

FY 2018 Directory of Funded Programs:
Organizational Profiles and Project Summaries
Strengthening Child Welfare Systems to Achieve Expected Child and
Family Outcomes
HHS-2018-ACF-ACYF- CO-1360
Administration for Children and Families - Administration on Children,
Youth & Families - Children's Bureau

Award Number:

90CO1136

Project Title:

Strengthening New Mexico's
Child Welfare Systems Through
Interdisciplinary Practice

**Judiciary Courts of the State
of New Mexico**

237 Don Gaspar Avenue, Rm 25
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

**Project Director (PD) and
Principal Contact:**

Sarah E. Jacobs

PD Email:

aocsej@nmcourts.gov

PD Phone:

(505) 827-4887

Project Period:

60 Months

**Federal Program Officer
(FPO)/Specialist:**

Tracy Watkins; Serena L.
Williams

FPO Email:

Tracy.Watkins@acf.hhs.gov;
Serena.Williams@acf.hhs.gov

Target Population:

Families whose children are in
foster care

Geographic Area(s) Served:

New Mexico – 2nd Judicial
District; 11th Judicial District and
13th Judicial District

Agency Region:

ACF Region 6

**Judiciary Courts of the State of
New Mexico**

Organizational Description

The New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) provides prevention, intervention, rehabilitative and after-care services to New Mexico children and their families.

Use of Program Funds

The Family Support Services Program, is a court program piloting in three counties providing parents in child welfare cases an interdisciplinary team designed to improve parent and youth engagement with the child welfare agency case workers, foster parents and services. This team consists of an attorney, licensed social worker and peer mentor, all specially trained in the FSS Model (based on The Center for Family Representation in New York's Cornerstone Advocacy).

The FSS pilot program in Valencia and Sandoval Counties measured improved permanency outcomes for children and families as a result of meaningful parent engagement. This project will expand the FSS pilot program to fully serve the 2nd, 13th, and 11th Judicial Districts and test its efficacy in these regions with different populations: urban/suburban/rural and Hispanic/American Indian.

This funding will expand FSS's capacity to:

- Strengthen partnerships between state, tribal, county, and community partners;
- Effectively engage children, youth, and families;
- Focus concurrent planning on the achievement of timely permanency for children;
- Appropriately assess and mitigate safety and risk factors in families; provide timely and individualized services, resources, and supports for children in foster care and their parents; and
- Strengthen parents' capacity to protect and provide for their children.

Expected Outcomes

The project will institutionalize interdisciplinary legal practice, solidify data collection and analysis to measure progress, integrate program CQI in collaboration with the child welfare agency CQI, and improving permanency outcomes for families.