

Presentation to the 2013 Health and Human Services
Joint Appropriation Subcommittee

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

Economic Security Services Branch
Department of Public Health and Human Services

Reference:
Legislative Fiscal Division Budget Analysis, Volume I, Page B-45 – B-54

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OVERVIEW

The mission of the Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) is: Keeping Children Safe and Families Strong. CFSD works three hundred and sixty five days a year, twenty-four hours a day, to fulfill its mission. CFSD is responsible for ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of children who have been victims of, or are at substantial risk of being victims of, child maltreatment.

CFSD provides child protective services from field offices located in 37 counties. Keeping children safe is the primary goal of child protective services. In addition, CFSD services focus on improving

safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families in the child protective services system. The judicial system, community providers, and CFSD staff collaborate to provide a **Child Protective Services Continuum of Care** that supports the strengths of families and increases each family's ability to nurture and provide a safe and healthy environment for their children.

The report of suspected child abuse or neglect initiates the **Child Protective Services Continuum**. A Centralized Intake Specialist assesses the report to determine the level of response. If the report contains information requiring an investigation/assessment, the report is referred to the appropriate CFSD field office. The investigation/assessment results in two determinations: 1) Is the child safe in the home; and 2) Based on Montana Code Annotated, did child abuse or neglect occur. Child safety is the primary consideration and must be determined. The investigation can result in four possible outcomes: 1) No further involvement with the family; 2) Referral to community resources (no subsequent CFSD involvement); 3) In-home services (child can safely remain in home with an in-home safety plan); or 4) Out-of-home care (child cannot safely remain in home and case requires an out-of-home safety plan).

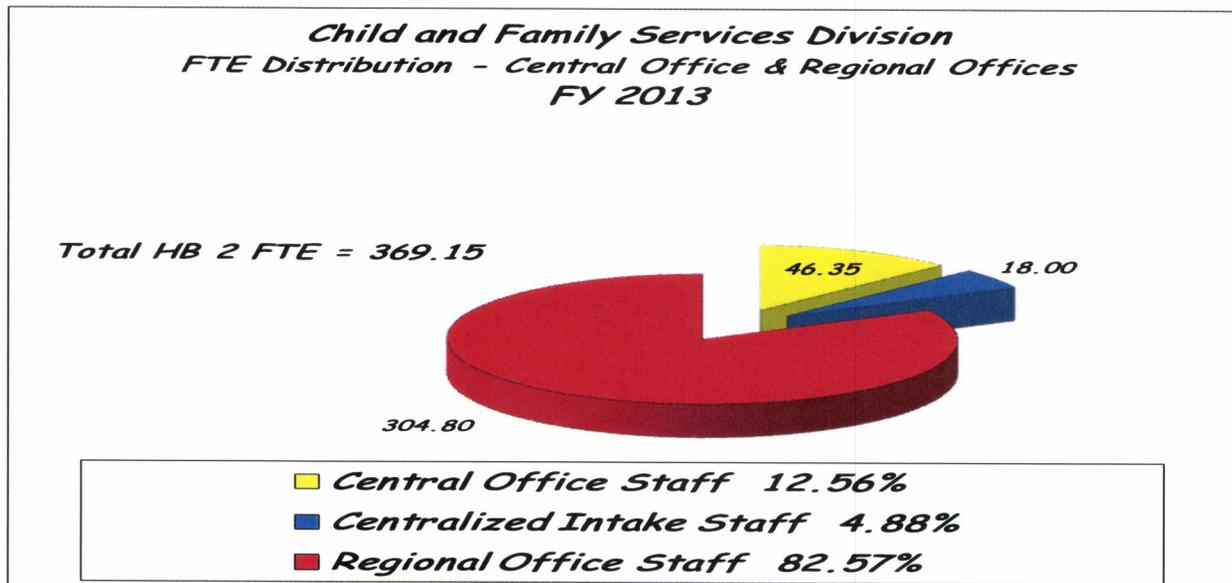
If a child cannot remain safely in his/her home, the next element in the **Child Protective Services Continuum** is placement in out-of-home care. The Child Protection Specialist places the child in out-of-home care based on a voluntary protective services agreement or a court order. If child is placed in out-of-home care, the Department must demonstrate to the State District Court that services were provided to make reasonable efforts to prevent removal. Once the child is placed out of his/her home, the Department must present evidence to the Court demonstrating that services are being provided to reunite the child and family.

Children experience less additional trauma when placed with kin or families they know; therefore, the most desirable placement for a child is with an appropriate kinship family. Kinship families may be licensed or unlicensed. If the child cannot be placed with an appropriate kinship family, the child will be placed with a foster family licensed by a CFSD Family Resource Specialist.

All CFSD services provided to children and families have, as their ultimate goal, assuring that the child has a permanent, forever family. Therefore, permanency is the final element of the **Child Protective Services Continuum**. The child must have a permanency goal identified for him/her after being placed in out-of-home care. The permanency options available for the child from most preferred to least preferred are: 1) Reunification with parent from whom removed; 2) Placement with non-custodial parent; 3) Adoption; 4) Guardianship; 5) Placement with a fit and willing relative; and 6) Planned Permanent Living Arrangement. If the child cannot be safely reunited with the parent from whom s/he was removed, the Department must provide the Court evidence that the Department is making reasonable efforts to place the child in a permanent placement.

CFSD is committed to Continuous Quality Improvement across the **Child Protective Services Continuum**. As a result of feedback from a statewide survey of stakeholders and staff in 2012, the Centralized Intake Bureau was moved under the Field Services Administrator position to help create more efficient and effective transfer of information from the Centralized Intake Bureau to the field offices. In addition to the Field Services Unit, CFSD has a Program Bureau, and an Operations and Fiscal Bureau. The Program Bureau works to ensure that policy and programs meet federal and state

statutory and regulatory requirements. The Operations and Fiscal Bureau manages and oversees all internal fiscal functions.



SUMMARY OF MAJOR FUNCTIONS

The Child and Family Services Division provides public health services to children and families for the purpose of improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for the children and families served. The **Child Protective Services Continuum** is comprised of three major functions: The Intake/Investigation/Assessment of Reports; Safety and Reunification Services; and Permanency Planning.

1. PROVISION OF INTAKE/INVESTIGATORY/ASSESSMENT SERVICES:

Citizens of Montana who suspect a child is being abused, neglected, or abandoned may call Centralized Intake Specialists who provide statewide coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Mandatory reporters (those required by Montana statute to report) and discretionary reporters provide information to Centralized Intake Specialists describing the suspected child maltreatment. Centralized Intake Specialists assess the information provided to determine the appropriate level of response to the report and refer the report to the appropriate CFSD field office for necessary action.

