



CWLA National Conference 2022: Chapin Hall Spotlight Track

Re-Imagining a Prevention-Focused and Equitable
Child Welfare System for the 21st Century

 **CHAPIN HALL**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



#CWLA2022

April 27 - 29, 2022



CWLA: Chapin Hall Spotlight Track

**An Analytic Framework to Address
Economic Risk Factors in Child Welfare (D-1)**

Dana A. Weiner, Chapin Hall
Robin Gertner, USDHHS/ASPE
Emily Madden, USDHHS/ASPE





SYSTEM RE-DESIGN

Levers of Change

The Chapin Hall spotlight track describes four key levers for system redesign.

These levers, taken together, provide a powerful set of tools that participants can use to reimagine and transform their child and family serving systems.



Economic Supports

Measuring economic risk for child welfare involvement and increasing access to economic and concrete supports



Technical Innovation

Technical solutions and strategies for expanding prevention services, estimating costs, and tracking referrals



Community Pathways

Building community pathways to prevention and creating a new service experience for families



CQI

Engaging stakeholders in CQI processes and ensuring improvement efforts are driven by those most impacted by the results

SPOTLIGHT TRACK

Re-Imagining a Prevention-Focused and Equitable Child Welfare System for the 21st Century - Opening Session Plenary

A6: Re-Imagining a Prevention-Focused and Equitable Child Welfare System for the 21st Century	(Opening Session)
B1: How Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is Being Used to Transform a Child Welfare System	Wednesday, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
C2: Operationalizing a Community Pathway to Prevention: Partnering with Families to Strengthen Communities	Wednesday, 4:15 pm – 5:15 pm
D1: An Analytic Framework to Address Economic-Related Risk Factors in Child Welfare	Thursday, 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm
E1: Evidence Based Program Exploration and Cost Tool for Effective Selection of EBPs in Family First	Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
F1: Service Array Transformation: Leveraging a Service Referral Application to Build Cross-System Collaboration and Improve Outcomes for Communities in Washington, DC	Thursday, 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
G1: Flexible Funds in Kentucky to Increase Well-being: Operationalizing the Evidence on Economic and Concrete Supports	Friday, 8:30 am – 9:30 am



**Developing an
Economic Framework to
Understand & Address Economic Risk**

PRESENTERS



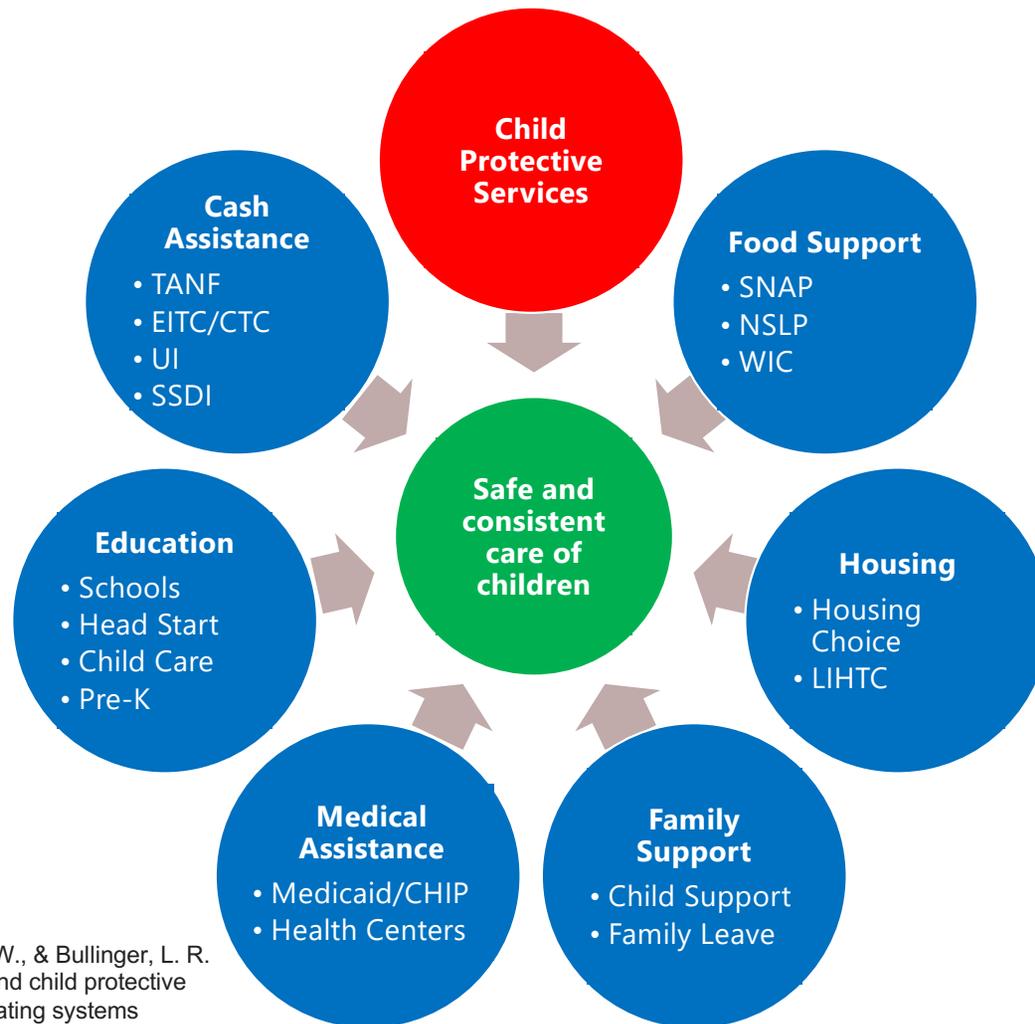
Dana Weiner
Senior Policy Fellow
Chapin Hall



