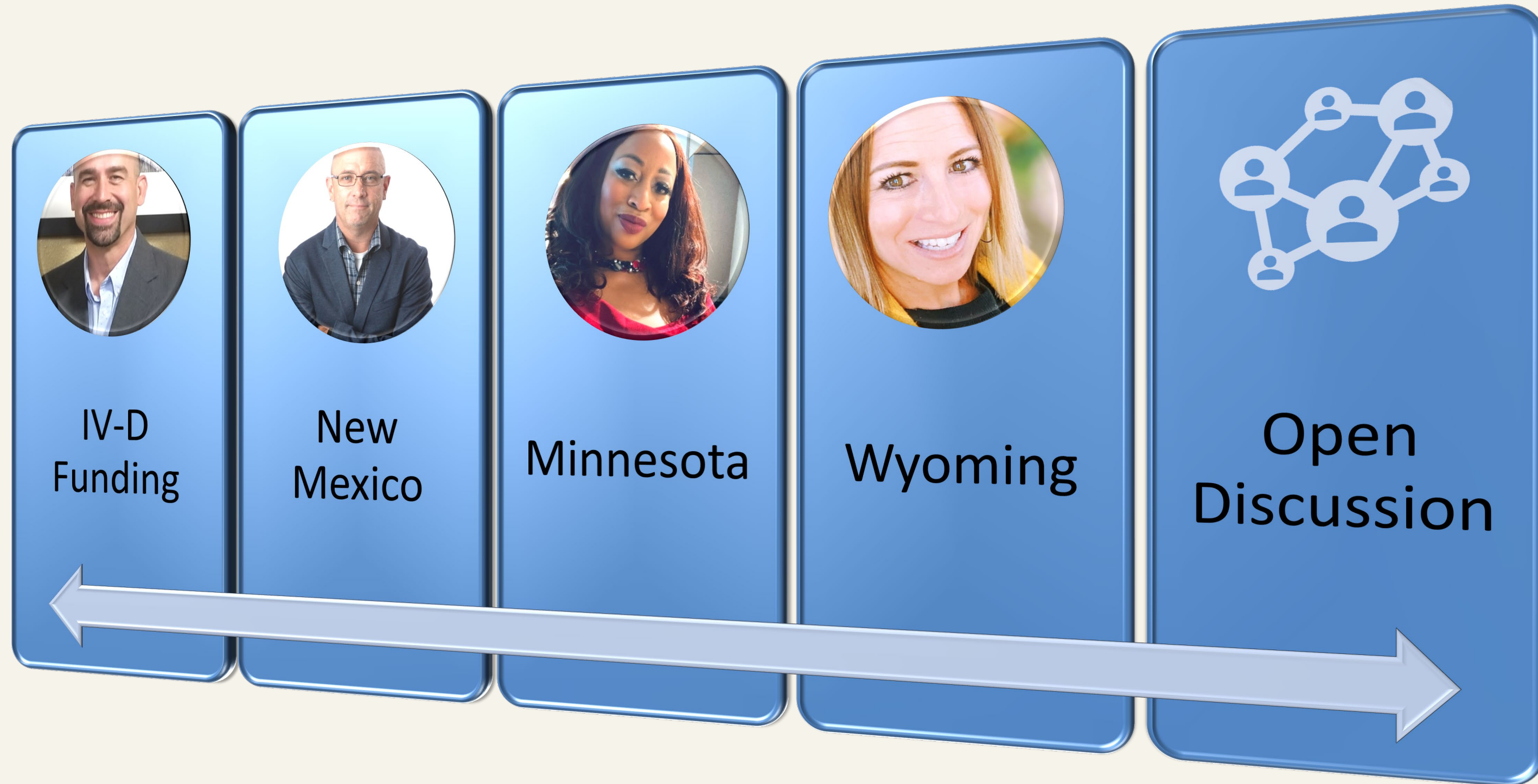
**Dr. Shaneen Moore**-Minnesota Assistant Commissioner, Family Well-being Administration, MN DCYF

**Jeremy Toulouse**-Maximus Senior Director of Program Modernization Consulting





# Today's Path



# Knowledge Works! Live Demonstration of Webpages to Illustrate State Examples

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/css/employment-programs>

## Knowledge Works! Resources for Child Support-Led Employment Services

Updated as of: October 18, 2022

We believe the option to implement noncustodial parent employment services is a good strategy to increase participation in the workforce, improve compliance with court-ordered child support payments, and provide low-income Americans with a path out of poverty to financial self-sufficiency.

