UCLA **Pritzker Center**
For Strengthening Children and Families

# Racial Equity Hub for Child Welfare Reform

### In California,[1] Black children are:

- Three times more likely to be the subject of an abuse or neglect allegation compared to white children
- Five times more likely to enter foster care compared to white children
- More likely to spend time in foster care relative to any other racial group

## What is the Racial Equity Hub?

The Racial Equity Hub for Child Welfare Reform (REH) addresses the systemic racial inequities embedded within the child welfare system. The REH brings together researchers, practitioners, community members with lived experience, and campus and community partners to develop and share evidence-informed resources, training, and strategies that reduce child welfare system involvement and improve the experiences and outcomes of Black youth and their families.

Through the dissemination of original and existing research from across the country and the development and delivery of training and professional learning opportunities, the REH works to strengthen knowledge, build capacity, and support meaningful practice and policy reforms.

## Goals

Through conducting original research, collaborations with researchers, communities and policy advocates, and creating spaces to discuss and inform others on best practices in child welfare towards racial equity, the REH team aims to:

1. **INFORM**
   Build knowledge, elevate research, and create opportunities for dialogue and collaboration.
2. **TRANSFORM PRACTICE**
   Equip practitioners with the tools, training, and strategies to better serve Black children and families.
3. **DRIVE SYSTEMS CHANGE**
   Advance policy reform and reduce the structural inequities that contribute to racial disparities in child welfare.

## Our work engages:

- Individuals with lived experience in the child welfare system who want to become involved in research, inform policy reform efforts, and strengthen community engagement.
- Practitioners in the child welfare system by offering training and providing a platform to exchange best practices.
- Researchers and emerging scholars in designing, implementing, synthesizing, and learning from emergent evidence.
- Local, state, and national policymakers wanting to advance knowledge on equity issues in child welfare or collaborate to produce convenings, policy briefs, and training material.

**Racial Equity Hub Platform:** The platform will offer an online library of resources, including research, policy briefs, guidance on best practices, and digital trainings.

**Timeline:** The REH is launching in November 2026. The project is funded for three years, with a national convening expected in 2028. The UCLA Pritzker Center seeks ongoing philanthropic support for this work.

**Your Feedback Informs Our Work:** Please complete this brief survey: bit.ly/REHInputForm

**Co-Principal Investigators:** Tyrone C. Howard, Ph.D.; Audra Langley, Ph.D.
**Project Contact:** Isaiah Simmons, Ph.D. | simmons@seis.ucla.edu

[1]Short, A. (2024). California's child welfare system: addressing disproportionalities and disparities. Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO).