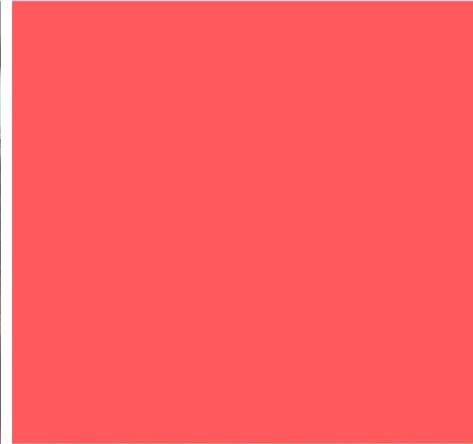




A Campaign to Ensure Bright
Futures for Kids in Foster Care

www.fosteringchamps.org



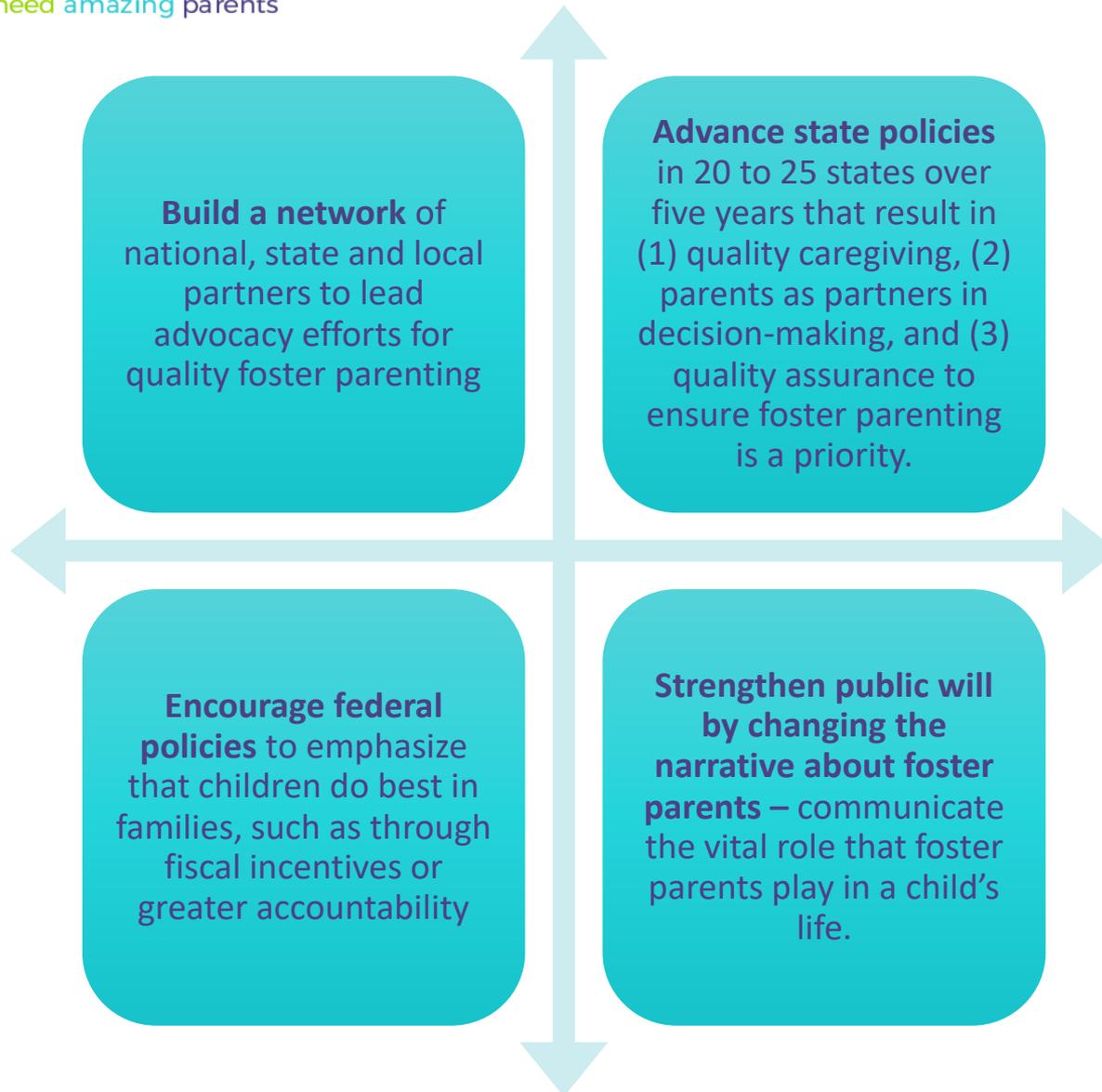


About CHAMPS

CHAMPS is a national campaign to ensure bright futures for kids in foster care by promoting the highest quality parenting.

