



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

National Governors Association  
National Conference of State Legislatures  
Casey Family Services

Dr. Larry Small  
Project Director  
July 9-10, 2012



# Project Description

---

The Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) is a multi-site demonstration project designed to improve permanency outcomes among children in foster care who have the most serious barriers to permanency. PII includes six grantees, each with a unique intervention to help a specific subgroup of children leave foster care in fewer than three years. The aim of PII is to achieve two goals:

1. Implement innovative intervention strategies, informed by relevant literature to reduce long-term foster care and improve child outcomes.
2. Rigorously evaluate these efforts to provide substantial information about the effectiveness of the programs, interventions, and practices implemented in reducing long-term foster care.

The project is distinguished by its provisions for rigorous evaluation, purposeful application of implementation science, and coordinated dissemination of findings.

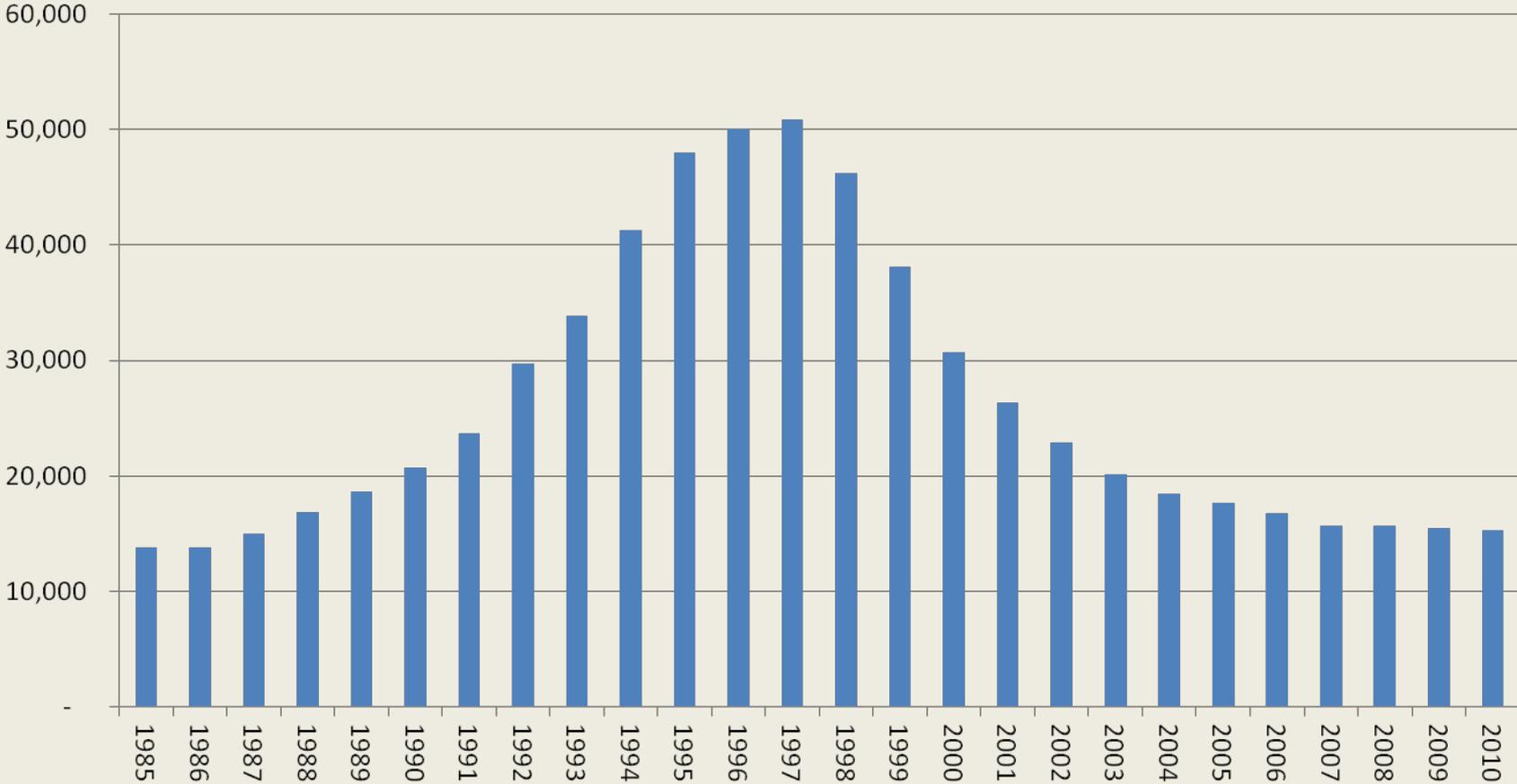
# Grantees

Grantee	Project
Arizona	Fostering Readiness and Permanency Project (FRP)
California	California Partners for Permanency (CAPP)
Illinois	Trauma Focus Model for Reducing Long-Term Foster Care
Kansas	Kansas Intensive Permanency Project (KIPP)
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center	RISE (Recognize. Intervene. Support. Empower)
Washoe County, Nevada	Nevada Initiative to Reduce Long-Term Foster Care

# Project Stages

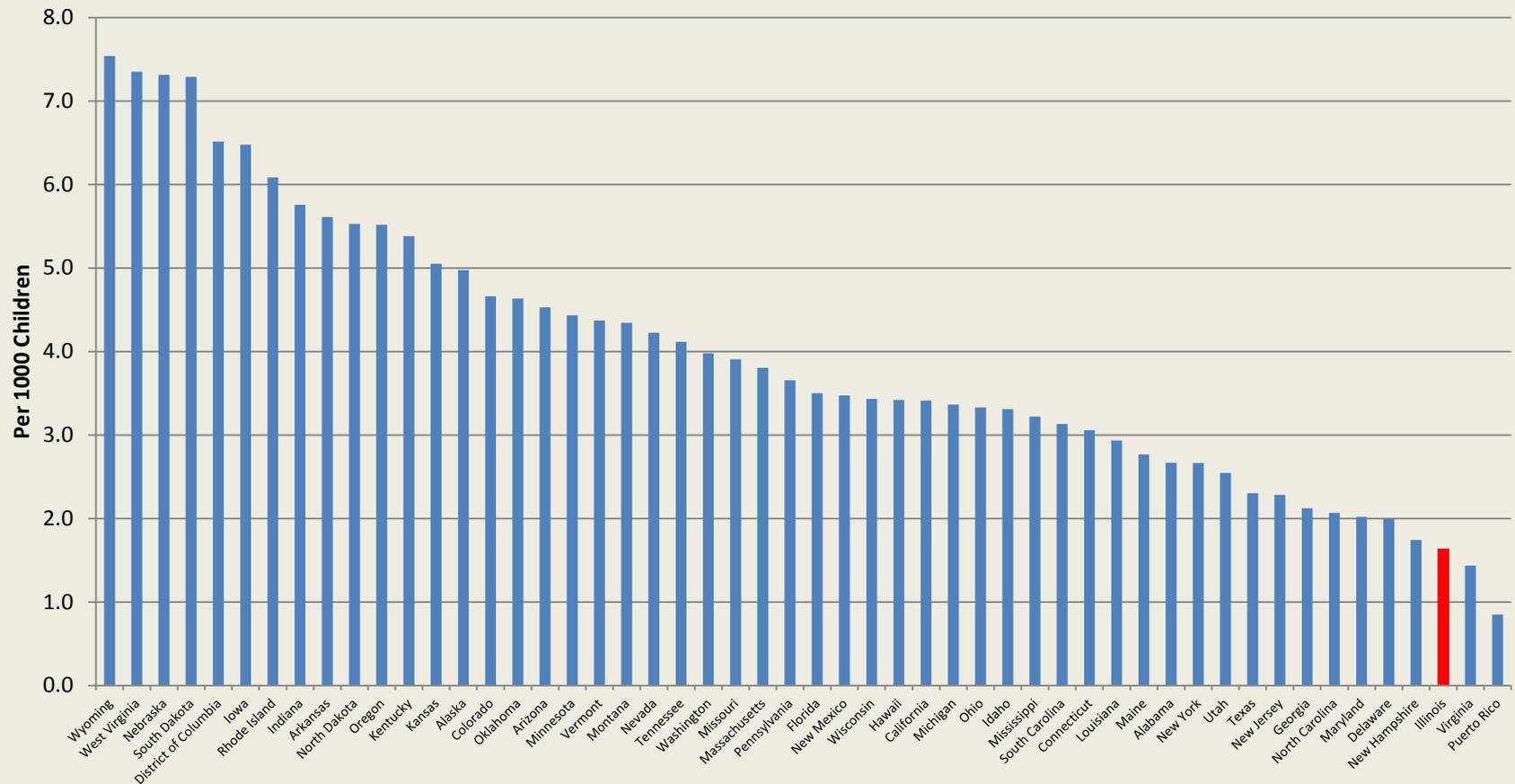
		Implementation Stages	Evaluation Framework
Sustainability	Dissemination	Exploration	Data Mining
			Research Reviews
		Program Installation	PICO Templates & Logic Model
		Initial Implementation	Usability Testing
			Formative Evaluation
		Full Implementation	Summative Evaluation

