



PII Evaluation Overview

Kansas Intensive Permanency Project (KIPP)

PII Overview:

The federal Permanency Innovations Initiative (PII) is a 5-year, \$100 million Presidential Initiative designed to support six grantees to develop and implement innovative intervention strategies to reduce long-term foster care stays and improve child and family outcomes. The PII project aims to provide valuable information about the effectiveness of the programs, interventions and practices designed to reduce long-term foster care (LTFC). This overview first provides an overview of PII evaluations and then describes KIPP's evaluation.

Prior to the Evaluation:

The six PII grantees each identify the needs of their target population and then select, create, or adapt an appropriate intervention. As they implement their interventions, they conduct usability testing, which is a plan-do-study-act cycle that is repeated until the intervention is considered stable and feasible. When their usability testing shows that the components of the intervention are working together as intended, the evaluation of the intervention begins. Usability testing by grantees can continue alongside early evaluation activities in order to improve implementation of the intervention.

Evaluation Overview:

The PII evaluation has two components: site-specific evaluations and a cross-site evaluation. The site-specific evaluations include two phases.

1. **Formative Evaluation** is the process of monitoring relationships between program outputs (activities and services received by the target population) and short-term outcomes. Data collected during the formative evaluation phase are used to establish that short-term outcomes are trending in the right direction and the initiative is not harming children or producing negative results. Once those are established, the grantee can move to summative evaluation.
2. **Summative Evaluation** is a rigorous evaluation of the long-term impact of PII interventions. It determines whether long-term outcomes are achieved and the extent to which these outcomes can be attributed to the intervention. Not every grantee proceeds to summative.

Evaluation Design:

A grantee's outcome evaluation answers the summative question about what is different after some of the target population receives the intervention and others do not. The evaluation will have demonstrated that the intervention was successful if more of those that received the intervention have positive outcomes than those that did not.

The cross-site evaluation follows a mixed-method approach that includes an administrative data study, implementation study, and cost study. The administrative data study looks at information from Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), National

Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), and other state data systems, including Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS). The implementation study examines key implementation activities and the context in which the programs operate. The cost study examines the costs of implementing these interventions.

Kansas Intensive Permanency Project Overview:

The goal of the Kansas Intensive Permanency Project (KIPP), led by the University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Office of Child Welfare and Children’s Mental Health, is to expedite permanency for a subpopulation of children who are currently at highest risk of LTFC. KIPP is adapting the Parent Management Training – Oregon Model (PMTO), an evidence-based intervention developed by Implementation Science International Inc., an affiliate of the Oregon Social Learning Center for families in the foster care system.

Target Population:

KIPP expects to accelerate stable permanency for children with serious emotional disturbance (SED), a subpopulation of children who are currently at highest risk of LTFC, by providing intensive home-based services shortly following removal from home. PMTO includes a behavioral parent management training model that is tailored to address permanency barriers of parents of children with SED.

KIPP Evaluation Overview:

KIPP is conducting an experimental design using random assignment to treatment and comparison conditions. Families assigned to the treatment group receive PMTO and intensive in-home services. Comparison group families receive services-as-usual. KIPP expects to see an improved rate of reunification among families in the treatment group as well as improved parenting practices and other short-term outcomes.

Formative Evaluation:

To determine whether the intervention works as intended, data are collected on a small sample of 60 cases. Implementation measures include staff selection and training, enrollment of targeted participants, treatment completion rates, and fidelity to the intervention. Short-term outcomes include measures of child and family functioning and progress toward permanency. The formative evaluation will not provide conclusive findings about the intervention’s effectiveness.

Summative Evaluation:

The summative evaluation is providing information about the outcomes resulting from the intervention. The KIPP target population is children and youth, aged 3-16, who meet criteria for SED although the focal point of intervention is the parents of these children. Compared to children in the comparison group, children in the treatment group are expected to: (1) reunify at a higher rate and (2) experience shorter stays in foster care before exiting to permanency. Additionally, the treatment group is also expected to experience higher rates of safe and stable permanency.

For more information about this project, contact: Becci Akin, 785-864-2647 or beccia@ku.edu

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