

Presentation to the 2025 Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

Child and Family Services Division
Human Services Practice



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Greg Gianforte, Governor | Charlie Brereton, Director

Background



DEPARTMENT OF
**PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES**

Child Welfare: Purpose, Programs and Funding

Federal child welfare policy has four primary goals:

- Prevention – Preventing child abuse and neglect and entry into foster care
- Safety – Preventing and responding to the maltreatment of children
- Permanency - Stabilizing children's living situations
- Well-being – Enhancing families' capacity to meet their children's physical health, mental health, and educational needs and to help them address any existing trauma



Child Welfare: Purpose, Programs and Funding (cont.)

Federal Legislation

- Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 (ICWA)
- Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA)
- Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act of 2008
- Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018
- Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection 2022

Child Welfare: Purpose, Programs and Funding (cont.)

In partnership with the Children's Bureau in the Administration for Children and Families division of Health and Human Services, Child and Family Services (CFSD) seeks to improve the safety, permanency and well-being of children through leadership, support for necessary services, and productive partnerships with states, tribes, and communities. CFSD has the primary responsibility for administering federal programs that support public child welfare services. CFSD receives federal matching funds to help us operate our child welfare systems, including the prevention of child abuse and neglect, the support of children and families in need of protection, the support of permanent placements through adoption and subsidized guardianship, and the information systems necessary to support these programs. The funds for these programs come [from multiple sources.](#)

[State Child and Family Services Plan](#)

In order to receive federal funding under title IV-B, a 5-year Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and annual updates to the plan must be submitted by each state and tribal agency requesting title IV-B funds. The CFSP is a strategic plan that sets forth a state's or tribe's vision and goals to strengthen its child welfare system.

Child and Family Services 5-Year Plan



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

Five-year plan (2025-2029) required by 45 CFR 1357.15

- Vision and Collaboration (Pages 14-24)
- Assessment of Current Performance in Improving Outcome (Pages 24-58)
 - Outcomes and Systemic Factors
- Plan for Enacting the State's Vision (Page 58-67)
 - Goals, Objectives and Measurements
- Services (Page 70-92)
- Consultation and Coordination Between State and Tribes (Page 93-94)
- Targeted Plans within CFSP (Page 94)

CFSP (cont.)

Five-year plan (2025-2029)

Plan for enacting the State's vision

- Goal 1: Engage families to effectively assess and manage safety concerns to prevent removals when possible.
- Goal 2: Improve timelines to permanency and reduce the rate of re-entries to foster care.
- Goal 3: Enhance continuous quality improvement (CQI) through improved data quality, training and robust CQI plan.

Child and Family Services Review



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)

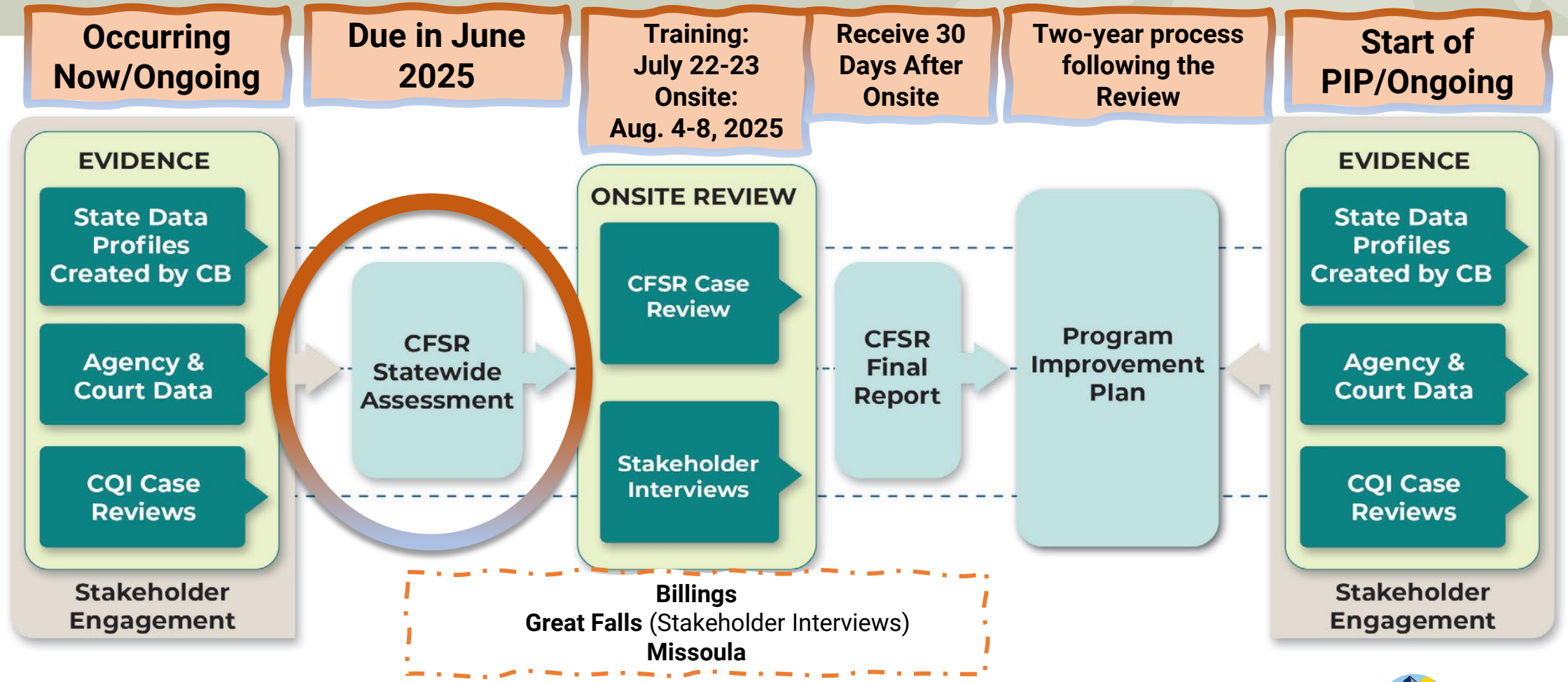
Statewide Assessment – Prior to the onsite review, each state completes a Statewide Assessment in which they examine their child welfare data in light of the outcomes for children and families subject to review. The state also addresses in narrative the systemic issues under review relative to their influence on the state's capacity to deliver effective services.