If the report requires an investigation/assessment, CFSD staff (located throughout Montana) conduct an investigation/assessment to determine the child's safety and whether child abuse/neglect occurred according to Montana statute. If the report does not require an investigation/assessment, CFSD field staff may provide a referral for services to community providers.

In SFY 2012, Montana citizens called Centralized Intake (CI) 33,684 times; **15,300 of the calls made to CI contained information that required them to be entered** into the CFSD automated system. Of the 15,300 calls entered into the automated system, **8,648 required investigation by a member of the CFSD field staff**, and **5,288 contained additional information** on open reports already being

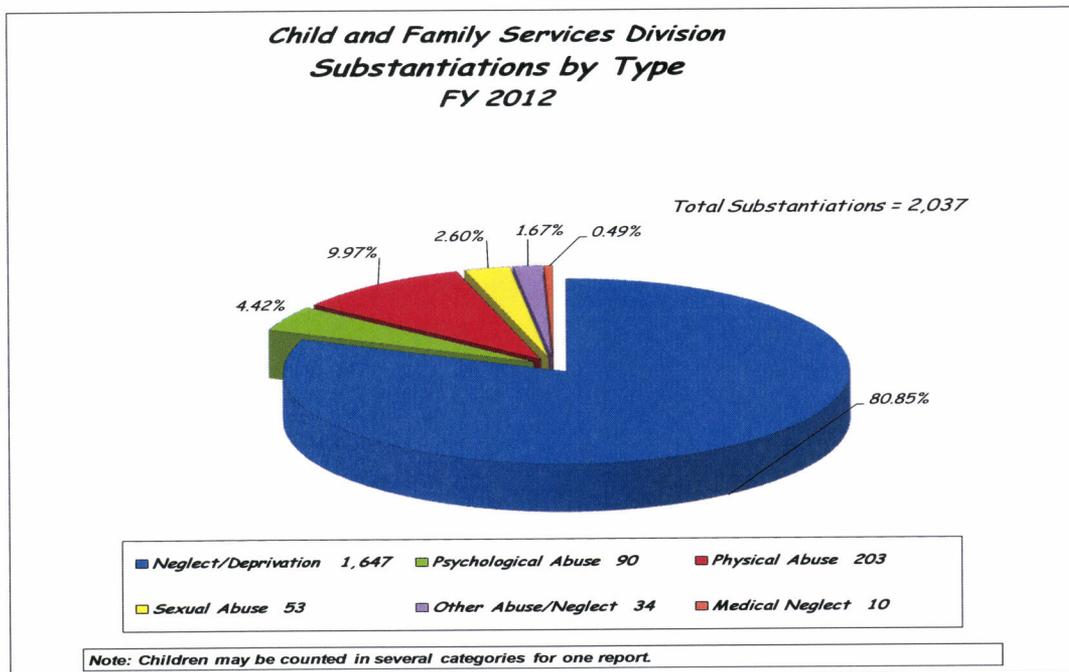
investigated. The remainder of the calls entered into the system were either requests for services referrals or information only.

Centralized Intake FY 2012

Total All Calls Received	33,684
Total Reports Entered	15,300
Total Requiring Investigation	8,648
Total Placements	1,043

11,835 Children involved in Investigations
5,288 Reports containing additional information added to open investigations

Children and families receive direct child protective services border-to-border from CFSD staff located in five Regional Offices and 37 county offices. Using a newly implemented evidence-informed safety assessment practice model, namely the Montana Safety Assessment and Management System (SAMS), CFSD field staff investigate/assess the reports of suspected child abuse, neglect, and abandonment referred by the Centralized Intake Specialists. CFSD must determine whether the child may be safely maintained in his/her home and whether the suspected child maltreatment actually occurred. During SFY 2012, CFSD Child Protection Specialists **completed 8,060 investigations**. Child neglect constitutes the most prevalent type of child maltreatment substantiated in Montana.



Whenever possible, services are provided to children and families to keep the child safe within the home. Those services include, among other things, drug and alcohol monitoring, parenting classes, stress and anger management, budgeting, transportation, child care/respice, and home visiting services. These services may be provided either by CFSD staff or private provider. During SFY 2012, **724 families with 1,333 children** received foster care prevention or reunification services from CFSD staff and/or private providers.

2. PROVISION OF SAFETY AND REUNIFICATION SERVICES:

The Child and Family Services Division is mandated by state statute to provide protective services to children who are abused, neglected, or abandoned. In addition to receiving and investigating/assessing reports of child abuse and neglect and providing services to prevent placement, child protective services include out-of-home safety services; such as, placing the child in a foster or kinship care home and reunification services that include working with the parents to identify those services needed to reunite the parents and child safely.

Licensed foster families, licensed facilities, licensed kinship families, or unlicensed kinship families provide out-of-home care to children who cannot safely remain in their homes. As of June 30, 2012, Family Resource Specialists had **licensed 1,042 foster, kinship, and therapeutic families.**

Because children experience less trauma when they are placed with kin or families they know, CFSD has emphasized placing children with extended family whenever possible and appropriate. On June 30, 2012, unlicensed kinship families were providing out-of-home care to 388 children. Licensed kinship families were providing out-of-home care to 304 children. On that same date, **almost 36% of the children placed in out-of-home care were placed in either licensed or un-paid kinship foster care placements.**

Upon a child's placement in out-of-home care, the Child Protection Specialist works with the child's parents to implement a court-ordered treatment plan designed to address and resolve those issues which led to the out-of-home placement. Reunification with the parent from whom the child was removed is the first permanency goal identified for the child in a vast majority of cases.

