Permanency

**Partners**
- Results Count Team
- DHS, Des Moines Service Area
- Fifth Judicial District, Juvenile Court Services
- Juvenile Court Judges
- Foster Care contracted service providers
- Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention contractor
- Polk County Equity Coordinator
- African American Case Review Teams (AACRT)
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- Youth Policy Institute of Iowa

**2018**
- Active Results Count team commitment to improving results; Results and Equity plan drafted.
- Work initiated to develop roles, responsibilities, communications and tracking of family identification and engagement activities (July – Dec.).
- DHS plans for a Kinship Navigator pilot (October).

**BASELINE**
47% of Black/African American youth placed in family-like settings compared to 57% of White youth (Jan. 2018 - DHS).
Average time in placement 8 months longer for Black youth than for White youth in Polk County (Jan. 2018 - DHS).

**STRATEGIES**
- Implement model policies and best practices that promote permanency.
- Prepare older youth for permanency and equip families to support older youths’ unique needs.

**HEAD WINDS**
(Key Factors)
- Available services and placements do not match the complex challenges and strengths of diverse adolescents.
- System responses to older youth are driven by misinterpretation of adolescent behaviors.

**2019 ACTIVITIES**
- Implement collaborative efforts to engage family and other supportive adults.
- Sustain Iowa’s Results Count work through a team focusing on reducing disparities.
- Utilize AACRT to reduce system involvement of Black/African American youth and families.
- Complete kinship care case studies and make policy and practice recommendations.

**2019 TARGETS**
- 50% of Black/African American youth placed in family-like settings.
- Average time in placement for Black/AA youth less than 24 months.