# Illinois: Children in Foster Care

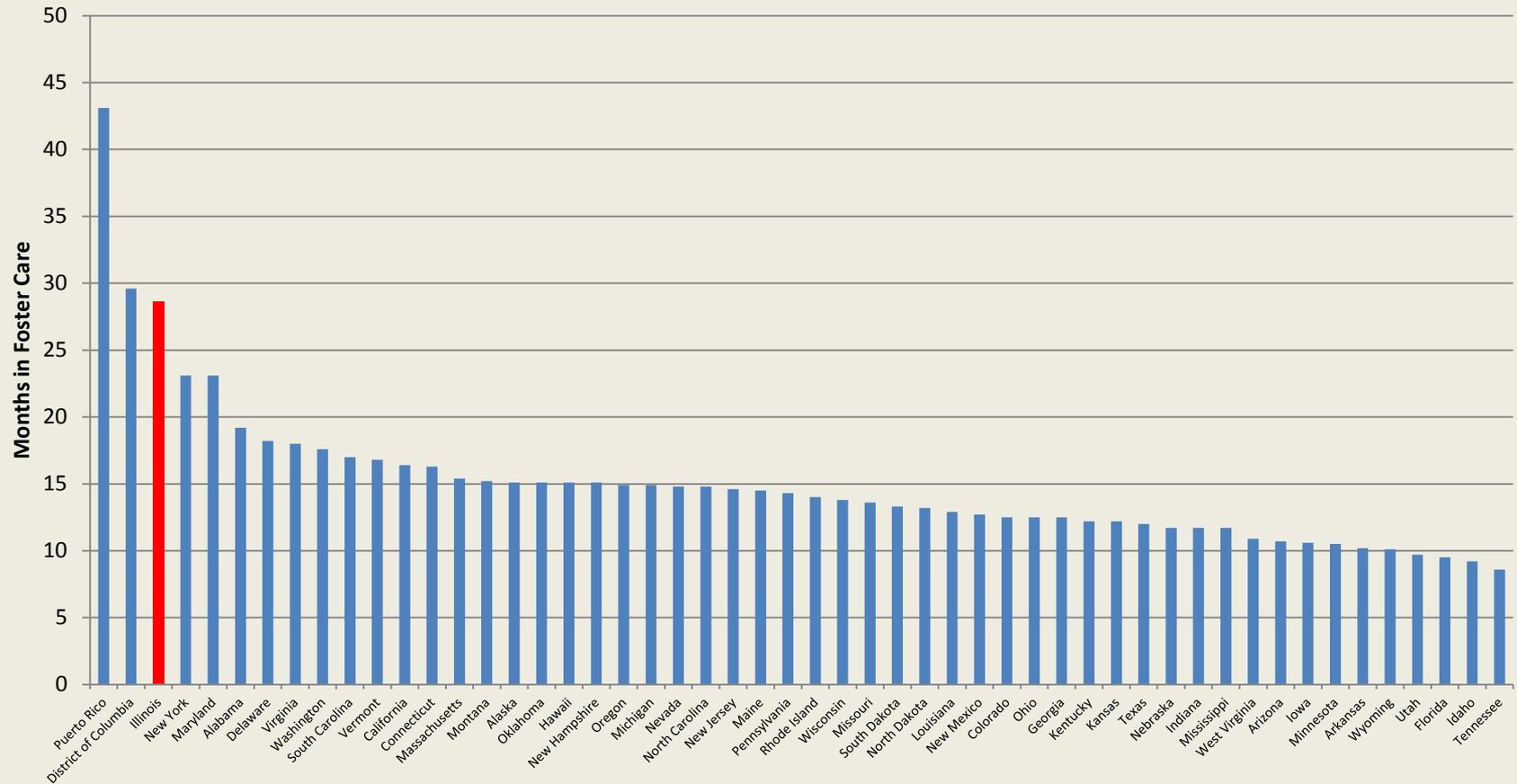




# Entry Rate (2010)



# Median Length of Stay in Foster Care (2010)



# Predictors of Risk of LTFC

---

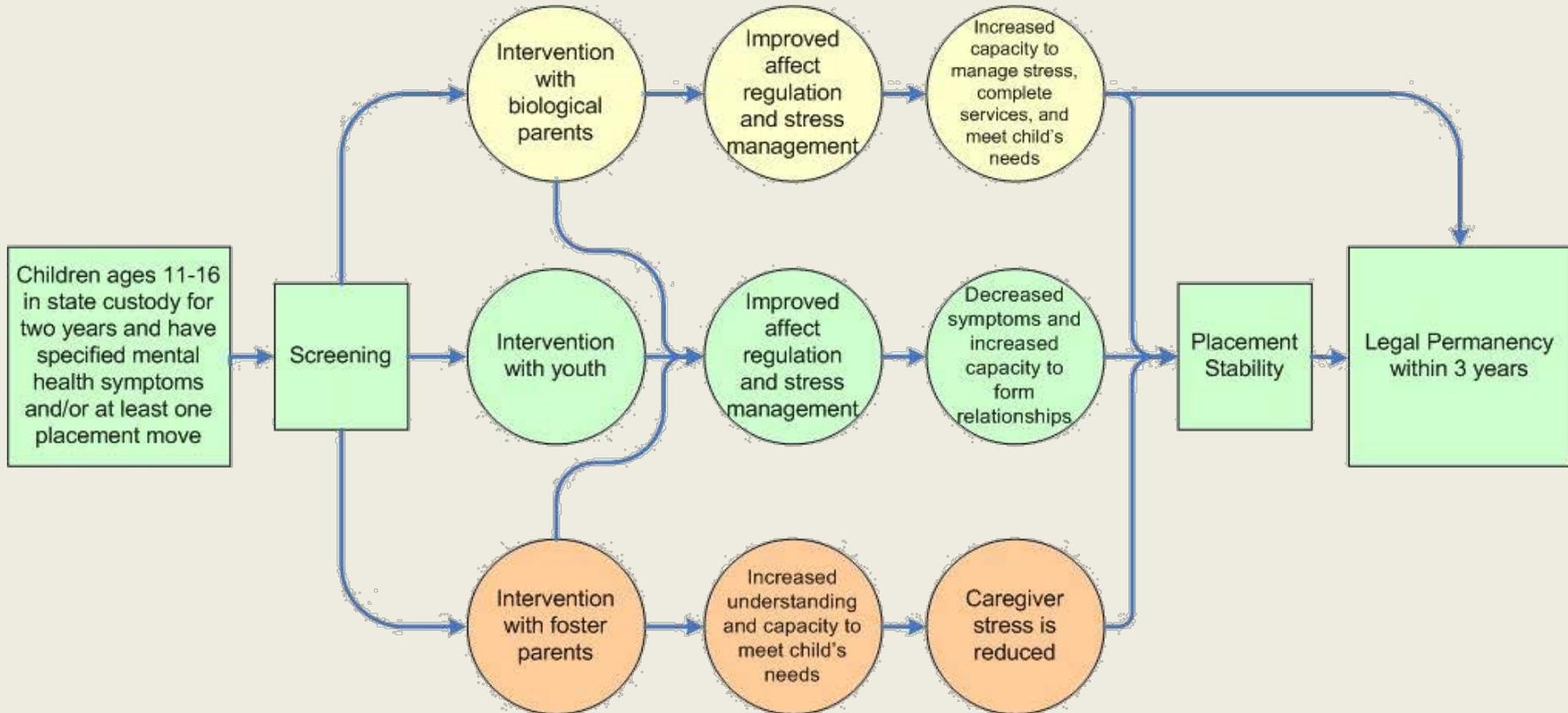
- Age (over nine at entry)
- Parental rights (no TPR by 2 years)
- Region (Cook County)
- Placement type (ever placed in IGH)
- Placement Instability
- Mental Health/Trauma Symptoms/Risk Behaviors

# Identified Barriers

---

- Emotional-behavioral issues of the target children, frequently related to histories of complex trauma;
- Lack of biological parent engagement and service completion required to achieve reunification;
- Insufficient or ineffective services to address biological parents' underlying issues related to child welfare involvement; and
- Lack of support and training to foster parents to address the needs and behaviors of the children in their care.

# Theory of Change: Summary Diagram



# Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET)

---

- Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET) is a strength-based approach to education and therapy when youth and their families have been affected by trauma or experience a high level of stress related to adverse experiences
- A strong psycho-educational component: the impact of trauma on cognitive, emotional, behavioral, and relational processes
- Teaches clients to identify their own stress triggers so that they can better regulate overwhelming feelings and make and achieve goals for themselves
- Provides skills training and aids (acronyms, graphics) to help individuals remember and use TARGET skills in the moment when they experience triggers for emotional dysregulation

# Strengths of TARGET

---

- Evidence-based practice that can be integrated into other practices
- Materials easily understood and received well by youth and parents
- Addresses trauma symptomology and stress responses, but does not require PTSD diagnosis
- Also appropriate for emotional dysregulation that commonly occurs for youth with behavioral disorders
- Strength-based, empowerment-focused
- Encourages family participation
- Developer expertise, availability, and involvement in implementation

# Illinois: Research Question

---

Do foster youth ages 11 to 16 placed in traditional, relative, and specialized foster homes and group homes throughout the state who, upon reaching the two-year anniversary of entering care, are experiencing mental health symptoms and/or have at least two placement changes (P) have increased permanency rates within 3 years of entry (O) if they receive TARGET services (I) compared with similar youth who received treatment as usual (C)?

# University Partners

**UIC** JANE ADDAMS  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Sonya Leathers  
Nancy Rolock  
Jill Spielfogel

**ChapinHall**  
at the University of Chicago

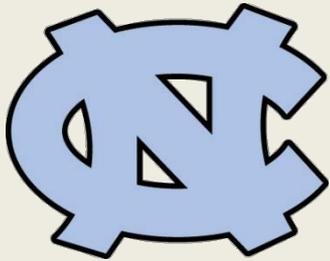
Robert Goerge  
Andy Zinn



Gene Griffin  
Cassie Kissel  
Dana Weiner

# Evaluation and Training & Technical Assistance

---



Mark Testa,  
Principal Investigator



Leslie Cohen  
Implementation Study



Raquel Ellis, Senior Study Director  
Cross-Site Evaluation  
Site-level Evaluation



Roseana Bess, Deputy Project Director  
PII Training and Technical Assistance  
Project (PII-TTAP)

# Illinois: Demonstration Projects

---

- Permanency Innovations Initiative
- Recruitment & Kin Connections
- Adult Connections
- Promoting Social and Emotional Well-being  
*(Application in development)*
- Title IV-E Waiver *(Application in development)*