A NEW STANDARD IN PLACEMENT STABILITY
This document summarizes how

DECREASED PLACEMENT DISRUPTIONS

and

DECREASED TIME TO PERMANENCY

Translate into COST SAVINGS for FOSTER CARE AGENCIES

and

IMPROVED OUTCOMES for FOSTER CHILDREN

through the use of ECAP,

a REVOLUTIONARY NEW INTAKE DECISION SUPPORT TOOL

that is made available through our company,

FOSTER CARE TECHNOLOGIES
BACKGROUND

• **ECAP (Every Child A Priority)** is a software-based intake tool that is designed to help public and private foster care agencies find better placements for their foster children through a research-backed matching process. TFI Family Services, the company that created ECAP, has been using ECAP since July of 2010.

• In 2013, researchers from the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas evaluated ECAP and found that it had a significant impact on TFI’s placement stability metrics. The researchers also provided recommendations to further improve ECAP.

• **Today ECAP** is helping to find better placements for foster children in several states across the nation. Foster Care Technologies continues to improve ECAP by engaging in ongoing research projects that combine social welfare research and data science to produce better outcomes for child welfare organizations and the children and families they serve.
Placement disruptions are often very stressful events for foster children. Disruptions can have a lasting negative impact on children for many years, even after they leave foster care.* Placement disruptions are also expensive for agencies in that they divert resources away from other essential work that they must do to serve their communities. The agency that created ECAP estimates that it costs $1,619 every time a child has to be moved from an existing foster home to a new one.

This total cost includes all the costs of supporting licensed social workers and other agency employees who spend time making phone calls, locating new placements, changing school enrollment, re-establishing medical services, transporting children, documenting their work, and other activities.

*Changes in Placement among Children in Foster Care: A Longitudinal Study of Child and Case Influences by Christian M. Connell, Jeffrey J. Vanderploeg, Paul Flaspohler, Karol H. Katz, Leon Saunders, and Jacob Kraemer Tebes; Social Service Review, Vol. 80, No. 3 (September 2006), pp. 398-418
Children who experience disruptions in their foster care placements are likely to spend more time in the foster care system, and they have a reduced chance of ever achieving permanency.*

This extra time spent in foster care takes an emotional toll on children, and it increases costs for state departments.

It costs the state of Kansas about this much to support one child in foster care:

$70 per day

The Center for Human Services: University of California UC Davis Extension.
Using ECAP helped TFI Family Services reduce all of these costs by helping to decrease number of moves and a reduce the average time to permanency among all of their foster children.
What is it and what does it do?

• A web-based intake tool that uses behavioral matching to help child welfare staff make the best possible placement decisions for children in foster care.

• ECAP’s placement recommendations are generated by algorithms that are based on statistical analyses of key child characteristics and how those characteristics have related to past placement successes/failures.

• Each placement is made “smarter” because ECAP instantly applies a vast amount of historical placement outcome data to every non-relative foster placement.
How does it work?

- Case workers enter information about the child as he/she enters care.
- The information about the child is processed, producing a score that determines the level of care that is best suited for that child.
- ECAP compares the children’s profiles with the available families’ profiles within that level of care to assess compatibility between each possible pairing.
- ECAP’s algorithms produce a ranked list of recommended available foster homes. The intake worker can begin calling homes from the list and logging calls within the application as calls are made.
- The foster care worker places the child with the highest ranked home available, thereby minimizing the risk of a placement disruption for that child while he/she is in foster care.
The RESULTS:

BETTER OUTCOMES FOR FOSTER CHILDREN

and

COST SAVINGS FOR THE FOSTER CARE AGENCIES
Researchers at the **KU School of Social Welfare** tracked and compared two different cohorts of children. In one cohort (Pre-ECAP) the children were NOT placed using ECAP. In the other cohort (Post-ECAP), children were placed with the highest ranked available provider from ECAP’s recommended placement list. The following improvements were observed:

- **As a whole, children in the Post-ECAP cohort moved less often and their placements lasted longer.**
  
  - There was a 22.5% improvement in the number of days of care provided per move for the Post-ECAP group when compared to the Pre-ECAP group.

- **Children in the Post-ECAP cohort reached permanency 53.13 days (median) sooner than those in the Pre-ECAP cohort.**
  
  - There was a 12.06% reduction in time until permanency for the Post-ECAP group when compared to the Pre-ECAP group.
The COST SAVINGS...(1)

Fewer Moves Needed

During 2012, a Kansas-based agency provided 769,647 days of care. Using the Pre/Post data for days of care provided per placement move, the agency would have prevented a total of 452 moves from occurring. Using a cost-per-move figure of $1,619, this means that the agency was able to save $731,788 in placement costs in only one year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual Days of Care</th>
<th>Days of Care Per Move</th>
<th># Moves</th>
<th>Cost Per Move</th>
<th>Savings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Post</td>
<td>Pre</td>
<td>Post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>301,369</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region 3</td>
<td>468,278</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>1482</td>
<td>1207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total TFI</td>
<td>769,647</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>2436</td>
<td>1984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Time to Permanency

## CALCULATING THE COSTS SAVED BY REDUCING TIME TO PERMANENCY

*(for children placed with non-relative foster families)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average daily cost (to the agency) to care for a foster child in Kansas</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(government agencies would potentially be able to reduce their spending on child care costs while private contractors are typically reimbursed by the government for these expenses)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in time to permanency in days (median)</td>
<td>53.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollars saved per child during entire length of his/her care</td>
<td>3,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjusted dollars saved per kid (<em>&quot;permanency&quot;</em> describes only 86% of outcomes)</td>
<td>3,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollars saved per child per year</td>
<td>1,908</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average (mean) # of days each child spends in care (nationally) (2013 AFCARS report)</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children ENTERING the agency's care during a year WITH NON-RELATIVE PLACEMENTS</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>(typically about 47% of total active cases are non-relative placements)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| TOTAL ANNUAL COST SAVINGS DUE TO THE REDUCTION IN TIME SPENT IN CARE       | $896,552 |
To learn more about ECAP or to schedule a demo please contact:

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