CFSR Final Report – Following the onsite review component of the CFSRs, the Children's Bureau prepares a Final Report for each state containing the review outcomes.

Program Improvement Plan – States are required to submit a Program Improvement Plan if found out of conformance on any one of the seven outcomes or seven systemic factors subject to review.

- Montana completed the Round 3 CFSR in 2017
- Subsequent Round 4 is scheduled to begin in 2025 – the next statewide assessment is scheduled to begin in June of 2025

CFSR Round 4



CFSR

The Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) process examines state performance on seven outcomes for children and families. The tables below identifies the outcomes and corresponding statewide data indicators and case review items.

Outcomes	Statewide Data Indicators	Items
<u>SAFETY OUTCOME 1:</u> Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Maltreatment in foster care•Recurrence of maltreatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Item 1: Timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment
<u>SAFETY OUTCOME 2:</u> Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Item 2: Services to family to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or reentry into foster care•Item 3: Risk assessment and safety management

CFSR Data Profile as of July 2024

Safety Outcomes

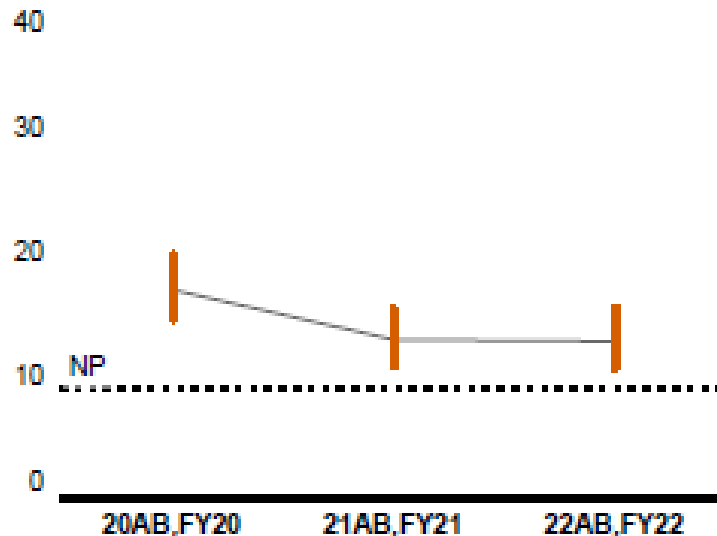
Maltreatment in Care (victimizations/100,000 days in care)

9.07
NP

12.98
RSP

Lower value is desired

Measured as the rate of abuse or neglect per days in foster care in a 12-month period that children experienced while under the state's placement and care responsibility



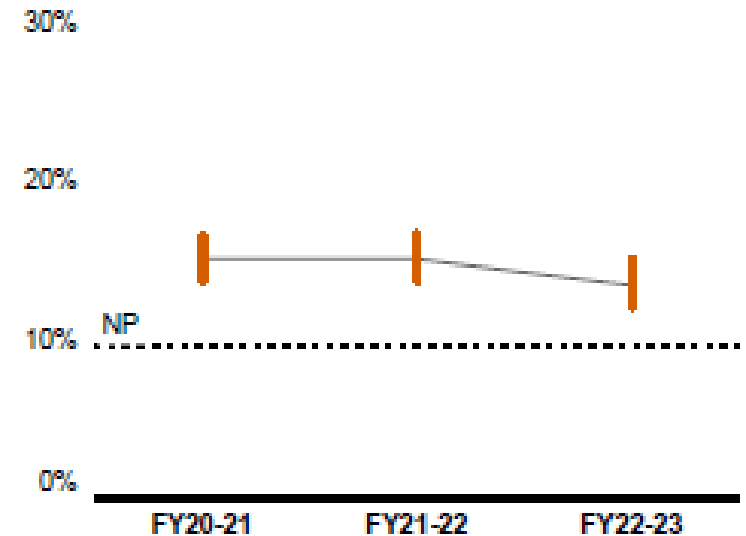
Recurrence of Maltreatment

9.7%
NP

13.6%
RSP

Lower value is desired

Measured as the percent of children who were the subject of a substantiated or indicated report of maltreatment in a 12-month period and who experienced subsequent maltreatment within 12 months of the initial victimization

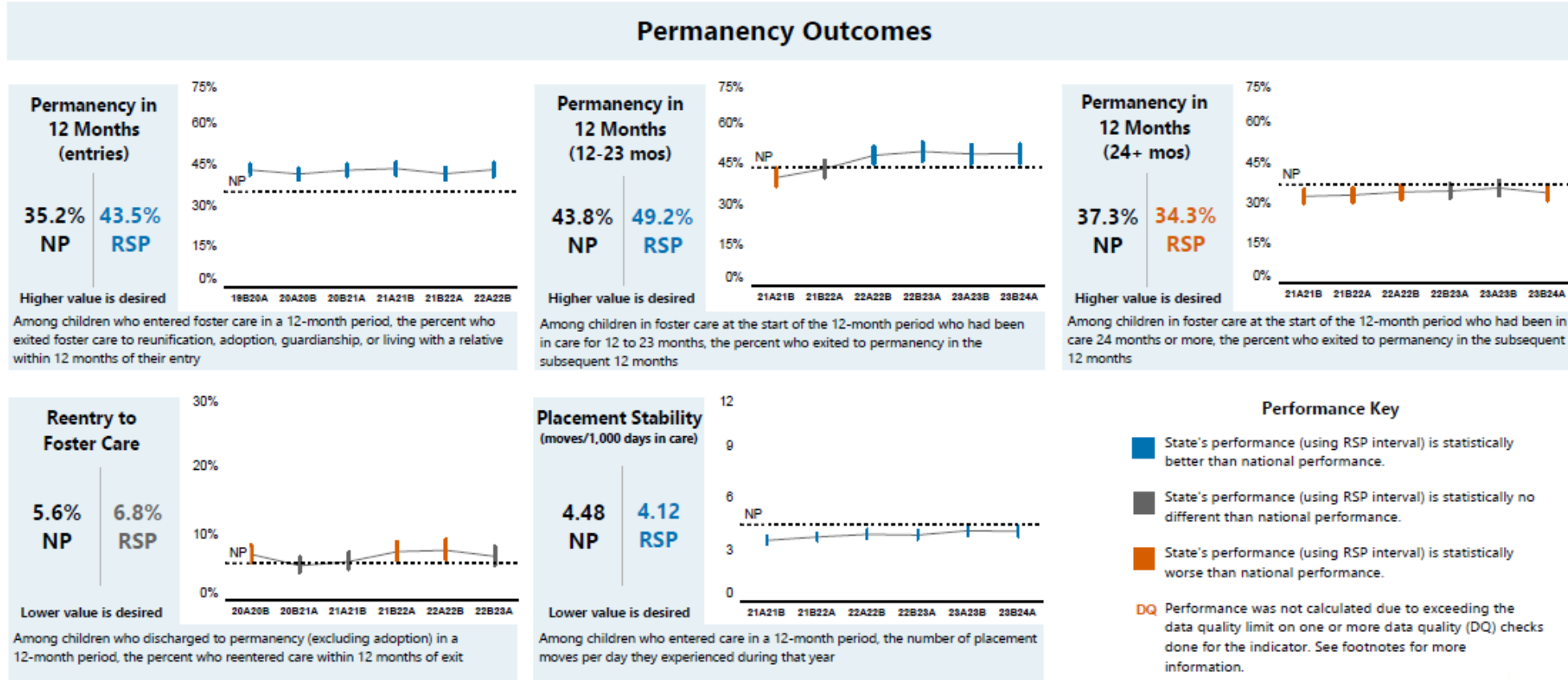


CFSR Permanency

Outcomes	Statewide Data Indicators	Items
<p><u>PERMANENCY OUTCOME 1:</u> Children have permanency and stability in their living situation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Permanency in 12 months for children entering foster care •Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 12 to 23 months •Permanency in 12 months for children in foster care 24 months or more •Reentry to foster care •Placement stability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Item 4: Stability of foster care placement •Item 5: Permanency goal for child •Item 6: Achieving reunification, guardianship, adoption, or another permanent planned living arrangement
<p><u>PERMANENCY OUTCOME 2:</u> The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Item 7: Placement with siblings •Item 8: Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care •Item 9: Preserving connections •Item 10: Relative placement •Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents

