

## What are the Connections Between Child Welfare and TANF?

- Overlap of families. Historically, the majority of children coming into foster care came from families receiving cash assistance.
  - Less than 3% of AFDC recipient children entered foster care.
  - But, nearly 60% of children in foster care came from families who were receiving (or recently had received) AFDC.
  - Almost all moved to foster care while the families still received AFDC,<sup>1</sup>
- Overlap of needs: substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, poverty.
- Children in families with annual incomes below \$15,000 are 22 times more likely to be abused or neglected than children in families with incomes greater than \$30,000.<sup>2</sup>
  - Stress – exacerbated by poverty
  - Instability – frequent moves
  - Inability to provide basic necessities – adequate child care
  - Similar factors interfere with employment and parenting
  - Increased scrutiny of families using public services
- Children in single parent families are 1.75 times more likely to be maltreated; probably for many of the same reasons poverty is connected to maltreatment.<sup>3</sup>
- Kinship care families are increasing and these families often turn to TANF or child welfare for help caring for the children.
- There are longtime structural connections between the programs.
  - IV-E foster care was created out of the AFDC program.
  - Eligibility for IV-E foster care tied to old AFDC criteria.
  - Eligibility for TANF block grant dependent of state operation of foster care and adoption assistance programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Goerge, R.M., Lee, B.J., Reidy, M., Needell, B., Brookhart, A., Duncan, D., & Usher, L, *Dynamics of Children's Movement Among the AFDC, Medicaid and Foster Care Programs Prior to Welfare Reform: 1995-1996*, 2000, available online at <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/movement00/index.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Sedlak, A.J. and Broadhurst, D.D., *Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, Final Report*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1996.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*