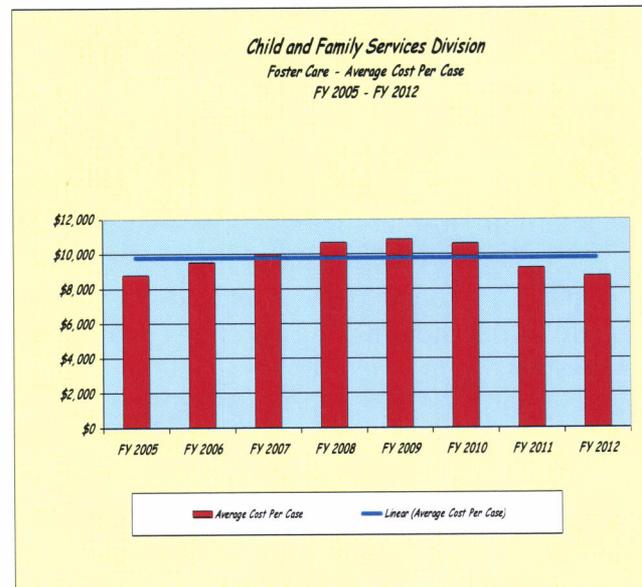
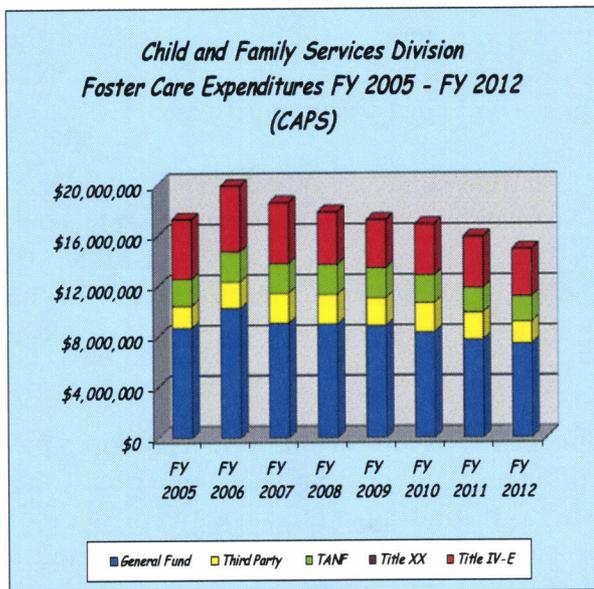
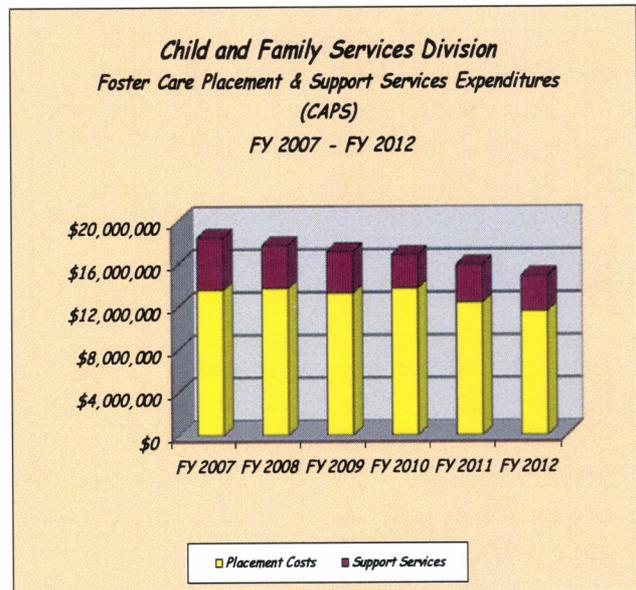
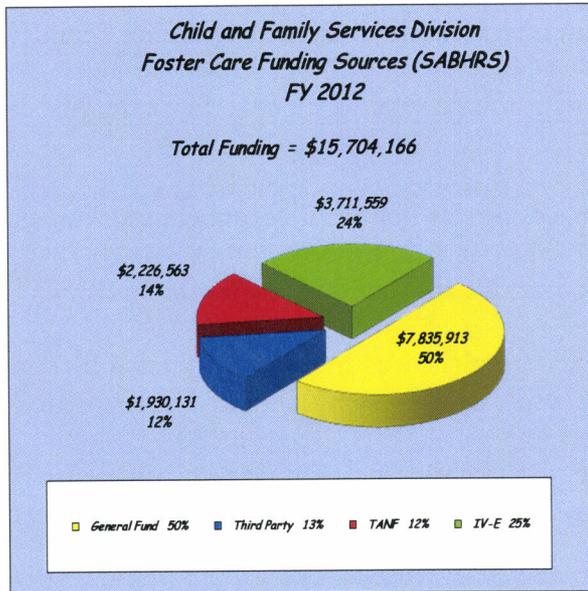
Every child deserves a "forever home" that is safe and permanent. Therefore, if a child cannot safely return to his/her home, the Child Protection Specialist identifies and implements an alternative permanency plan for the child, so the child has a "forever home" as quickly as possible. CFSD field staff also conduct foster and adoptive home studies, provide permanency services, facilitate family group decision-making meetings, and help coordinate services to youth aging out of the foster care system.

