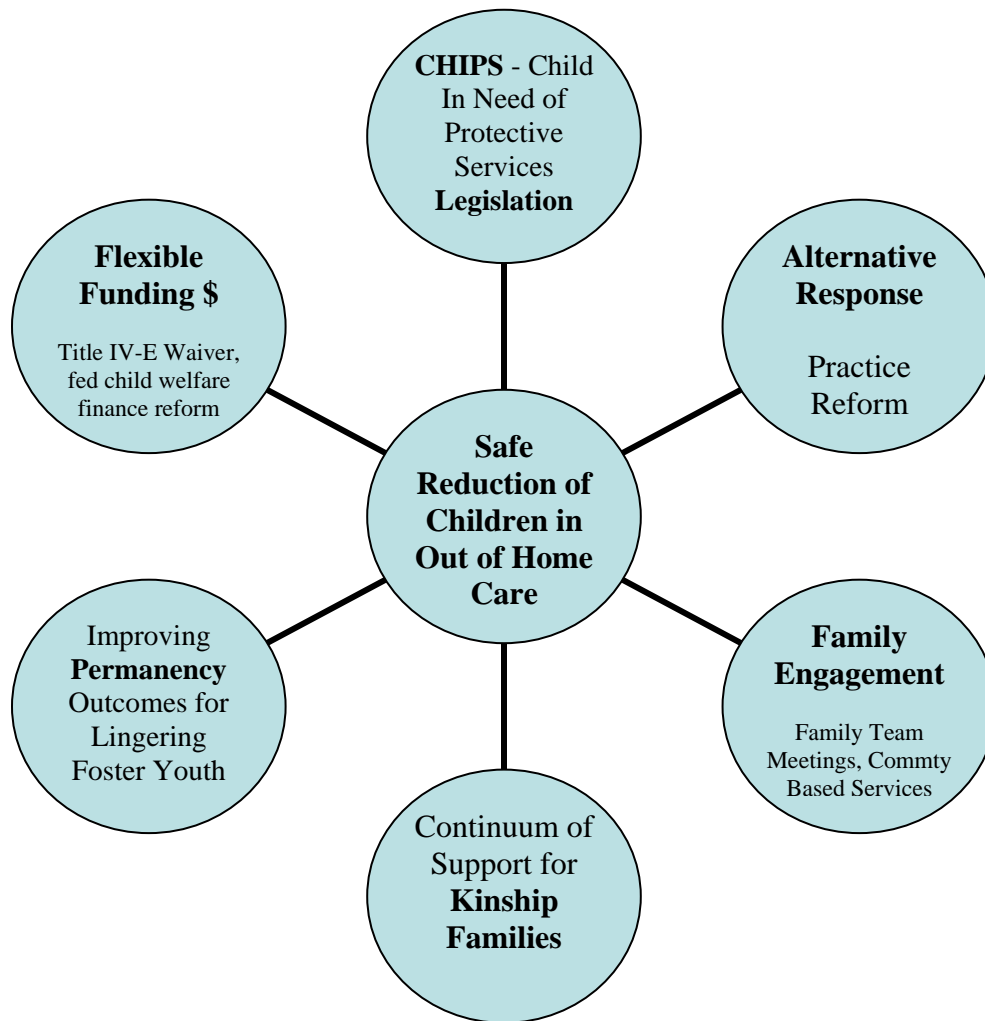


# Ohio Child Welfare Reform



**Building on our Proud Accomplishments:** Between 1991 and 2009, Ohio has experienced a 42% safe reduction in the number of children experiencing the trauma of out of home care. Recent statewide accomplishments include CAPMIS (safety, risk and family planning tool), supports for kinship care, and a statewide SACWIS MIS system. It is time to create a legislative foundation for reform, and to bring other innovations and initiatives to scale statewide, including:

1. **CHIPS Legislation** – focusing practice and legal procedures on the Needs of a Child, within the philosophy of engaging and strengthening families.
2. **Expanding Alternative Response** beyond the current 10 county pilot
3. **Enhancing Kinship Caregiver policies** and support (HB 197, HHS Kinship Navigator grant)
4. **Promoting Family Engagement** – Family Team Meetings, Group Decision Making, Community based collaboration and services
5. **Improving Permanency Outcomes for Lingerin Youth** – expanding Child Specific Recruitment and Family Finding strategies, enhancing education and workforce outcomes for youth, reducing foster and teen pregnancies, OFCF Youth Transitions workgroup
6. **Flexible Funding** – Ohio is seeking a renewal of our Title IV-E ProtectOhio Waiver to support the full continuum of prevention, diversion, placement and reunification services, vs. only placement costs. The budget neutral waiver has contributed to our safe reduction of children in care, and reduced child trauma.

*All efforts must address the disproportionate rate of minority children in care.*