

# Every Child Arkansas

**Exhibit C**

**Senate Committee on Children and Youth**

**House Committee on Aging, Children and Youth,  
Legislative and Military Affairs**

**Dr. Phillip Goad  
Chairman, Executive Leadership Council  
December 19, 2022**



# Our Problem



Too often, we hear the words "not enough" in our state's foster care system

# Not Enough!

**...not enough support**

**...not enough resources**

**...not enough families**

**The Challenges Are Many**



## To Name a Few:

**...too few foster and adoptive families (low foster family retention and hundreds of families short of need)**

**...need to increase support for biological and foster families (low bio family reunification rates)**

**...DCFS is stretched too thin**



# Our Response

We formed *Every Child Arkansas* in response to these challenges.

**Every Child Arkansas (ECA) is a network of advocates, agencies, faith-based organizations, and other organizations working together in trust-building collaboration to fill the biggest gaps in caring for children and families before, during, and beyond foster care in our state.**



## But many things are encouraging....

- ✓ **Strong DCFS leadership & Partner engagement**
- ✓ **Kinship care is at or near target levels**
- ✓ **In-home prevention services to help children and families**
- ✓ **Reduced numbers of children in non-family-like settings**



# Our Approach - Collective Impact



Unifying Vision



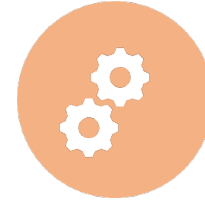
Shared Measurements



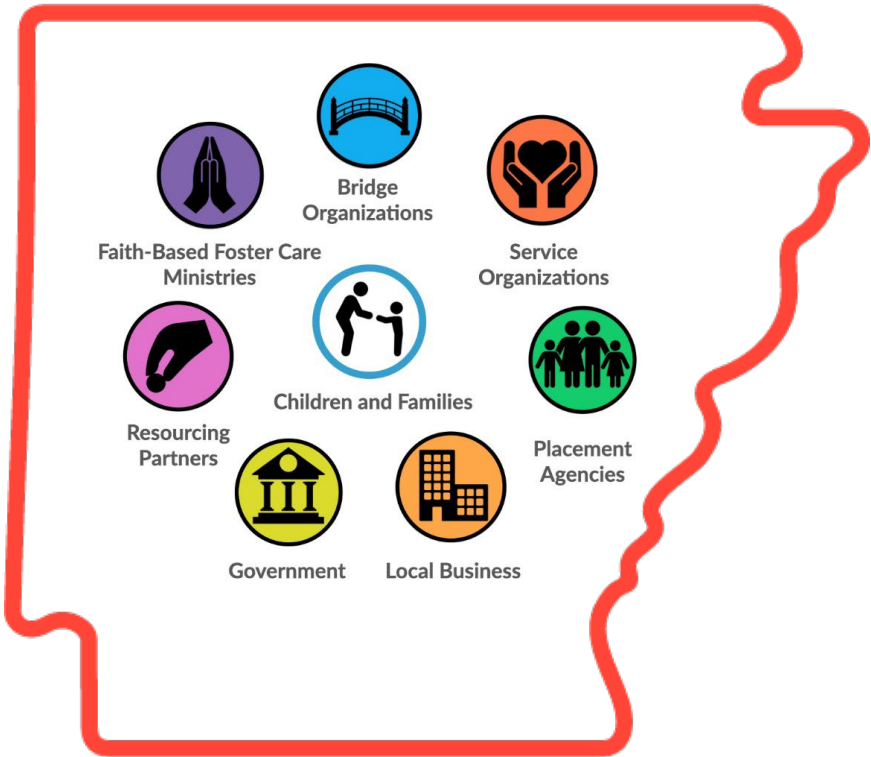
Coordinated Efforts



Consistent Communications



Backbone Support



The background of the entire slide is a teal-colored image showing the silhouettes of several hands reaching up from the bottom and forming heart shapes. The hands are positioned in a way that they appear to be holding each other, creating a sense of unity and care. The overall tone is warm and hopeful.

## VISION

More than enough for children and families before, during, and beyond foster care in every county in Arkansas.