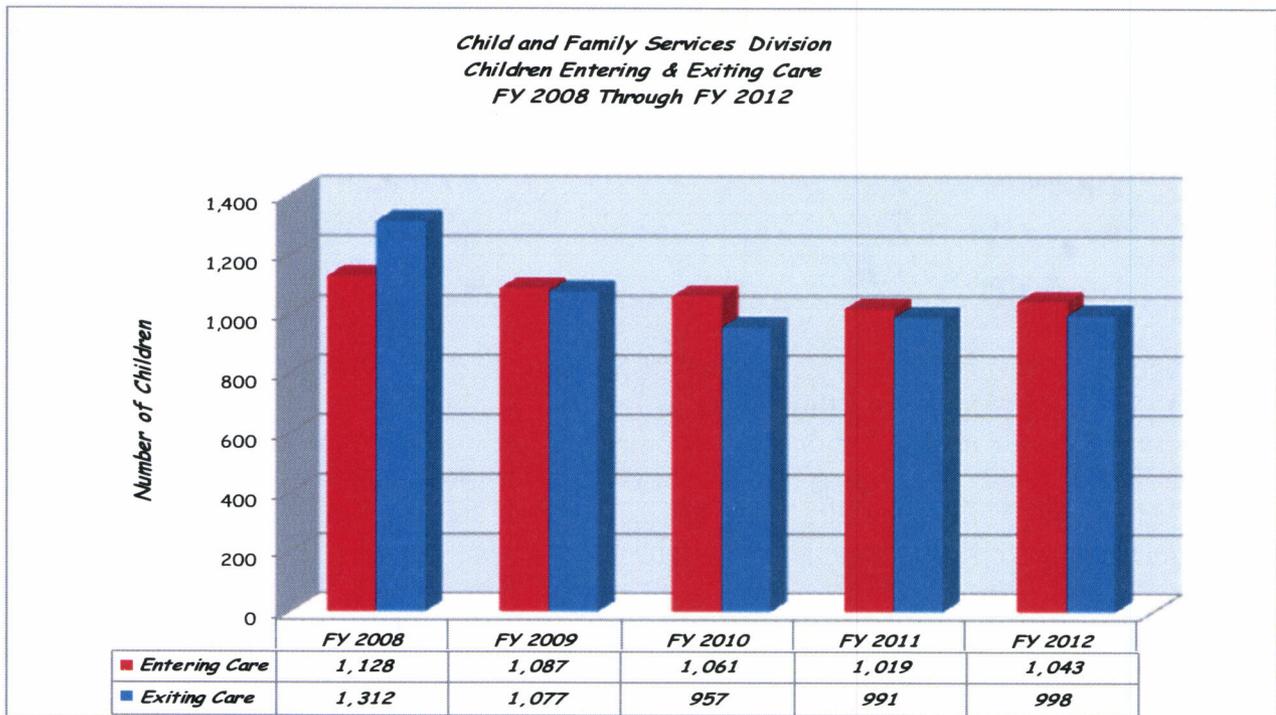
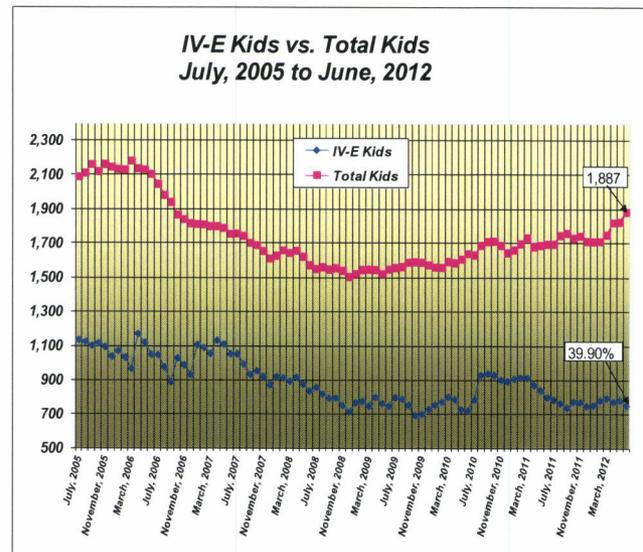
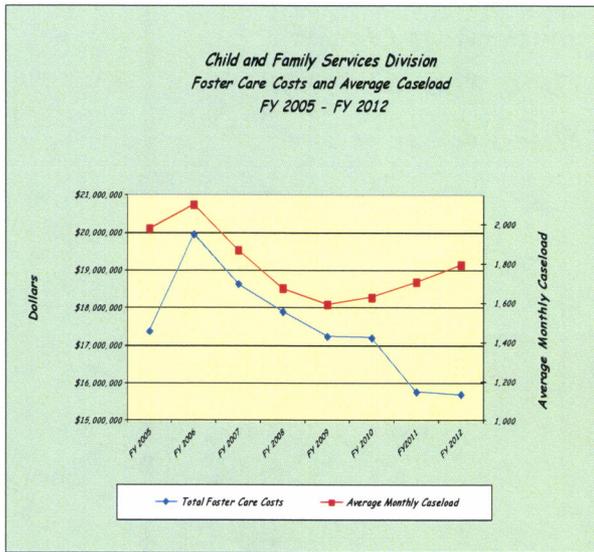
As of June 30, 2012, CFSD made foster care maintenance payments and support services payments on behalf of **1,940 children** under the jurisdiction of either State District Court or Tribal Court. Of the 1,940 kids in care, an average of **40% utilize Title IV-E funding**, a federal entitlement program based upon financial eligibility. The amount paid for foster care placements is based upon the Rate Matrix funding levels set by the Department; in accordance with, the budget requested and approved in the during the previous legislative session. CFSD also reimburses for support services for children

including, but not limited to: diaper allowances, clothing allowances, respite and transportation allowances for children and support services for parents including, but not limited to, psychological evaluations and drug testing. The support services are provided to children and parents on an “as needed” basis or in response to a court order.

In SFY 2012, **1,043 new children entered** out-of-home care. During SFY 2012, CFSD field staff provided out-of-home services to a **total of 3,000 children**.

NOTE: The foster care appropriation funds all types of out-of-home care and support services. The following charts and graphs illustrate the foster care appropriation funding sources and expenditures as reported in SABHRS and CAPS.



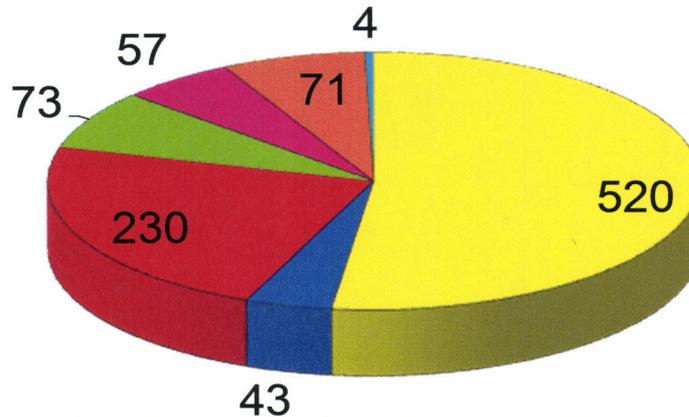


3. PROVISION OF PERMANENCY SERVICES:

Upon a child's placement in out-of-home care, the Child Protection Specialist must identify a permanency goal for the child. The most optimum permanency goal for a child is reunification with the parent from whom the child was removed. If the child cannot be reunited with that parent, the second most optimum goal is placement with the non-custodial parent. Of the **998 children who achieved permanency** in SFY 2012, almost **64% of the children remained with relatives**: 52.11% returned home, 7.31% were placed with their noncustodial parent, and 4.31% were permanently placed with kin.

*Child and Family Services Division
Children Exiting the System
FY 2012*

Total = 998

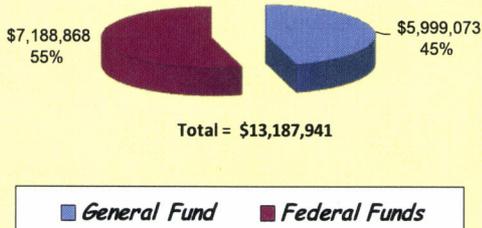


Returned Home 52.11%	Placed With Other Relative 4.31%
Adopted 23.05%	Placed With Other Parent 7.31%
Aged Out 5.71%	Placed With Guardian 7.11%
Emancipated 0.4%	

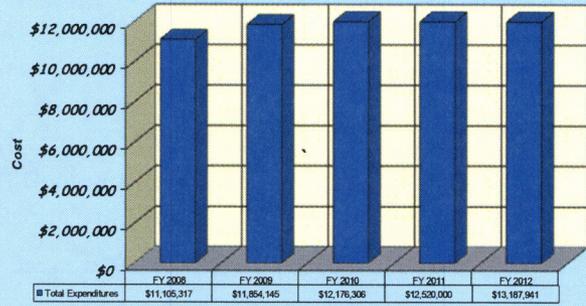
Adoption represents the next most optimum permanency goal. Of the children **exiting foster care in SFY 2012, 23.05% were adopted by a family.** Children who are available for adoption were removed from their birth families because of child maltreatment and cannot be safely reunited with their birth parents. The legal rights of their parents have been terminated so the children are available for adoption. As of June 30, 2012, 226 children in the foster care system had adoption as their permanency goal because their parent's rights had been terminated.