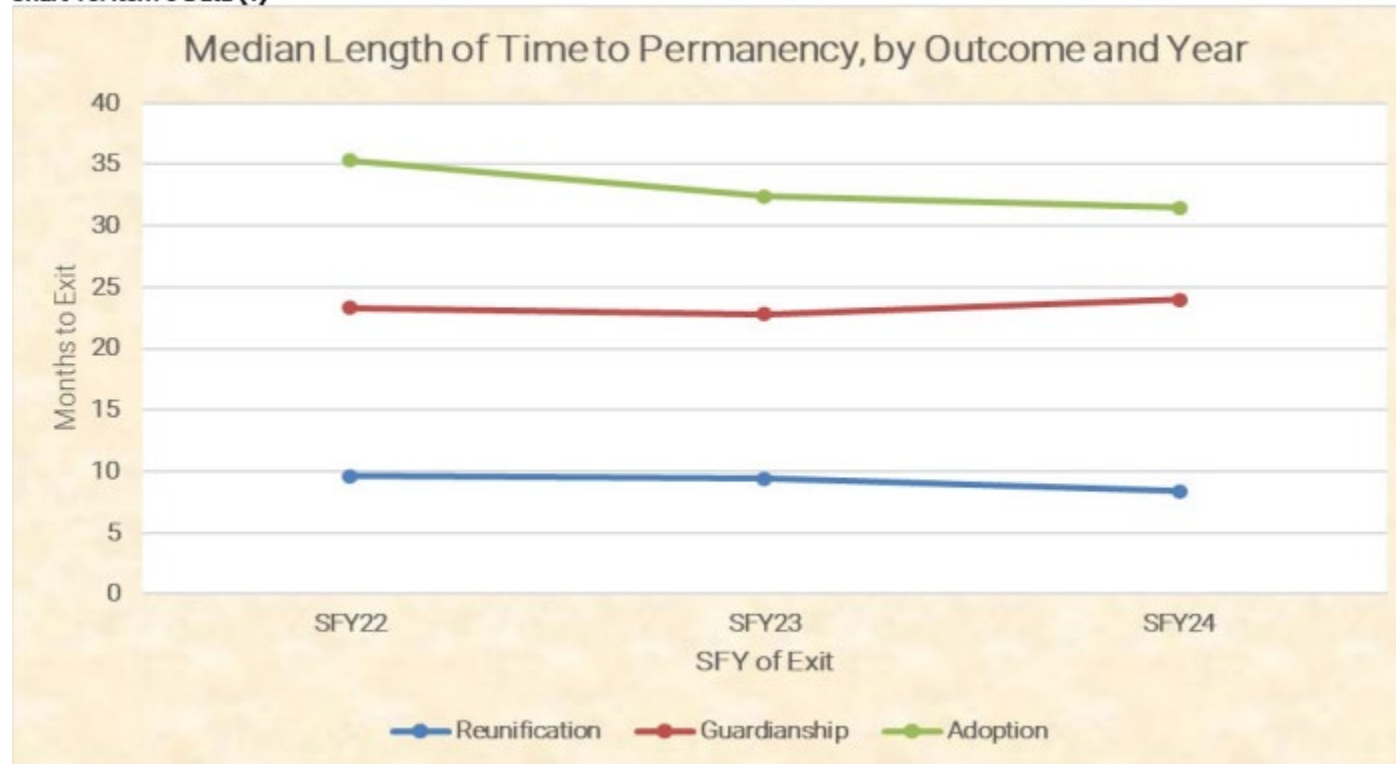


CFSR Data Profile as of July 2024 – Permanency Outcomes



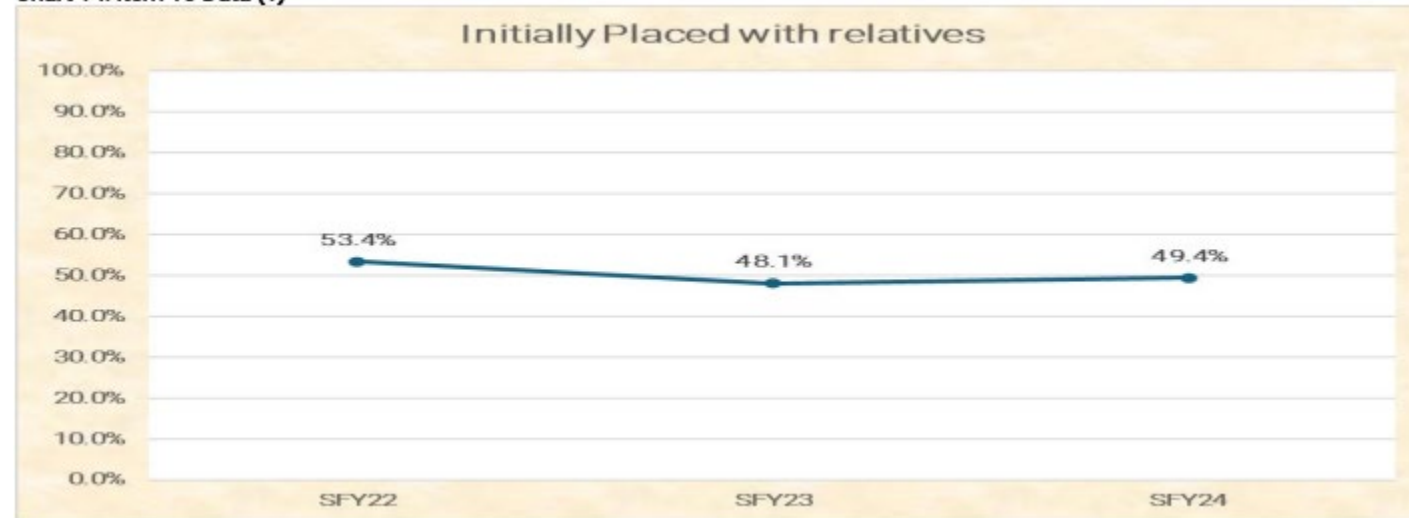
CFSR Data Profile as of July 2024 – Permanency Outcomes (cont.)

Chart 10: Item 6 Data (1)



Permanency Outcomes – Relative Placement

Chart 14: Item 10 Data (1)



CFSD believes that children should be placed with relatives, kin, or fictive kin, whenever safe and appropriate. Efforts to identify these placements are included in Concurrent Planning: Preserving Connections while Defining Permanency Options Procedure through Permanency Planning Team (PPT) meetings. Montana consistently places around 50% of all kids who enter care with relatives

CFSR

Outcomes	Statewide Data	Items
<p><u>CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME 1:</u></p> <p>Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents •Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning •Item 14: Caseworker visits with child •Item 15: Caseworker visits with parent(s)
<p><u>CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME 2:</u></p> <p>Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Item 16: Educational needs of the child
<p><u>CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING OUTCOME 3:</u></p> <p>Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Item 17: Physical health of the child •Item 18: Mental/behavioral health of the child

Well-Being outcomes located in the CFSP – Pages 37-43. Review periods represent the following time periods:

3rd January-June 2022
 4th July-December 2022
 5th January-June 2023

CFSR (cont.)

