



Enabling Policy Context to Prevent Child Welfare Involvement through Economic & Concrete Supports

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AGENDA

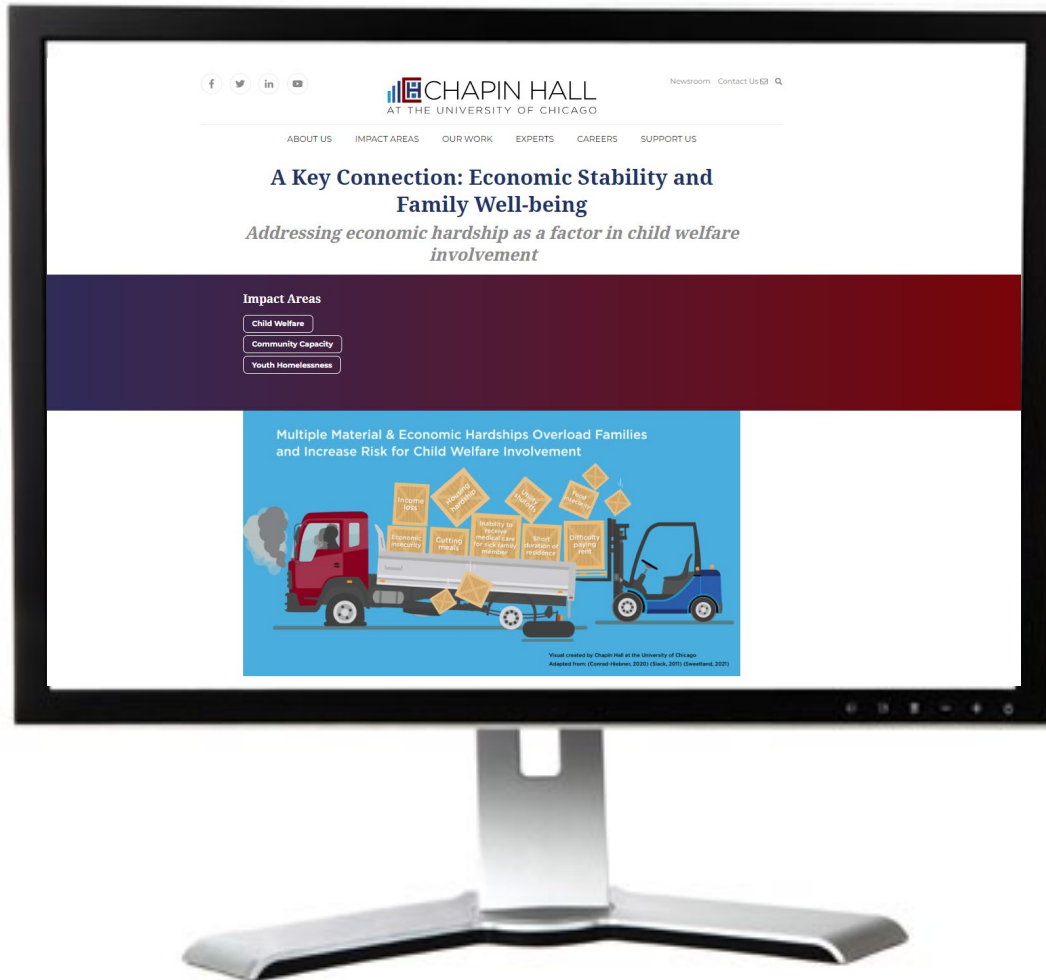


- Evidence: Economic & Concrete Supports (ECS) as Child Welfare Prevention Strategy
- APHSA Advancing Family Economic Mobility Learning Community: Preventing Family Involvement in Child Welfare Systems through ECS
 - **Spotlight on New York State**
- National ECS Survey of Child Welfare Leaders
- *Evidence to Impact*: State Policy Options to Increase Access to ECS as Child Welfare Prevention Strategy
- Discussion & Share Outs



**Evidence:
Economic & Concrete Supports as a
Child Welfare Prevention Strategy**

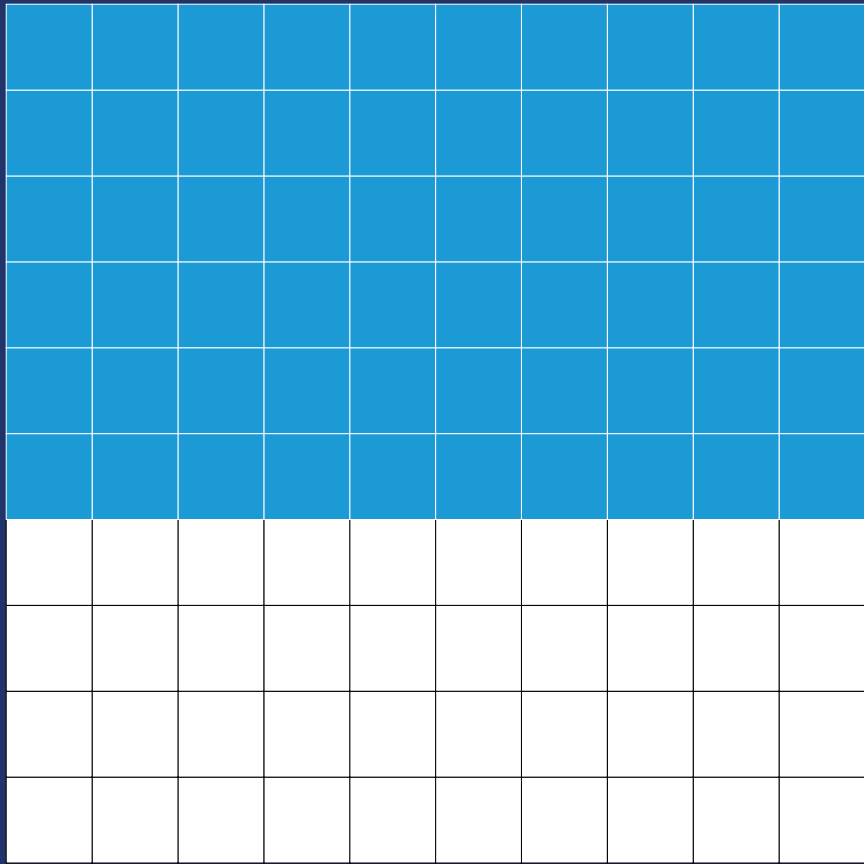
Chapin Hall Resources



Chapinhall.org/ecspjroject

(Weiner, Anderson & Thomas, 2021)

(Anderson, Grewal-Kök, Cusick, Weiner & Thomas, 2021)



60%+

of substantiated CPS responses nationally involve **neglect only**

...and provision of economic & concrete supports is associated with decreased risk for **both** neglect and physical abuse

nearly **85%**

of families investigated by
child protective services
have incomes below 200%
of the federal poverty line

(\$49,720 for a family of 3 in 2023)

The Intersection of Family Economic Insecurity & Child Welfare Involvement

Most reliable **economic predictors** of **child welfare involvement**

Income Loss



Cumulative Material Hardship



Housing Hardship



Strongest predictors of **investigated neglect reports**


Food pantry use



Cutting meals



Short duration of residence



Difficulty paying rent



Utility shutoffs



Inability to receive medical care for sick family member



Public benefit receipt



(Conrad-Hiebner, 2020 systematic review)

(Slack, 2011 cross-study comparison)

Multiple Material & Economic Hardships Overload Families and Increase Risk for Child Welfare Involvement



Visual created by Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Adapted from: (Conrad-Hiebner, 2020) (Slack, 2011) (Sweetland, 2021)

Economic & Concrete Support Packages (NAS) to Improve Context and Prevent Child Welfare Involvement

Analysis simulating the effects of increased household income under 3 anti-poverty policy packages found these could **reduce CPS investigations by 11 to 20% annually** (*386,000 to 669,000 fewer children investigated per year*)

- Reductions were **particularly large** for Black and Latinx children & those living with single parents
- Analysis suggests implementation would **substantially reduce racial disproportionality** in CPS involvement:
 - 19 to 29% reduction in investigations for Black children
 - 13 to 24% reduction in investigations for Latinx children
 - 7 to 13% reduction in investigations for white children

National Academy of Sciences Consensus Report (2019)

