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## An Overview of the Systems to Family Stability National Policy Academy

### What is a Policy Academy?

A Policy Academy is a strategic approach for leading change in policy and human service delivery and implementation. It usually includes multiple in-person meetings, specifically tailored to meet the policy goals of participating state or community programs. Academies provide an innovative and exciting process to create and build infrastructure for systems change, design and implement new or improved policies, and reach collaborative solutions between key partners within a state or community.

### What are the components of a Policy Academy?

There are several common facets to a Policy Academy:

- **A team-based approach:** Participating sites create ‘home teams’ that include committed, relevant stakeholders and community partners from their state or locality who build and/or enhance organizational relationships over the course of the Academy process to institute change in their communities.
- **A dedicated coach:** Participating sites will have a dedicated coach who will work with them throughout the Academy to facilitate readiness assessments, develop strategic action plans, track progress, and coordinate a range of in-person and virtual technical assistance activities.
- **Support from experts:** National, state and local experts and thought leaders act as faculty at Academy meetings and are available for targeted support and guidance to participating sites.
- **Targeted technical assistance:** Participating sites receive customized, on-going support from coaching teams to help address program priorities and effect systems change. Support may be on-site, through in-person Academy meetings, virtual technical assistance, product development, and peer site exchanges.
- **Intensive, in-person Meetings:** This Policy Academy includes two in-person meetings that aim to share the latest research and knowledge with participating sites and provide ample time for sites, faculty and coaching teams to construct action plans, share lessons learned, and monitor outcomes.

### What happens over the 18 months?

State and county teams participating in the Academy will be supported in exploring, planning, and developing detailed implementation strategies focused on deeper, lasting systems change.

Guided by research-based implementation science, the Policy Academy will support teams through four phases of work. Each participating team, with the help of its coaches, will create the most effective, comprehensive action plan. The Policy Academy tools will drive state and county teams to address challenging issues and develop an approach to change that has a high likelihood of success at implementation.