CHAMPS builds on research that shows that loving, supportive families – whether birth, kin, foster or adoptive – are critical to the healthy development of all children.

By improving supports to families and respecting parenting as the primary intervention for children in foster care, children can achieve better outcomes in health, development, education and permanency.



The Time is Right for a National Campaign

Adolescent development science shows evidence of importance of family, especially in healing from trauma

In hyper-partisan world, growing consensus on need to better support foster parents

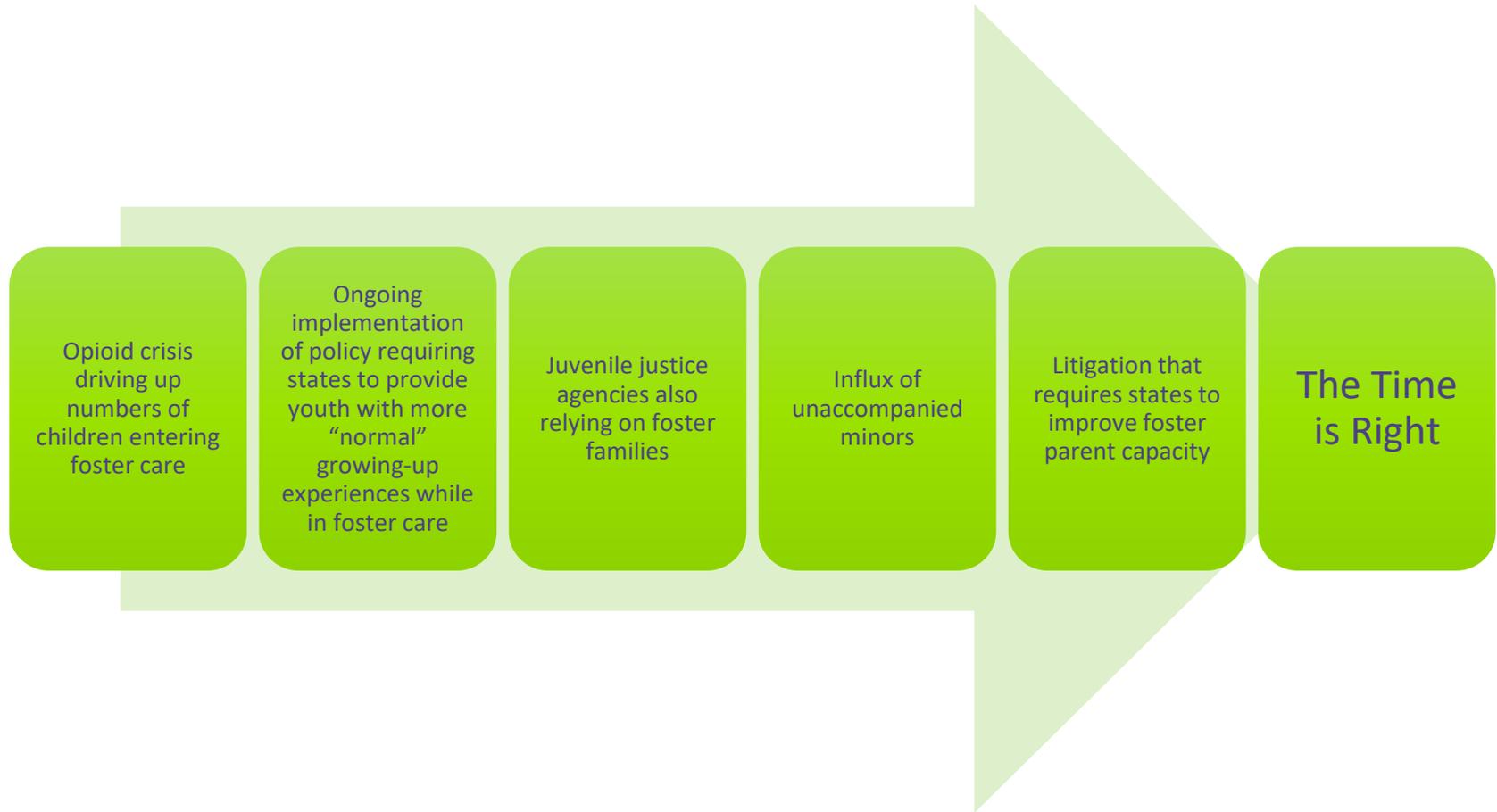
Growing interest in reducing non-therapeutic group care, need viable alternatives

