



The National Upstream Consortium Strengthening Children and Families through Prevention and Intervention Strategies



Upstream is a community-based approach that leverages court resources, judicial leadership, and child welfare agency partnerships to enhance community collaboration through state and local coordination, community mapping, and action planning. This collaboration aims to strengthen communities, prevent child maltreatment and out-of-home placement, reduce court involvement, and support safe and healthy families.

Upstream has a family-centered focus which identifies domains of prevention and intervention where strategies can be used to support safe and healthy families. These domains include:

- Community – What Everyone Needs to Thrive
- Families with Risk Factors
- Families with Allegations of Abuse/Neglect
- Families with Court Involvement

The **Upstream Framework** is inspired by the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and informed by the public health model of prevention and weaves together the social determinants of health, risk and protective factors of child abuse and neglect, and research-based strategies for community engagement. The domains of **Upstream** guide and focus discussions for mapping the local community. Community mapping is a structured process which brings together stakeholders to identify resources, opportunities, and priorities. The process elevates community

What is Upstream?



voice, leverages existing partnerships and initiatives, and results in an action plan. During community mapping, stakeholders identify prevention and intervention strategies already in place, discover opportunities for improvement, and discuss current processes. After community mapping, the stakeholders finalize an action plan to address gaps collaboratively.

The cornerstone of **Upstream** is the support and engagement of state and local stakeholders in community mapping and collaborative efforts.

Upstream provides a structure and process at a state and local level through three phases:

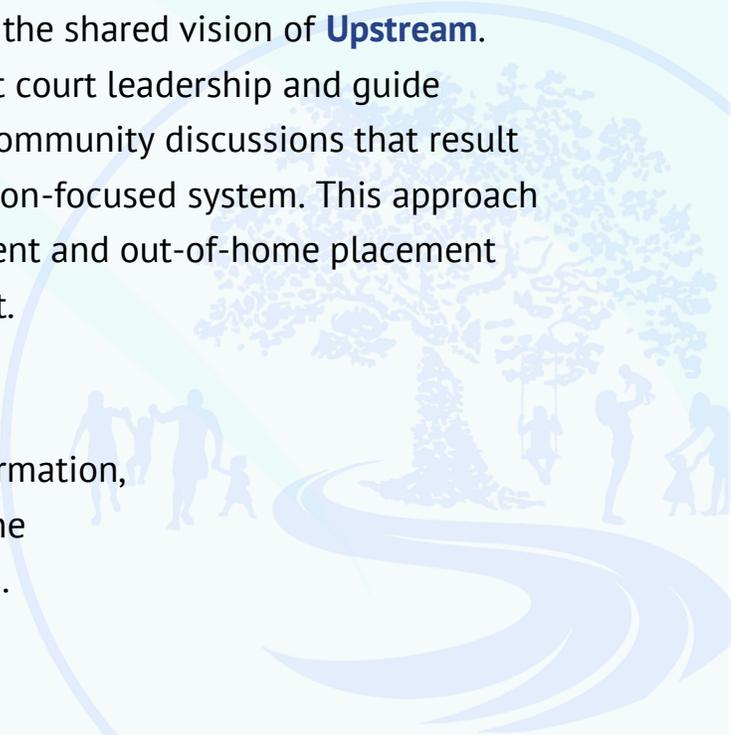
- Leadership Team Planning, Coordination, and Capacity Building
- Training Facilitators to Conduct Local Mapping Workshops
- Local Planning and Collaboration, Local Mapping Workshops, Action Planning, and Implementation

Courts are in an ideal position to lead state and local efforts for convening communities toward the shared vision of **Upstream**.

Upstream is intended to support court leadership and guide coordinated and collaborative community discussions that result in a more effective and prevention-focused system. This approach aims to reduce child maltreatment and out-of-home placement and minimize court involvement.

How to Get Involved

To sign up or request more information, please contact [Nora Sydow](#) at the National Center for State Courts.



UPSTREAM