



Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship

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.

Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2022-2026	2022-2031
BUDGET INFORMATION													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
Estimated Outlays	9,915	9,689	8,907	9,089	9,369	9,561	9,810	9,964	10,170	10,347	10,545	46,615	97,451
Estimated Outlays for Foster Care													
Maintenance Payments	2,076	2,180	1,826	1,842	1,858	1,874	1,891	1,908	1,926	1,975	2,013	9,580	19,293
Administration	2,754	2,916	2,945	2,973	3,003	3,033	3,085	3,117	3,149	3,173	3,225	14,870	30,619
Training	273	282	287	292	297	302	307	313	318	326	331	1,460	3,055
Information Technology	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	99	101	104	440	934
Prevention Services and Technical Assistance	74	151	181	211	251	281	351	351	351	351	351	1,075	2,830
Kinship Navigator Program	47	10	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	17	68	151
Child Welfare Transition Assistance Grants	<u>490</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	0	0
Subtotal	5,796	5,623	5,339	5,420	5,514	5,597	5,744	5,801	5,860	5,943	6,041	27,493	56,882
Estimated Outlays for Adoption Assistance													
Maintenance Payments	2,821	3,033	2,602	2,676	2,820	2,904	2,982	3,056	3,170	3,241	3,313	14,035	29,797
Administration	470	484	499	513	541	557	573	588	611	627	645	2,594	5,638
Training	<u>43</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>60</u>	239	520
Subtotal	3,334	3,562	3,147	3,236	3,411	3,512	3,608	3,698	3,837	3,926	4,018	16,868	35,955
Estimated Outlays for Guardianship													
Maintenance Payments	267	285	250	261	271	278	284	290	297	302	307	1,345	2,825
Administration	22	23	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	30	31	129	277
Training	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	10
Post-Demonstration Expenses	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	5	10
Subtotal	291	310	277	289	300	308	314	321	329	334	340	1,484	3,122
Estimated Outlays for Other Components													
Independent Living	493	193	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	765	1,480
Tribal Technical Assistance	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	15	30
Sequestration ^a	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>0</u>	-10	-18
Subtotal	494	194	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	146	770	1,492
PARTICIPATION INFORMATION													
By fiscal year													
Average Monthly Caseload (Thousands of cases)													
Foster Care	157	159	158	157	156	155	154	153	152	152	151	n.a.	n.a.
Adoption Assistance	533	541	547	549	566	570	572	573	581	583	584	n.a.	n.a.
Guardianship	42	45	47	49	51	52	52	53	54	55	56	n.a.	n.a.

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; n.a. = not applicable.

a. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act extended sequestration for mandatory spending through fiscal year 2030.