Federal laws require states to support effective foster parenting, but lack accountability mechanisms

Increasing examples of best practice can inform design of policy solutions

New technologies promote innovation

**The
Time is
Right**



Too many good foster families leave discouraged. More than half quite within 12 months

Negative perception of foster parents by the general public and by public agency staff; common concerns that foster parents are “in it for the money”

Major information gaps exist; no readily available data on how many foster parents are licensed, trained or available.

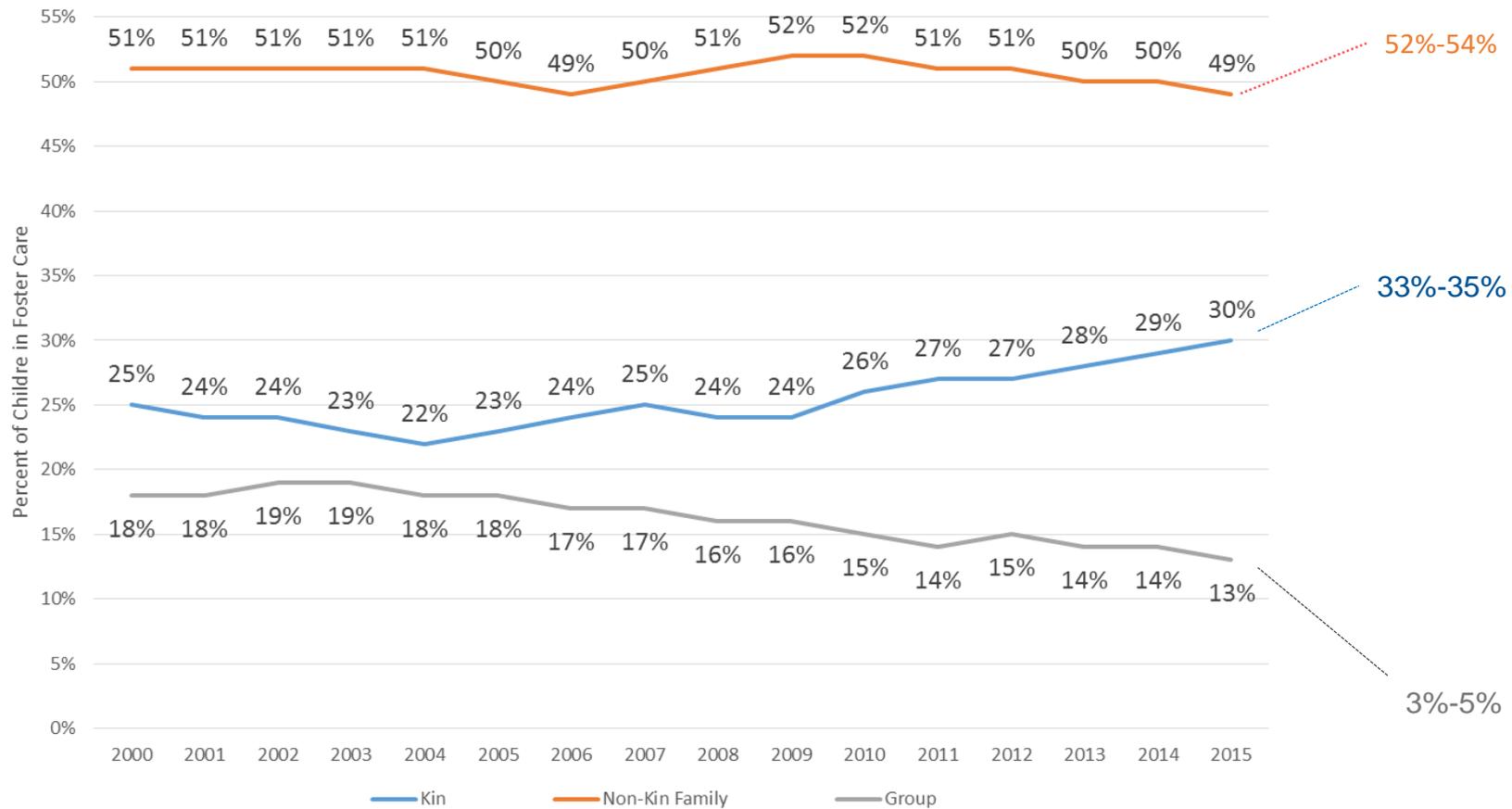
Few tools to help make good matches of children and caregivers