Systemic Factors	Items	Systemic Factors	Items
SYSTEMIC FACTOR 1:		SYSTEMIC FACTOR 5:	•Item 29 Array of services
Statewide information system	•Item 19: Statewide information system	Service array and resource development	•Item 30: Individualizing services
SYSTEMIC FACTOR 2:		SYSTEMIC FACTOR 6:	•Item 31: State engagement and consultation with stakeholders pursuant to the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)
Case review system	•Item 20: Written case plan	Agency responsiveness to the community	•Item 32: Coordination of CFSP services with other federal programs
	•Item 21: Periodic reviews		
	•Item 22: Permanency hearings		
	•Item 23: Termination of parental rights		
	•Item 24: Notice of hearings and reviews to caregivers		
SYSTEMIC FACTOR 3:		SYSTEMIC FACTOR 7:	•Item 33: Standards applied equally
Quality assurance system	•Item 25: Quality assurance system	Foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention	•Item 34: Requirements for criminal background checks
SYSTEMIC FACTOR 4:			•Item 35: Diligent recruitment of foster and adoptive homes
Staff and provider training	•Item 26: Initial staff training		•Item 36: State use of cross-jurisdictional resources for placement
	•Item 27: Ongoing staff training		
	•Item 28: Foster and adoptive parent training		

Systemic factors are summarized on pages 44-51 of the CFSP.