Adoptions may be finalized with or without a subsidy. The adoption subsidy encourages and promotes the adoption of children with special needs from the state and tribal foster care systems. Subsidies may be negotiated to maintain the adoption. The negotiated amount of the adoption subsidy payment is based upon the child's identified special needs; however, the maximum payment must be \$10 below what the child would have received in a regular or specialized foster family home. This results in a savings when a child moves from a foster care placement into a subsidized adoption. Adoption subsidies are currently paid to approximately **2,200 children.** Of the 2,200 monthly adoption subsidies, an average of **81.22% utilize Title IV-E funding,** which is a federal entitlement program based upon financial eligibility.

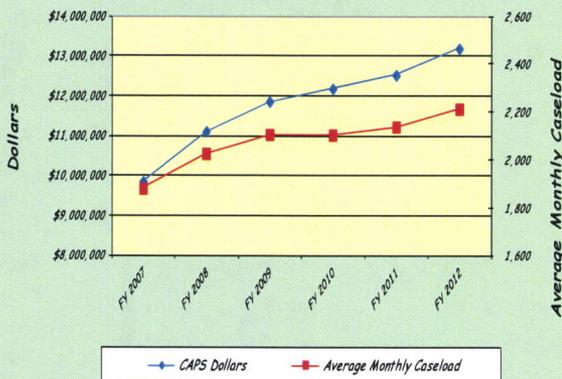
**Child and Family Services Division
Subsidized Adoption
FY 2012 Funding (SABHRS)**



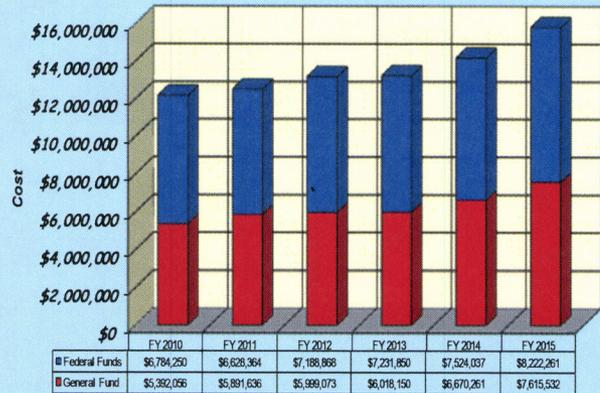
**Child and Family Services Division
Subsidized Adoption - Historical Expenditures
FY 2008 Through FY 2012**



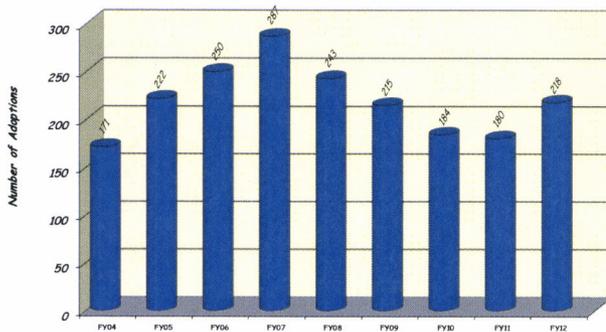
**Child and Family Services Division
Subsidized Adoption Costs and Average Caseload
FY 2007 - FY 2012**



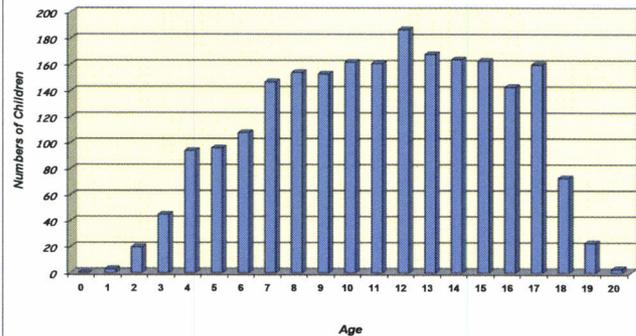
**Child and Family Services Division
Subsidized Adoption Funding - Actual and Projected (SABHRS)
FY 2010 Through FY 2015**



