



Budget Basics: Child Welfare



FY 2021

**An introduction to Missouri's child welfare
services and funding**

Child Welfare

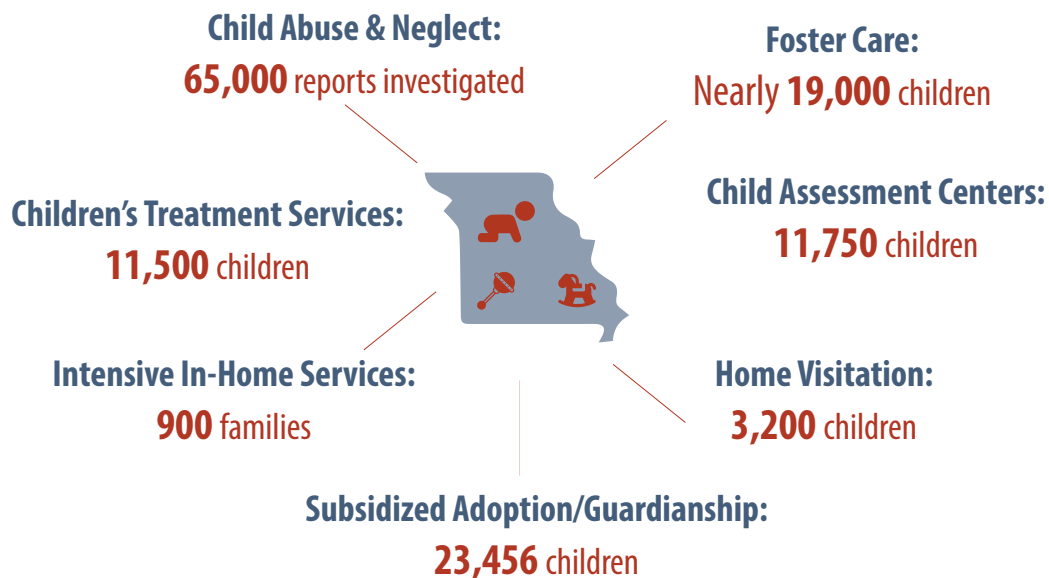
Child welfare programs focus on the safety and protection of children and youth in Missouri. Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) has profound implications, not only for protection of children in the short-term, but to prevent damaging and costly long-term consequences. The lifetime cost of child abuse and neglect (CA/N) per child has been estimated at \$210,012 in nonfatal cases and \$1,272,900 in fatal cases.¹

Impact of ACES²

- Higher rates of behavioral problems and lower cognition.
- Increased rates of tobacco, alcohol, and drug use.
- Poor physical and mental health outcomes in adulthood.
- Increased risk of criminal behavior throughout the life course.

This primer is intended to serve as a guide for Missourians who care about child welfare programs, and increase the transparency of the budget by providing information on where key programs can be found in the budget bills. **Amounts included are Appropriated and reflect Gubernatorial vetoes, but not any mid-year restrictions that may have been made.**

This primer also identifies the major programs and services that fall under the broad child welfare category.



Budget Basics

Missouri's state budget funding comes from three main sources:

- **Federal:** The first source of the funds come from the federal government for very specific purposes, such as Medicaid.
- **Earmarked State Funds:** Another source is state revenue dedicated to specific state purposes, like the fuel tax, which is dedicated to transportation.
- **State General Revenue:** Lawmakers have the most authority to allocate the final source of funds, referred to as General Revenue.

Child welfare programs in Missouri are housed within:

- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Children’s Division (11)
- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Youth Division (11)
- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Family Support Division (11)
- Department of Social Services (DSS) – Division of Finance and Administrative Services (11)
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) – Office of Special Education. (HB 2)

In order to track appropriations for a specific program, one must locate the appropriate budget bill and section number. (available at <https://oa.mo.gov/budget-planning/>)

Section # 11.235

↑
The digits before the decimal indicate the bill number.

↖
The numbers after the decimal show the section of that budget bill

See Appendix for a detailed list of specific child welfare programs, relevant section numbers, and FY2021 funding levels and sources.

Unless otherwise noted, all data on funding levels & sources, eligibility criteria, and program enrollment & efficacy were obtained from the 2022 Department Budget Requests through the Office of Administration, Division of Budget Planning
<https://oa.mo.gov/>

Assessment

Children's service workers and support staff respond to allegations of child abuse or neglect; provide assistance for families in need of services to keep or return children home safely; secure appropriate out-of-home placements for children placed in the Division's custody; and locate permanent homes when it is in the best interest of the child.

- **In the current year, the children's division estimates it will investigate nearly 65,000 reports of CA/N.**
- **Nearly 19,000 children are projected to be in Children's Division custody in the current year.**

Child Assessment Centers provide a dedicated, child-friendly environment, which is sensitive to the needs of children and youth who disclose child abuse/neglect or who have witnessed violence. CAC's provide forensic interviews, victim advocacy, and coordination of the multidisciplinary approach to investigating, prosecuting, and treating child abuse/neglect.