Robin Ghertner
Director of Data and
Technical Analysis
ASPE, HHS



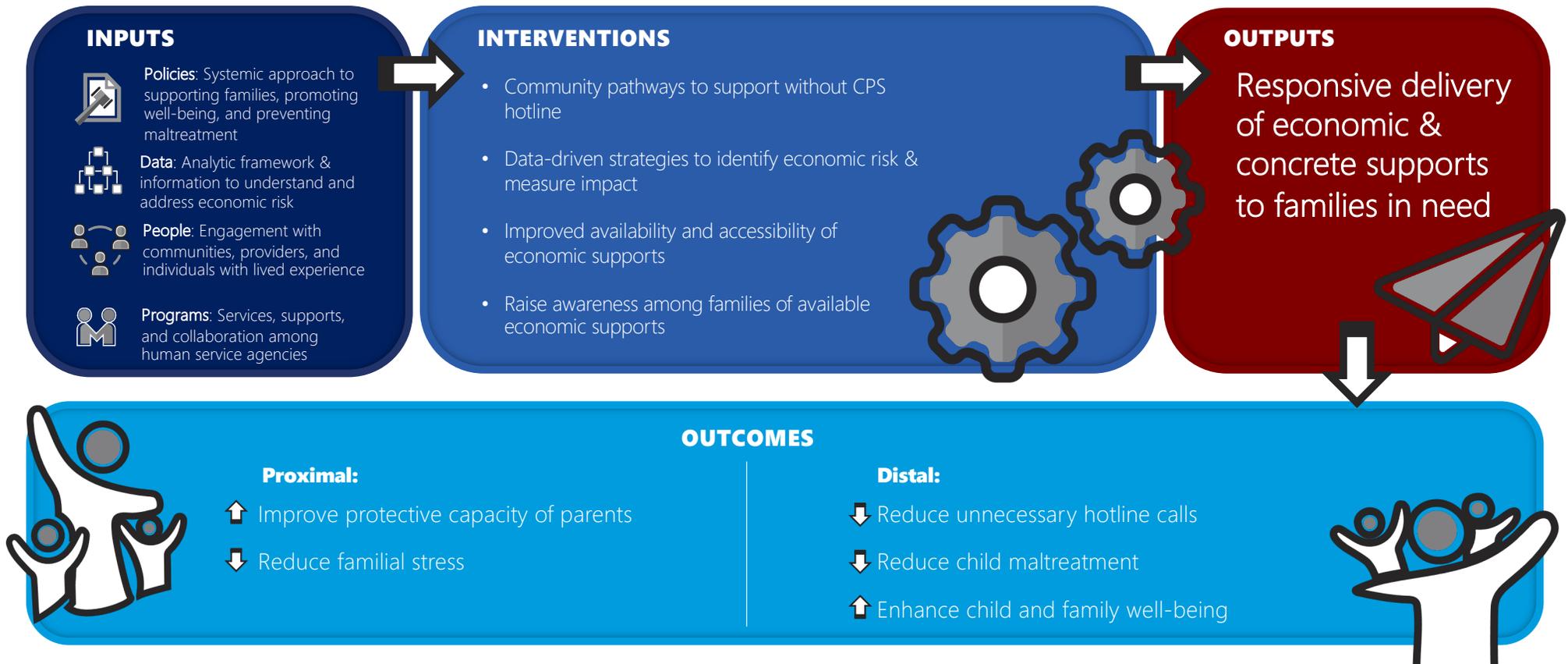
Emily Madden
Program Analyst, Office of Data and
Technical Analysis
ASPE, HHS



From: Feely, M., Raissian, K. M., Schneider, W., & Bullinger, L. R. (2020). The social welfare policy landscape and child protective services: Opportunities for and barriers to creating systems synergy. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 692(1), 140-161.

