



Budget Basics: Child Welfare



FY 2022

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

Child Welfare

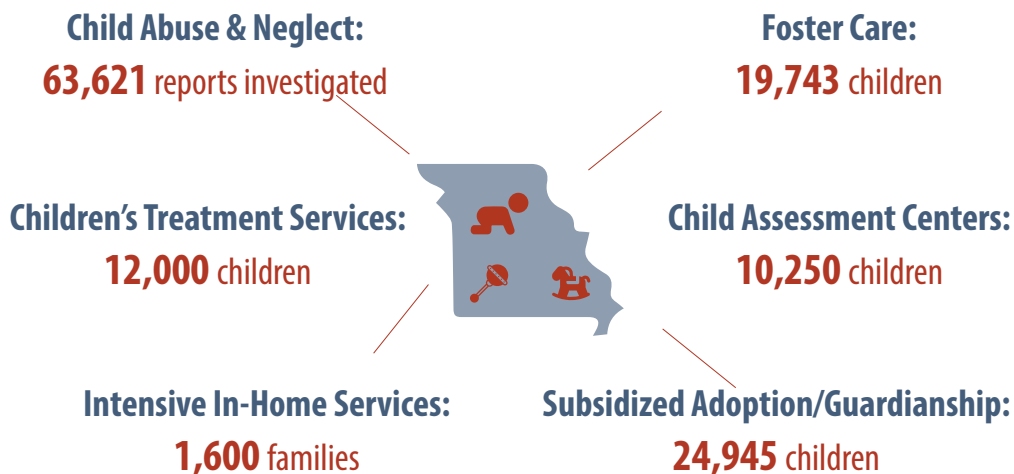
Child welfare programs focus on the safety and protection of children and youth in Missouri. Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) has profound implications, not only for protection of children in the short-term, but to prevent damaging and costly long-term consequences. The lifetime cost of 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 current year funding levels and sources.

Unless otherwise noted, all data on funding levels & sources, eligibility criteria, and program enrollment & efficacy were obtained from the 2023 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 63,621 reports of CA/N.**
- **An estimated 19,743 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 10,250 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 12,000 families will receive traditional CTS services while 1,600 families will receive IIS services.

In FY2021, 99.9% of children receiving IIS services were not abused or neglected within 3 months of exiting IIS.

Crisis Care

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.

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 19,743 children will be in their custody at some point during the current year.

Base Monthly Reimbursement Rate		
Age	Foster	Adoption/Guardianship
0-5	\$450	\$325
6-12	\$510	\$385
13+	\$630	\$505

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 & Guardianship

Adoption and Guardianship Subsidies area financial assistance programs for children in the care of the Children's Division, Division of Youth Services, or DMH that provide 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 FY2022, the families of 17,782 children will receive an adoption subsidy, while 7,163 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 4,000 youth/month in FY2022.

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 338 youth/month in FY2022.

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 FY2022, this program is estimated to serve 420 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 FY2022, 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 FY2022, DSS treated 803 youth in residential programs and an additional 226 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 FY2022, this program will serve 15,101 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 3,375 students in 144 school districts in FY2022.

*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	FY22 General Revenue	FY22 Federal	FY22 Other	FY22 Total
Children's Division Core Administration	DSS	11.300	\$3,328,618	\$3,303,786	\$51,675	\$6,684,079
Youth Services Administration	DSS	11.400	\$874,751	\$1,134,744	\$999	\$2,010,494
Children's Field Staff and Operations	DSS	11.305	\$41,302,690	\$48,336,669	\$108,473	\$89,747,832
Children's Staff Training	DSS	11.310	\$1,074,436	\$585,112	\$0	\$1,659,548
Child Assessment Centers	DSS	11.360	\$1,649,475	\$800,000	\$501,048	\$2,950,523
Children's Treatment Services	DSS	11.315	\$11,798,378	\$10,272,178	\$0	\$22,070,556
Crisis Care	DSS	11.315	\$2,050,000	\$0	\$0	\$2,050,000
CASA	DSS	11.375	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000
Child Abuse/Neglect Grant	DSS	11.380	\$0	\$1,770,784	\$0	\$1,770,784
Foster Care	DSS	11.325	\$7,893,525	\$6,115,018	\$15,000	\$14,023,543
Foster Care Maintenance Payments	DSS	11.326	\$33,503,098	\$36,549,799	\$6,000,000	\$76,052,897
Residential Treatment Services	DSS	11.327	\$44,481,846	\$28,442,600	\$0	\$72,924,446
Foster Parent Training	DSS	11.330	\$603,510	\$372,933	\$0	\$976,443
Foster Youth Educational Assistance	DSS	11.335	\$188,848	\$2,985,593	\$0	\$3,174,441
Foster Care Outdoor Program	DSS	11.325	\$183,385	\$316,615	\$0	\$500,000

Foster Care Case Management Contracts	DSS	11.340	\$22,115,385	\$17,670,948	\$0	\$39,786,333
Adoption Subsidy	DSS	11.345	\$41,781,134	\$54,443,680	\$0	\$96,224,814
Guardianship Subsidy	DSS	11.345	\$15,660,421	\$24,605,486	\$0	\$40,265,907
Adoption/Family Resource Centers	DSS	11.350	\$7,683,564	\$13,897,391	\$0	\$21,580,955
Independent Living (Foster Care)	DSS	11.355	\$0	\$13,220,777	\$0	\$13,220,777
Transitional Living	DSS	11.355	\$1,647,584	\$671,303	\$0	\$2,318,887
Missouri Mentoring Partnership	DSS	11.140	\$0	\$1,443,700	\$0	\$1,443,700
Adolescent Program	DSS	11.140	\$0	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Youth Treatment Programs	DSS	11.405	\$20,587,526	\$22,637,841	\$7,409,226	\$50,634,593
Juvenile Court Diversion	DSS	11.410	\$3,479,486	\$0	\$500,000	\$3,979,486
Education for Homeless Children	DESE	2.145	\$0	\$1,200,000	\$0	\$1,200,000
DFS/DMH Placements/ Public Placement Fund	DESE	2.285	\$625,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,625,000

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>