- **In the current year, child assessment centers are projected to serve 11,750 children.**

Treatment

Children's treatment services are provided to families and children to prevent child abuse and neglect and to treat the negative consequences of the occurrence of child abuse and neglect. These services are administered by third party providers and include:

- **Traditional services** such as therapy or mental health assessments.
- **Crisis intervention funds** used to pay for child safety items, health related purchases, employment or school supplies, household items, and other related services.
- **Emergency medical examinations** related to investigations of child abuse and neglect.
- **Transportation services** to and from medical appointments or counseling sessions.
- **Juvenile court diversion** to help avoid placement in the custody of the Children's Division.
- **Intensive in-home services (IIS)** and intensive family reunification services (IFRS) designed to keep children in their own home or to reunite children with their family.

In the current year, DSS projects that over 11,500 families will receive traditional CTS services while 900 families will receive IIS services.

In FY2019, 99.9% of children receiving IIS services were not abused or neglected within 3 months of exiting IIS.

Crisis Care and Home Visitation

Crisis Care provides temporary care for children who are at risk for abuse and neglect or at risk of entering state custody and whose parents/guardians are experiencing an unexpected crisis that jeopardizes the immediate safety and well-being of the child such as:

- lack of food, utilities, shelter,
- domestic violence,
- overwhelming parental stress, and other crisis situations that qualify as emergency situations,
- the death of a parent.

Crisis Care Agencies – FY2020

Annie Malone
Children’s Haven of SWMO
Great Circle
Salvation Army
Isabel’s House
Child Center-Marygrove
Rainbow House
St. Louis Crisis Nursery
Synergy Services Inc

Over 1,800 children will be served by crisis care in the current year.

Home visitation provides services for families and children to prevent child abuse and neglect and to divert children from the state’s custody. Home visitation:

- Provides financial support for home visitation.
- Partners with other community agencies to provide education and other outreach.
- Designed to reduce incidents of child abuse and neglect and increase school readiness.

Home Visitation Agencies – FY2020*

ARCHS
Cape Girardeau Community Caring Council
Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Easter Seals Midwest
Great Circle
Jefferson County Community Partnership
Lutheran Family and Children Services
New Madrid County Human Resources Council
Northeast Missouri Caring Communities
Southeast Missouri State University
The Community Partnership-Phelps / Boone
Whole Kids Outreach Inc.

It is estimated that 3,200 children and 2,000 families will be served by home visitation in the current year.

*Home visiting contracts were re-bid for FY18. Under the new contract 70% of referrals must come from the Children’s Division.

Foster Care

Foster care provides funding for alternative living arrangements for children who are removed from their parent or legal guardian and placed in the Children’s Division’s (CD) custody in an effort to protect them from abuse and neglect. Maintenance payments to foster parents, clothing allowances and special expenses and respite for foster parents are paid from these funds. Other services provided to foster children by the CD (e.g. treatment services) are appropriated separately.

CD projects that nearly 19,000 children will be in their custody at some point during the current year.

| Base Monthly Reimbursement Rate | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Age | Foster | Adoption/Guardianship |
| 0-5 | \$406 | \$239 |
| 6-12 | \$463 | \$291 |
| 13+ | \$503 | \$322 |

Residential treatment services provide funding for residential based services necessary for foster children who are either status offenders or have emotional or psychological difficulties.

Foster Parent Training provides funding for the required licensing training of foster parents, including both initial and ongoing training.

Foster Youth Educational Assistance provides financial assistance for the education of youth currently in foster care and former foster youth.

Foster Care Case Management Contracts provide funding for agencies to provide case management services to children under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court who were removed from their homes due to child abuse or neglect.

Adoption

Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy is a financial assistance program for children in the care of the Children’s Division, Division of Youth Services, or DMH that provides financial support to help adoptive families pay for routine care as well as health care expenses, legal fees related to guardianship court proceedings, and respite care.

In FY2021, 16,935 children will receive an adoption subsidy, while 6,521 will receive a guardian subsidy.

Family Resource Centers prevent adoption disruption, promote family well-being, and recruit adoptive parents. Services provided include:

- support groups for youth,
- educational services including training on accessing special education services,
- crisis intervention,
- respite care, and
- medical/behavioral services.

Family Resource Centers in Missouri
 FosterAdoptConnect
 Central MO Foster Care & Adoption Association
 Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition

Supporting Transition to Adulthood

Independent Living seeks to help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and beyond make a successful, self-sufficient and productive transition to adulthood.

Projected to serve 3,900 youth in FY2021.

Transitional Living funds are used to move youth from structured family or residential settings to group homes, apartments, or with advocates to facilitate their move to adult independence.

Projected to serve 245 youth in FY2021.

The Missouri Mentoring Partnership provides funding to provide work site, teen parent mentoring support, and training for youth at risk of entering the welfare or justice system.

In FY2021, this program is estimated to serve 450 youth.

The Adolescent Program funds the Adolescent Boys and Girls Mentoring Program to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

In FY2021, this program is estimated to serve 1,500 youth.

