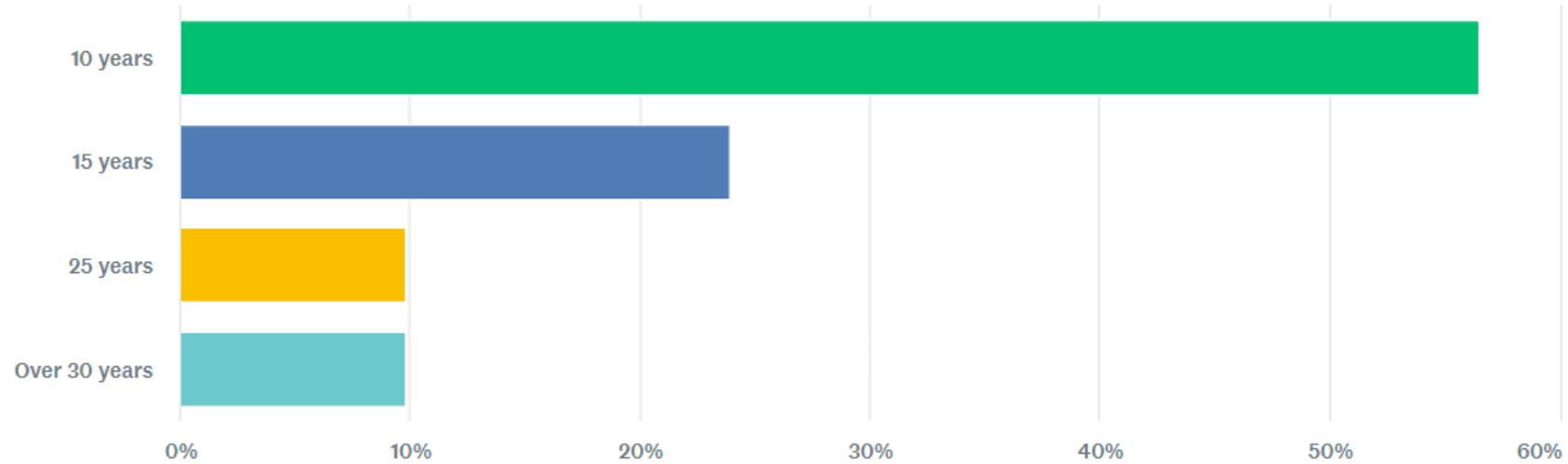




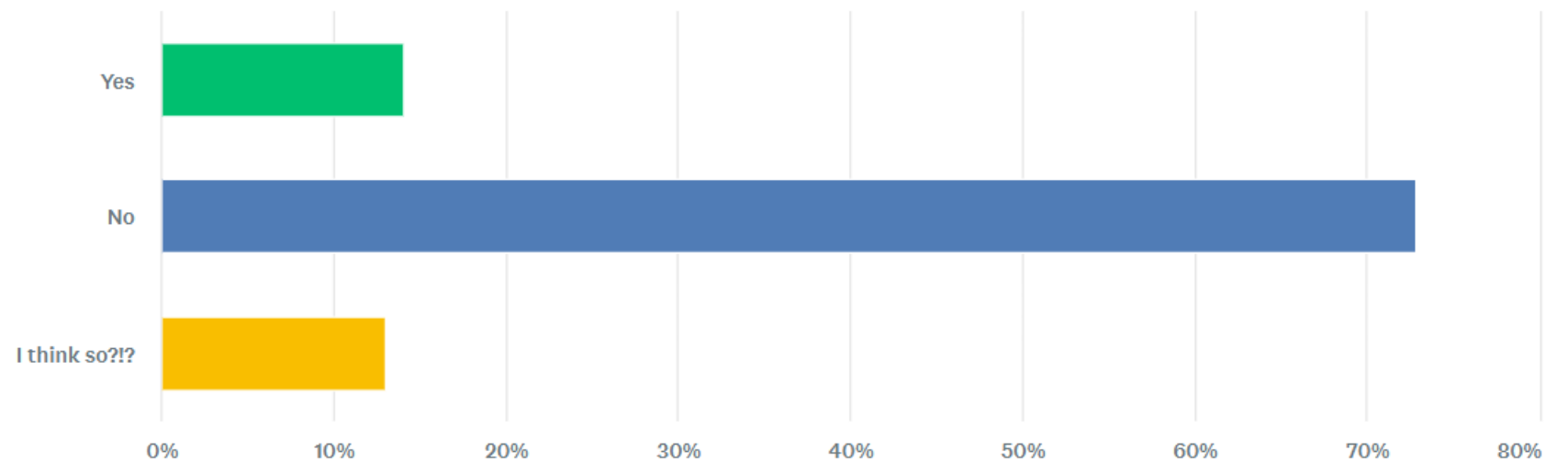
CIP Webinar
All About the Court Improvement
Program
June 4, 2026

Annie ValDez, CIP Director

Do you know how long Utah's CIP has been established?



