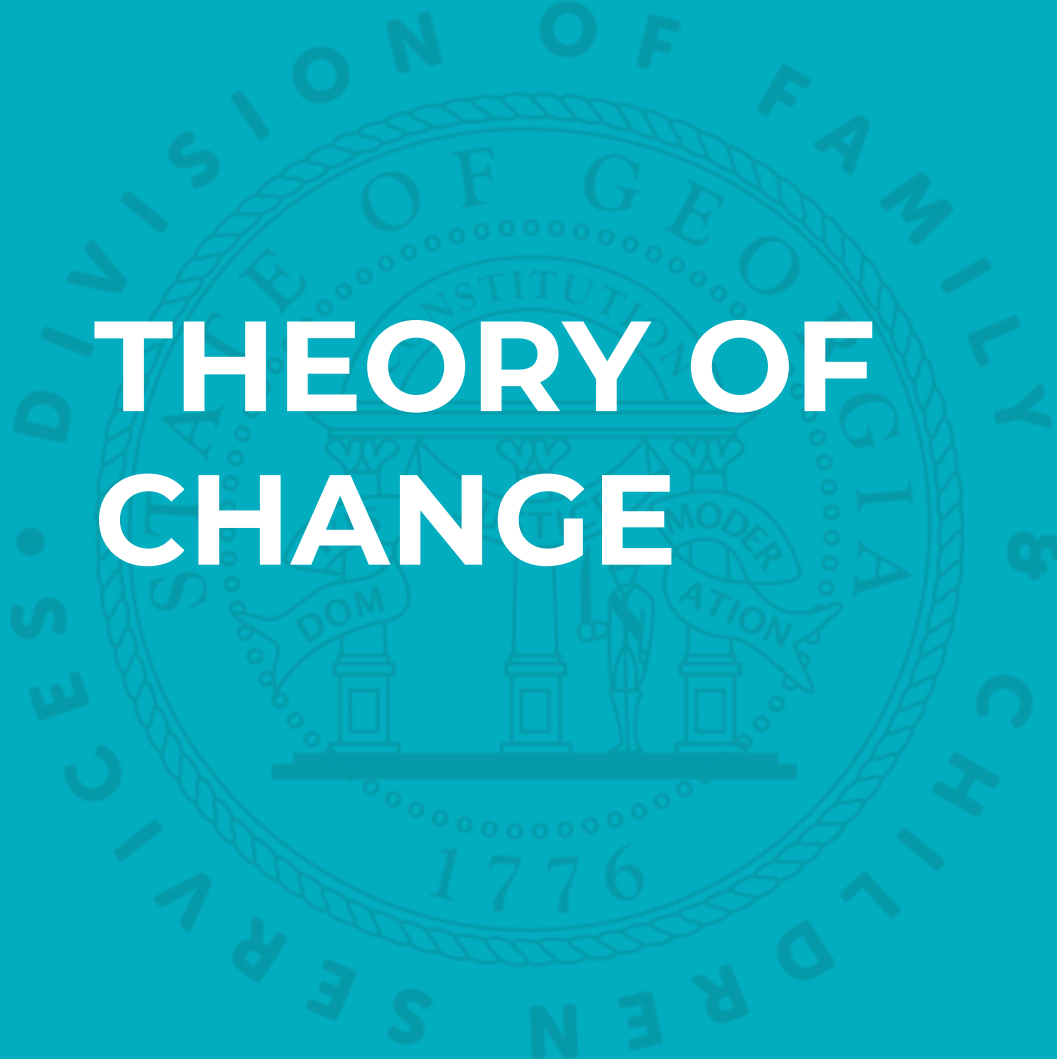


THEORY OF CHANGE



EFFORTS

Expand family-strengthening preventive services and community supports

- **Increase community capacity**, to proactively and equitably meet child, youth, and family needs before maltreatment occurs.
- **Expand & align Georgia's continuum of EBPs & broaden access to intensive interventions**, so that children and families are served through effective interventions in their homes and communities.
- **Expand and align community-based post-permanency supports**, to promote family, youth, and child well-being and lasting permanency.

Build a placement continuum that prioritizes family, healing & permanency

- **Engage and support parents of children and youth in care**, to facilitate behavior change, maintain family bonds and prepare families for permanency
- **Identify and proactively support kin and caregivers** to provide safe, stable, family-like placements and appropriate care.
- **Select and implement evidence-based model of TFC**, to provide a structured and therapeutic family environment for children and youth with specialized needs.
- **Strengthen and promote targeted use of congregate care** to better meet the emotional and behavioral needs of children and youth—who are placed in congregate care less often, for shorter periods.

RESULTS

Communities are **healthy**, supportive, and full of opportunity.

Families are well and **children and youth are safe**.

Unnecessary child welfare involvement and foster care entry are prevented.

Reduced maltreatment and repeat maltreatment.

Reliance on **congregate care is safely reduced**, as children in foster care increasingly reside in appropriate family-based and kinship settings.

Children's **clinical and socio-emotional needs are appropriately met** within their placement settings across all placement types.

Family and community connections are strong and supported during and following foster care—to promote well-being and establish the foundation for permanency.

IMPACT

Children, youth, and families experience **greater well-being and healing** throughout the child welfare continuum.

Deeper and more intrusive system involvement is prevented.

Children and youth spend **less time in foster care** and **more time with family**.

Communities and families are **strengthened and empowered** and share power in planning and decision-making.

Families have increased **resiliency, self-sufficiency, stability, and lasting connections**.

Our work promotes just and equitable outcomes.



OUR FOUNDATIONAL VALUES

All children and youth deserve to be safe from harm.

Children and youth have the right to form and maintain stable and healthy attachments with family and supportive adults and remain in their home communities.

Children and youth thrive when nurtured in families and communities.

Child welfare is part of a network of agencies and community actors collectively responsible for child safety and family well-being.

Individual and family identity, culture, and tradition are respected and affirmed.

Identifying, addressing and reducing disproportionality and structural racism is essential for achieving our shared vision.



Increase prevention services

So children and families have access to resources in communities to prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement

Decrease the need for foster care

By offering evidence based interventions to allow children to remain safely at home

Increase well-being of youth in foster care

By expanding family based foster care settings and reducing reliance on congregate care

Implementation of
**THE
FAMILY FIRST
PREVENTION
SERVICES ACT
IN GEORGIA**

**Reducing removals by increasing
access to an expanded
array of EBPs**

*Services will align with the needs and identities
of the children and families we serve, build on
Georgia's EBP capacity, and offer strong
evidence of effectiveness.*

**Building stronger
casework practice to
maximize the benefit of
Family First Act services**

*Training and workforce support to
boost existing core practices for
engaging and supporting families, such
as assessment, planning, service
selection in alignment with the current
practice model.*

**Upgrade technology to
support
Family First Act
requirements**

*Update SHINES and build enhanced
provider portal to support more
efficient communication with
providers and facilitate data driven
CQI.*