A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty

- **Anti-poverty package 2:** expansion of EITC & Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) + universal monthly child allowance
- **Anti-poverty package 3:** expansion of EITC, CDCTC, Housing Choice Voucher Program & SNAP
- **Anti-poverty package 4:** expansion of EITC & CDCTC, increase in federal minimum wage (to \$10.25/hr) + monthly child allowance

(Pac, 2023)

([*A Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty*](#), 2019)

Economic & Concrete Supports: A Race Equity Strategy to Address Disparity & Disproportionality in Child Welfare

Poverty & economic hardship puts families at **increased risk of child welfare involvement**

Economic & concrete supports to stabilize families and prevent child welfare involvement may be a mechanism to **reduce racial disparities**



Due to systemic inequities, families of color are more likely to experience economic hardship & this may contribute to their disproportionate child welfare involvement

Disproportionality and disparities are due to racism both internal and external to the child welfare system (Dettlaff, 2020)

Overview of Economic & Concrete Supports

Some examples include:

- ❖ Cash assistance
- ❖ Emergency funds
- ❖ Direct cash transfers
- ❖ Earned Income Tax Credit
- ❖ Child Tax Credit
- ❖ TANF benefits
- ❖ Employment
- ❖ Income

- ❖ Flexible funds
- ❖ In-kind benefits
- ❖ Child care
- ❖ Housing supports
- ❖ SNAP
- ❖ WIC
- ❖ Medicaid
- ❖ Unemployment benefits

- ❖ Legal support
- ❖ Rental assistance
- ❖ Utility assistance
- ❖ Furniture & equipment
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Clothing

Decreased Access to Economic & Concrete Supports Is Associated with Increased Child Welfare Involvement



Reduced
TANF
benefits



Reduced income
& negative
earnings shocks



Lack of
child care



Reduced
employment



Lack of
stable
housing



Increased
gas prices



**Increased risk
for child welfare
involvement**

(Ginther, 2017) (Ginther, 2022) (Paxson, 2003) (Yang, 2016) (Cash, 2003)
(Klevens, 2015) (Brown, 2020) (Berger, 2011) (Warren, 2015) (Cai, 2021)
(Weiner, 2020) (McLaughlin, 2017) (Bullinger, 2021) (Berger, 2015)
(Frioux, 2014) (Wood, 2012)

Increased Access to These Economic & Concrete Supports (ECS) Is Associated with Decreased Child Welfare Involvement



Macroeconomic Supports

- Tax credits (EITC & CTC)
- Employment
 - Minimum wage
 - Paid family leave
 - Unemployment benefits



Concrete Supports

- Healthcare (Medicaid)
- Child care
- Housing



Child Welfare Interventions with ECS

- Differential response
- Family preservation



Public Assistance Programs

- Overall state spending
- TANF
- SNAP & WIC

Economic & Concrete Supports As a Population-Level Strategy for Prevention of Child Maltreatment

Each additional \$1,000 that states spend annually on public benefit programs per person living in poverty is associated with:

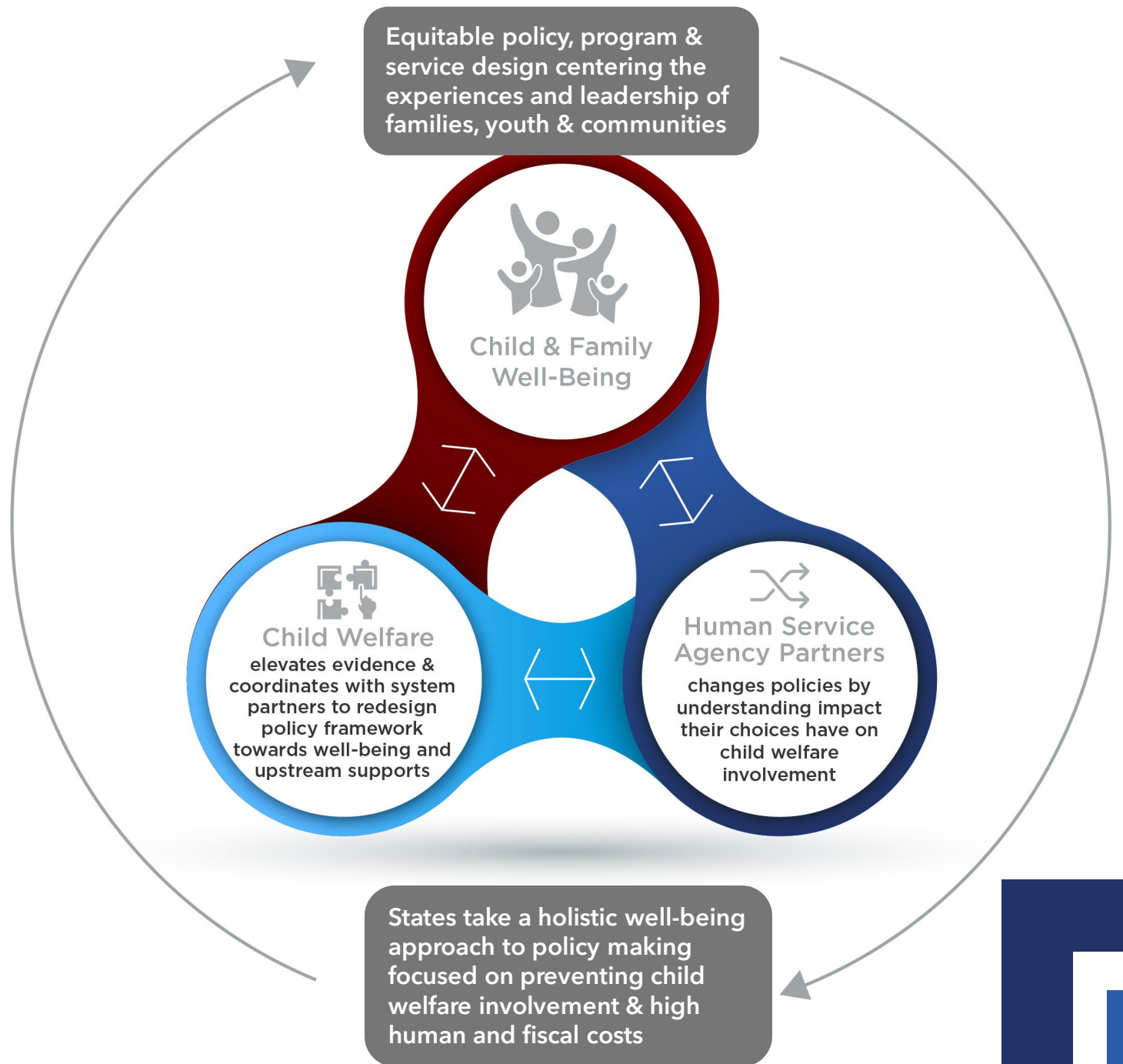
- 4% reduction in child maltreatment reports
- 4% reduction in substantiated child maltreatment
- 2% reduction in foster care placements
- 8% reduction in child fatalities due to maltreatment

(independent of federal spending)