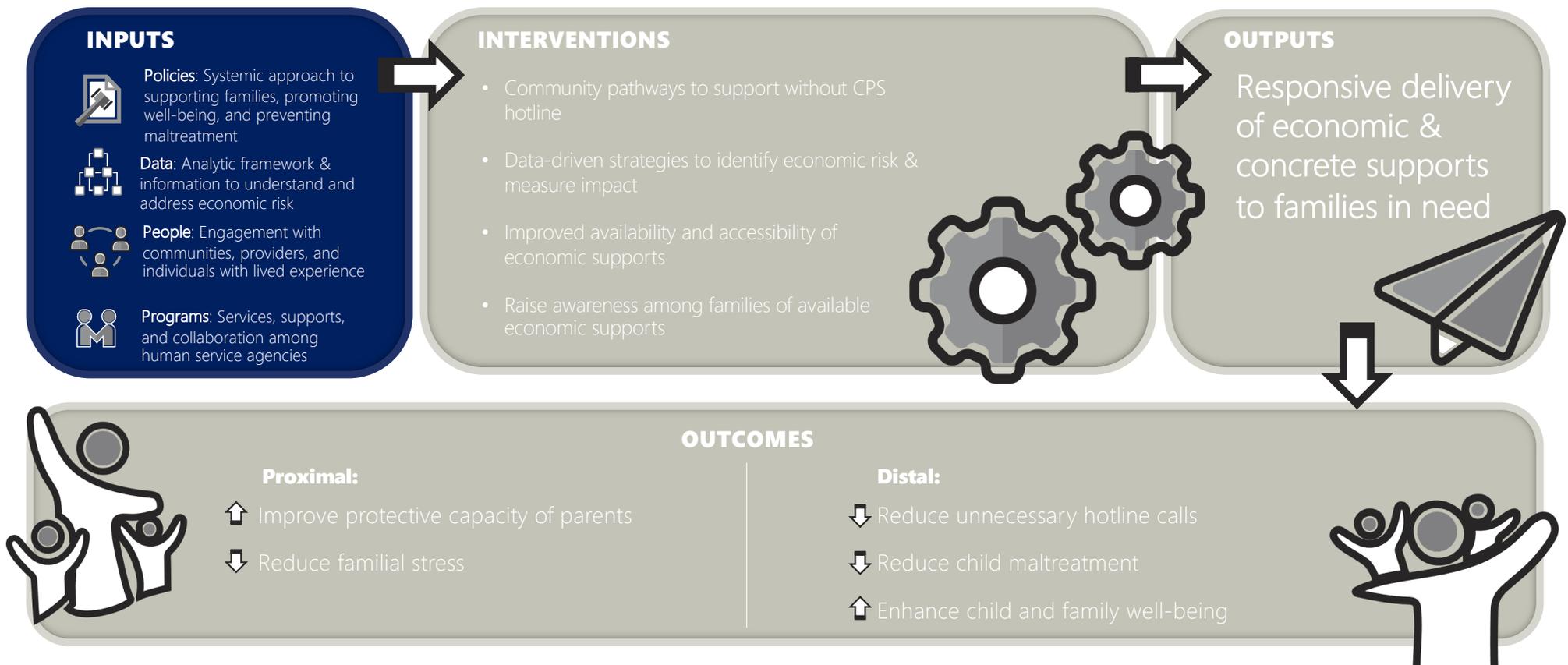
THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



