



**Mountains & Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center (MPCWIC)  
Colorado Child Welfare Practice Reform  
Project Description and Approach**

**Mountains & Plains Child Welfare Implementation Center (MPCWIC)**

MPCWIC is one of five regional Implementation Centers in the country funded through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. MPCWIC project partners are the University of Texas at Arlington, the Butler Institute for Families, University of Denver, and the Native American Training Institute. As a member of the Children's Bureau's training and technical assistance network, MPCWIC's goal is to provide in-depth, long-term consultation and support to state and tribal child welfare agencies to develop and implement projects for systemic practice changes to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Colorado submitted an application and was selected and has been approved as one of MPCWIC's implementation sites and the work for year one of the three year initiative is ready to begin.

**Colorado's System Reform Vision**

Colorado is committed to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families involved with child serving agencies across the state and to shaping and implementing practice and system reform. To support Colorado on this journey, the MPCWIC three-year implementation project will explore and define a Colorado practice model and implement specific practice strategies that are directed towards improved outcomes including the following:

- Improved safety, permanency and stability for children
- Continuity and connections in family relationships
- Increased capacity for families to care for their children's needs
- Use of data to inform the Department's understanding about the experience of children and families and drive decisions that improve the quality of practice
- Development and implementation of quality assurance and quality improvement processes related to practice change and implementation
- Consumer involvement and satisfaction

**Year One**

Over the first year, MPCWIC will work in partnership with the Colorado Division of Child Welfare, County Departments of Human Services, tribal agencies and community stakeholders to identify the elements of a practice model (agency mission, vision and values, practice principles, standards of professional practice, and the strategies, methods and tools necessary to integrate all of the elements) and develop a plan for implementation.

**Approach**

- Integrate the recommendations from multiple reviews and reports of the Colorado child welfare system over the past 3 years into a coherent set of over-arching priorities,
- Conduct statewide action planning to establish commitment to the set of practice priorities defined by internal and external audiences that will focus and guide the over-all state project.

- Research, select and integrate the elements of the child welfare practice model (agency mission, vision and values, practice principles, standards of professional practice, and the strategies, methods and tools necessary to integrate all of the elements) that are most likely to impact outcomes in the priority areas of children being safe and having permanency and stability in their living situation and families having enhanced capacity to care for their children's needs.
- Facilitate the identification of the roles and responsibilities of the State and County child welfare and improve and enhance the State/County interrelationship in order to align the functions that are necessary to support implementation of a practice model at the local level.
- Develop and refine internal and external communication methods to clearly articulate the desired changes in practice and develop strategies for coaching and mentoring staff.
- Develop and implement evaluation and quality assurance approaches that support installation, implementation and ongoing assessment of sustained changes in practice.

**Activities:**

- Integrate report recommendations.
- Facilitate action planning sessions statewide.
- Summarize statewide session results into a set of priorities for practice.
- Research practice models in congruence with state goals and priorities.
- Synthesize all information to develop a Colorado model of practice.
- Develop ongoing evaluation plan including assessment of implementation, system and client outcomes.
- Develop ongoing quality assurance/improvement processes to utilize data to monitor outcomes.

**Technical Assistance and Support Directly Provided by or Secured by MPCWIC:**

- Review, analysis, and provision of summaries of relevant information (existing reports, practice model literature, practice strategies),
- Facilitation of planning groups and leadership team(s),
- Facilitation of statewide strategic action planning, including development of specific implementation strategies,
- Facilitate plan for resource development and allocation,
- Onsite support for implementation of practice model and specific practice strategies.
- Consultation and support for development of evaluation capacity to sustain QA/QI components
- On-site oversight and management to the project.

**County, Tribal and Stakeholder Involvement:**

- Participation in state cross-system project steering and planning committees
- Participation in regional strategic action planning sessions
- Participation in workgroups
- Provide input and feedback via stakeholder surveys

**Years Two & Three**

Once the exploration and readiness activities of year one are completed, years two and three will focus on strategic implementation of one or more practice strategies, methods, or tools necessary to integrate the elements of a defined practice model along the service continuum, conduct an evaluation of practice efficacy and effectiveness, and build the State's capacity for sustainability to most effectively meet the needs of CO's children and families.