

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Assembly Bill 111

Division of Child and Family Services

Mandi Davis, Deputy Administrator - Administrative Services



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Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Assembly Bill 111 (2019)

Legislative Commission on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice:

- Conduct a study on the funding of Nevada's child welfare system
- Identify opportunities to maximize federal funding:
 - Medical care
 - Mental health and substance abuse treatment
 - Education
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Child Care
- Submit a report with the results of the study and any recommendations to the 81st Legislature





Simplified Child Welfare Process





Federal Funding Sources

Social Security Act

- Title IV-E, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
- Title IV-B(1), Stephanie Tubbs Jones
- Title IV-B(2), Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- Title XX, Social Services Block Grant
- Title IV-A, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Title XIX, Medicaid





Title IV-E, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance

- Monthly maintenance payments for foster care
- Adoption assistance payments
- Administrative costs to manage the program
- Training of staff and foster care providers
- Recruitment of foster and adoptive parents
- Operation of the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
- Entitlement funding – any eligible expenses can be funded with no limit, not a grant





Title IV-E, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance

Rate of Reimbursement:

- Eligibility Ratio / Penetration Rate = percent of children in care that are covered by Title IV-E funds
 - Child and parents must meet certain requirements at the beginning of a case in order to be Title IV-E eligible for the duration of their foster care episode
 - Current eligibility ratio for foster care is 38% - 40%
- Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) Rate
 - Current FMAP rate for Nevada is 63.93%
- Total Expenses x Eligibility x FMAP = 25% of Foster Care direct expenses are eligible for IV-E
- Result = State match is 75%





Title IV-B (1), Stephanie Tubbs Jones

- Protecting and promoting the welfare of all children
- Preventing the abuse and neglect or exploitation of children
- Supporting at-risk families through services that allow children to remain with their families or return to their families in a timely manner
- Promoting the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families
- Providing training, professional development, and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce.
- State Match is 25%
- Grants awarded to states based on population of children and average per capita income





Title IV-B (2), Promoting Safe and Stable Families

- Prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families
- Improve the quality of care and services to children and their families
- Ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement.
- Most of the funding is required to be spent on:
 - Family Support
 - Family Preservation
 - Time-limited family reunification
 - Adoption promotion and support
- State Match is 25%
- Grants awarded to states





Title XX, Social Services Block Grant

- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families
- Foster care and adoption services
- Transportation services
- No State Match
- Grants awarded to the state social service agency





Title IV-A, TANF

- Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives
- End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage
- Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.



Title XIX, Medicaid

- All children brought into child welfare's custody are enrolled in Medicaid
- Medically necessary services are funded directly by Medicaid
- Services for children ineligible for Medicaid due to citizenship status and/or supplemental services are funded with General Funds



Title XIX Opportunities

- State Plan Amendment for specialized foster care services targeted to children in foster care with severe emotional disturbance
- Targeted Case Management
- Enhanced ability to capture eligible administrative expenses



Federal Initiatives

Adoption Savings

- Section 473 of the Social Security Act requires General Funds that states are able to realize as a result of annually decreasing the age that adopted children become eligible for federal Title IV-E funds to be reinvested to enhance in adoption programs
- Nevada has a budgetary requirement that any surplus in General Funds must revert back to the state at the end of every state fiscal year, which does not allow the division to reinvest those funds back into the adoption programs
- State legislation is required to allow the division to carry forward General Funds that are saved as a result of the increased eligibility for Title IV-E





Federal Initiatives

Family First Prevention Services Act

- Provide Prevention Services for Up to 12 Months to:
 - Children at imminent risk of entering foster care (candidates)
 - Parents or caregivers of the children
 - Children who are pregnant or parenting foster youth
- Services:
 - Mental Health & Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Services
 - In-Home Parent Skill-Based Programs including parenting skills training, parent education and individual & family counseling
- Services and Programs Must Be:
 - Trauma Informed
 - Provided in Accordance with Promising, Supported or Well-Supported Practices
- Nevada has requested the optional delay for implementation with a target of October 1, 2020
- Once implemented, Title IV-E will fund preventive services:
 - October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2026 – Direct 50%
 - October 1, 2026 – Direct Based on State FMAP





Federal Initiatives

Extended Foster Care

- Nevada's Foster Care program currently serves children up to age 18
 - Independent Living Programs
 - Court Jurisdiction
- States have the option to allow youth to remain in foster care up to age 19, 20, or 21, as the state may elect
- Title IV-E funding would be available for maintenance payments for youth who are:
 - Completing secondary school or the equivalent;
 - Enrolled in postsecondary or vocational school;
 - Participating in a program that promotes or removes barriers to employment;
 - Employed 80 hours per month; or
 - Incapable of school or work due to a documented medical condition.



Items to Consider for Study

- Child Welfare staff use Random Moment Sampling time studies to identify allowable activities and allocate costs across various funding sources
- Some federal funding sources require a state match and/or a maintenance of effort to ensure existing state contributions are not replaced with other sources
- Other states have allowed for Adoption Savings to be reinvested and have realized benefits
- Family First Prevention Services Act will significantly change the model and funding mechanisms for prevention services and the foster care system





Questions?



Contact Information

Ross Armstrong

Administrator

Ross.Armstrong@dcfs.nv.gov

775.684.4440

Mandi Davis

Deputy Administrator

Mandi.Davis@dcfs.nv.gov

775.684.7942

dcfs.nv.gov





Acronyms

• ACF	Administration for Children and Families
• AFC	Advanced Foster Care
• BST	Basic Skills Training
• CCDFS	Clark County Department of Family Services
• CCWIS	Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
• CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
• CPS	Child Protective Services
• CW	Child Welfare
• DCFS	Division of Child and Family Services
• FFPSA	Family First Prevention Services Act
• FMAP	Federal Medical Assistance Percentage
• KinGAP	Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Program
• MOE	Maintenance of Effort
• RMS	Random Moment Sampling
• SED	Severe Emotional Disturbance
• SFC	Specialized Foster Care
• TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
• UNITY	Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth
• WCHSA	Washoe County Human Services Agency