

# Reunification Programs

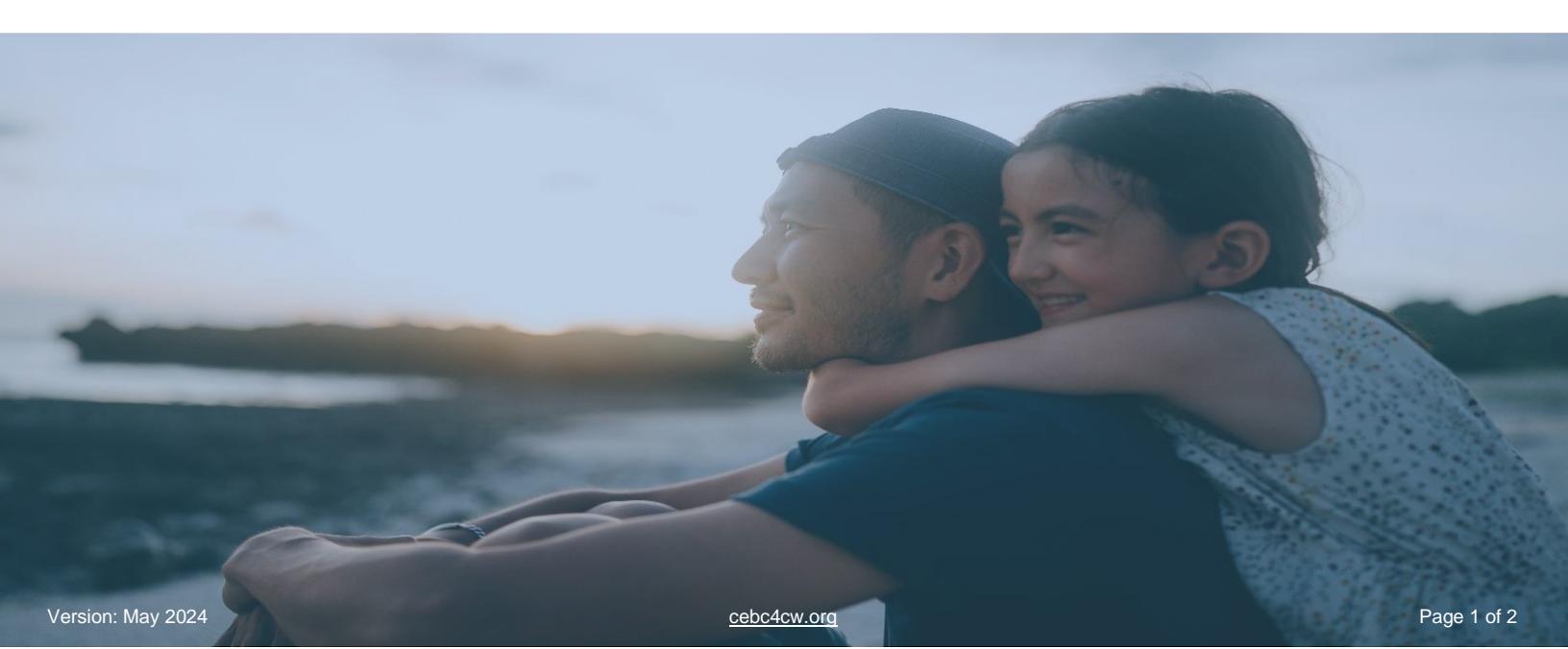


**The CEBC defines Reunification Programs as programs to support the reunification of children and birth families after child welfare involvement.** Over 350,000 children were in foster care or other out-of-home placements in the United States in 2022. For 52% of these children, the case goal is reunification (i.e., returning them to their biological parents) as quickly and safely as possible. To assist with reunification, child welfare provides services to the child and the child's parents. These services are time-limited and intended to provide support during the reunification process. They may be geared towards addressing the causes for the child's removal and placement into foster care.

In addition to the programs specifically focused on supporting reunification, which are listed below, it is also important to keep in mind that specific services focused on the reason for removal may need to be put into place during the reunification process. Common services associated with reunification include visitation between parent and child, visitation between siblings (if separated), case management services from the social worker, parent training, anger management, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment for the child and parent(s), and domestic violence services. Please click [here](#) for a list of topic areas on the CEBC.

## Reunification Programs Topic Area criteria:

- **Target population:** Youth in out-of-home placements and their families
- **Services/types that fit:** Services to address the unique needs of each family delivered in individual, group, or family formats such as visitation, case management, education, skill building, and/or service delivery
- **Delivered by:** Child welfare workers, mental health professionals, or trained paraprofessionals
- **In order to be included in this topic area on the CEBC:** Program must specifically target reunification supports for youth in out-of-home placements and their families
- **In order to be rated in this topic area by the CEBC:** There must be research evidence (as specified by the CEBC [Scientific Rating Scale](#)) that examines outcomes related to reunification, such as decreased time to reunification as well as decreased disruptions and maltreatment reports after reunification



The table below provides a summary of the rated programs currently listed in the [Reunification Programs](#) topic area. More detailed information can be found on the CEBC website.

Program	Target Population	CEBC Scientific Rating	CEBC CWS Relevance Level
<a href="#">Homebuilders®</a>	Families with children (birth18–years) at imminent risk of placement into, or needing intensive services to return from, foster care, group or residential treatment, psychiatric hospitals, or juvenile justice facilities	2	High
<a href="#">On the Way Home (OTWH)</a>	Middle and high school students (12–18 years) with, or at-risk for, emotional and behavioral disorders transitioning from residential placements back into the home and community school settings and their caregivers	2	High
<a href="#">Iowa Parent Partner Approach</a>	Parents involved with Department of Human Services' Child Protective Services	3	High
<a href="#">Multidimensional Family Recovery (MDFR)</a>	Parents with children birth–18 years who have come to the attention of, or are involved with, the child welfare system and have at least one parent whose substance use is determined to be a primary child safety risk factor	3	High
<a href="#">Project Connect</a>	High-risk, substance-affected families involved in the child welfare system that may experience poly-substance abuse and dependence, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, criminal involvement and behavior, poverty, inappropriate housing, lack of education, poor employment skills, impaired parenting, low household income, or single parent households	3	High
<a href="#">The Safe Babies Court Team™</a>	Infants and toddlers up to age 3 coming under court jurisdiction and their families; and professionals engaged in disciplines touching the lives of maltreated infants and toddlers	3	High
<a href="#">TASC's Family Recovery &amp; Reunification Program</a>	Parents of children (aged 0–18) of whom custody has been taken by the State, with a drug or alcohol problem being a substantial reason for DCFS involvement	3	High

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