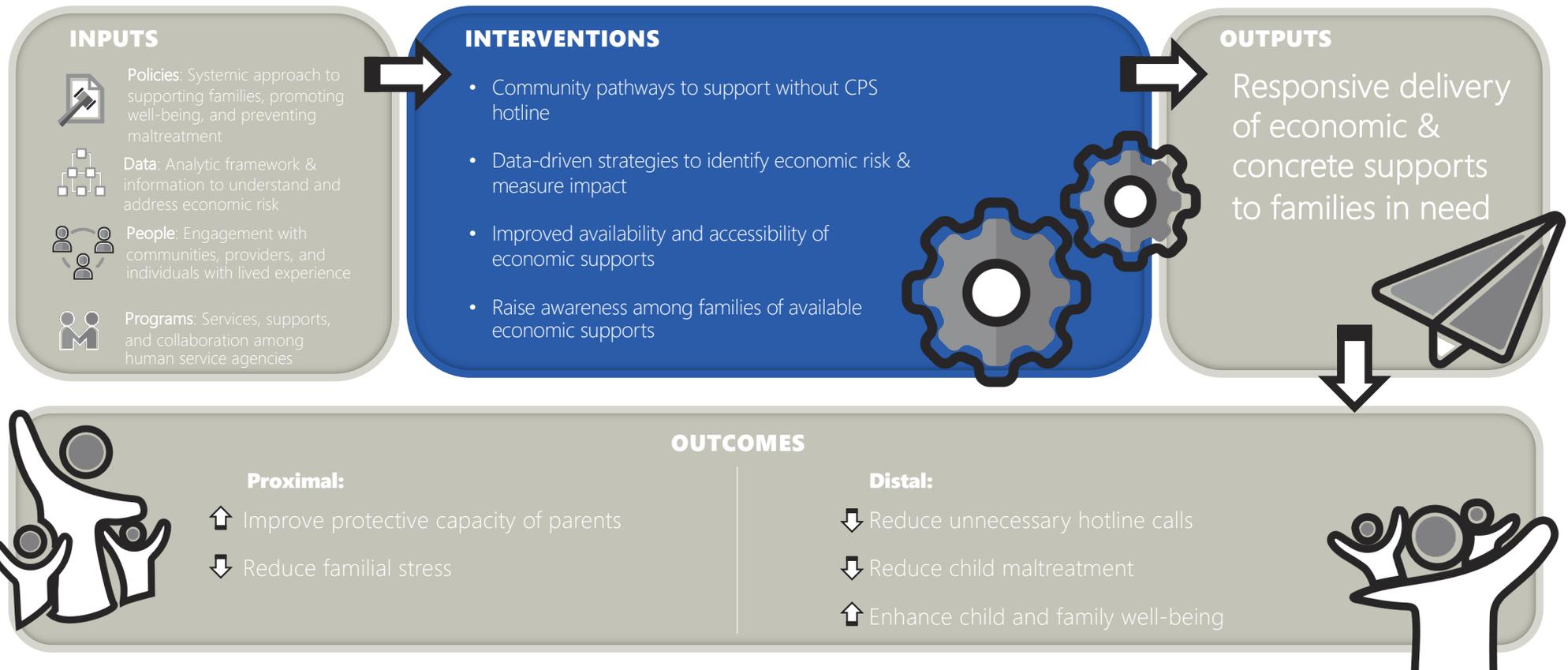
THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



