



Pathways

Improving permanency for children in Massachusetts



What is the Massachusetts Juvenile Court's *Pathways*?

Pathways is a court-wide differentiated case management initiative for improving legal permanency by ensuring fair, just, and prompt resolution of cases through individualized assessment of each case, each child, and each family along with development of dynamic and responsive multi-disciplinary systems to support children and families.

The **Pathways** model is designed to be particularized to the resources, challenges, and opportunities within each community and court division. Grounded in principles from the **Pathways** and collective impact models, the **Massachusetts Upstream** project is underway to identify resources and gaps, community priorities, and actions needed for change in the state and local child welfare landscapes.

Launched in April 2019, **Pathways** is supported by the Casey Foundation, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), and Court Improvement Program (CIP) funds.

Core elements of *Pathways*

- Creation and dissemination of resources to assist with comprehensive, timely and continual child-centered case assessments including reasonable timeframes for addressing gaps between caregivers' skills and abilities and children's needs
- Multi-disciplinary and cross-sector coordination within an organizational umbrella to address barriers to permanency, safety, and stability for children and to increase capacity of the child welfare community
- Utilization and development of metrics to enhance data-driven case flow management strategies
- Judicially-led programming that convenes partners in current and innovative work in child welfare
- Training and education in substantive issue areas impacting permanency outcomes as well as prevention and intervention frameworks

