

**ACHIEVING TIMELY  
PERMANENCY:  
ADOPTION FINALIZATION**

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**CFSR PERMANENCY OUTCOMES**

- **Permanency Goal for Child:** To determine whether appropriate permanency goals were established for the child in a timely manner. **Achieved at 48%**
- **Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or APPLA:** To determine whether concerted efforts were made, or are being made to achieve reunification, guardianship, adoption, or APPLA. **Achieved at 41%**

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**ADDITIONAL PERMANENCY  
FINDINGS**

- **Stability of Foster Care Placement:** To determine whether the child in foster care is in a stable placement and that any changes in placement that occurred during the period under review were in the best interest of the child and consistent with achieving the permanency goal. **Achieved at 78%**
- **Placement with Siblings:** To determine whether concerted efforts were made to ensure that siblings in foster care are placed together unless a separation is necessary to meet the needs of one of the siblings. **Achieved at 89%**
- **Placement with Relative:** To determine whether concerted efforts were made to place the child with relatives when appropriate. **Achieved at 77%**

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## PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR PERMANENCY

**Goal:** Improving Child Permanency

**Strategies:**

1. Improve timeliness to legal permanency in the medium to large districts in need of most improvement (Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6). These districts include Clatsop, Tillamook, Columbia, Multnomah, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Lane, and Douglas Counties, and make up 50% of all children in foster care.
2. Increase percentage of adoption finalizations within 12 months of termination of parental rights
3. Increase fidelity to Oregon's practice model through the life of the case

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## DATA SUPPORTING THE "DRIVER DISTRICTS"

Average length of stay (months) at discharge in 2016

Adoption		Guardianship	
District	Average Months to Discharge	District	Average Months to Discharge
District 10 (Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson)	47.4 (3.95 years)	District 12 (Linnetille, Morrow)	41.1 (3.4 years)
District 4 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn)	43.4 (3.6 years)	District 2 (Multnomah)	37.3 (3.1 years)
District 8 (Jackson, Josephine)	42.5 (3.5 years)	District 6 (Douglas)	36.7 (3 years)
District 2 (Multnomah)	42.2 (3.5 years)	District 5 (Lane)	35.1 (2.9 years)
District 10 (Washington)	40.2 (3.35 years)	District 4 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn)	34.5 (2.88 years)
District 6 (Douglas)	39.9 (3.3 years)	District 1 (Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook)	34.3 (2.85 years)
District 1 (Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook)	39.1 (3.25 years)		
District 6 (Lane)	39.1 (3.25 years)		

Reunification	
District	Average Months to Discharge
District 2 (Multnomah)	18.4 (1.5 years)
District 5 (Lane)	16.5 (1.37 years)
District 4 (Benton, Lincoln, Linn)	16.0 (1.33 years)
District 1 (Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook)	15.2 (1.26 years)
District 6 (Douglas)	15.0 (1.25 years)
District 10 (Washington)	13.1 (1.09 years)

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## JOINT OREGON COURT IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND PIP PLAN

**Goal:**  
Increase the percentage of children who are adopted within a year of becoming legal free so that the overall timeliness of Oregon's adoption proceedings improves and children achieve permanency more quickly. Currently achieving at 47%

**Strategies:**

1. DHS Central Office will send tickler e-mails with reminders of next steps in the adoption process to caseworkers who have cases where the permanency plan is adoption
2. DHS will mandate the submission of the Adoption Tracking Page from its OR-Kids case management system to courts and CRBs prior to hearings/CRB reviews
3. JCIP and DHS will work to train caseworkers, courts, CRBs, and attorneys to better understand the adoption process and the Adoption Tracking Page

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# ADOPTION TIMELINESS PROJECT – DOUGLAS COUNTY

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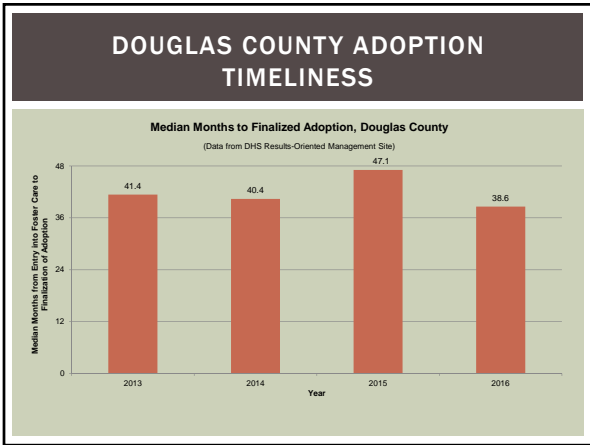
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## DOUGLAS COUNTY ADOPTION FINALIZATION PLAN

**SYSTEMIC GOAL:** Efficient Case Resolution at all Stages of the Proceedings

**SYSTEMIC OUTCOME:** Reducing time to TPR and Finalization of an Adoption

**OUTCOME INDICATOR:** Reduce Median days between Dependency Petition and Finalization of Adoption to under 1,000 days

**DATA SOURCE:** JCP Quarterly Reports

COURT STRATEGIES	COURT ADMIN. STRATEGIES	CRB STRATEGIES	DEFENSE BAR STRATEGIES	PROSECUTION STRATEGIES	DHS STRATEGIES	CASA STRATEGIES
Conduct a court review at 9 months (70 days) to determine if the case will need more time or if there will be a contested permanency hearing.	Have a 30 day settlement conference that will act as a family decision meeting.  Hold a judicial settlement conference for TPR closely after the initial appearance.  Conduct a TPR status hearing a week or two before trial.	At first 6 month review, focus on the services aspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is offered to parents</li> <li>Progress parents are making</li> <li>What else needs to be done, etc?</li> </ul> Review permanency plan post permanency hearing to back up court who only sees case once a year.	Child's attorney file new petition if needed, so jurisdictional bases match issues with family.  Request review hearings sooner if issues arise.  Emphasize to parent client the importance of ASFA and permanency timelines.  Determine whether PDSC has funding available for pre-termination mediation.	File timely amended petitions with newly found issues.  Ensure jurisdictional bases match the parental/safety deficits in the family.  Possess a greater willingness to get an expert opinion in cases other than ICWA, or sex offender risk.	Conduct an 8 month staffing instead of a 9 month file review with the AAG  Conduct a FDM every other month to chart case progress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least at 5 month and 8 month points (1 month before CRB, 1 month before review)</li> </ul> Provide witness lists with what they will testify about to attorney in a timely fashion (before settlement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court will follow up</li> </ul> Be open to changing the plan back to return to parent if parents continue to make progress  Compile a list of ICWA experts	Have a more active role in front of the CRB  Talk to parents, parents' attorney and child's attorney  Talk to relatives to help discover permanent resources

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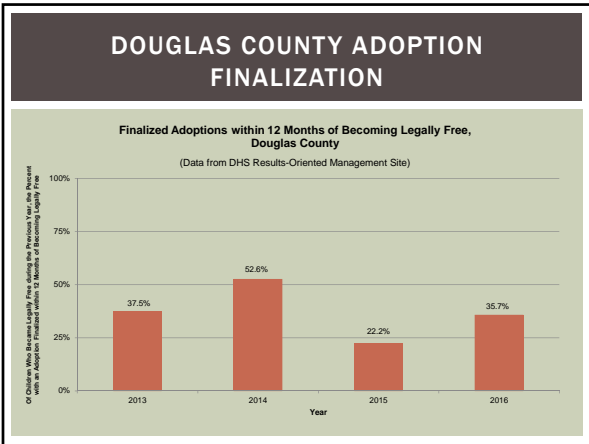
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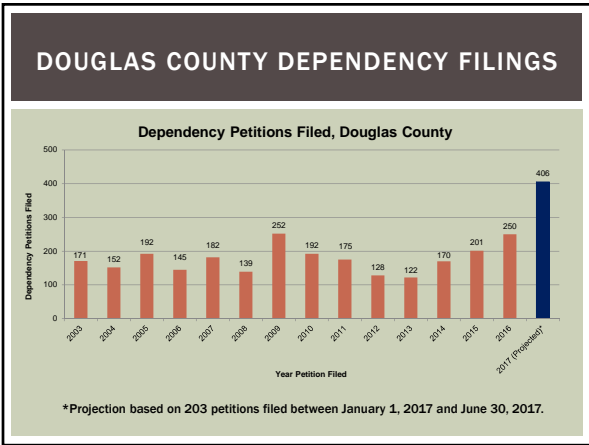
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**JOINT JCIP – DHS  
STATEWIDE ADOPTION  
FINALIZATION PLAN**

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### STATEWIDE IMPROVEMENT IN ADOPTION FINALIZATION: JOINT DHS - JCIP PLAN

Foundational premises:

- Finalizing permanency has been identified as an area needing improvement in the CFSR
- Oregon appears to have particular difficulties in finalizing adoptions
- Many delays in the adoption process are due to lack of concurrent work towards the identification, selection and placement of the child in an adoptive home while the TPR progresses and/or "paperwork delays" before and after the child is legally free

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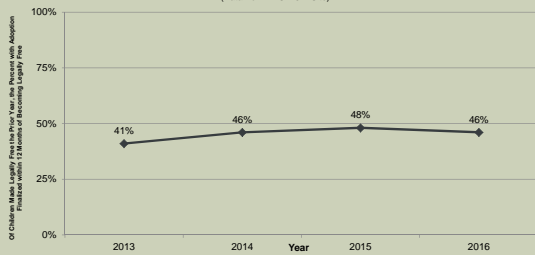
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### FINALIZING ADOPTION WITHIN 12 MONTHS - STATEWIDE PERFORMANCE

Of Children Made Legally Free the Prior Year, the Percent with Adoption Finalized within 12 Months




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### WHY FOCUS ON ADOPTION FINALIZATION