*Every  
Child*

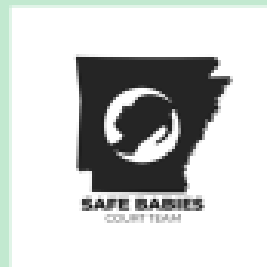




# — Our Goal: **MORE THAN ENOUGH**

- **Foster and kinship families** for every child to have an ideal placement
- **Adoptive families** for every child waiting for adoption
- Help for **biological families** trying to stabilize and reunify
- **Wrap-around support** from advocates, churches, and other organizations for children, families, and youth aging out of foster care.

# Every Child Arkansas Network



# Our History and Plans

- **Summer 2021 – Began talking about collaborating for “*more than enough*” in Arkansas**
- **Fall 2021 – Executive Leadership Counsel formed**
- **November 30, 2021 – Kick off gathering for Pulaski County**
- **December 2021 – Working groups launch**
- **January 2022 – started discussions with The Contingent**
- **April 2022 – Meetings with Arkansas Team, Contingent and DCFS**
- **April – August 2022 – Continued discussions and planning with Arkansas Network members and The Contingent**



# Our History and Plans

- **Fall, 2022 – continued work on coordinating ground-game and air-game activities**
- **December 11, 2022 – Fund raising event with Chris Tomlin and Bart Millard (MercyMe)**
- **January 2023 – Face-to-face meetings for teams addressing media relations and communications, training on ECA web portal, and “customer experience” process**
- **Late February/Early March 2023 – Tentative date for the official “launch” of the statewide ECA initiative**



# Our Approach

- ✓ **Collective Impact Collaboration Model**
- ✓ **Shared Leadership (ECA Executive Leadership Council)**
- ✓ **Innovative Technology Solutions**
- ✓ **Coordination between existing organizations and State partners (Ground Game)**
- ✓ **National partners**
- ✓ **Working groups**





# National Partners

- ✓ **CarePortal**
- ✓ **CityServe**
- ✓ **Chosen**
- ✓ **CAFO**
- ✓ **The Contingent**



# Working Groups

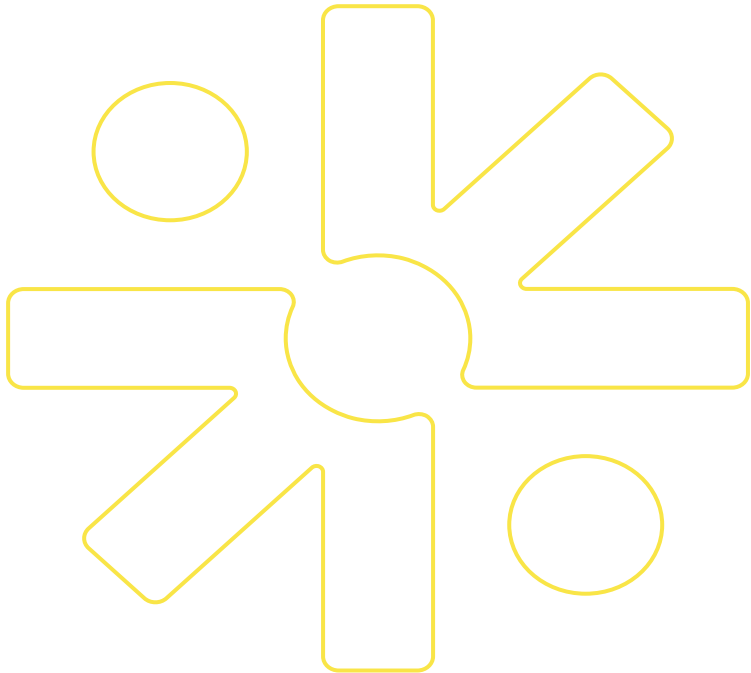
- ✓ Family Finding
- ✓ Wrap-Around Support
- ✓ Bio Family Support
- ✓ DCFS Support
- ✓ Tangible Goods
- ✓ Behavioral Health Services  
(coming soon)

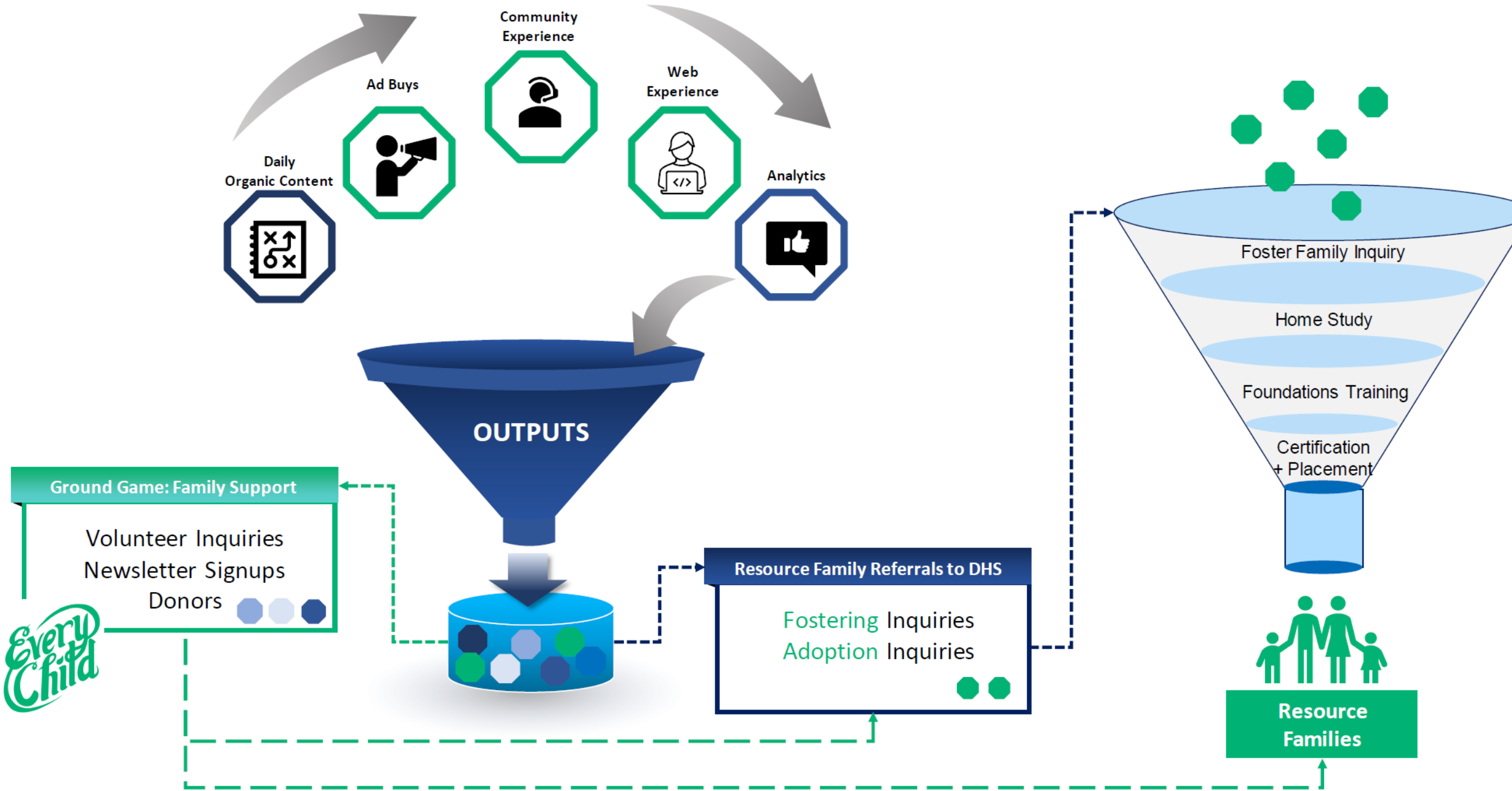




# Why The Contingent?

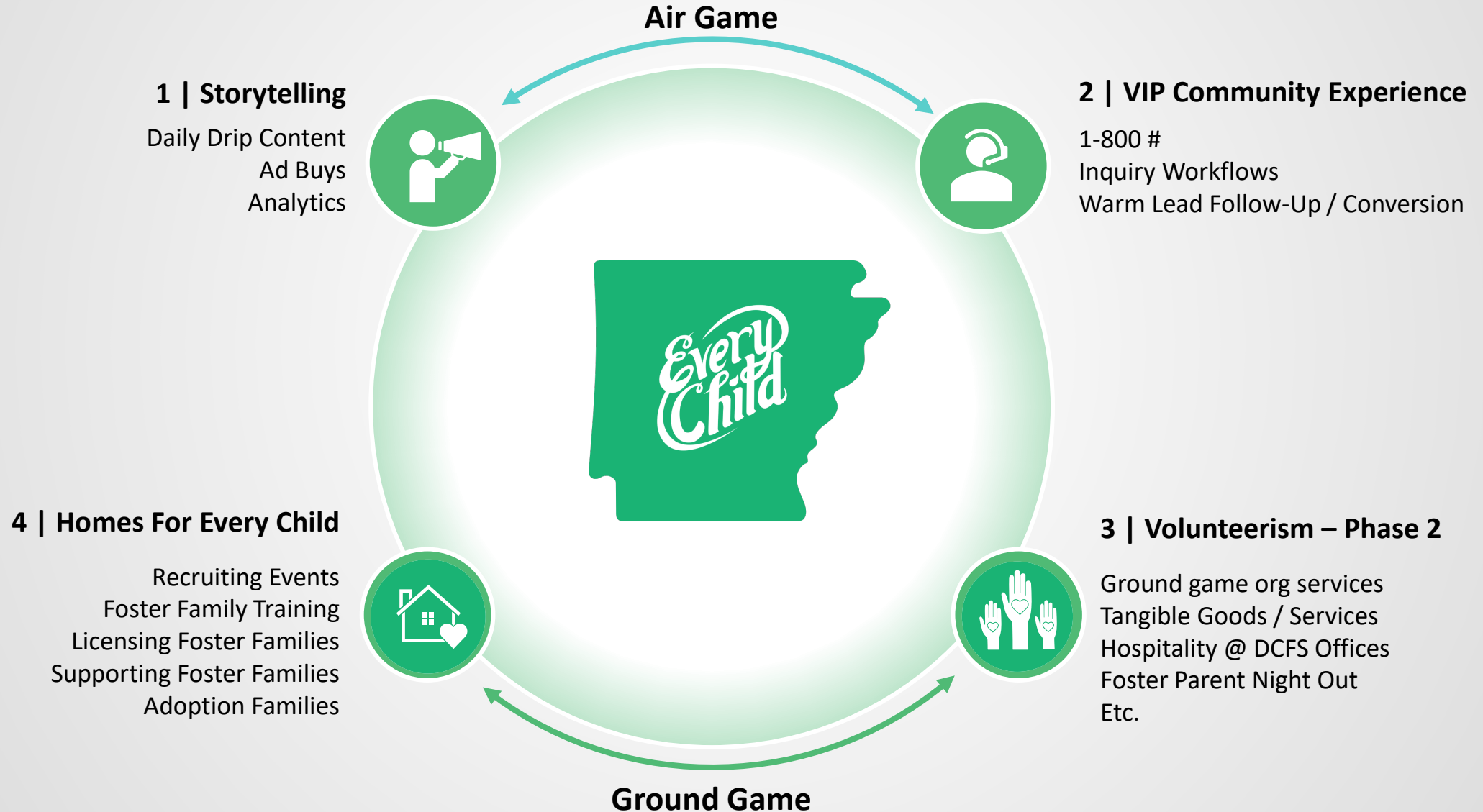
- **World-Class, Dedicated People**
- **Cutting Edge Technology with Proven Results and Impact**
- **Humble approach with willingness to serve Arkansas with our people and our culture and our “ground game” team**
- **Commitment to make a substantial investment of talent, time and treasure in our state**
- **Proven worthy of our trust**