**Child and Family Services Division
Completed Adoptions
FY 2004 Through FY 2012**

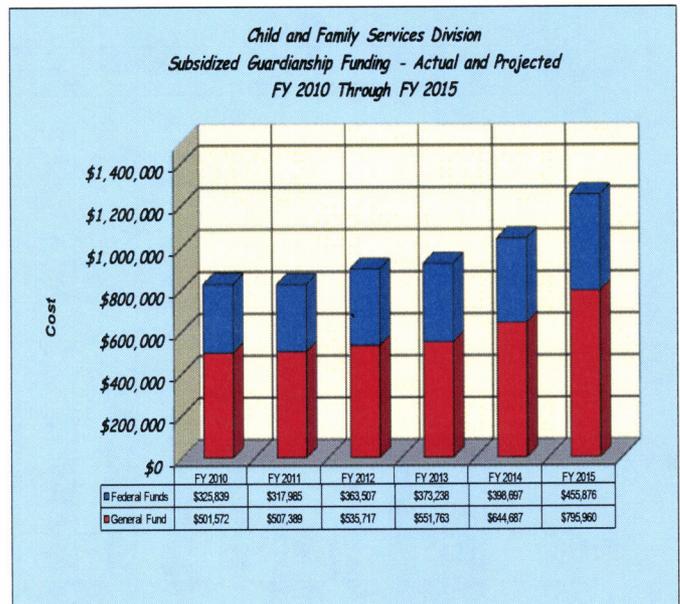
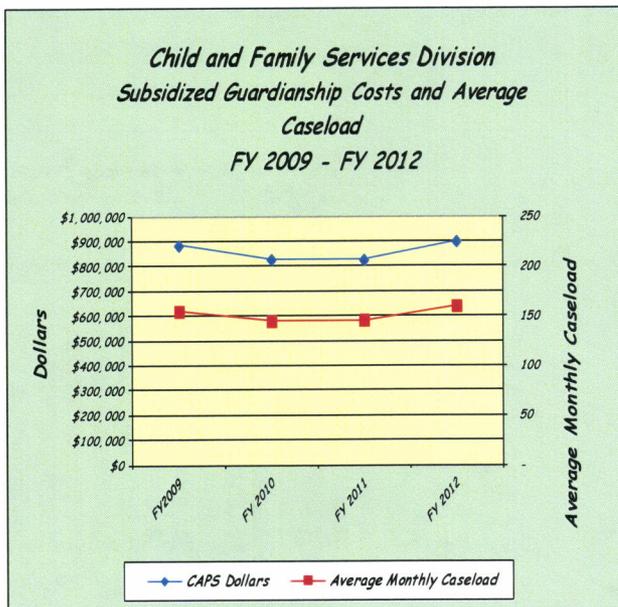
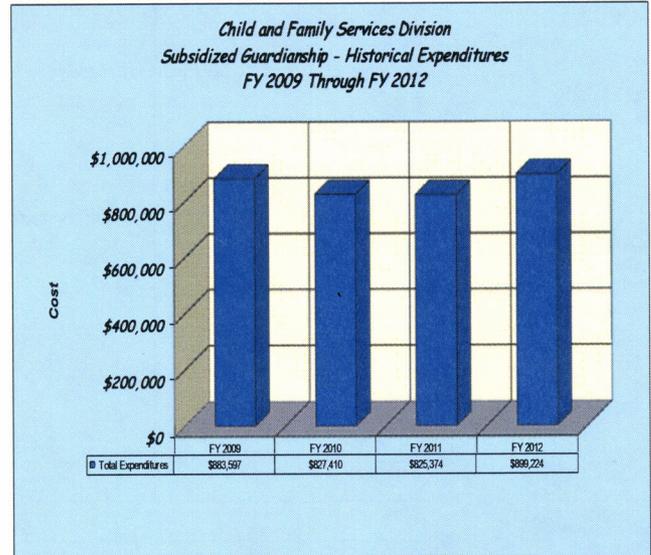
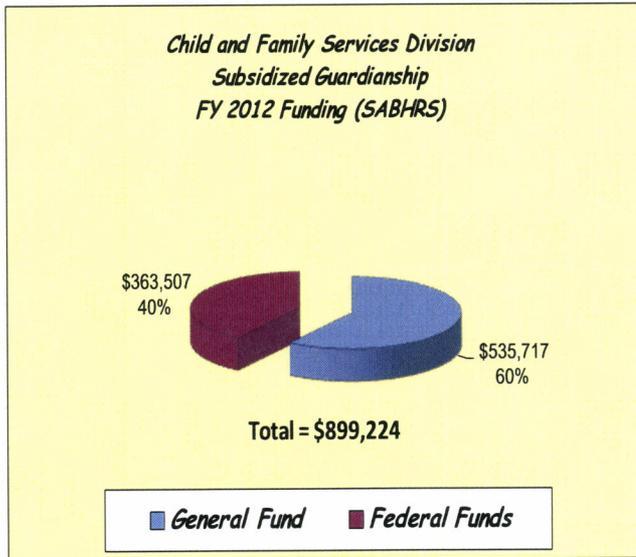


**Child and Family Services Division
Ages of Children - Subsidized Adoption
June, 2012**



Guardianship represents the next most preferred permanency goal. Of the children **exiting foster care SFY 2012, 7.07% were placed permanently in a guardianship placement.** As of June 30, 2012, a **total of 165 subsidized guardianships** had been established in State District Court and/or Tribal Courts. Since July 1, 2010, federal Title IV-E funding has been available for subsidized kinship guardianships for children under the jurisdiction of both State District Court and Tribal Court.

Guardianships can be finalized either with a subsidy or without a subsidy. Beginning in October 2010, the Guardianship program was funded through its own appropriation. Prior to this time, guardianships were funded through the foster care appropriation.



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE 2011 BIENNIUM:

→ **Delivery of services to children and families improved due to successful completion of the federal approval of the Program Improvement Plan:** After two years of working with the Federal Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Montana's Program Improvement Plan was successfully completed in April 2012. The ultimate goal of this plan was to improve outcomes for children and families served by CFSD by aligning Division policies and practices with evidence-based best practices to the greatest extent possible. Implementation of the Program Improvement Plan will continue to impact the delivery of services by CFSD to children and families during the next biennium.

→ **Children and families received more services due to a perfect federal Title IV-E review of the Child and Family Services Division:** In June 2012, the ACF conducted an audit of CFSD foster care cases to ensure that the children receiving federal Title IV-E funds met the complex federal eligibility criteria. The result of the review indicated that CFSD had no errors in claiming these federal funds. Therefore, CFSD was not required to pay back any of these funds.

→ **The number of children placed with extended family has increased because of CFSD's diligent search efforts:** On June 30, 2009, just over 25% children in the custody of the Department were placed with relatives. As of June 30, 2012, nearly 38% children were placed with relatives or in kinship homes. The CFSD diligent search efforts to identify relatives as possible placements include increasing search requirements for the child's non-custodial parent, increasing search requirements for extended family members under new state statute that allows for greater information sharing for this purpose, use of the Close Family Registry implemented in October 2009, and ongoing use of the Family Find method to create permanent connections for youth in foster care.

→ **More children will achieve permanency because of implementation of the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program:** Montana continues to operate the federally approved kinship guardianship assistance program established in 2010, pursuant to the Federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. As a result of this legislation, the subsidized guardianship permanency option is available to children who are eligible for Title IV-E funding (or who have siblings who are eligible for Title IV-E federal funding) and who meet the program's requirements. The addition of this program to CFSD has meant that more children have achieved permanency with extended family members in a timely manner.

→ **Foster care services to children under the jurisdiction of Tribal Court have been enhanced under the Tribal Title IV-E Foster Care Contracts:** Contracts with Tribal Title IV-E foster care, subsidized guardianship, and subsidized adoption have remained in place. These contracts continue to serve as a model of how governments can work together to serve all children and families. As of June 30, 2012, 269 Children in the custody of Tribal Social Services received foster care funding under these contracts.

**Department of Public Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services Division**

**Goals and Objectives for the 2013 Biennium
Submitted September 1, 2012**

Goal: Safety: After investigation/assessment, safely maintain children in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Objective	Measures
Prevent removal from the child's home or re-entry into foster care.	Through ongoing review and analysis, the division determines whether reasonable or active efforts were made to provide and arrange appropriate services for families to maintain children in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Goal: Permanency: If removal from a home is necessary, establish and achieve appropriate permanency goals for children in a timely manner.

Objective	Measures
Children shall have permanency and stability in their living situation.	Through ongoing review and analysis, the division determines whether identified permanency goals were achieved in a timely manner.

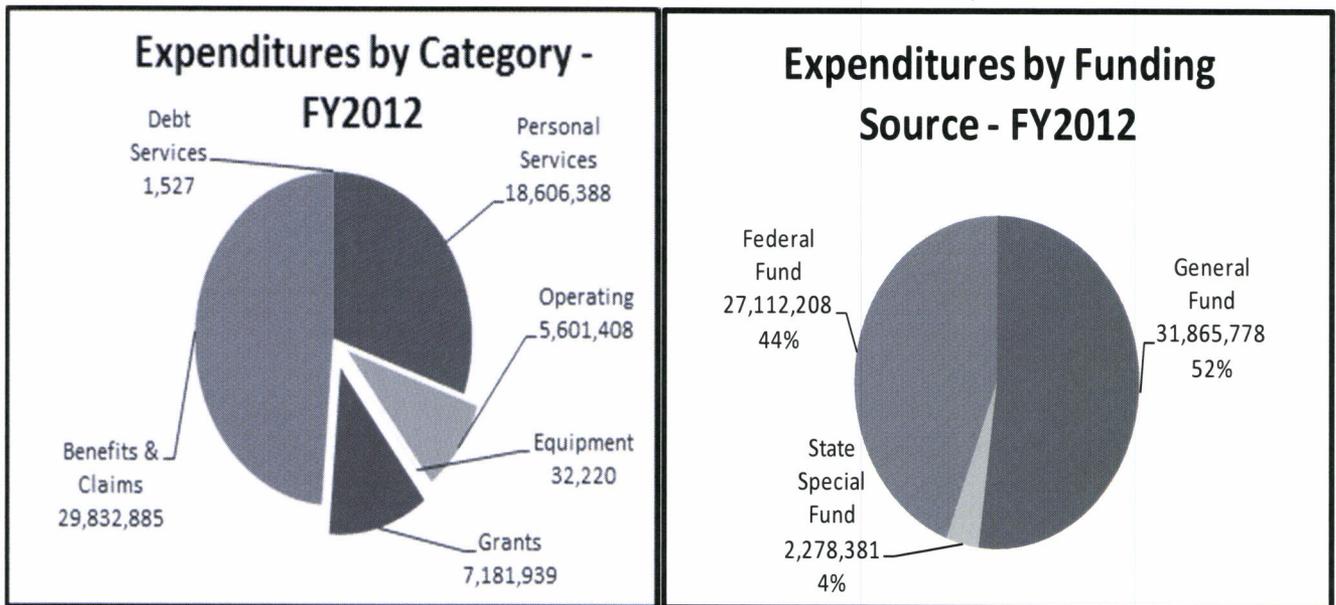
Goal: Well-Being: While in foster care, maintain children's connections with birth parents and siblings and meet each child's physical and mental health needs.

Objective	Measures
Enhance the family's capacity to provide for their child's needs.	Through ongoing review and analysis, the division determines whether children's connections with birth parents and siblings, physical, and mental health needs were met.

FUNDING AND FTE INFORMATION

	2012 Actual Expenditures	FY 2014 Request	FY 2015 Request
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION			
FTE	369.15	382.65	382.65
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Personal Services	18,606,388	20,721,744	20,744,459
Operating	5,601,408	5,752,728	5,764,356
Equipment	32,220	32,220	32,220
Grants	7,181,939	7,181,939	7,181,939
Benefits & Claims	29,832,885	32,470,486	33,744,883
Debt Service/Leases	1,527	1,527	1,527
	61,256,367	66,160,644	67,469,384
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General Fund	31,865,778	35,389,865	36,419,876
State Special Fund	2,278,381	2,278,381	2,278,381
Federal Fund	27,112,208	28,492,398	28,771,127
	61,256,367	66,160,644	67,469,384

THE FOLLOWING FIGURES PROVIDE FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE INFORMATION FOR FY 2012 FOR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



DECISION PACKAGES (SEE LFD BUDGET ANALYSIS, PAGES B-50 – B-54)

PL 30200 – Guardianship Caseload Increase (LFD Page B-50)

- This decision package requests funding for Subsidized Guardianship for caseload increase.
- This request represents a 16.2% caseload increase in SFY14 and a 7.0% caseload increase in SFY15.
- Guardianship subsidies are negotiated at a maximum of \$10/month less than the foster care benefit paid on behalf of the child and can be renegotiated at the parents' request.
- Total expenditures on guardianship subsidies continue to increase over time as children with lower subsidy amounts age out and new children enter guardianships with higher subsidy amounts.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 89,591	\$	\$ 56,258	\$ 145,849
FY 2015	\$ 128,999	\$	\$ 79,453	\$ 208,452
Biennium Total	\$ 218,590	\$	\$ 135,711	\$ 354,301

PL 30201 – Adoption Caseload Increase (LFD Page B-50)

- This decision package requests funding for Subsidized Adoption for caseload increase.
- This request represents an 8.2% caseload increase in SFY14 and a 4.3% caseload increase in SFY15.
- Currently 226 children in foster care have a permanency goal of adoption because their parents' rights have been terminated.
- Adoption subsidies are negotiated at a maximum of \$10/month less than the foster care benefit paid on behalf of the child and can be renegotiated at the parents' request.
- Total expenditures on adoption subsidies continue to increase over time as children with lower subsidy amounts age out and new children are adopted with higher subsidy amounts.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 500,124	\$	\$ 575,599	\$1,075,723
FY 2015	\$ 766,423	\$	\$ 877,072	\$1,643,495
Biennium Total	\$1,266,547	\$	\$1,452,671	\$2,719,218

PL 30202 – Foster Care Caseload Increase (LFD Page B-50)

- This decision package requests funding for Foster Care caseload increase.
- This request represents a 5.9% caseload increase in SFY14 and a 2.1% caseload increase in SFY15.
- The Foster Care Caseload increased 3.59% overall in SFY12.
- The Foster Care Caseload has continued to show a strong upward trend since December 2011.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 729,288	\$	\$ 176,017	\$ 905,305
FY 2015	\$1,088,638	\$	\$ 143,751	\$1,232,389
Biennium Total	\$1,817,926	\$	\$ 319,768	\$2,137,694

