

# ★ Nevada

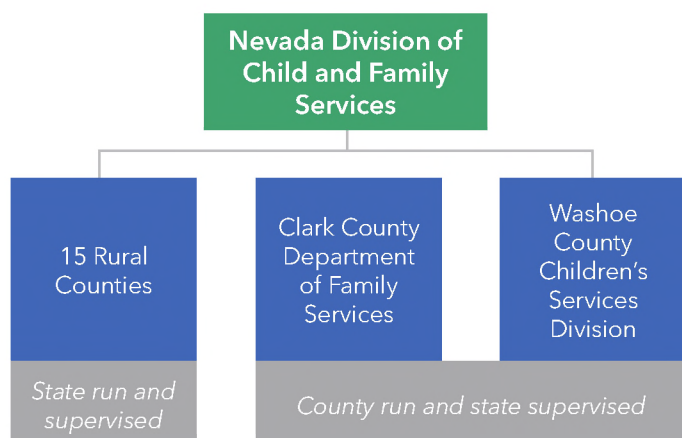
## CHILD WELFARE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

SEPTEMBER 2020

In accordance with Nevada Assembly Bill No. 111 (2019), Nevada's Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice contracted with The Council of State Governments (CSG) to conduct a study of child welfare funding in Nevada. The purpose of the study was to develop strategies to maximize federal funding received by the state for the provision of child welfare services. This was achieved through an analysis of the state's available sources of funding as well as innovative strategies employed by other states and jurisdictions that help maximize federal child welfare funding.

### CURRENT FUNDING STRUCTURE

Nevada child welfare programs operate through a bifurcated system between the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services (DCFS) and the agencies in its largest two counties: the Clark County Department of Family Services and the Washoe County Human Services Agency.



Nevada uses a combination of federal, state and local sources to fund its child welfare services. State general funds are primarily appropriated to Clark and Washoe counties in the form of block grants through DCFS instead of a traditional line-item expense budget. This allows the counties discretion in the uses of state funds.

### FEDERAL SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR CHILD WELFARE IN NEVADA

Source	Nevada's FY 19 Amount <sup>1</sup>	Percent	Opportunity Score <sup>2</sup>
Title IV-E	\$94,000,000	76.24%	3
VOCA	\$20,900,000	16.95%	1
Title IV-B pt. 1	\$2,700,000	2.19%	1
Title IV-B pt. 2	\$2,800,000	2.27%	1
SSBG	\$1,700,000	1.38%	1
Medicaid (Admin) <sup>3</sup>	\$671,532	0.54%	3
TANF	\$518,000	0.42%	1
Other <sup>4</sup>	Limited	N/A	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 123,289,532</b>	<b>100 %</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Funding amounts from Nevada DCFS & 2019 Legislatively Approved Budgets

<sup>2</sup> Opportunity Score: Nevada's ability to increase federal share of funding stream given working assumption (1: limited ability to influence changes to funding - 5 higher ability to influence changes to funding)

<sup>3</sup> Medicaid Admin includes DCFS figures. Washoe County estimates that its Medicaid Admin budget at \$900,000 per year. At the time of finalizing this report, Clark County Medicaid Admin budget was not available.

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Title IV-E

- Evaluate Existing Staff Training on IV-E Eligibility Determination to Help Maximize Accuracy of Determinations
- Request Briefing Reports from Nevada's Court Improvement Program to Document Efforts to Ensure Federally Required Language is Correctly Included in Court Orders Regarding IV-E Eligible Children\*
- Consider Adopting Temporary Licensure for Relative Caregivers to Incentivize Them to Become Licensed Foster Care Providers
- DCFS Should Formalize Outreach to Relative Caregivers to Increase Awareness of Licensure Pathways
- Further Assess and Reduce Barriers for DCFS to Claim Title IV-E Reimbursement for All Allowable Administrative Costs\*

#### Medicaid

- Enhance State's Ability to Capture Eligible Administrative Expenses Not Billed to Medicaid Services

#### Extended Foster Care

- Consider Implementing Title IV-E Approved Extended Foster Care to Increase Existing Programs That Are Eligible for Federal Funding

#### Family First Prevention Services Act

- Assess Nevada's Preliminary Definition for Candidate for Foster Care to Ensure Ability to Meet State Match Requirements
- Leverage Family First Transition Act (FFTA) Funds to Establish an Evidence-Base for Newly Eligible Services to Increase Potential for Future Title IV-E Reimbursement\*
- Request FFPSA Leadership Team Provides Updates to the Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Regarding Cross-Agency Collaboration Efforts on FFPSA Implementation\*

*\*Recommendation identified by CSG noted as requiring no, or marginal additional state funds to implement.*