Youth Treatment Programs provide education and rehabilitation services to youth committed to the Division from the 45 circuit courts in Missouri.

In FY2021, DSS estimates that 1,161 youth will be treated in residential programs and an additional 376 will be served in day treatment programs.

The Juvenile Court Diversion funds contracts with juvenile courts for local programs which divert juveniles from commitment to the Division of Youth Services. JCD provides local juvenile courts with the resources to create services or solutions for problems unique to their communities.

Education

Education for Homeless Children and Youth (McKinney-Vento) funds are used to reduce barriers and provide equitable access to educational opportunities among homeless children and youth.

In FY2021, this program will serve 13,729 students.

The Public Placements Fund provides reimbursement in cases where a child is placed in foster care and is moved outside of their home school district as a result. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will pay the receiving school district any excess cost the school district incurs which isn't already reimbursed by the home school district.

It is projected that this program will serve 3,478 students in 127 school districts in FY2021.

*The Public Placements Fund partially reimburses excess costs below the threshold required to trigger reimbursement by the DESE High Need Fund. The high need fund is triggered only when costs exceed three times the district's expenditures.

Appendix

Amounts shown are Appropriated and reflect Gubernatorial vetoes, but do not include any mid-year restrictions that may have been made.

| Program | Department Budget | Budget Section | FY21 General Revenue | FY21 Federal | FY21 Other | FY 21 Total |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Children's Division Core Administration | DSS | 11.300 | \$926,600 | \$6,204,335 | \$51,631 | \$7,182,566 |
| Youth Services Administration | DSS | 11.400 | \$1,358,654 | \$632,747 | \$999 | \$1,992,400 |
| Children's Field Staff and Operations | DSS | 11.305 | \$37,937,246 | \$54,037,494 | \$572,784 | \$92,547,524 |
| Children's Staff Training | DSS | 11.310 | \$964,341 | \$480,016 | \$0 | \$1,444,357 |
| Child Assessment Centers | DSS | 11.360 | \$1,649,475 | \$800,000 | \$501,048 | \$2,950,523 |
| Children's Treatment Services | DSS | 11.315 | \$12,408,963 | \$9,661,593 | \$0 | \$22,070,556 |
| Crisis Care | DSS | 11.315 | \$2,050,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,050,000 |
| Home Visitation | DSS | 11.320 | \$4,611,500 | \$2,827,000 | \$0 | \$7,438,500 |
| CASA | DSS | 11.370 | \$0 | \$150,000 | \$0 | \$150,000 |
| Child Abuse/Neglect Grant | DSS | 11.375 | \$0 | \$1,770,784 | \$0 | \$1,770,784 |
| Foster Care | DSS | 11.325 | \$45,385,557 | \$25,473,031 | \$15,000 | \$70,873,588 |
| Residential Treatment Services | DSS | 11.325 | \$46,922,981 | \$36,051,052 | \$0 | \$82,974,033 |
| Foster Parent Training | DSS | 11.330 | \$403,510 | \$172,933 | \$0 | \$576,443 |
| Foster Youth Educational Assistance | DSS | 11.335 | \$188,848 | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | \$1,688,848 |
| Foster Care Outdoor Program | DSS | 11.325 | \$183,385 | \$316,615 | \$0 | \$500,000 |

| Program | Department Budget | Budget Section | FY21 General Revenue | FY21 Federal | FY21 Other | FY 21 Total |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Foster Care Case Management Contracts | DSS | 11.340 | \$22,115,385 | \$17,670,948 | \$0 | \$39,786,333 |
| Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy | DSS | 11.345 | \$68,715,381 | \$29,064,310 | \$0 | \$97,779,691 |
| Adoption Resource Centers | DSS | 11.350 | \$1,825,000 | \$2,925,000 | \$0 | \$4,750,000 |
| Independent Living (Foster Care) | DSS | 11.355 | \$0 | \$2,999,900 | \$0 | \$2,999,900 |
| Transitional Living | DSS | 11.355 | \$1,647,584 | \$671,303 | \$0 | \$2,318,887 |
| Youth Treatment Programs | DSS | 11.405 | \$20,383,772 | \$23,770,528 | \$7,407,776 | \$51,562,076 |
| Juvenile Court Diversion | DSS | 11.410 | \$3,479,486 | \$0 | \$500,000 | \$3,979,486 |
| Missouri Mentoring Partnership | DSS | 11.135 | \$0 | \$1,443,700 | \$0 | \$1,443,700 |
| Adolescent Program | DSS | 11.135 | \$0 | \$600,000 | \$0 | \$600,000 |
| DFS/DMH Placements/ Public Placement Fund | DESE | 2.215 | \$625,000 | \$0 | \$5,000,000 | \$5,625,000 |
| Education for Homeless Children | DESE | 2.130 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 | \$0 | \$1,500,000 |

Notes

1. Fang, X., Brown, D. S., Florence, C. S., & Mercy, J. A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child abuse & neglect*, 36(2), 156-165.
2. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2015. Available from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy>