

## What we heard

### **Children have to fail up to get support they need**

Child and youth needs assessments may not always be conducted, and may not be done with all the relevant information. Needs can change, and don't always fit neatly into existing programs.

### **Tying family payments to child needs can be discouraging**

While it makes sense to pay families more when they are caring for children and youth with higher needs, it can lead to families needing to accept lower payments once children or youth improve.

### **In-home (pre-removal) and kinship caregiver homes are not considered for TFC**

TFC is not offered enough in-home, before children or youth are removed, and in kinship homes. This is a missed opportunity.

### **The difference with TFC is the support**

TFC programs are mostly doing a good job. Private child placing agencies provide a care team to help and support TFC families with challenges they face. However, families still struggled to get information from the state.

### **Many families don't know they are signing up for TFC**

Some families do intentionally choose to become a TFC family because of their skills or experience, but many don't. TFC is not clearly distinguished from traditional fostering in recruitment. There's also no way for families to chart their progress to higher skills so they can 'level up' slowly.

## What we recommend to address these issues

1. Review child welfare programs from various perspectives to refine how they fit together
2. Expand program offerings so that more children and youth get emotional and behavioral supports earlier, long before crises occur
3. Expand TFC programs to in-home (as prevention) and in kinship homes
4. Extend the benefits of TFC to all families, including traditional resource families
5. Use human-centered case management at the state to improve communication
6. Create an approach to recruitment where families can grow their skills gradually

## Thank you!

Thank you again, for participating in this work. We have attached our final presentation slides here. If you feel like we missed something important or have questions, please let us know at [bloom-foster-fam-research@bloomworks.digital](mailto:bloom-foster-fam-research@bloomworks.digital). Thank you again for your participation.