Have you ever been involved in a CIP project?



What Does the CIP Do?

CORE FUNCTIONS & TRAINING

Unified Multi-Agency Training

Providing shared education for judges, attorneys, and caseworkers to ensure consistent legal knowledge.



Bridging the Communication Gap

Acting as a liaison to get all parties "on the same page" regarding processes.



Resource Hub for Best Practices

Updating professionals on relevant topics like ICWA, kinship placements, and court protocols.



SYSTEMIC IMPACT & OUTCOMES

Improved Court Proceedings

Streamlining processes to create a more efficient and compassionate experience for families.



Enhancing Family Outcomes

Focusing collective efforts on achieving permanency for children within reasonable timeframes.



Accountability and Policy Alignment

Connecting DCFS policy with court perspectives to improve casework and judicial decision-making.



Who's Who in CIP

CIP is managed by the Administrative Office of the Courts
Juvenile Court Team

CIP Chair & Co-Chair

- Judge Jeffrey Noland – 2nd District
- Judge Alex Goble – 6th District

CIP Director

- Annie ValDez

Data & Research Analyst

- Sarah Pankratz

Tribal Liaison

- Tilda Willie



Program Overview

Utah's CIP was established in 1994

Section 438 of the Social Security Act authorizes funding for the highest court of each state to assess the role, responsibilities and effectiveness of state courts in carrying out state laws guiding child welfare proceedings and to implement improvements based on those assessments including to: provide for the safety, well-being, and timely permanence of children in foster care; support engagement of families in child welfare cases; and improve collaboration between the court and the child welfare agency around data collection and analysis, training and around the Child and Family Services and title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews.

Program Overview cont.

Purpose

The overall purpose of the CIP grant is to create institutional and infrastructural changes that lead to measurably improved outcomes for the children and families in Utah's child welfare system.

Mission

The Utah CIP's mission is to provide timely, tangible, and measurably improved outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system relating to safety, permanency and well-being.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Child welfare hearings and reviews
Legal representation for parents, child, youth and DCFS; and
Collaboration between the judicial branch, DCFS and tribes to improve child welfare outcomes

Program Requirements

Five Year Strategic Plan

Demonstrate meaningful and ongoing collaboration

- Multidisciplinary taskforce
- Collaboration with DCFS
- Collaboration with tribes

Required Projects

- A project to continuously improve the quality of child welfare court, shelter care/emergency hearings, permanency hearings or permanency reviews
- A project to continuously improve the quality of legal representation for the parents, children and youth, or DCFS at all stages of child welfare proceedings
- A joint project with DCFS to improve specific safety, permanency, or well-being outcomes

Core Committees



CIP Committee

Statewide multidisciplinary task force required by the grant

Meetings are required quarterly

Guides the activities and projects in the strategic plan



CIP Steering Committee

Has the primary responsibility for developing the strategic plan

Guides implementation of Utah's Core Principles & Guiding Practices



CIP Training Steering Committee

Guides and develops annual cross-training opportunities

Plans biennial CIP Summits

Approves training awards provided to partners

Current Projects

CIP does much more than just webinars!

Dually Involved Youth

Hearing Quality Bench Card

Interfaces: SAFE & UTREx

Multidisciplinary Legal Representation

CARE Enhancements

ICWA: CQI, Court, Subcommittee & AFCARS

Parent-Time

CFSR Round 4

Core Principles & Guiding Practices Data Collection

National Network and Supports

Center for Legal & Judicial Innovation and Advancement (CLJIA)

Provides technical assistance to all CIP's
Access to research staff

Constituency Groups

Provides opportunities for peer learning and connection

Region Liaisons

Utah belongs to Region 8, which includes Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, North & South Dakota

CIP Data Dashboard

Access to national project and court systems data
<https://cipdatadashboard.org/>

Other Resources & Information

Reach out to us anytime!

CIP Website

<https://www.utcourts.gov/en/courts/court-types/juv/cip.html>

CIP Email

utahcip@utcourts.gov

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/courts/court-improvement-programs/?top=1498>

Utah State Courts Website

<https://www.utcourts.gov/>





Questions