



Launched in 2008 in Florida and California, QPI has expanded to more than 80 jurisdictions in 10 states: California, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Texas.



The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) is a national movement for foster care change, made up of a network of states, counties and private agencies committed to ensuring that all children in care have excellent parenting and lasting relationships so they can thrive and grow.

Questions?

Visit our website or send us a note!

 www.qpi4kids.org

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The Youth Law Center is a national legal advocacy organization with a mission of ensuring children in our nation's foster care and juvenile justice systems thrive.

The Quality Parenting Initiative is a national system change advocacy effort of the Youth Law Center.



A change in mindset.

Research has demonstrated that children and youth need consistent and effective parenting to thrive. When parents cannot care for their children, another caregiver, in partnership with the child welfare system, must be able to provide loving, committed, and skilled care that enables the children to feel trust in their relationships with the adults in their lives.

QPI is built on the belief that excellent parenting with strong, positive relationships are the best intervention we can offer children to enable them to heal as they grow up to become adults. Creating a system that ensures excellent parenting requires the support and involvement of birth families, relative caregivers, foster families, young people, and others in the child welfare system.



System practices include such activities as foster parent support and participation in visitation and parenting time, court encouragement of co-parenting, joint participation in a child's school, health appointments and extracurricular activities, planning together to ensure smooth transitions, and other practices that ensure foster parents support birth parents so children will thrive.

The key elements of the QPI approach:

- * Define the expectations of caregivers.
- * Clearly communicate these expectations to staff, caregivers, and all other stakeholders.
- * Align system policy and practice with these expectations.



QPI is based on 3 core principles:

01.

Consistent excellent parenting and meaningful relationships are the most important services we can provide to children and youth in foster care. Every policy, practice action, and statement the system adopts should strengthen parenting skills and relationships.

02.

Research on child, youth, and brain development and the effects of trauma not only demonstrates the importance of parenting and positive relationships but also provides guidance on how best to support them. Agency policy and practice should be informed by research.

03.

The individuals most affected by policies and practices are in the best position to design and implement change so that systems ensure excellent parenting and meaningful relationships for children who enter their care.

