

APPENDIX D: THREE-BRANCH READINESS ASSESSMENT

This worksheet is intended to help representatives from any of the three branches of government — executive, legislative or judicial — or from outside the branches assess the state’s readiness for a three-branch approach to addressing the systemic problems that face vulnerable children and families. The worksheet can be used prior to forming a core team or after the core team has been formed.

The information gathered in this worksheet can serve several purposes:

- Engaging other colleagues both within the representative’s branch of government or across branches to gain buy-in for taking a three-branch approach to reforming child welfare.
- Conducting a state landscape analysis for use during the strategic planning process.
- Determining specific challenges that must be addressed as well as strengths to build on.
- Further developing the state’s strategic work plan.

State landscape: The issue			
What is the current state landscape related to your identified issue?			
Prompt	Response		
Relevance: Is the issue timely and important to children and families in your state?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure Additional Information:
Relevance: Does each branch play a clear role in the issue? Will the issue benefit from a three-branch approach?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure Additional Information:
Relevance: Is the issue connected to emerging federal legislative and funding opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure Additional Information:
State context: What is the current state context as it pertains to the topic you want to address? Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends and characteristics of children and families involved in the issue. • Relevant data. 			
Key challenges: What are the key challenges facing each branch related to the topic you want to address?	Executive branch: Legislative branch: Judicial branch:		
Existing efforts: Provide information about past or current efforts focused on the issue.			



CONTEXT: Cross-branch collaboration How do you currently collaborate across branches?	
Prompt	Response
<p>State context: How are branches currently collaborating to address the issue? Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing formal cross-branch collaborative efforts. Past collaborative efforts. 	
<p>Key challenges: What are the key challenges facing each branch related to cross-branch collaboration?</p>	<p>Executive branch:</p> <p>Legislative branch:</p> <p>Judicial branch:</p>
<p>Opportunities for learning: Describe how each branch could learn from peers in other branches of government.</p>	<p>Executive branch:</p> <p>Legislative branch:</p> <p>Judicial branch:</p>

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES RELATED TO CROSS-BRANCH COLLABORATION

List up to three main strengths (include brief comments and supporting evidence):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List up to three main weaknesses (include brief comments and supporting evidence):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Key questions for clarification on any of the readiness assessment categories:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION

Please highlight one response. Based on your review of the state team’s readiness assessment, should the team move forward with a three-branch approach?

- Seriously consider moving forward with a three-branch approach.
- Consider moving forward with a three-branch approach, but follow up with the team to clarify whether certain information is recommended.
- Seriously consider not moving forward with a three-branch approach.