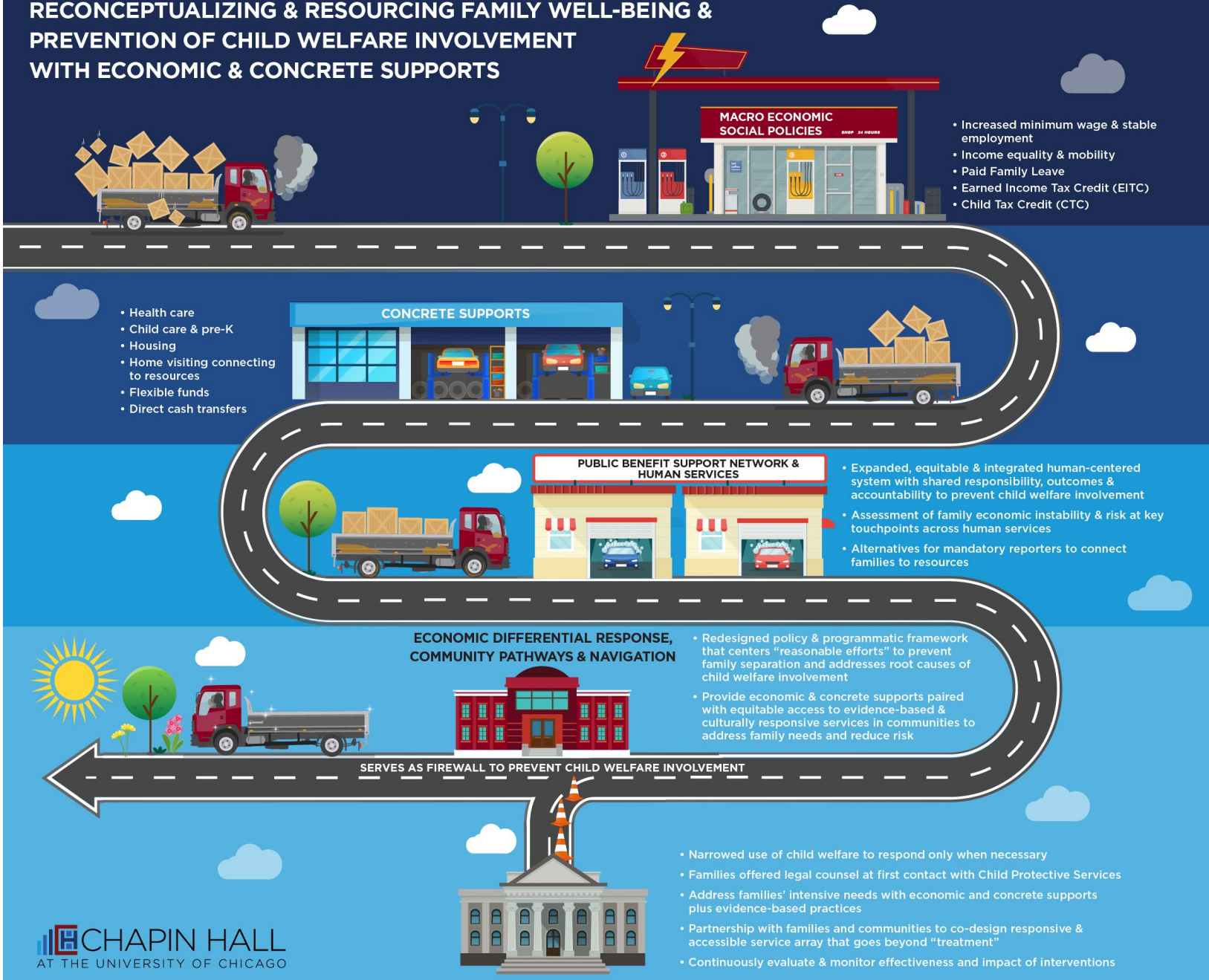
Public benefit programs included in this analysis:

- ✓ Cash, housing & in-kind assistance
- ✓ Low-income housing infrastructure development
- ✓ Child care assistance
- ✓ Refundable EITC
- ✓ Medical assistance programs (including Medicaid + CHIP)

Evidence-based Policy-Making to Build a Well-Being System: Making it **ACTIONABLE**



RECONCEPTUALIZING & RESOURCING FAMILY WELL-BEING & PREVENTION OF CHILD WELFARE INVOLVEMENT WITH ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



Reference List

CHAPIN HALL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

(Evidence-based policy-making map adapted from Economic & Concrete Supports Reference List)

CHILD PROTECTION & FOSTER CARE



Questions?



APHSA Advancing Family Economic Mobility
Learning Community:
Preventing Family Involvement in Child Welfare Systems
through Economic & Concrete Supports

April - December 2022

Prevention Learning Community State Teams



Missouri

- Department of Social Services
- Family & Community Trust
- Community partners
- Missouri KIDS COUNT

Ohio

- Ohio Children's Trust Fund
- Office of Children & Families
- Family First Prevention Services Act lead
- University & research partners
- Lived experience

New York

- Office of Children & Family Services
- Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance
- Department of Labor

Oregon

- Department of Human Services (ODHS) - Child Welfare
- ODHS - Self-Sufficiency
- CBCAP state lead
- Family First Prevention Services Act lead

Goals

- Shared understanding of the body of evidence on the relationship between increased access to ECS & decreased risk for family child welfare involvement
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities around innovations, lessons learned & strategies to increase access to ECS as a child welfare prevention strategy

Meetings (co-facilitated by APSHA & Chapin Hall)

- 1 in-person convening with federal & state experts
- 3 all-state meetings (virtual)
- Regular individual meetings with each of the state teams (virtual)

Final Products

- Learning community Theory of Change & Logic Model visuals
- State-specific Theory of Change & Logic Model visuals
- State-specific short and long-term strategies to increase access to ECS
- State team Innovation Fund proposals

Preventing Family Involvement in Child Welfare Systems through Economic & Concrete Supports: Theory of Change

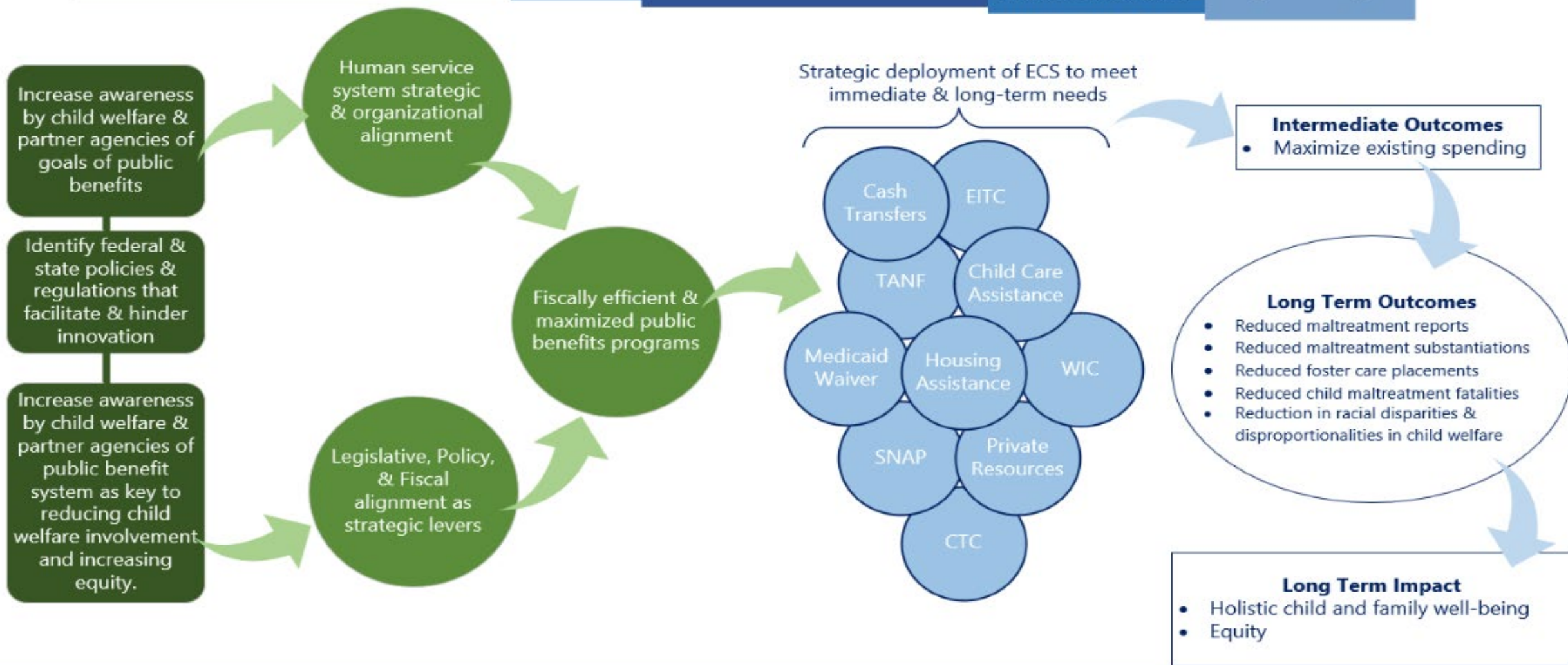
By aligning and coordinating our human service system through key policy levers we maximize our existing public benefits so that...

We create greater fiscal efficiency so that...

We advance family economic mobility and self-sufficiency through strategic deployment of economic and concrete supports so that...

We reduce child maltreatment and child welfare system involvement so that...

We promote holistic child, youth, and family well-being.





State Innovation Fund Concepts:

- Implement a pilot focused on connecting TANF families with Resource Advocates to help them access workforce & prevention supports to prevent child welfare involvement
- Evaluate impact of providing an evidence-based parenting program (Triple P online) augmented with ECS to families at risk for child welfare involvement
- Develop communications & training to elevate awareness of the relationship between increased access to ECS and reduced risk for child welfare involvement and to guide policymaking & practice
- Develop recommendations for policymakers on evidence-based practices that will increase access to ECS and reduce the racial wealth gap as a child welfare prevention strategy



STATE TEAM INTERMEDIATE GOALS



- ✓ Submit Direct Cash Transfer program to the Family First Prevention Clearinghouse as an evidence-based practice
- ✓ Provide families with seamless connections to services & supports
- ✓ Strengthen collaboration between child welfare & partner agencies
- ✓ Fully incorporate perspective & voice of lived experience
- ✓ Reorient public perception to reduce stigma around accessing ECS



STATE TEAM LONG-TERM GOALS



- ✓ Increase provision & uptake of ECS by families
- ✓ Reduce wealth stripping practices as a child welfare prevention strategy
- ✓ Promote family stabilization
- ✓ Reduce family involvement with child welfare
- ✓ Reduce racial disparities & disproportionalities in child welfare
- ✓ Promote holistic child, youth, family & community well-being
- ✓ Equity

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Identified opportunities for evaluation of existing programs augmented with ECS

Established cross program data & agency collaborations

Analyzed data from TANF programs to identify early intervention opportunities to prevent child welfare involvement

Medicaid section 1115 waiver with Social Determinants of Health approach

Strengthened relationships with community partners to focus on building, coordinating and extending existing initiatives

Community-based providers are a key partner to distribute ECS to families outside of government systems

Communication, messaging & dissemination of information is key

Need to connect & coordinate community initiatives

LESSONS LEARNED

Research & data must be coupled with voices and perspectives of those with lived experience

Intentional use of existing data to support families is vital





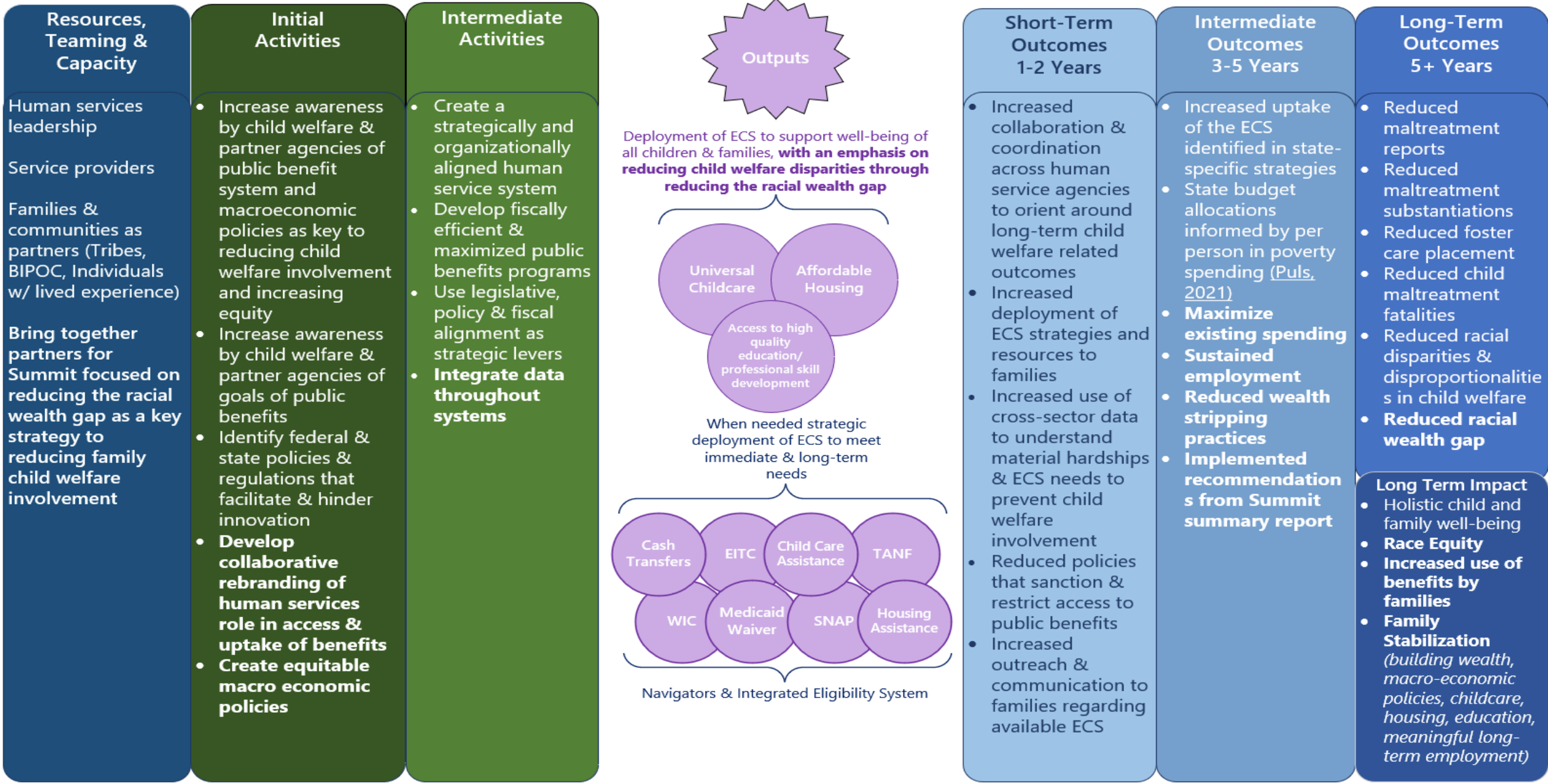
Questions?



New York State

Preventing Family Involvement in
Child Welfare Systems through
Economic & Concrete Supports
Learning Community Member

Preventing Family Involvement in Child Welfare through Economic & Concrete Supports: Logic Model



NEW YORK STATE'S INNOVATION FUND CONCEPT

Goal: Reduce the racial wealth gap through increased access to ECS as a key strategy to reducing family child welfare involvement

Key Strategies	Core Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage new agency partners to join the team• Hold a policy summit on reducing the racial wealth gap• Develop and share post-summit report with relevant partners & decision-makers• Develop a New York state action plan to implement recommendations & introduce relevant policies in next state budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase state policy-maker awareness• Increase engagement with communities of color• Increase home ownership, business creation & wealth in communities of color• Reduce family child welfare involvement• Reduce racial disparities & disproportionalities in child welfare

New York State



Successes

- ✓ 3 additional state agencies with expertise in **economic mobility, housing & equity** joined the NY state team – this has increased the breadth of our potential outcomes
- ✓ Strengthened cross-agency collaboration & shared vision – this work has **elevated awareness, support & capacity** across our state agencies to advocate for increased ECS as a child welfare prevention strategy

Lessons Learned

- ✓ Advance public/private partnerships
- ✓ Voices & perspectives of those with lived experience are needed to support available research & data
- ✓ Outreach and community building is key – trust must be earned





Questions?



**Economic & Concrete Supports:
National Survey of Child Welfare Leaders**

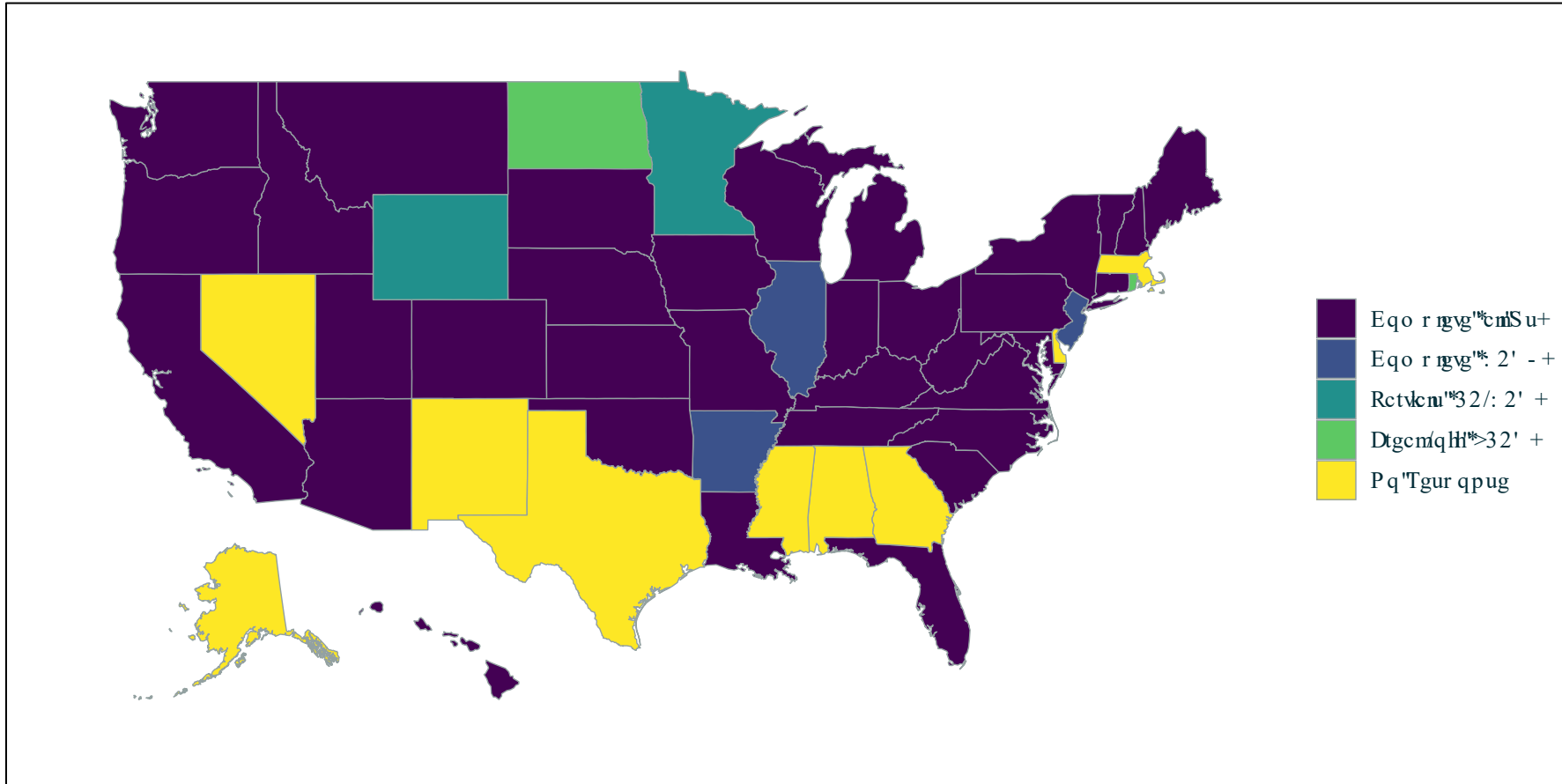
Goals of this survey are to understand how **state child welfare agencies use economic & concrete supports** to address the economic and material needs of families:

- 1) when they are reported for **suspected maltreatment**, and
- 2) to **prevent child welfare involvement**

Research Questions

1. What are child welfare administrators' **beliefs** about economic need and child welfare system involvement?
2. What **approaches** are state child welfare agencies using to offer economic and concrete supports to families?
3. How do state child welfare agencies **coordinate** with other human service systems to offer economic and concrete supports to families?
4. What are the **barriers** to offering economic and concrete supports to families? What **solutions** do practitioners believe might address barriers?
5. How is COVID-19 **emergency federal assistance** being used to fund economic and concrete supports?

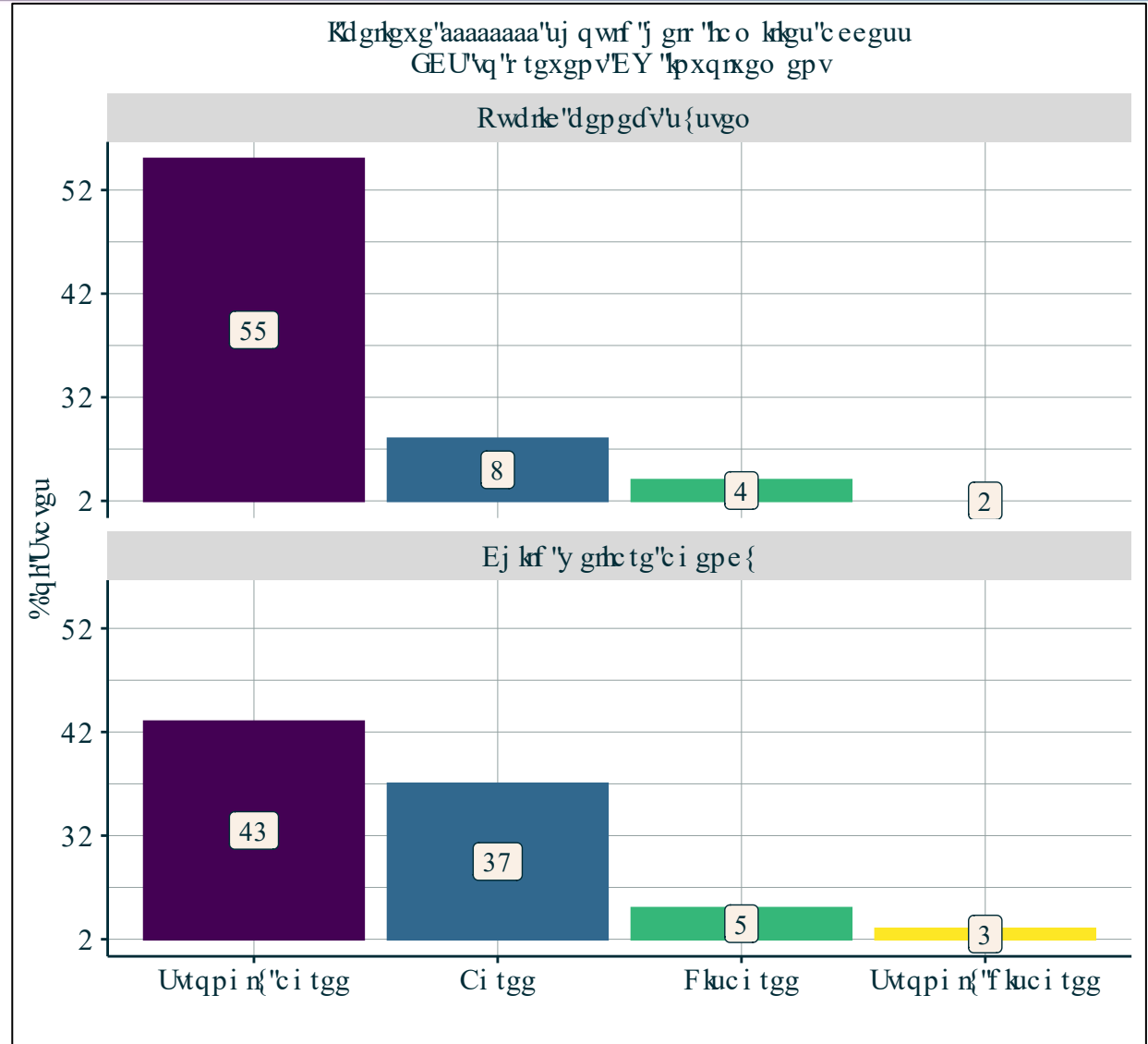
Completion Status by State



Completion by state/district/territory.
Washington, DC and Puerto Rico both completed the survey

