

How Can Your County Afford the Permanency Project?

This Project is free to your county, through a contract with the Department of Public Welfare.

Pennsylvania Project Results

County	Average Time Saved	Money Saved
Luzerne	22 months	\$660,000
Cumberland	7 months	\$621,600
Northumberland	5 months	\$240,000
Berks	5 months	\$420,000
Mifflin	5 months	\$222,000
Lancaster	7 months	\$386,400
Huntingdon	5 months	\$234,000
Northampton	15 months	\$468,000
York	12 months	\$446,400
Venango	10 months	\$60,000
Blair	4 months	\$552,000
Totals	9 months avg.	\$4,310,400

Comment from the Field

“...the ABA Project facilitator ...has provided practical guidance and ideas...so that permanency for children can be accomplished sooner.”

Amy Rosensteel, solicitor, Blair County

Could this Work for You?

To learn more about the Permanency Project contact Project Director

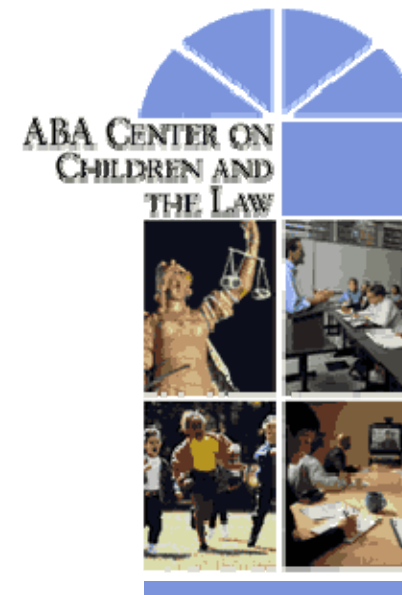
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Permanency Barriers Project
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ABA Pennsylvania Permanency Project

This Project helps move children through the system into permanency more quickly, saves foster care dollars, and is free to counties.

ABA Helps PA with Permanency

Children in foster care need permanency quickly and safely. Children deserve to go home when it's safe -- but if they can't, then they must be provided with the most permanent home that meets their needs. The ABA Permanency Project is helping Pennsylvania counties do this for their children.

The ABA Permanency Project has been working for children for 18 years. It has proven effective, both in time and dollars. In New York State, the Project saw an average reduction in the time to achieve permanency of 15 months and saved over \$15 million. Project staff brought child welfare agencies, courts, attorneys and stakeholders together and worked toward ending barriers to permanence.

ABA Permanency Project wins national award

In 2005, the Project won the *Department of Health and Human Services Adoption Excellence Award* for its efforts in achieving timely permanency for children.

ABA Project at work in Pennsylvania

The Permanency Project is active in Pennsylvania, through a contract with the Department of Public Welfare. We are working in 14 counties and always looking for new Project counties, at **no cost** to the county.

HOW DOES THE PERMANENCY BARRIERS PROJECT WORK?

The Project achieves positive permanency outcomes for children in foster care through system change. An ABA Project Director visits your Pennsylvania county monthly for two years and, using their national expertise,

works with you, develops tools, and delivers lasting solutions.

The ABA's Permanency Project has a proven recipe for success. The Project helps each site go through 5 major tasks:

Identifying and analyzing delays

Through case reviews and interviews with stakeholders, the Project identifies and examines each step in the life of a case and analyzes possible causes for delay.

Interactively developing recommendations and implementing reforms

Once problems are identified, a local multidisciplinary advisory board meets regularly to examine the delays and propose potential reforms. Project staff design action plans and help the county start making recommended changes. Everyone in the system must work together to get changes and reforms accepted in the field.

Establishing written protocols, procedures and providing multidisciplinary training

These typically include topics such as:

- Identifying, locating and providing outreach to missing parents and relatives
- Addressing increases in adolescent population
- Preparing written procedures
- Front-loading services
- Implementing concurrent planning
- Decreasing delays in court procedures

Monitoring reforms and changes

Change is difficult for large systems. Making sure that proposed reforms are actually implemented is crucial. Project staff work with counties to ensure progress and address any resistance.

Sharing Project results

The Project helps develop an informal county network to share common challenges, solutions, and other actions throughout the state. Sharing results by telling advocates, affiliated professionals and the larger community what the Project is doing is another key component of success.

By bringing stakeholders in the system together -- without laying blame -- the local child welfare community can examine problems and develop solutions. Since everyone has input, everyone can make change part of their practice.

Common topics include:

- improving court and agency relationships,
- streamlining the legal process, and
- providing Pennsylvania-specific legal training to all child welfare stakeholders.

THE PERMANENCY BARRIERS PROJECT: SUCCESSFUL FOR 18 YEARS

The Project has worked in over 30 small, medium and large locations, urban and rural, throughout the United States. It continues working in new locations every year.

Experienced attorneys lead the way

Adding years of expertise, Project staff has more than 165 years of experience in the child welfare system. Staff expertise includes agency, parent and children's attorneys, a retired dependency court judge, a child welfare policy analyst, a teacher, and a residential care social worker. Project staff specialize in helping counties find children the permanency they need. *Put the Permanency Project to work in your Pennsylvania county.*