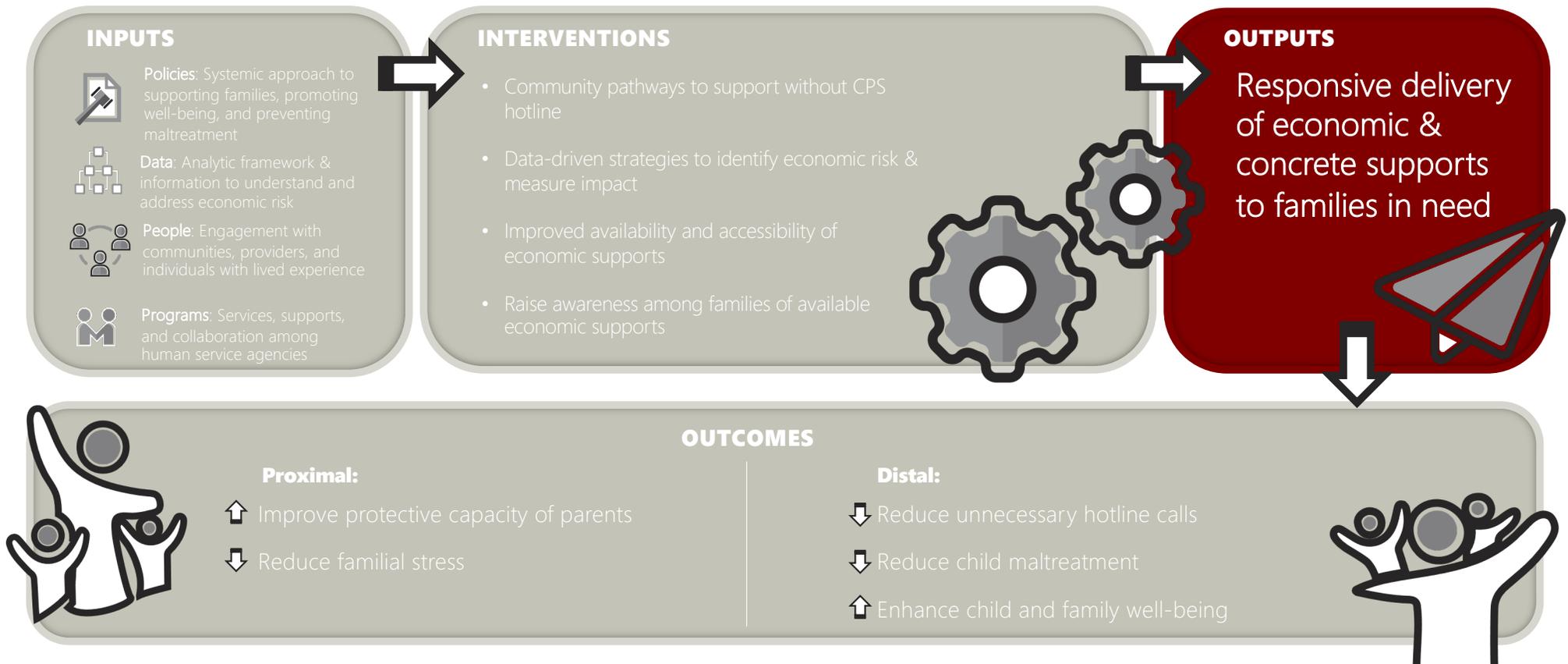
THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



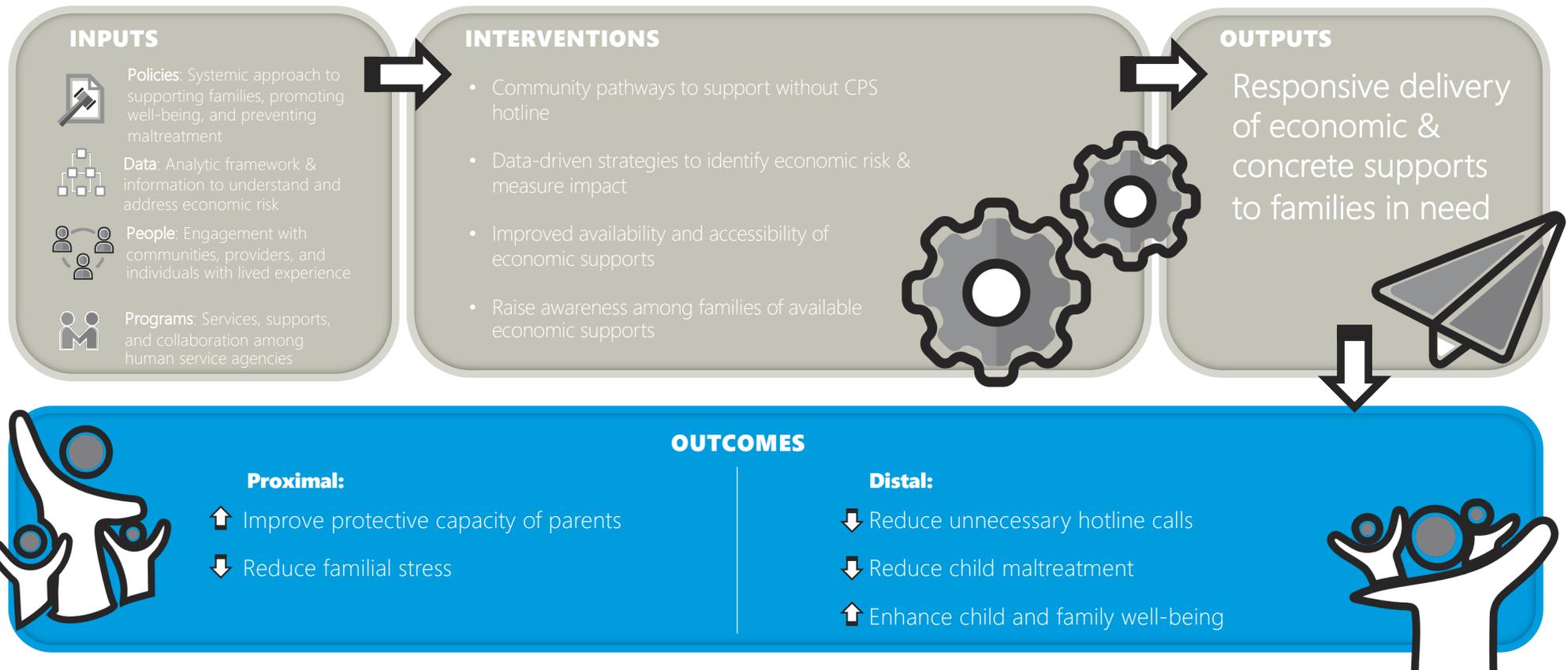
THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS



THEORY OF CHANGE

ECONOMIC & CONCRETE SUPPORTS

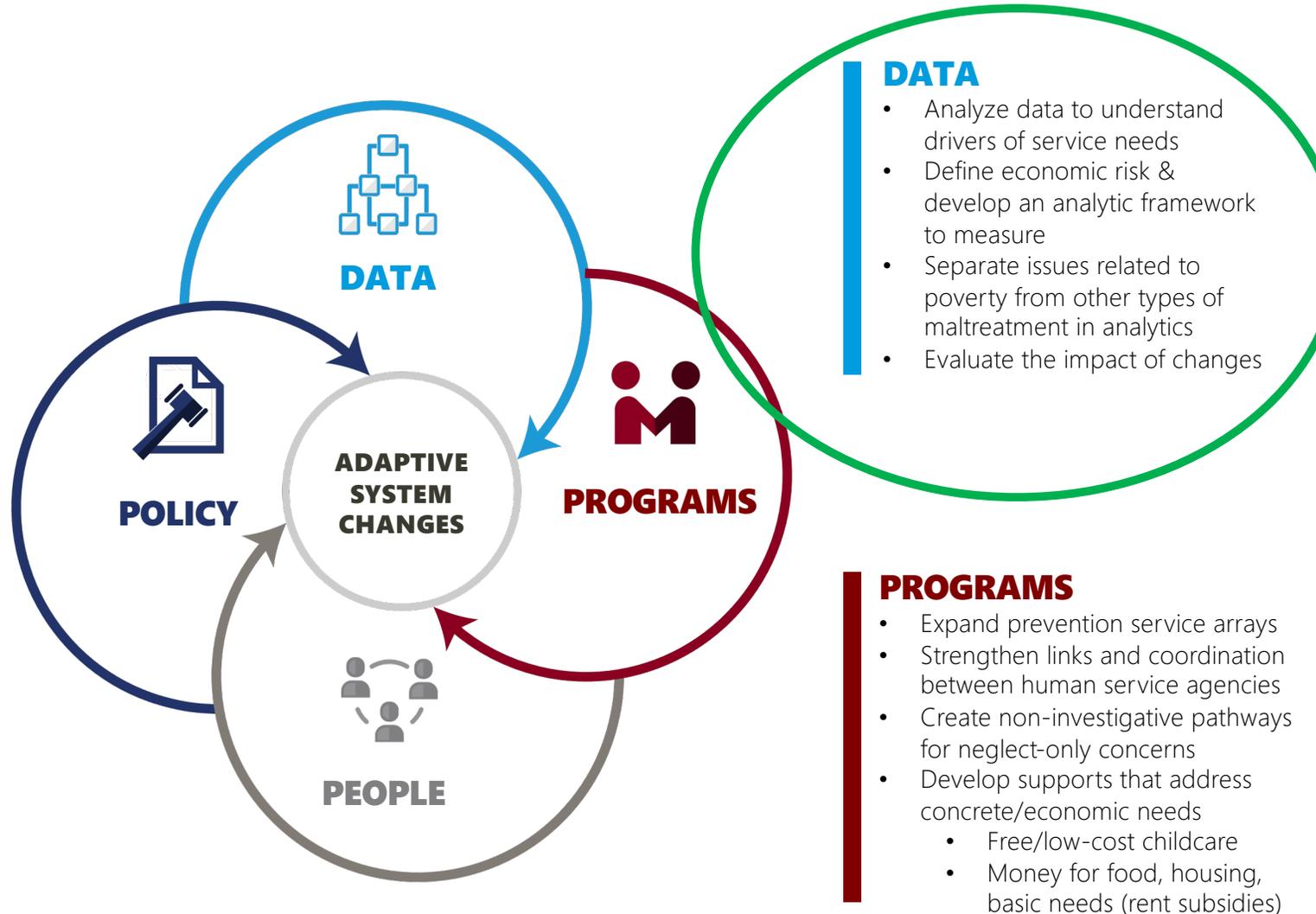


POLICY

- Develop a cross-agency policy framework to guide integrated solutions
- Reframe role of mandatory reporters to shift from surveillance to support
- Change neglect laws & raise evidence standards for substantiation
- Address means test/poverty lookout/benefits cliff
- Create opportunities to blend, braid, and layer funding
- Invest in families & communities