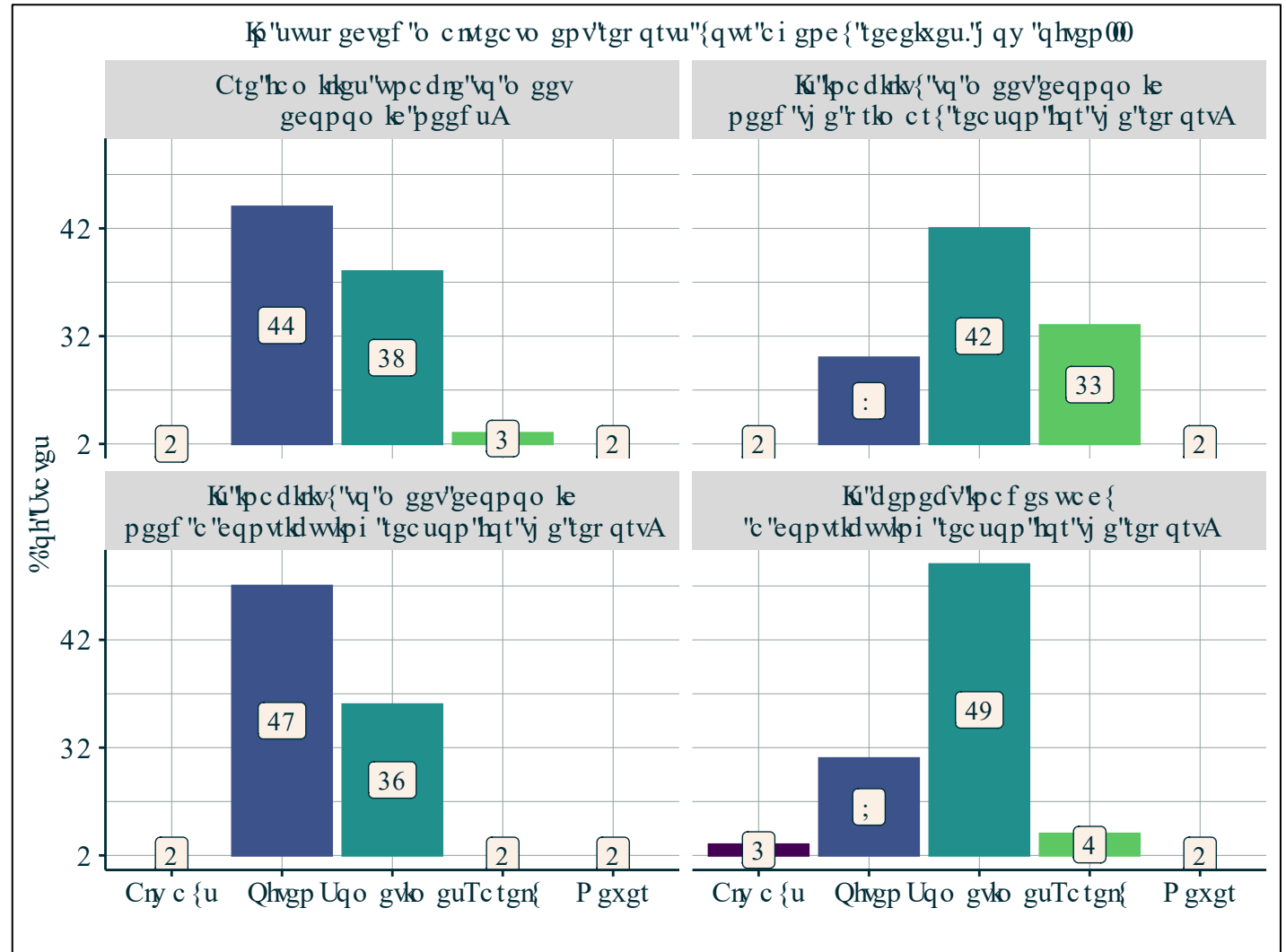
What are child welfare administrators' beliefs about economic need & CW system involvement?

- Nearly all respondents believe the public benefit system should help families access ECS to prevent child welfare involvement.
- Respondents are more likely to prefer that the public benefit system help families access ECS to prevent child welfare involvement than the child welfare agency.



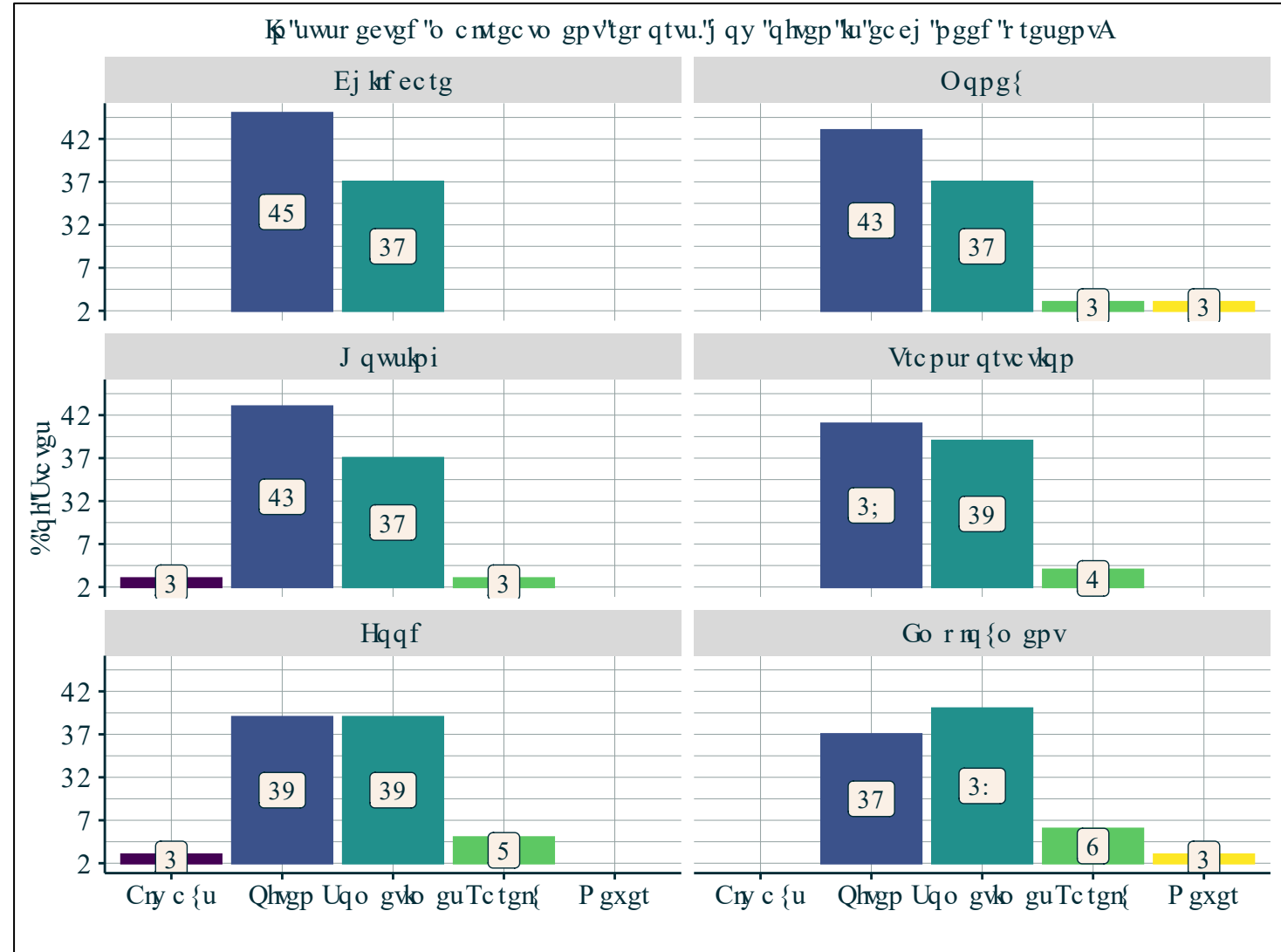
What are child welfare administrators' beliefs about economic need & CW system involvement?

Respondents agree that economic need is frequently a contributing reason of suspected maltreatment.



