

Court Improvement Program Committee

Mission:

The Court Improvement Program Committee, under the direction of the South Dakota State Supreme Court, will assess the system's handling of child abuse and neglect cases and recommend improvements for achieving timely safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families.

Purpose:

The purpose of the CIP is to: (1) promote the continuous quality improvement of court processes and legal representation in child welfare proceedings through ongoing data analysis, assessment, interventions and training, and (2) enhance and expand collaboration among the judicial branch of state government, the title IV-E/IV-B agency, tribes, and community partners to improve child welfare outcomes.

Duties: The committee will:

- Act in an advisory manner and work on specific tasks as needed.
- Review court assessment results and make recommendations related to the timeliness, effectiveness, and quality of the court system in handling child abuse and neglect cases.
 - The goal of the assessment/survey is to: identify barriers in achieving timely permanency in child abuse/neglect cases.
 - CIP Coordinator will compile the results of all assessments/surveys and report to the committee.
- Identify strategic initiatives and prioritize them with the overall goal of achieving permanency for children, who have entered the care and custody of the state, in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.
- Make recommendations for improvement or enhancement of services, data collection, and training.
- Support collaboration between the courts, agencies, tribes, and community stakeholders.
- Develop educational materials related to child abuse and neglect court proceedings.
- Assist in strategic planning of the CIP.

- Support the court’s efforts to comply with Adoption Safe Families Act (ASFA) and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Appointment: Recommended by the State Court Administrator’s Office and appointed by the Chief Justice.

Terms: Committee members will serve three-year terms and are eligible to renew their membership as desired.

Funding:

The formula for the State CIP grants \$255,000 base allotment plus, a percentage of the remainder based on the state’s proportionate share of children under age 21. The CIP is funded through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

CIP Committee Make-up:

1. Supreme Court Justice
2. Circuit Judge
3. Circuit Judge
4. Court Services
5. State’s Attorney’s Office
6. A&N Trained Attorney
7. Department of Social Services
8. CASA Representatives
9. Tribal /ICWA Representative
10. Legislator
11. Law Enforcement
12. Education
13. Community Partner

SCAO Staff: Sara Kelly-CIP Coordinator

Meetings: The committee will meet as needed and determined by the chair.