

Testimony to the 59th Legislature
 In Support of Family Preservation Services In
 Child & Family Services Division
 February 1, 2005

- Family preservation services are between 70 and 80% effective.¹
- The result of family preservation services are:
 - Families become healthier as measured by their ability to support each other emotionally, provide for the physical and developmental needs of their children, manage child behavior, and function more independently.
 - Children are more often able to return to or remain in their own families.
 - When children must remain in care they are more often able to receive love and nurture from a family rather than have to go into group or residential care.
- The Department saves money.
 - Foster care costs run from \$5,500 to \$41,000 per child per year depending on level of placement. Medicaid costs associated with out-of-home treatment run from \$15,000 to \$96,000+ per child per year.
 - The average annual cost to the Department (between Foster Care and Medicaid) is \$16,515 for each and every child in care in Region V, where Friends to Youth is located².
 - In contrast, services provided by **Friends to Youth** in FY '04 averaged \$2,600 per child.

Av. Per child Foster Care Cost (Reg. V)	Av. Cost/Child for FBS Intervention	Savings per child for when successful	Savings per child at 70% success rate
\$16,515	\$2,600	\$13,915 or \$5.35 per FBS dollar	\$9,740 or \$3.75 per FBS dollar

- Services Offered by **Friends to Youth**
 - In FY 2004 Friends to Youth served 44 youth in 21 families at a cost of \$114,207.
 - Masters level individual, family, couple and milieu therapy for families in which at least one of the children is at risk of removal due to abuse, neglect or inability of the family to meet the needs of the child.
 - In-home family assessments to support effective and more immediate permanency planning for children.
 - Skills training in effective parenting, family communication, and child behavior management are brought to the home where the skills can be immediately practiced and reinforced to achieve better outcomes.
 - To the many families in poverty, concrete help is given to find needed resources for everything from beds to childcare.

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¹ For **Friends to Youth**, a family based services program in the Missoula area the effectiveness rates for FY 2000 through FY 2004, the yearly rates were 80%, 80%, 79%, 86%(based on incomplete figures), and 70%. Note that the rate drop in FY 2004 is uncharacteristic and may be reflective of high staff turnover in the program during that same period of time.

² As of December 2005, based on data obtained from the Child & Family Services Division Region V office on 1/26/05, there were 460 children in care in the Region. 122 of those children were in levels other than regular foster care, and 65 of those were in placements requiring Medicaid funding for treatment. Using current CFSD and Medicaid provider daily rates and specific figures for the number of children in each type of placement, then multiplying those numbers by 365 days a projected annual cost can be obtained. Divided by the 460 children in placement the annual per child foster care cost is \$8,485 and the annual per child Medicaid cost is \$8,030, for a total of \$16,515 per year per child.