

2020 Strategy: A Vision for America's Children

Casey Family Programs is driven by our ambitious yet attainable goal to safely reduce the number of children in foster care – and improve the lives of those who remain in care.

Our 2020 Strategy calls for:

- **Safe Reduction:** Safely reduce the number of children in foster care by 50 percent by 2020.
- **Reinvestment:** Spend savings from reduction on strategies and practices that strengthen families and improve child welfare systems.
- **Well-being and Self-sufficiency:** Ensure that children in foster care, and adults who grew up in foster care, have equitable access to education, employment and mental health services.

Casey Family Programs has committed to invest \$1 billion or more over the next decade to fulfill the promise of our 2020 Strategy. But we can't do it alone. We must enlist the support of government, corporate, nonprofit and philanthropic partners at every level, and in every community.

Focus on safe reduction

On any given day in America, nearly 500,000 children live in foster care. Our goal is to reduce that number to about 250,000 by the year 2020 while ensuring the safety of all children.

Children need stability in their lives. For all the dedication of the tens of thousands of loving foster parents in the U.S., a foster home remains, by definition, temporary. Our goal is to make sure that a child's stay in the foster care system also is temporary – and brief.

And we must make sure that children who do not need to be in foster care are not in foster care. We have learned over the years that vulnerable children can remain safely at home when we surround their parents with the services they need to raise a family successfully.

Children who are raised as part of a loving, safe and permanent family have a better chance at success. A stable home life growing up equips them both emotionally and financially to raise good families of their own as adults.

When safe and appropriate to do so, children in foster care should be reunited with their birth families once family issues are addressed.

When safely reuniting with parents is not possible, child welfare agencies must work to place children with relatives in order to maintain family ties or pursue other permanent placement options, such as adoption, that result in permanent, life-long connections.

Savings achieved through safely reducing the need for foster care must be reinvested to ensure that children in foster care, and adults who grew up in foster care, have equitable access to education, employment and mental health services.

And finally, we must address the social, economic and health conditions that lead children and their families to the door of the child welfare system in the first place.