# Every Child Arkansas ECOSYSTEM

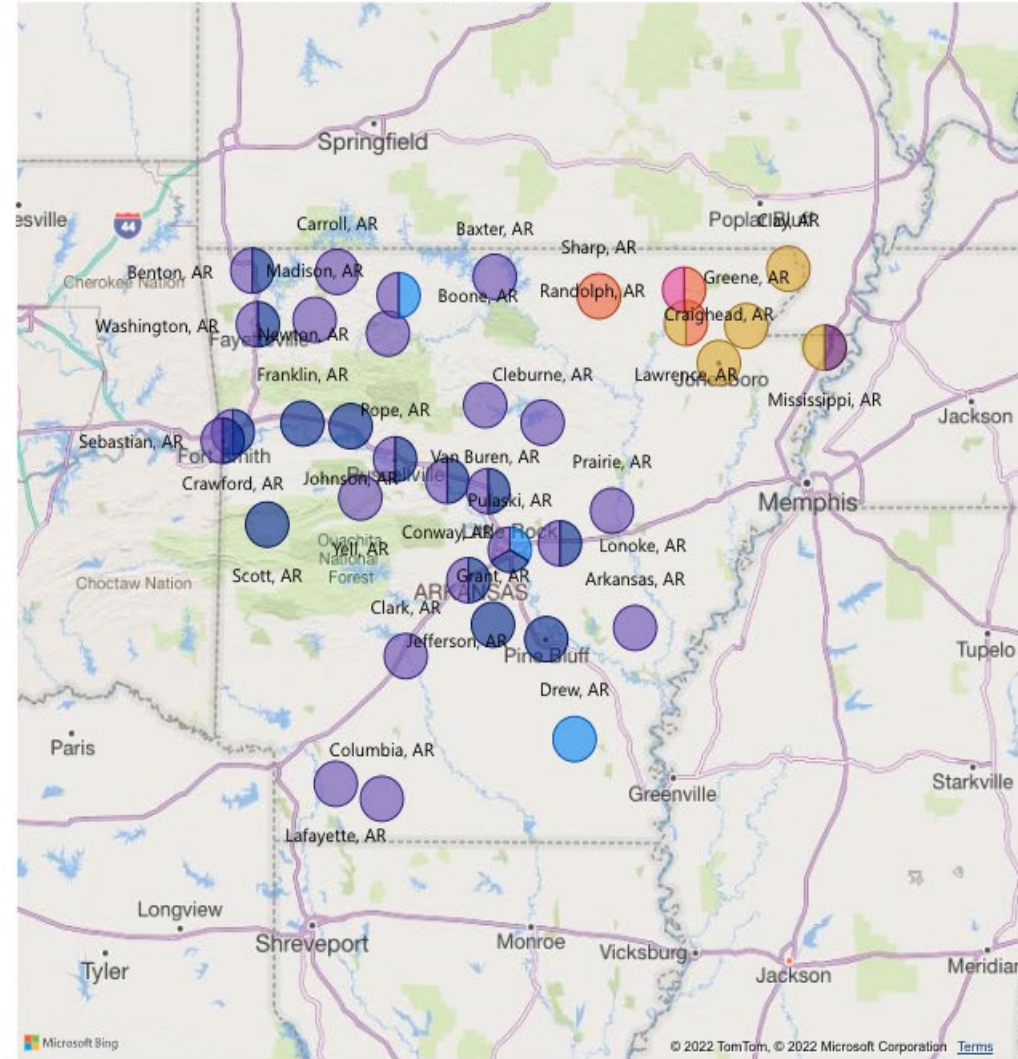
## Engagement Continuum



# Asset Mapping State-Wide

- Organization**
- Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes and Famil...
  - Bethany Christian Services
  - Imboden First Assembly
  - Manila First Baptist
  - Pyburn Church
  - The CALL
  - Together We Foster

AR Volunteer Recruitment Mapping by County



## Some of Our Initial Goals (2022 – 2025)

- ✓ **Foster Family Retention  
(40% to 75%)**
- ✓ **Bio Family Reunification  
(43% to 75%)**
- ✓ **More Than Enough Foster  
Families in Top 25 Counties  
(Private Placement)**



# Some Opportunities for the Future – How Could You Help?

- ✓ Behavioral Health Services Reform
- ✓ Deeper dive into potential public funding sources
- ✓ Outreach to local foundations
- ✓ Committee review of ECA Quarterly Report
- ✓ Committee support ECA's pursuit of TANF funds
- ✓ Increased resources and support for DCFS (e.g., tackle employee retention issues)



# Questions?

