Alternative Response treats low risk cases of child abuse and neglect differently by engaging families instead of investigating them. Alternative Response is a proven way to help keep kids safe and strengthen families in low risk cases.

Investigative Response vs. Alternative Response

Accepted cases are assigned to one of two tracks: Investigative Response (IR) or Alternative Response (AR). In an IR, there is a traditional investigation, possibly resulting in a formal finding or removal of the child. Low risk reports can be pursued through AR. Both approaches address the family’s needs and put in place appropriate measures to protect the child.

1,780 Avg. # of new screened in CPS cases (Monthly Statewide - FY 2016)

Avg. # of AR neglect reports - 499 (Monthly Statewide - FY 2016)

Avg. # of AR abuse reports - 358 (Monthly Statewide - FY 2016)

Percent of CPS cases accepted as Alternative Response (Monthly Statewide FY 2016) 45%

Preliminary Evaluation Findings

Families given service information or referrals
- 38.8% AR
- 40.5% IR

Families are very/generally satisfied with caseworker
- 78% AR
- 74% IR

Staff: AR is more often or equally safe than IR
- 24%
- 64%
- 12%

Source: IAR Associates on AR Program Evaluation, September. 2015