PL 30300 – Required / Overtime / Holiday / Differential (LFD Page B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to restore zero-based authority to overtime compensation and holidays worked.
- Overtime and holidays worked are not included in the SFY12 base budget for personal services and are on-going routine costs for this division, which is 24/7 in nature.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 329,713	\$	\$ 153,884	\$ 483,597
FY 2015	\$ 329,713	\$	\$ 153,884	\$ 483,597
Biennium Total	\$ 659,426	\$	\$ 307,768	\$ 967,194

PL 30400 – FMAP Rate: Guardianship (LFD Page B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to adjust the Subsidized Guardianship FMAP to maintain the existing level of services.
- The FMAP will change from 69.26% in SFY12 to 66.27% in SFY14 and 66.22% in SFY15.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 15,612	\$	\$ (15,612)	\$ 0
FY 2015	\$ 15,873	\$	\$ (15,873)	\$ 0
Biennium Total	\$ 31,485	\$	\$ (31,485)	\$ 0

PL 30401 – FMAP Rate: Subsidized Adoption (LFD Page B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to adjust the Subsidized Adoption FMAP to maintain the existing level of services.
- The FMAP will change from 66.77% in SFY12 to 66.27% in SFY14 and 66.22% in SFY15.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 52,962	\$	\$ (52,962)	\$ 0
FY 2015	\$ 58,258	\$	\$ (58,258)	\$ 0
Biennium Total	\$ 111,220	\$	\$ (111,220)	\$ 0

PL 30402 – FMAP Rate: Foster Care (LFD Page B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to adjust the Foster Care FMAP to maintain the existing level of services.
- The FMAP will change from 66.22% in SFY12 to 66.27% in SFY14 and 66.22% in SFY15.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ (1,762)	\$	\$ 1,762	\$ 0
FY 2015	\$ 126	\$	\$ (126)	\$ 0
Biennium Total	\$ (1,636)	\$	\$ 1,636	\$ 0

PL 30500 – Private Lease Adjustment (LFD Page B-50 – B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to provide work space for employees in non-state owned buildings located throughout the state.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 29,347	\$	\$ 14,921	\$ 44,268
FY 2015	\$ 59,907	\$	\$ 30,458	\$ 90,365
Biennium Total	\$ 89,254	\$	\$ 45,379	\$ 134,633

PL 30803 – Leased Vehicles (LFD Page B-50 – B-51)

- This decision package requests funds to replace aged, high mileage vehicles currently owned by the Division with leased vehicles available through the State motor pool.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 42,624	\$	\$ 23,666	\$ 66,290
FY 2015	\$ 42,624	\$	\$ 23,666	\$ 66,290
Biennium Total	\$ 85,248	\$	\$ 47,332	\$ 132,580

NP 30301 – Protective Service FTE & Operations (LFD Page B-52)

- This decision package requests funds to maintain existing services for the Foster Care and Child Protective Services programs.
- This request is to convert 13.5 modified FTE into permanent positions in the Regions and Centralized Intake Bureau.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 480,919	\$	\$ 152,407	\$ 633,326
FY 2015	\$ 448,213	\$	\$ 141,233	\$ 589,446
Biennium Total	\$ 929,132	\$	\$ 293,640	\$ 967,194

NP 30805 – Tribal Foster Care (LFD Page B-52 – B-53)

- This decision package increases the general fund base budget by \$400,000 over the biennium.
- This new proposal is made to equalize services and placement costs for all Montana's Children.
- Currently, children in foster care living on reservations only have access to Title IV-E eligible foster care services and placements while children living off of the reservations have access to foster care services and placements regardless of funding source.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 200,000	\$	\$	\$ 200,000
FY 2015	\$ 200,000	\$	\$	\$ 200,000
Biennium Total	\$400,000	\$	\$	\$ 400,000

NP 30901 – PRI – Foster Care (LFD Page B-52 – B-54)

- This decision package requests a 2% provider rate increase in each year of the biennium for the Foster Care program.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 153,014	\$	\$ 69,218	\$ 222,232
FY 2015	\$ 309,193	\$	\$139,716	\$ 448,909
Biennium Total	\$462,207	\$	\$208,934	\$ 671,141

NP 30902 – PRI – Subsidized Adoption (LFD Page B-52 – B-54)

- This decision package requests a 2% provider rate increase in each year of the biennium for the Subsidized Adoption program.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 23,746	\$	\$ 28,261	\$ 52,007
FY 2015	\$ 48,009	\$	\$ 57,045	\$ 105,054
Biennium Total	\$ 71,755	\$	\$ 85,306	\$ 157,061

NP 30903 – PRI – Subsidized Guardianship (LFD Page B-52 – B-54)

- This decision package requests a 2% provider rate increase in each year of the biennium for the Subsidized Guardianship program.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 2,686	\$	\$ 1,823	\$ 4,509
FY 2015	\$ 5,429	\$	\$ 3,679	\$ 9,108
Biennium Total	\$ 8,115	\$	\$ 5,502	\$ 13,617

NP 30904 – PRI – In-Home Services (LFD Page B-52 – B-54)

- This decision package requests a 2% provider rate increase in each year of the biennium for the In-Home Services program.

Fiscal Year	General Fund	State Special	Federal Funds	Total Request
FY 2014	\$ 31,976	\$	\$	\$ 31,976
FY 2015	\$ 64,591	\$	\$	\$ 64,591
Biennium Total	\$ 96,567	\$	\$	\$ 96,567

LEGISLATION

HB 131 entitled: "An Act authorizing the department of public health and human services to share limited information about an investigation into a report of child abuse and neglect with a mandatory reporter who filed an abuse and neglect report; amending sections 41-3-201 and 41-3-205, MCA."

The Child and Family Services Division is proposing legislation to amend 41-3-201, MCA to include a new subsection (5) that includes the following language:

When a professional or official required to report in subsection (2) makes a report, the department may share information with that professional or official regarding whether an investigation into the report will occur or did occur, the timeframe in which the investigation will occur, and information about the investigation limited to its outcome, the factual basis for the outcome, and any subsequent action that will be taken on behalf of the child who is the subject of the report.

CFSD's proposed legislation would also amend 41-3-205, MCA to include the additional underlined language in subsection (3)(c):

(c) a professional or other official listed in subsection (2) of 41-3-201 who has made a report, a health or mental health professional who is treating the family or child who is the subject of a report in the records.

These amendments would allow CFSD to share more information with mandatory reporters of suspected child maltreatment. The goal of the legislation is to build relationships between mandatory reporters and CFSD by allowing for greater information to be exchanged to improve the safety outcomes for children in Montana.