A loving approach to helping children obtain what they need to live with dignity by comprehensively supporting families through a collaborative network of carefully selected resources and effective public and private investments, grounded in community and culture, and a workforce fully devoted to serving with intentional equity.
The Children’s Bureau prioritizes building equity in child welfare systems.

Threading equity into all elements of our priorities is crucial to increasing benefits to Black and Brown children, including families who have experienced multi-generational systemic interventions and disproportionate outcomes.
The following are our priority goals:

1. Prevent Children from Coming into Foster Care

2. Support For Kinship Caregivers

3. Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports, and Opportunities

4. Invest in the Child Welfare Workforce
| Call upon jurisdictions to examine and amend their definitions of neglect; particularly definitions that conflate poverty with neglect | Expand funding for civil legal representation for families before foster care becomes necessary, and to facilitate reunification | Strengthen interagency partnerships, coordination, and collaboration | FFPSA - Utilizes the most expansive definition of candidacy |
Support for Kinship Caregivers

Promote equitable licensing standards for kinship caregivers

Increase the number of kinship families by removing inequitable barriers to licensing and require that any approved IV-E eligible kinship home receive federal support
Ensure Youth Leave Care with Strengthened Relationships, Holistic Supports, and Opportunities

Ensure youth have a successful transition into adulthood

Empower youth to chart their life’s course after foster care

Provide youth in foster care with safe, healthy, and normative experiences
4 Invest in the Child Welfare Workforce

Create pathways for jurisdictions to recruit, retain, and nurture a diverse and well-equipped child welfare workforce

- Partner with child welfare agencies to devise innovative strategies to support the child welfare workforce
- Encourage and expand educational and training opportunities to recruit and retain child welfare professionals