

JOURNEY TO ZERO PROGRAM



Journey to Zero is a joint initiative between the Children's Aid Society of Toronto, the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, and several Canadian philanthropic foundations. It is a four (4) year community-based initiative with demonstration projects. **Journey to Zero is about keeping child welfare involved children/youth safe but within their own homes, families, communities and culture.** The primary aim of **Journey to Zero** is to **reduce the number of children coming into care and the amount of time children stay in care.**

The goals of Journey to Zero include:

- improve permanency for children and youth
- reduce the number of children entering care
- increase the number of children returning to their families on a more timely basis
- strengthen children/youth and families we work with
- help build family networks
- focus on prevention not just protection

In addition, the initiative aims to shift perceptions of CAS in families, children/youth and communities we work with to see us as supportive partners, influence changes in policy and funding with provincial governments demonstrating better outcomes and provide agencies across Canada with evidence-based results and resources to adapt the projects to their community. **Journey to Zero** integrates **CAS Toronto's Equity and Anti-Black Racism (ABR)** and **Signs of Safety** frameworks to all stages of the project. **Journey to Zero** includes a robust and long-term research and evaluation of outcome component.

All demonstration projects use a **multidisciplinary team approach**, with strong collaboration between the child welfare team and community agency workers. All projects provide timely, customized, accessible immediate response service.

EARLY RESPONSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS

The goal of **Early Response Family Partnership Meetings (FPM)** is to empower families, bring together family and significant others, and facilitate the creation of a safety and/or support plan for the child/youth and family. The meetings are facilitated by an external facilitator, and are family driven planning conferences that address agency concerns.



INTENSIVE IN-HOME SUPPORT FOR ADOLESCENTS

The goal of **Intensive in-Home Support for Adolescents** is to provide families with a Youth Outreach Worker (YOW) who will work intensely with the youth, their family and community. The YOWs work collaboratively with the child welfare team, youth, and family to provide service to keep the youth safe in their home with family/kin, and in their community.



INTENSIVE FAMILY NETWORK BUILDERS

Intensive Family Network Builders (IFNB) provide support to children/youth and their families to ensure safety and well-being. Workers partner with child welfare/children/youth and families to assist them in strengthening and building their support networks in addition to facilitating and brokering an expansion of current and needed supports and resources.



MPATAPO: SUPPORTING BLACK FAMILIES IN THE JOURNEY TO RECONCILIATION

Mpatapo: Supporting Black Families in the Journey to Reconciliation provides services similar to **Intensive Family Network Builders**. Their Guiding Principles include a commitment to developing and celebrating a strong Black identity, meeting families where they are, supporting their journey to a healthy family relation and recognizing that community is also family.



For more information on Journey to Zero, please contact Sharon Cabrera at scabrera@torontocas.ca or visit www.torontocas.ca