- Desire to focus PIP on areas where we can make improvements
- Variation in performance across the state suggests that improvement is possible
- Committee discussions with DHS Central Office Staff, DHS Field Staff, and JCIP staff indicated that many adoptions are delayed by failing to concurrently work on an adoptive placement while the TPR progresses and getting paperwork together
- Opportunity to not only achieve more timely permanency for children and adoptive parents, but also to free up agency, court, and attorney resources for work on other cases

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**POTENTIAL REASONS FOR PAPERWORK DELAYS IN ADOPTION CASES**

- Requirements are complex and caseworkers and parties may have difficulty navigating the process
- Judges and parties may have difficulty obtaining information about what is holding up the case
- Caseworkers may find it difficult to make time for adoption paperwork when there are pressing issues (e.g., safety issues, placement disruptions) on other cases on their caseload

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**JCIP – DHS JOINT ADOPTION FINALIZATION PLAN**

- Focus is on achieving more timely adoptions through concurrent adoption placement planning and reducing paperwork delays
- Plan is that providing more information to the court and parties about where the case is in the adoption process will:
  1. Enable better court/attorney oversight of adoption process
  2. Help ensure that adoption cases receive the attention they need
  3. Lead to adoptions finalizing more quickly

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**JCIP – DHS JOINT ADOPTION FINALIZATION PLAN: STRATEGIES**

Three key strategies:

1. DHS Central Office will send tickler e-mails with reminders of next steps in the adoption process to caseworkers who have cases where the permanency plan is adoption
2. DHS will mandate the submission of the Adoption Tracking Page from its OR-Kids case management system to courts and CRBs prior to hearings/CRB reviews
3. JCIP and DHS will work to train caseworkers, courts, CRBs, and attorneys to better understand the adoption process and the Adoption Tracking Page

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**THE ADOPTION TRACKING PAGE**

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**ACCOMPLISHING AN ADOPTION**

- Once a case is approved by the Legal Assistance Specialist and DOJ for the filing of a TPR, documents are required for three distinct steps in the process
- Freeing the Child
- Selecting and Designating a Placement
- Finalizing the Placement

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**CENTRAL OFFICE ADOPTION TRACKING**

- All tracking for adoption paperwork is completed electronically through the statewide information data system (OR-Kids).

The Department began using the OR-Kids Adoption Tracking page when the system went live in August of 2011

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### ADOPTION TRACKING CONTINUED.....

- Caseworkers scan and upload documents into the OR-Kids file cabinet and notify their Legal Assistance Specialist or assigned support staff via e-mail that the documents are there, or
- Caseworkers mail original documents (birth certificates, certified TPR judgments, relinquishments, ICWA correspondence) and Central Office Support staff scans the documents into the OR-Kids file cabinet and place in a hard copy file
- Central Office staff enter the receipt of and review of the documents in the Adoption Tracking Page

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### ADOPTION TRACKING PAGE CONTINUED.....

DHS field staff have view-only access to the Adoption Tracking Page.

Only Central Office adoption staff have the ability to enter information on the Adoption Tracking Page.

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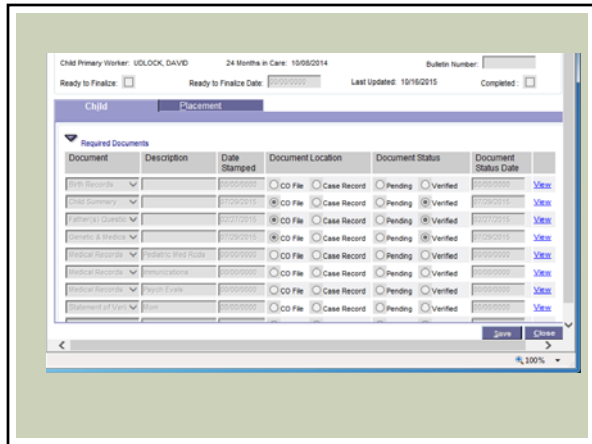
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## IMPLEMENTATION

- September 2017 caseworkers begin submitting the Adoption Tracking Page to the court and CRB for cases with a permanency plan of adoption

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## FINALIZING ADOPTION WITHIN A YEAR OF THE CHILD BEING FREE

How Is  
Your  
County  
Doing?

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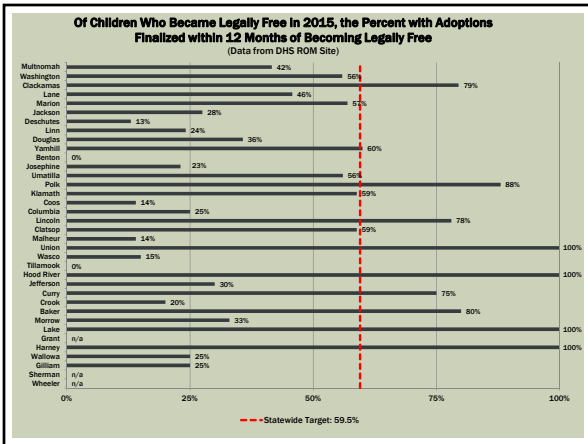
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