Budget Request and Funding



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN SERVICES

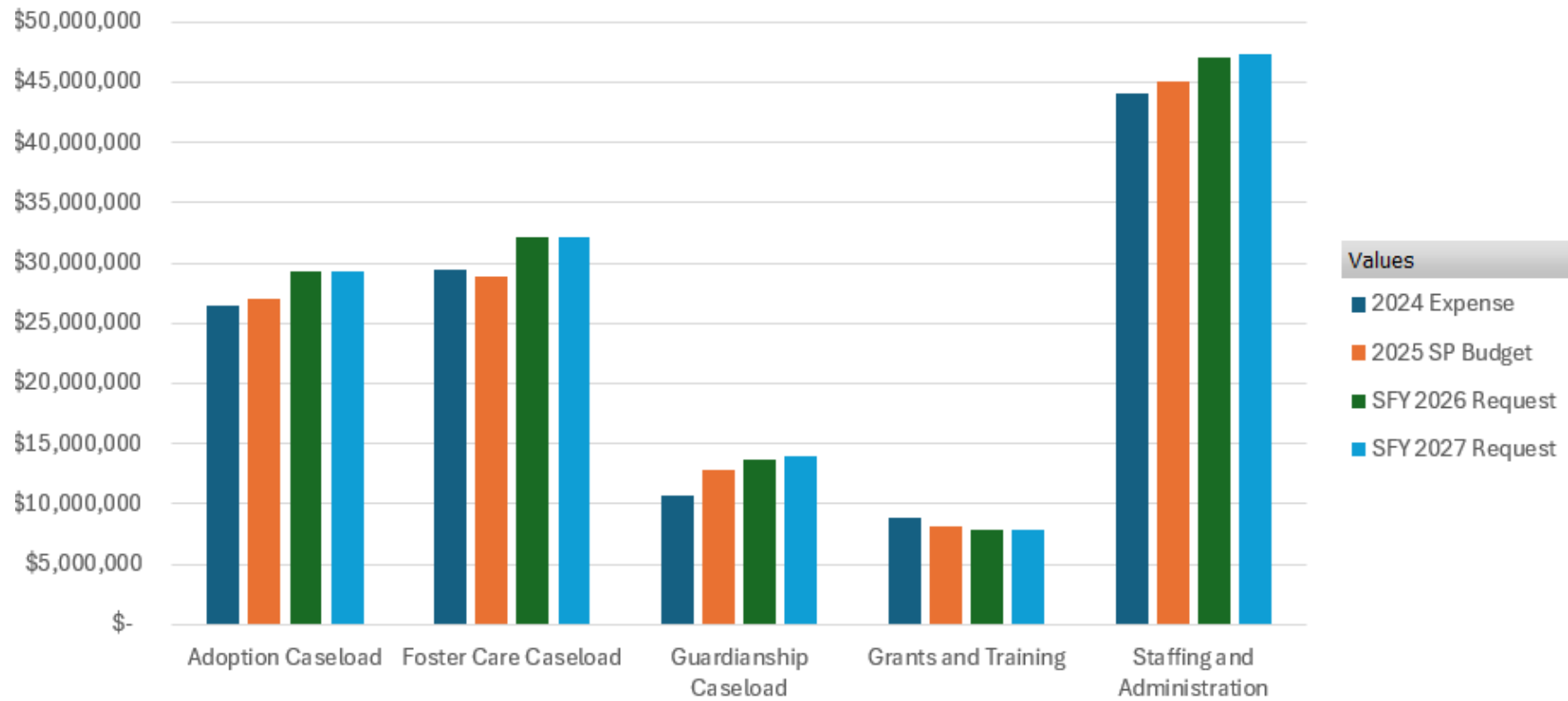
CFSD Budget Request

Area of Expense	Category	2024 Expense	2025 SP Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
Adoption Caseload	General Fund	\$ 11,093,392	\$ 10,984,330	\$ 13,261,019	\$ 13,497,674
	Federal Fund	\$ 15,425,277	\$ 16,074,824	\$ 16,000,084	\$ 15,824,925
Adoption Caseload Total		\$ 26,518,669	\$ 27,059,154	\$ 29,261,103	\$ 29,322,599
Foster Care Caseload	General Fund	\$ 21,352,352	\$ 18,299,294	\$ 22,889,601	\$ 22,933,169
	State Special	\$ 1,325,219	\$ 1,433,000	\$ 1,428,781	\$ 1,426,720
	Federal Fund	\$ 6,750,871	\$ 9,201,295	\$ 7,809,787	\$ 7,812,041
Foster Care Caseload Total		\$ 29,428,442	\$ 28,933,589	\$ 32,128,169	\$ 32,171,930
Guardianship Caseload	General Fund	\$ 6,790,339	\$ 7,519,481	\$ 9,287,792	\$ 9,503,998
	Federal Fund	\$ 3,878,435	\$ 5,299,928	\$ 4,418,069	\$ 4,416,667
Guardianship Caseload Total		\$ 10,668,774	\$ 12,819,409	\$ 13,705,861	\$ 13,920,665
Grants and Training	General Fund	\$ 1,581,647	\$ 1,742,275	\$ 1,661,025	\$ 1,661,025
	State Special	\$ 137,924	\$ 21,125	\$ 21,125	\$ 21,125
	Federal Fund	\$ 7,128,069	\$ 6,399,742	\$ 6,155,992	\$ 6,155,992
Grants and Training Total		\$ 8,847,640	\$ 8,163,142	\$ 7,838,142	\$ 7,838,142
Staffing and Administration	General Fund	\$ 31,744,600	\$ 31,119,170	\$ 32,795,233	\$ 32,959,103
	State Special	\$ 16,554	\$ 24,083	\$ 24,083	\$ 24,083
	Federal Fund	\$ 12,083,891	\$ 13,653,106	\$ 14,129,231	\$ 14,154,891
Staffing and Administration Total		\$ 43,845,045	\$ 44,796,359	\$ 46,948,547	\$ 47,138,077
Grand Total		\$ 119,308,570	\$ 121,771,653	\$ 129,881,822	\$ 130,391,413

The 2027 biennium request is about 6% more than the 2025 base.

Primary driver of increase is caseload adjustments for Foster Care, Subsidized Adoption and Guardianship.

CFSD Budget Request (cont.)



CFSD Budget Request (cont.)

Category	2024 Expense	2025 SP Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
General Fund	\$ 72,562,330	\$ 69,664,550	\$ 79,894,670	\$ 80,554,969
State Special	\$ 1,479,697	\$ 1,478,208	\$ 1,473,989	\$ 1,471,928
Federal Fund	\$ 45,266,543	\$ 50,628,895	\$ 48,513,163	\$ 48,364,516
Grand Total	119,308,570	\$ 121,771,653	\$ 129,881,822	\$ 130,391,413
General Fund	60.82%	57.21%	61.51%	61.78%
State Special	1.24%	1.21%	1.13%	1.13%
Federal Funds	37.94%	41.58%	37.35%	37.09%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

2027 Biennial request represents an increase in general funds by percent over 2025 base.

FMAP decreases impact Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship caseloads in similar manner to Medicaid caseload.

Federal Funding Overview

Maintenance and Support Funding

- **Title IV-E Foster Care** - Assistance with costs of foster care for eligible children and associated administrative and training costs.
- **Title IV-E Adoption Assistance** - Financial and medical assistance for adoption of children with special needs as well as associated administrative and training costs.
- **Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance** - Financial and medical assistance for guardianship of eligible children and associated administrative and training costs.
- **TANF Emergency Assistance** –provides short term aid to children in emergency situations.
- **SSI** - for children in foster care with a disability or qualified disabilities of an insured parent.

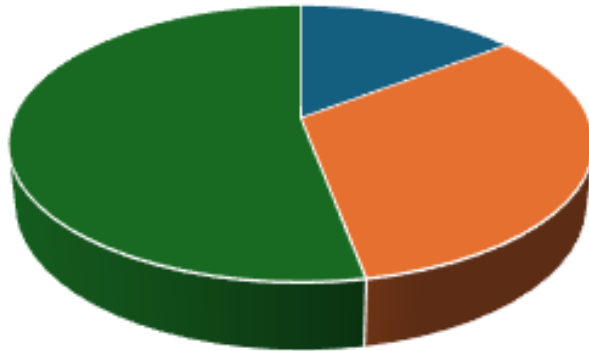
OTHER Federal Funding

- **Family First Prevention Services Act** - The Family First Act provides partial federal reimbursement to states that opt to provide prevention services for children who are at risk of entering foster care, pregnant or parenting foster youth, and their parents or kin caregivers.
- **John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee)** - Funds to help older youth in foster care and former foster care youth acquire training and independent living skills so they can become self-sufficient.
- **Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program: Title IV-B, Subpart 1, of the Social Security Act** - Preventive intervention, alternative placements, and reunification efforts to keep families together.
- **Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act** - Family support, family preservation and support, time-limited family reunification services, and services to support adoptions.
- **Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grants** - Assistance to improve State child protective service systems.
- **Children's Justice Act** - Funds for improving the investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect.
- **Court Improvement Program** - Funds for improvement of courts' handling of child abuse and neglect litigation.

Funding Overview: Title IV-E

Title IV-E Benefits

- Foster Care
- Adoption
- Guardianship



FUND
Fund Name
3529 M-E Guardianship
3530 M-E Foster Care
3531 M-E Adoption

Title IV-E Prevention

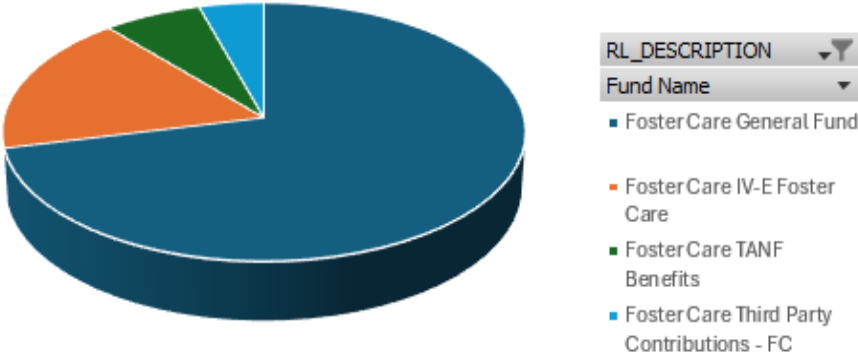
- Candidacy
- Title IV-E Clearinghouse
 - In-home Parent Skill Building
 - Substance Use (Montana Medicaid)
 - Mental Health (Montana Medicaid)
 - Kinship Navigator
- Title IV-E State Prevention Plan (for discussion on Friday)
- Individual Family Prevention Plan (parents agree)

Funding Overview: Foster Care Caseload

Foster Care

Foster Care Caseload					
Object of Expenditure	Category	SFY 2024**	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
67000	Benefits	\$ 31,455,653	\$ 28,933,589	\$ 32,128,169	\$ 32,171,930
Expense Total		\$ 31,455,653	\$ 28,933,589	\$ 32,128,169	\$ 32,171,930
01100	General Fund	\$ 22,633,295	\$ 18,299,294	\$ 22,889,601	\$ 22,933,169
02209	Third Party (SSI)	\$ 1,325,219	\$ 1,433,000	\$ 1,428,781	\$ 1,426,720
03109	TANF EA	\$ 1,895,310	\$ 1,976,440	\$ 2,169,430	\$ 2,171,684
03530	IV-E	\$ 5,601,829	\$ 7,224,855	\$ 5,640,357	\$ 5,640,357
Funding Total		\$ 31,455,653	\$ 28,933,589	\$ 32,128,169	\$ 32,171,930

**Includes PRI expenses allocated to the Director's Office



Funding Overview: Adoption Caseload

Adoption

Adoption Caseload					
Object of Expenditure	Category	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
67000	Benefits	\$ 26,518,669	\$ 27,059,154	\$ 29,261,103	\$ 29,322,599
Expense Total		\$ 26,518,669	\$ 27,059,154	\$ 29,261,103	\$ 29,322,599
01100	General Fund	\$ 11,093,392	\$ 10,984,330	\$ 13,261,019	\$ 13,497,674
03531	IV-E	\$ 15,425,277	\$ 16,074,824	\$ 16,000,084	\$ 15,824,925
Funding Total		\$ 26,518,669	\$ 27,059,154	\$ 29,261,103	\$ 29,322,599



RL_DESCRIPTOR... ▼

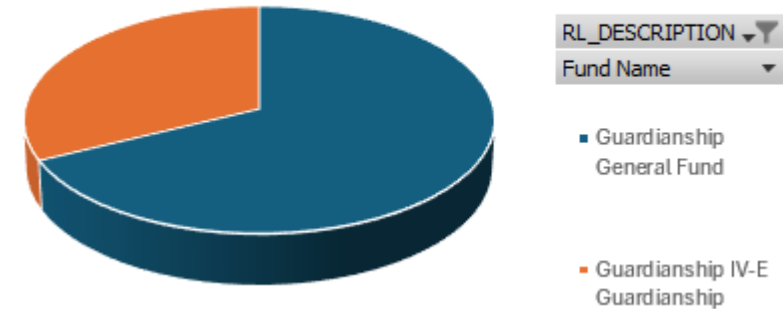
Fund Name ▼

- Adoption General Fund
- Adoption IV-E Adoption

Funding Overview: Guardianship Caseload

Guardianship

Guardianship Caseload					
Object of Expenditure	Category	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
67000	Benefits	\$ 10,668,774	\$ 12,819,409	\$ 13,705,861	\$ 13,920,665
Expense Total		\$ 10,668,774	\$ 12,819,409	\$ 13,705,861	\$ 13,920,665
01100	General Fund	\$ 6,790,339	\$ 7,519,481	\$ 9,287,792	\$ 9,503,998
03529	IV-E	\$ 3,878,435	\$ 5,299,928	\$ 4,418,069	\$ 4,416,667
Funding Total		\$ 10,668,774	\$ 12,819,409	\$ 13,705,861	\$ 13,920,665



Funding Overview: Federal Grants

- John Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (Chafee) **\$1,414,439**
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV) **\$404,320**
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) **\$443,290**
- Access and Visitation (AV) **\$103,194**
- Children's Justice Act (CJA) **\$99,901**
- Safe and Stable Families Grant **\$598,143**
- Title IV-E Pass-Through **\$3,183,969**

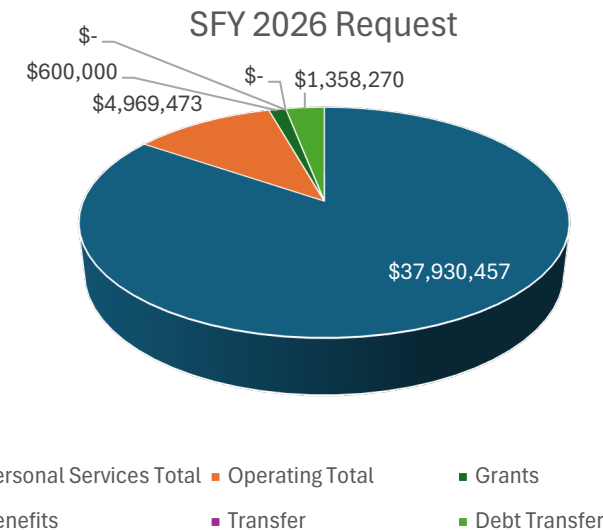
Grants – Funding Detail

GRANTS - Expense and Funding					
Object of Expenditure	Category	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
61100	Personal Services - Salaries	\$ 138,301	\$ 325,000	\$ -	\$ -
61400	Personal Services - Benefits	\$ 54,489	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
62100	Operating - Other Services	\$ 180,396	\$ 560,969	\$ 560,969	\$ 560,969
62200	Operating - Supplies and Materials	\$ 324	\$ 158,148	\$ 158,148	\$ 158,148
62300	Operating - Communications	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
62400	Operating - Travel	\$ 94,536	\$ 86,880	\$ 86,880	\$ 86,880
62500	Operating - Rent and Leases	\$ 10,431	\$ 30,875	\$ 30,875	\$ 30,875
62800	Operating - Other	\$ 93,950	\$ 177,377	\$ 177,377	\$ 177,377
66000	Grants	\$ 6,286,620	\$ 4,939,476	\$ 4,939,476	\$ 4,939,476
67000	Benefits	\$ 1,744,111	\$ 1,291,061	\$ 1,291,061	\$ 1,291,061
68000	Transfer	\$ 244,437	\$ 593,356	\$ 593,356	\$ 593,356
Expense Total		\$ 8,847,640	\$ 8,163,142	\$ 7,838,142	\$ 7,838,142
01xx	General Fund	\$ 1,581,647	\$ 1,742,275	\$ 1,661,025	\$ 1,661,025
02xx	State Special	\$ 137,924	\$ 21,125	\$ 21,125	\$ 21,125
03xx	Federal Fund	\$ 7,128,069	\$ 6,399,742	\$ 6,155,992	\$ 6,155,992
Funding Total		\$ 8,847,640	\$ 8,163,142	\$ 7,838,142	\$ 7,838,142

- Federal funds are primarily pass through grants and operating reimbursements for Title IV-E. Pass through dollars are provided for:
- Tribal Contracts
- Office of Public Defender
- Department of Justice
- County Attorney
- General funds provide match for various federal grants

Staffing and Administration

Staffing and Administration					
Object of Expense	Category	SFY 2024	SFY 2025 Budget	SFY 2026 Request	SFY 2027 Request
61100	Personal Services - Benefits	\$ 36,659,803	\$ 36,540,435	\$ 37,930,457	\$ 38,046,579
	Personal Services Total	\$ 36,659,803	\$ 36,540,435	\$ 37,930,457	\$ 38,046,579
62100	Operating - Other Services	\$ 423,096	\$ 2,018,914	\$ 2,118,914	\$ 2,116,214
62200	Operating - Supplies and Materials	\$ 181,003	\$ 301,236	\$ 301,236	\$ 301,236
62300	Operating - Communications	\$ 411,445	\$ 517,233	\$ 517,233	\$ 517,233
62400	Operating - Travel	\$ 581,358	\$ 797,024	\$ 795,485	\$ 795,984
62500	Operating - Rent and Leases	\$ 952,510	\$ 986,579	\$ 959,937	\$ 968,573
62600	Operating - Utilities	\$ 801	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
62700	Operating - Repair and Maintenance	\$ 39,286	\$ 65,249	\$ 65,249	\$ 65,249
62800	Operating - Other	\$ 290,983	\$ 205,419	\$ 205,419	\$ 205,419
	Operating Total	\$ 2,880,482	\$ 4,897,654	\$ 4,969,473	\$ 4,975,908
66000	Grants	\$ (78,587)	\$ -	\$ 600,000	\$ 666,951
67000	Benefits	\$ 34	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
68000	Transfer	\$ 1,364,048	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
69000	Debt Transfer	\$ 2,898,451	\$ 1,358,270	\$ 1,358,270	\$ 1,358,270
Expense Total		\$ 43,724,231	\$ 42,796,359	\$ 44,858,200	\$ 45,047,708
01xx	General Fund	\$ 31,755,917	\$ 30,119,170	\$ 31,750,060	\$ 31,913,918
02xx	State Special	\$ -	\$ 24,083	\$ 24,083	\$ 24,083
03xx	Federal Fund	\$ 11,968,314	\$ 12,653,106	\$ 13,084,057	\$ 13,109,707
Funding Total		\$ 43,724,231	\$ 42,796,359	\$ 44,858,200	\$ 45,047,708



Conclusion

