

Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship—CBO’s January 2020 Baseline

Foster care and permanency programs are open-ended entitlement programs that provide partial reimbursements to states for the cost of providing foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardian assistance to children who meet certain federal eligibility criteria. Each state is reimbursed for direct financial assistance according to a formula—based on the state’s federal medical assistance percentage rate—which can range from 50 percent to 83 percent of the state’s cost per child. Administrative and training costs associated with foster care and permanency programs are reimbursed at 50 percent and 75 percent, respectively, for all states. About 60 percent of the amount in federal payments to states is for spending associated with support for foster care.

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Outlays in Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

January 28, 2020

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Maintenance Payments	1,713	1,730	1,748	1,765	1,780	1,795	1,811	1,826	1,842	1,858	1,899
Administration	2,573	2,601	2,630	2,657	2,682	2,707	2,731	2,756	2,782	2,808	2,870
Training	270	275	280	285	290	295	300	304	309	314	321
Information Technology	237	249	256	261	268	274	280	286	293	299	306
Demonstrations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prevention Services and Technical Assistance	11	21	151	181	211	251	281	351	351	351	351
Kinship Navigator Program	2	7	10	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17
Child Welfare Transition Assistance Grants	526	279	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	5,332	5,162	5,076	5,163	5,245	5,337	5,417	5,540	5,592	5,647	5,764
Maintenance Payments	2,425	2,515	2,598	2,680	2,760	2,843	2,931	3,019	3,108	3,198	3,270
Administration	480	496	511	526	540	554	570	585	600	616	630
Training	39	41	42	43	44	45	47	48	49	50	51
Subtotal	2,945	3,052	3,150	3,249	3,344	3,443	3,547	3,652	3,757	3,865	3,951
Maintenance Payments	159	170	180	191	201	211	222	233	244	255	261
Administration	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Training	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Post-Demonstration Expenses	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Subtotal	177	189	201	212	223	235	247	259	271	284	291
Independent Living	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Tribal Technical Assistance	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sequestration	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8,598	8,549	8,573	8,770	8,959	9,161	9,357	9,597	9,768	9,942	10,152

Memorandum:

Average Monthly Caseload (Thousands of cases)

Foster Care	163	162	161	160	159	158	156	155	154	153	152
Adoption Assistance	521	537	552	567	580	594	609	624	639	654	655
Guardianship	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49	51	53	54

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.