PEOPLE

- Engage communities
- Engage provider organizations
- Engage workforce
- Engage individuals with lived experience





TOWARDS AN ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC-RELATED RISK FACTORS IN CHILD WELFARE: EVENT SUMMARY

Expert Roundtable in June 2021.

Produced over 100 recommendations for federal, state and local jurisdictions

Summary available at:

- <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/analytic-framework-economic-risk-child-welfare>

Event Summary

CHAPIN HALL
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



Expert Roundtable: Toward an Analytic Framework to Address Economic-Related Risk Factors in Child Welfare

Robin Gertner, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Dana Weiner, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
Emily Madden, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Amber Farrell, New Mexico State Fines and Fees Justice Center

HIGHLIGHTS

Child welfare policymakers and stakeholders recognize the role that poverty and related circumstances play in increasing children's maltreatment risk and increasing the likelihood that children will come to the attention of child protective services. Some child welfare systems have begun to provide prevention services to mitigate economic risk factors. Transforming child welfare systems to prevent maltreatment and system involvement requires adequate information and analytic strategies. To that end, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, and Casey Family Programs partnered to host an expert roundtable with two objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1

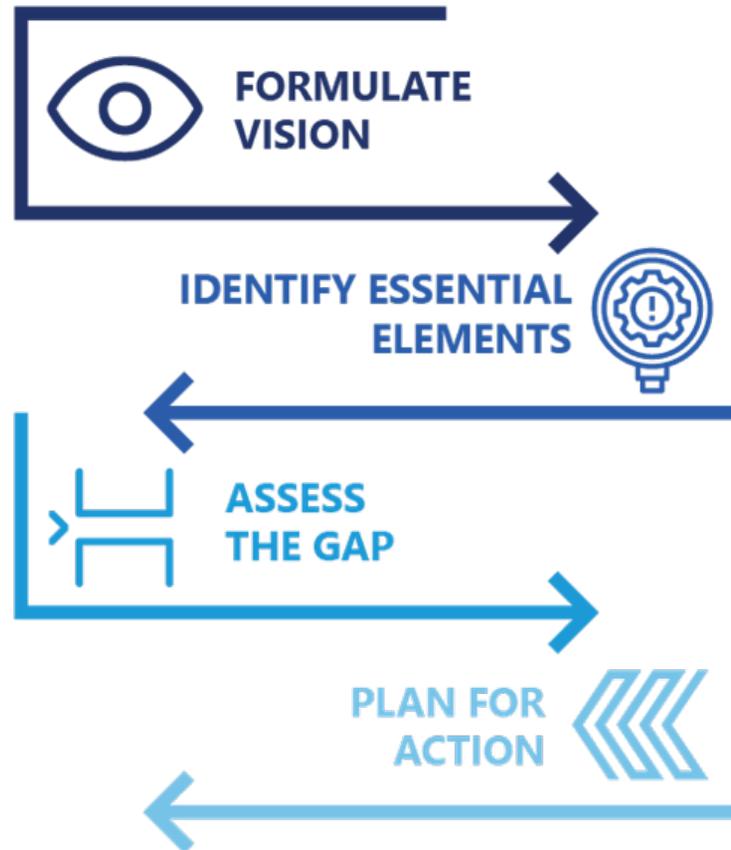


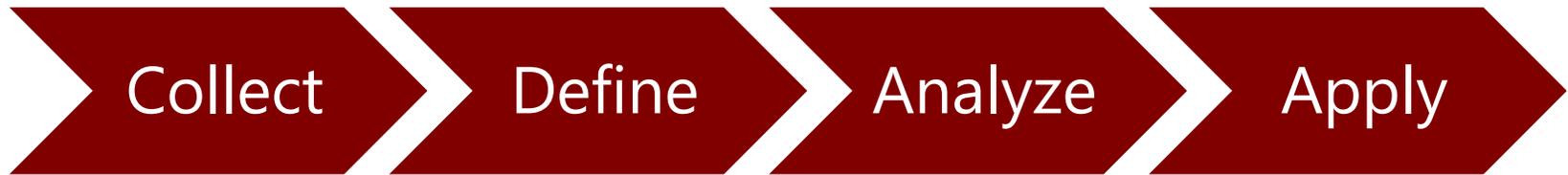
Create an analytic framework and identify tools to help jurisdictions deploy resources to address economic risk factors for child maltreatment.

OBJECTIVE 2



Identify steps to develop the data capacity and infrastructure needed to implement the analytic framework.





Collect

AND LEVERAGE DATA

- **Improve quality** of data already collected – increase validity and reliability of data
- Collect new data **directly from families**, through intake processes, surveys, interviews
- **Protective factors** and **strengths**, as well as risk
- Data on **communities** at **meaningful** geographies
- **Disaggregate** data by race, ethnicity, gender, and other factors
- **Combine** existing data sources

Define

MEASURES AND OUTCOMES

- Define **economic risk**, considering multiple dimensions
- Define **outcomes**, based on specific program goals and context
- Clarify **risk factors** that are related to maltreatment, but not necessarily **causes**
- **Build consensus** on method for defining and measuring
- Consider **unit of analysis** (person, family, neighborhood, community)
- Consider **changing economic circumstances** over time



Analyze

DATA TO MEET POLICY AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Explore **range of analytic methods**, considering resources, expertise, objectives
- Identify **inequities** in system involvement, service delivery, outcomes
- Understand **patterns** of involvement and outcomes
- Assess role of **economic risk** and **protective factors** as a predictor, correlate, or cause of outcomes
- **Target resources and services** using models
- Measure **effectiveness** of interventions and **return on investment**
- **Gap analysis** to understand unmet economic need



Apply

RESULTS TO POLICY, BUDGETARY, AND PROGRAMMATIC DECISIONS

- Determine **appropriate role** for analysis in different aspects of process: budget and policy, resources, decisions for families and children
- Inform decision-making on **service delivery**
- Inform **practice** as necessary and justified, combined with caseworker judgment
- Inform **budget** decisions about supporting programs that are **effective**, and **for whom**



So how far are we from doing this?

DATA CAPACITY

- Systems lack data on holistic family needs and strengths
- Case-level service data not available
- Data systems don't communicate across silos – child welfare, TANF, SNAP, child support, criminal justice, SUD treatment, health services
 - CWIS systems not yet able to integrate data from other systems
- Privacy laws – federal and state – appear to prevent better data
- Data are not accessible to key stakeholders

ANALYTIC CAPACITY

- Analytic tools are limited to required reporting
- Agency staff have limited comfort interpreting and using results
- Technological infrastructure is limited for collecting new data, improving quality, and producing analytics



How do we get there?

HOW DO WE GET THERE?



ACTIONS TO IMPROVE DATA SHARING AND LINKING

- Use a single universal identifier Medicaid, SNAP, and child welfare systems for individuals, allowing programs to conduct better analysis and connect individuals with eligible supports.
- Issue federal guidance and/or program promoting the ability to share child welfare data with other program areas for programmatic and research purposes.
- Develop a jurisdiction-specific data sharing rules and a “myth-busting” document to clarify data sharing rules.
- Provide technical assistance to jurisdictions to improve how agencies link data, and how to use linked data to enhance decision-making.
- Support jurisdiction-to-jurisdiction peer learning, as some states and localities may have made progress addressing barriers to data sharing that could be useful for others



- Have you seen examples of data linkage or analysis applied to delivering, coordinating, improving, or evaluating economic supports to families?
- What are the barriers you face in implementing data-driven strategies to identifying and addressing economic risk for child welfare system involvement?
- What might you do next?

YOUR CALL TO ACTION:



Please attend the next action lab in the Chapin Hall spotlight track:

E1: Evidence Based Program (EBP) Exploration and Cost Tool: A Family First Planning and Implementation Tool for Effective Selection of EBPs

Thursday, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

- Identify available data elements to continue to understand economic need
- Identify opportunities to apply data on economic need in designing programs and providing services
- Download the “Summary of Proceedings”: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/analytic-framework-economic-risk-child-welfare>



Thank you!

ASPE

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION



CWLA

And our many partner jurisdictions!!!



Questions or comments?
Please reach out to:

Dana Weiner
dweiner@chapinhall.org