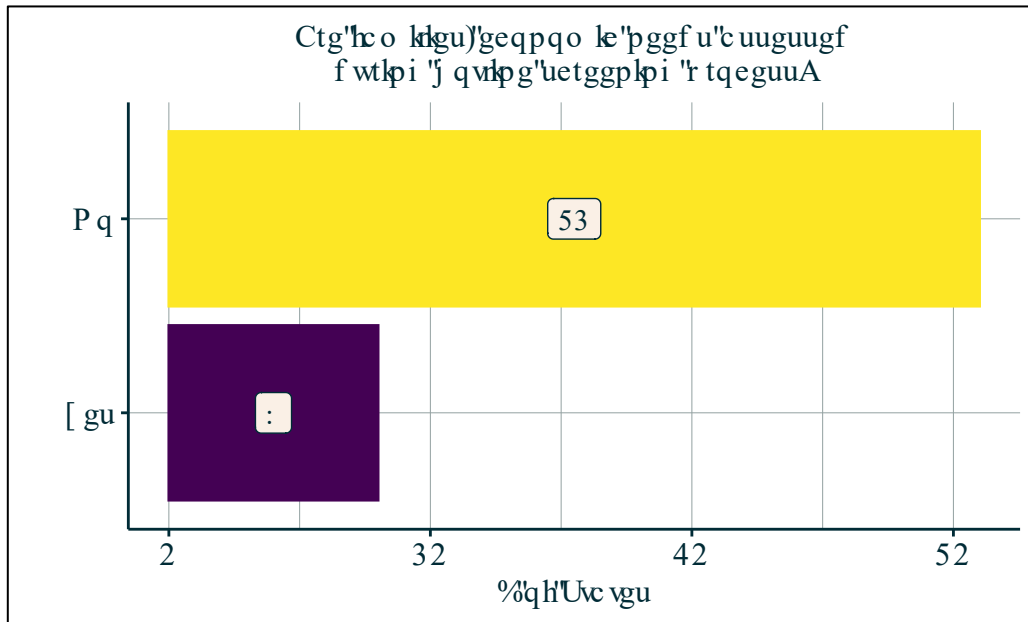
What are child welfare administrators' beliefs about economic need & CW system involvement?

Respondents agree that *childcare, money & housing* needs are frequently present in suspected maltreatment reports, followed by transportation, food & employment needs.

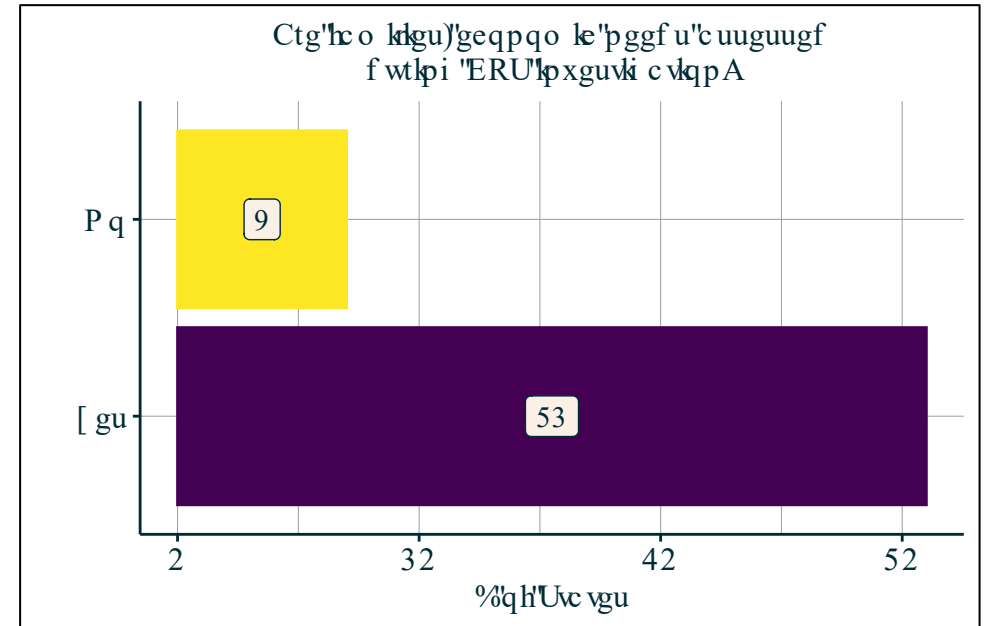


What approaches are state child welfare agencies using to offer ECS to families?

Most respondents report that families' economic needs are not assessed during the *hotline screening process*.

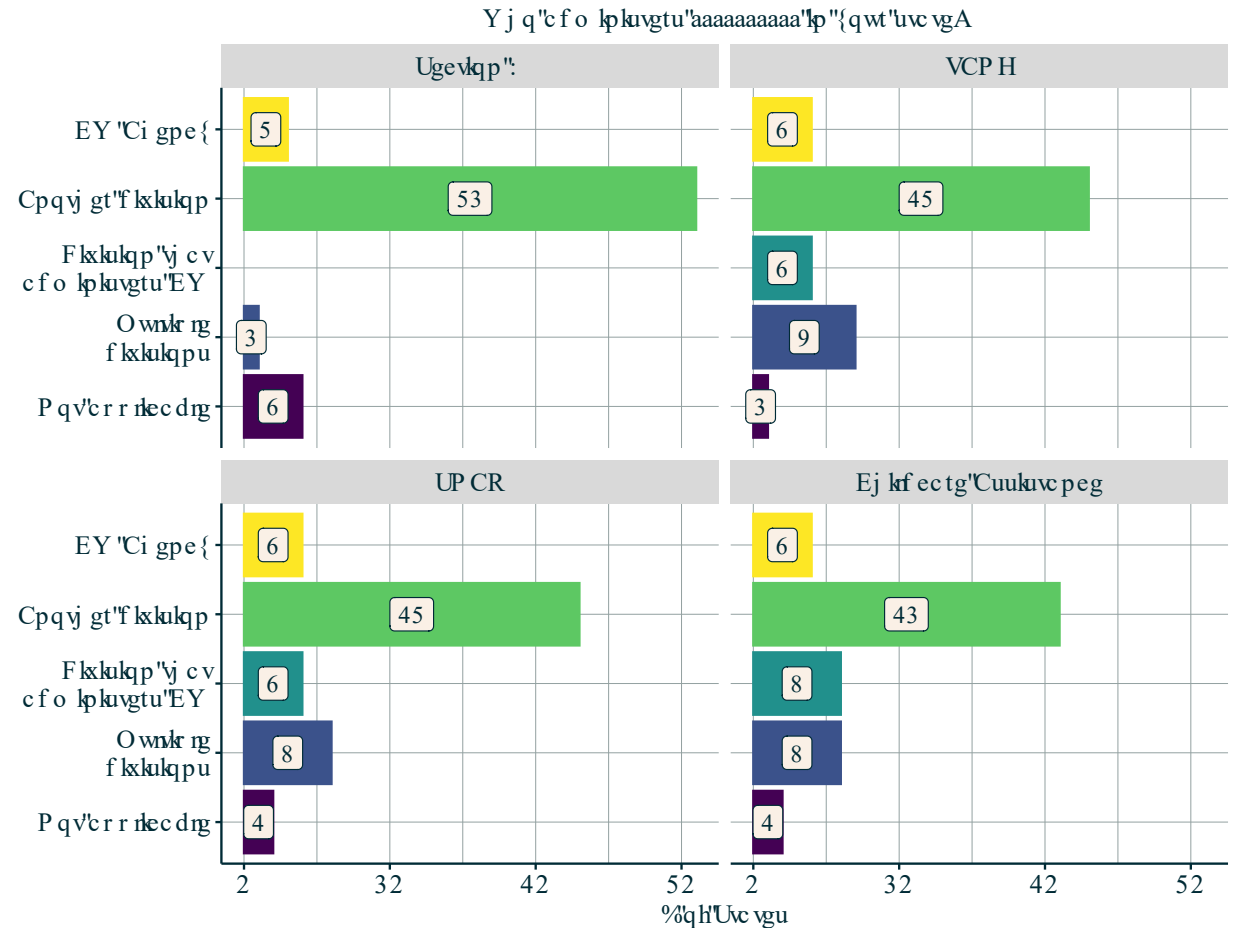


Most respondents report that families' economic needs are assessed during a *CPS investigation*.



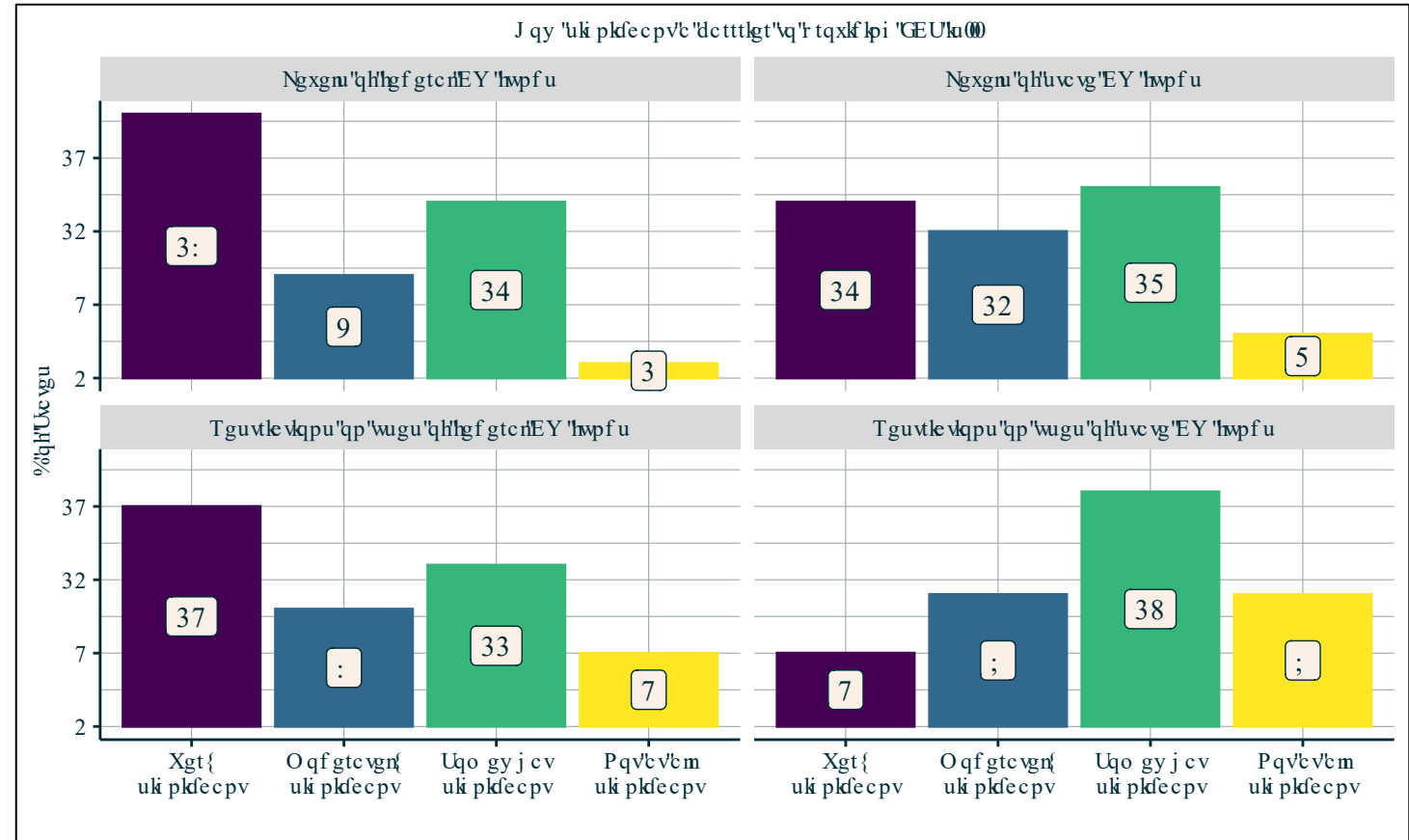
How do state child welfare agencies coordinate with other human service systems to offer ECS?

- Coordination often occurs with other public departments or divisions external to child welfare.
- Many programs are administered by a different division external to child welfare.



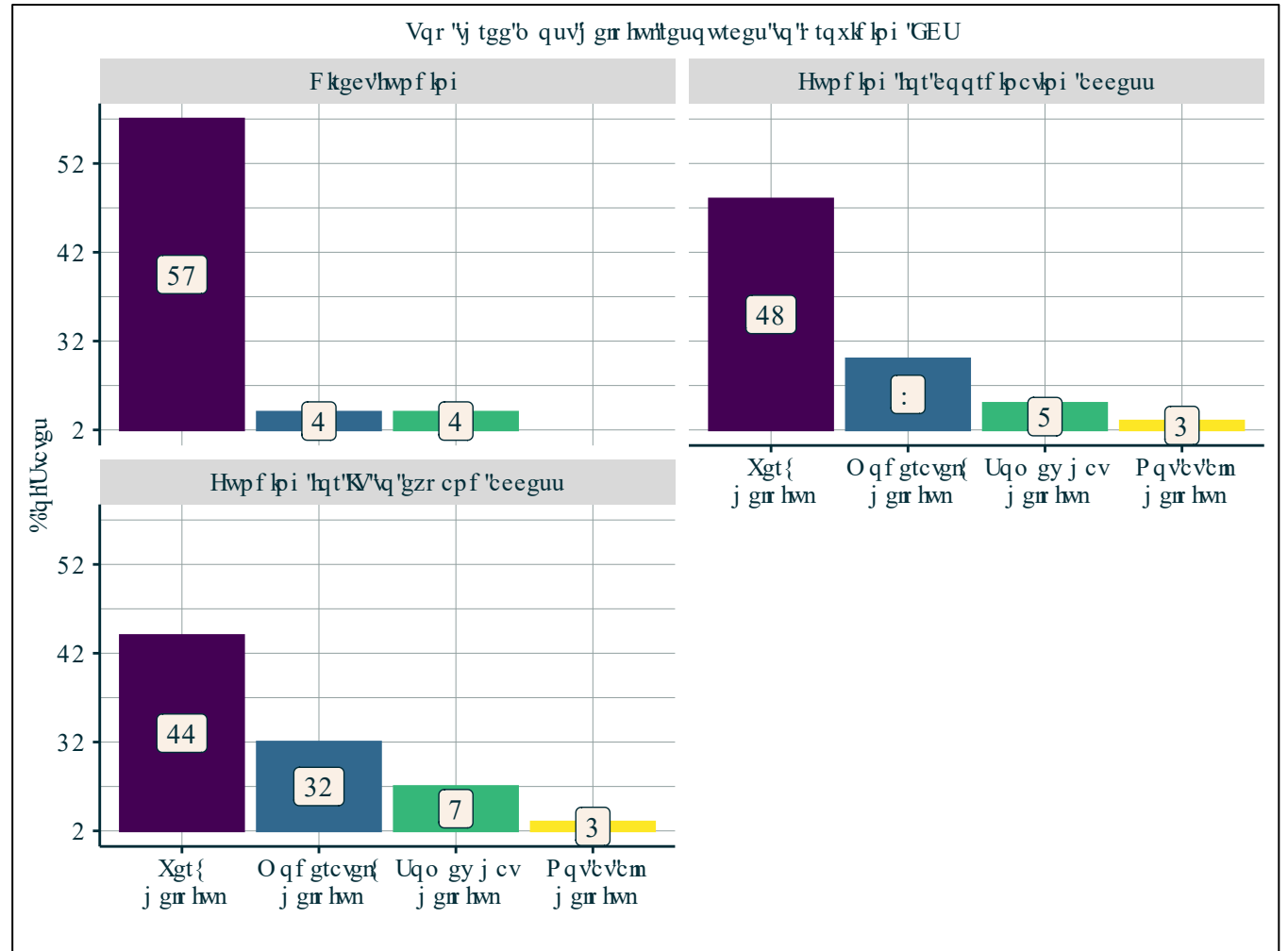
What are the barriers to offering ECS?

- A plurality of respondents report very significant barriers in using federal funds to provide ECS.
- They express more varied attitudes about other barriers.



What solutions do practitioners believe might address barriers?

- Nearly all respondents report that direct funding to expand ECS access would be very helpful.
- A majority of respondents report that funding for coordination would be helpful.





Questions?



Evidence to Impact:

State Policy Options to
Increase Access to Economic & Concrete Supports
as Child Welfare Prevention Strategy

STATE POLICY OPTIONS IN THE TOOL

Macroeconomic Supports	Concrete Supports	Public Assistance Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Earned Income Tax Credit<input type="checkbox"/> Child Tax Credit<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum Wage<input type="checkbox"/> Paid Family Leave<input type="checkbox"/> Employment & Job Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Child Care<input type="checkbox"/> Housing<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care (Medicaid/CHIP)<input type="checkbox"/> Flexible Funds<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Cash Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)<input type="checkbox"/> Women, Infants, & Children (WIC)



**How might New York State
implement the ECS policy tool?**



Discussion & Share Outs:

- How do you see yourself using this tool?
- What feedback do you have?

Connect with us!



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Thank you!