The Knowledge Works Initiative helps child support agencies implement or enhance a noncustodial parent employment program by highlighting the work of successful programs in other jurisdictions. By sharing documents and connecting agencies to OCSE subject matter experts, we can help assist your program, plan, implement, and determine funding sources to develop your child support-led noncustodial parent employment programs.



### Child Support-Led Employment Programs by State

20 states operate a child support-led employment program for noncustodial parents.



### Training: Noncustodial Parent Employment Programs



### Michigan's LEAP program

Read about Ellice, a noncustodial parent, and his success through the Michigan LEAP program to address barriers preventing him.



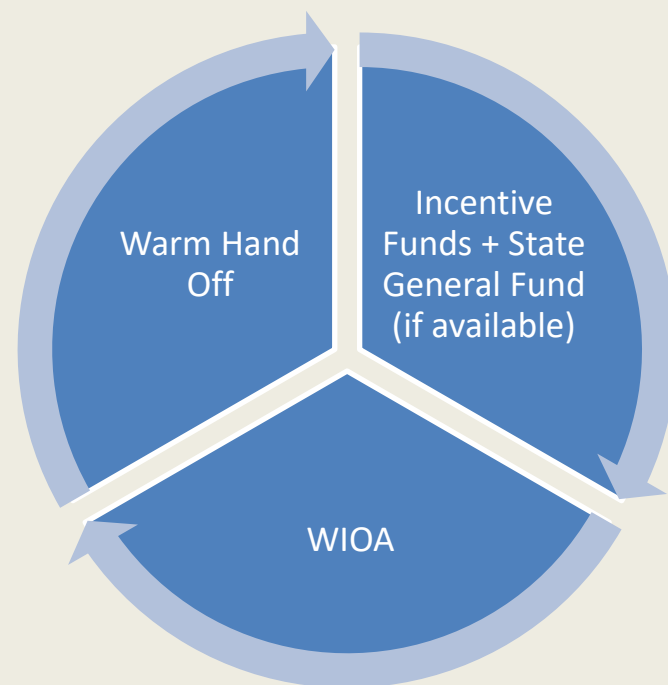
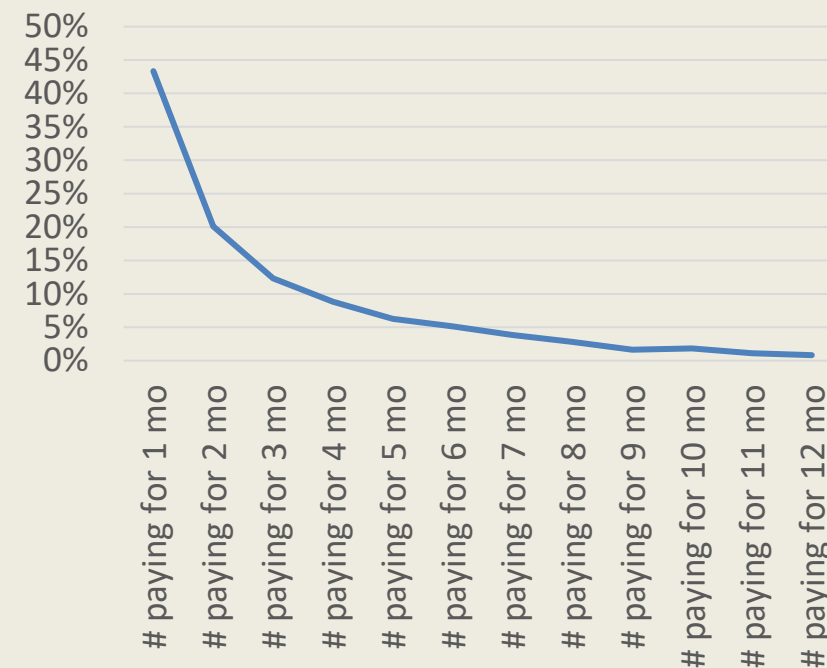
# New Mexico





