The South Carolina Department of Social Services placed a special focus during state fiscal year (sfy) 2011-12 on children who had been in foster care for 17 months or more by establishing (and ACHIEVING) a goal to provide "positive permanencies" (reunification with family, placement with relatives, adoption, or guardianship) for 50% more of these children than during sfy 2009-2010. The increase in average months in care for children leaving foster care during sfy 2011-12 is a direct result of the agency focus on reducing the number of children in long-term foster care.