Opportunity: Evidence Demonstrates Success is Possible

- Evidence that there are enough, good families to care for children in foster care
- Evidence that systems can implement reforms that will bring in needed families
- Evidence-based models for enhancing skills of caregivers
- Evidence that making the shift is not only affordable, it's cost-effective

What Success Looks Like





National Campaign Partners

Lead Coalition Partners

North American Council on Adoptable Children, FosterClub, Children's Village, Youth Law Center, Christian Alliance for Orphans, American Academy of Pediatrics, Children's Defense Fund

Co-Chairs: Jeremy Kohomban and Jennifer Rodriguez

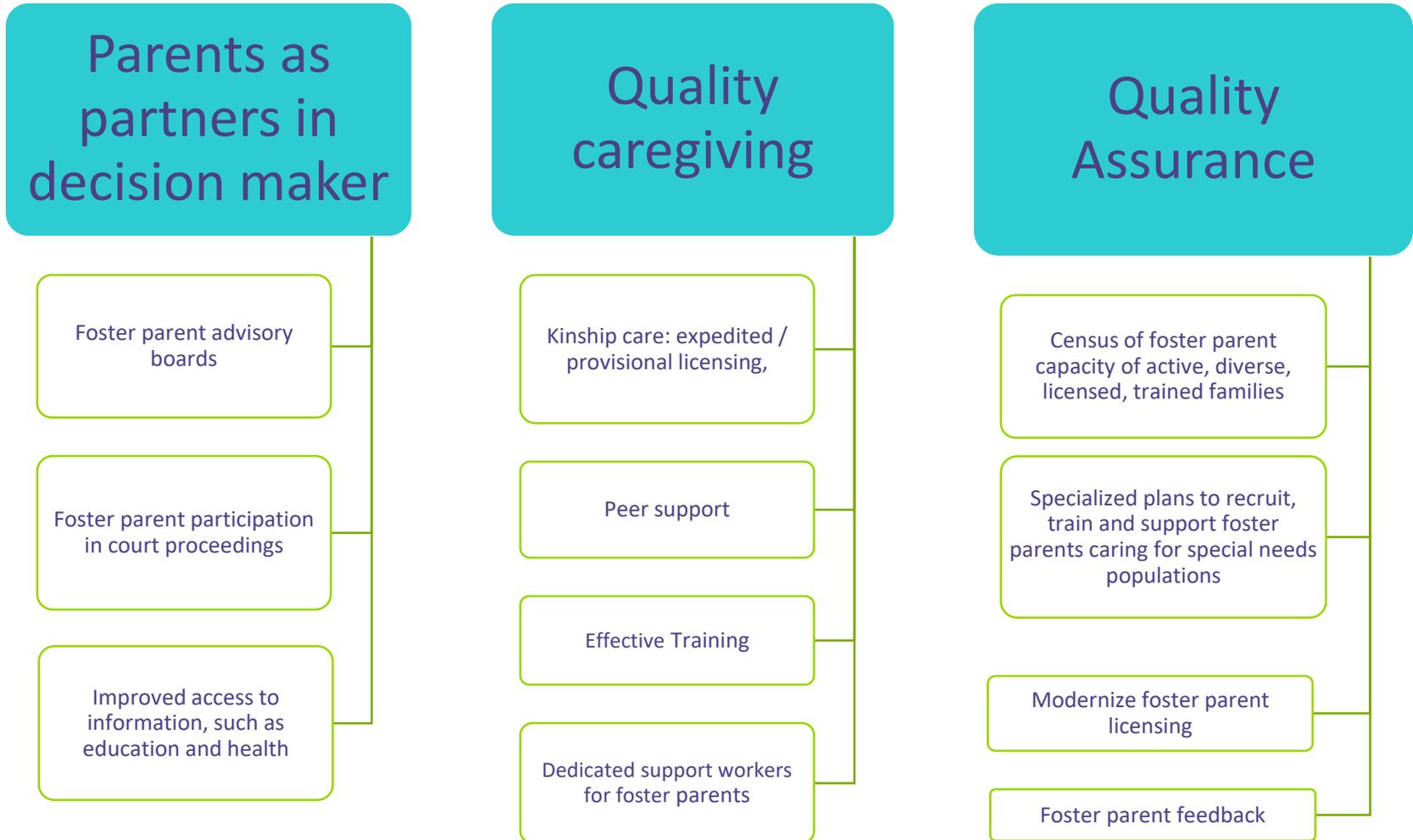
Research Partner

The Brookings Institution, Center on Children and Families

Funding Partners

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, The Duke Endowment, Georgia Department of Human Services, Lumos, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Redlich Horwitz Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

State Lead Partners – In development



Quality foster parenting = Improved outcomes for children and families



Snapshot of Reforms in Oklahoma

Practice Improvements

- Foster Home Calculator determines foster parent needs based on geography, age, gender, race of youth entering care
- Coaching and technical assistance on contract monitoring or provider
- Streamlined the approval process for prospective foster parents
- More than 25 training staff sessions
- Coordinated outreach to improve agency relationships with Native Americans, African American and Latino communities
- Redesigned agency structure and personnel allocation to meet recruitment needs
- Provided leadership development to change culture of agency towards foster parents

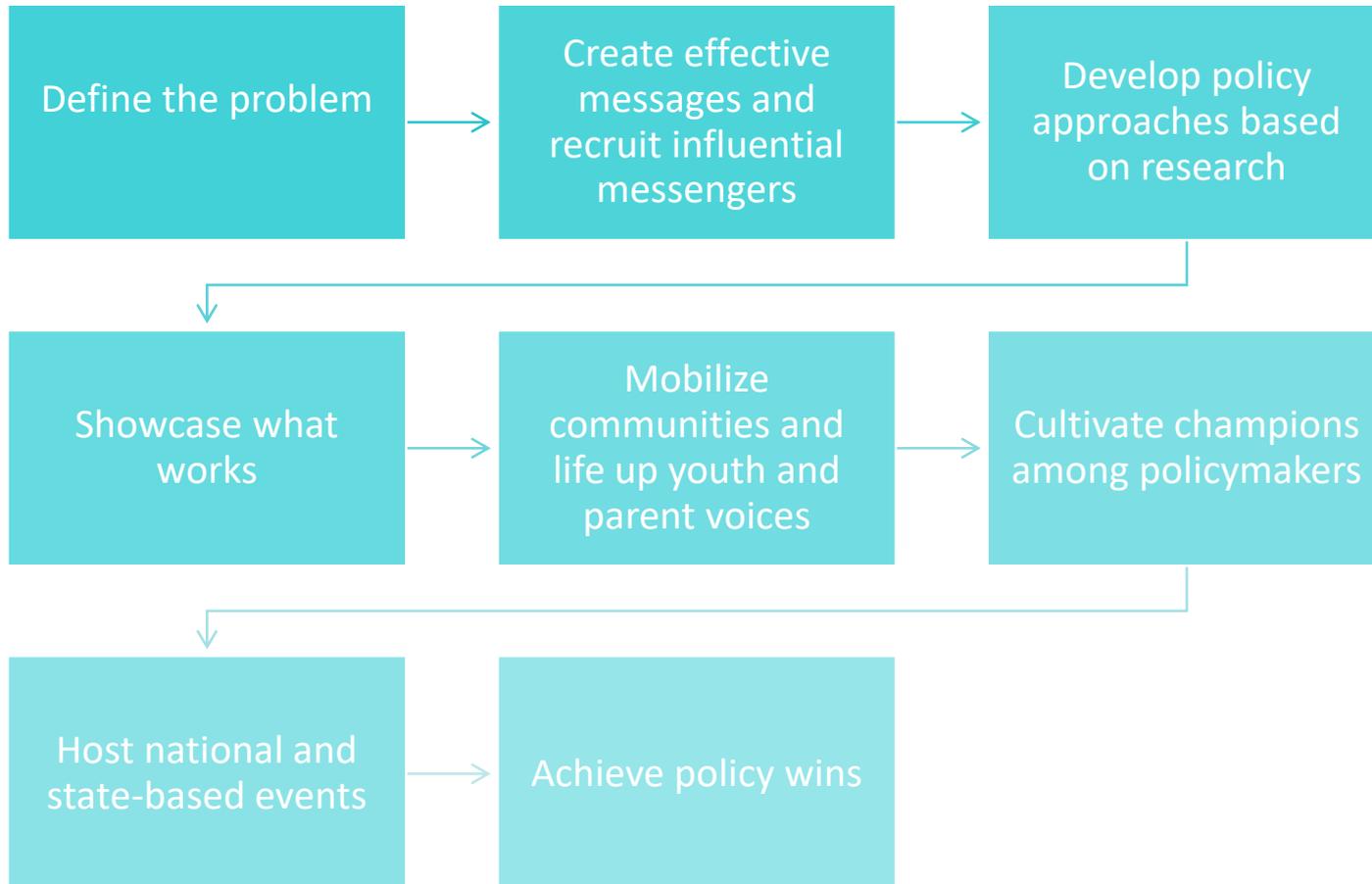
Policy Reform

- Legislation introduced to:
- Enhance foster parents rights to attend family team meetings and court hearings
- Limit liability of foster parents
- Require agency to maintain census of foster parents, develop targeted recruitment plans, and report new data

2,000

**new foster parents
over two years**

Activities of the CHAMPS CAMPAIGN





The CHAMPS Pledge

Foster parents are game-changers for children

Loving, supportive families – **birth, kin, foster or adoptive** – are critical to the healthy development of all children.

Children do best in families, and quality foster parenting is key to helping children heal, grow and flourish

Quality foster parenting helps children thrive and succeed in school, relationships and in life.





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