# New Mexico

Legal Enforcement Effectiveness  
at Ensuring Regular Payments



36% Success Rate from Interview to Job Placement

- **Data Analysis**
- **Cost Benefit Analysis**
- **Customer Outreach**
- **Ability to Pay Assessment (What is your Culture?)**
  - Not-Currently Employed or Underemployed
- **Supplemental Order with Work Requirements**
  - New Mexico Parental Responsibility Act (PRA) – The Respondent shall comply with any Work Requirements as defined by the IV-D Agency
- **Return of License**
- **Right Sized Order**
- **Arrears Management Program**
- **Cooperate with Employment Specialist**
  - Build Resume in JOBS Web-Portal
  - Attend Interviews
  - Report Changes



# Minnesota





# Practicing Child-Centered Government

- Families and those who work with them are asking for coordination, engagement, and culturally and individually responsive programs that meet their children's needs throughout their development.
- Governance reports, cross-agency work, OLA reports, and learnings from other states have built the case for additional alignment.
- Time for Minnesota to create an agency centered on children, similar to governance structures in more than half of states.





# Focus for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families

## Principles:

- Whole family focus
- Focus on child throughout their life, from intentional prevention to downstream services
- Consolidation of early childhood programs
- Services are easy to access/navigate/“front door”
- Cross-agency coordination still needed
- Improved and more equitable outcomes achieved for all races, incomes, economic statuses and places of being



# DCYF Core Programs and Organizational Structure

## Core programs proposed to move into the new agency:

Child care and early learning programs

Child Support, Child Safety and Permanency, and other family-focused community programs

Economic support and food assistance programs

Youth opportunity and older youth investments

- **Youth Services and Economic Opportunity**
  - Youth Justice Office, Office of Restorative Practices, Office of Economic Opportunity, After School Community Learning Grant
- **Family Well-Being**
  - Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division, Child Support
- **Early Childhood**
  - Child Care Services, Early Learning Services, Help Me Connect
- **Child Safety and Permanency**
  - Child Safety and Permanency
- **Service Coordination**<sup>11</sup> around mental health, children with disabilities, Black children and Youth, family and community navigation of state programs
- **Equity Office, Tribal Policy Office, Office of Innovation**
- **Operations:** Budget and Finance, Communications, Compliance, External Relations, Legislative Relations, Human Resources, Information Technology, Legal, Licensing, Program Integrity



# Minnesota– Blended Funding Example

**Objective of the Project:** Whole Family Systems - provide blended funding in the form of 5-year grants awarded to community sites chosen across the state to provide more holistically services to families across programs.

- Whole Family Systems (WFS) Initiative began in Minnesota with [The 2Gen Policy Network \(2016-2021\)](#) led by DHS Economic Assistance and Employment Supports Division (EAESD), Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), and the Future Services Institute of the University of Minnesota.
- Serving families in a holistic, collaborative, integrative way while building relationships across service areas, levels of government, and sectors.
- WFS 2nd cohort began in 2017 through October 2024 – building on previous learnings – 2Gen Policy Network and Early Childhood Systems reform (ESCRP) Project.
- Combination of three divisions: **Child Care Services, Economic Assistance and Employment Supports, and Child Safety and Permanency.**

For more information and details  
regarding the research and related  
study:

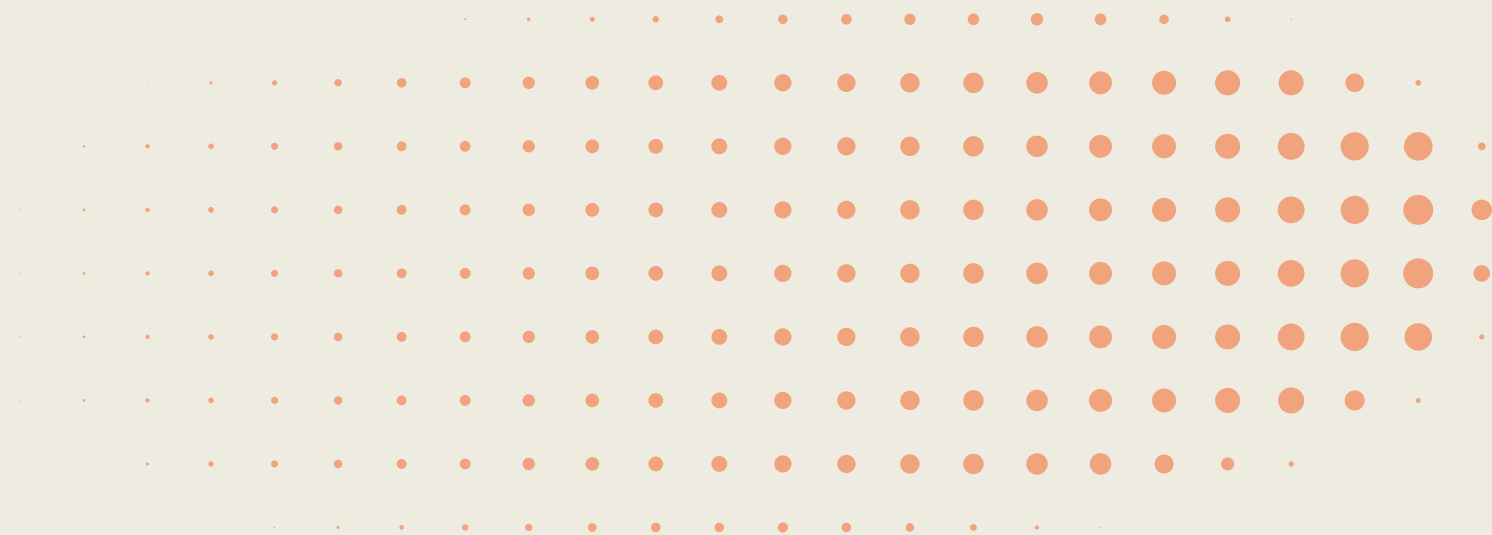


Adobe Acrobat  
Document



# Minnesota– Employment Services

- Federal Grant Funding Opportunity – **“Next Generation Child Support Employment Services Demonstration”**
- Federal funding opportunity - federal Office of Child Support Services (OCSS)
- Total amount request \$2.1M
- Implementation of services – Whole Family Systems pilot focused on employing a 2-generation approach centering equity to assist BIPOC NCPs secure job training, livable wages in marketable occupations, or upskills from underemployment.
- Partnerships with county and Tribal partnerships – implementation of employment job training and job placement services through regional and statewide collaborations, navigation services
- **Key Strategies:**
  - Year 1: Start-up and development of program design
  - Years 2, 3, and 4: Devoted to providing services, collaboratives, data collection, tracking
  - Year 5: Evaluation, close-out, sustainability work





# Wyoming



# WY Home Matters

WY Home Matters (WHM) is a framework that guides how we work across systems and with communities to engage and serve children, vulnerable adults, and their families.

WHM is built on **core values** and a belief that children and vulnerable adults do best when they can stay safely at home.



# Agency Core Values

## **Safe at Home**

All children and adults deserve to be safe in their own homes, wherever home is to them.

## **Opportunities for Success**

All families deserve a fair chance at success. Our job is to promote family strengths and to provide access to services that allow families to stay safely together.

## **Supporting the People who Support the Families**

Our greatest resources are those people serving families directly in their communities - our staff and our partners.





# Open Discussion

- What Benefits do you see with braiding funding to Implement Whole Family Services?
- What examples of Funding Braiding in your Program?
- What Funding do you have that could be braided?



# Action Items

- 1. Identify where Collaboration could Start!**
- 2. Reach out! (TANF, SNAP, Child Support, Behavioral Health, Child Care, Transportation)**
- 3. Develop a Shared Vision – What do we want to achieve?**
- 4. Identify Funding that could be braided!**
- 5. Develop your Cost Allocation Methodology**



Thank You!



We would love to hear your thoughts about this workshop. It only takes a few minutes!

You can rate workshops easily through the Conference App. On the event main menu, go to the agenda. Tap on [Workshop Title](#) to view the detail page, then tap the "Session Feedback" button.

