

Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship—CBO’s January 2019 Baseline

Foster care and permanency programs are open-ended entitlement programs that provide partial reimbursements to states for the cost of providing foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardian assistance to children who meet certain federal eligibility criteria. Each state is reimbursed for direct financial assistance according to a formula—based on the state’s federal medical assistance percentage rate—which can range from 50 percent to 83 percent of the state’s cost per child. Administrative and training costs associated with foster care and permanency programs are reimbursed at 50 percent and 75 percent, respectively, for all states. About 60 percent of the amount in federal payments to states is for spending associated with support for foster care.

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Outlays in Millions of Dollars, by Fiscal Year

January 28, 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Foster Care											
Maintenance	851	1,842	1,861	1,877	1,893	1,909	1,925	1,941	1,958	1,974	1,992
Administration	1,431	2,750	2,779	2,806	2,832	2,858	2,883	2,909	2,936	2,963	2,992
Training	266	271	276	281	286	291	296	301	306	311	316
Information Technology	226	237	249	256	261	268	274	280	287	294	300
Demonstrations	2,636	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prevention Services and Technical Assistance	2	24	34	154	183	213	252	281	351	351	351
Kinship Navigator Program	7	10	14	14	15	15	16	16	17	17	17
Subtotal	5,420	5,134	5,214	5,389	5,471	5,554	5,646	5,729	5,855	5,911	5,968
Adoption Assistance											
Maintenance	2,333	2,425	2,515	2,598	2,680	2,760	2,843	2,931	3,019	3,108	3,198
Administration	463	480	496	511	526	540	554	570	585	600	616
Training	38	39	41	42	43	44	45	47	48	49	50
Subtotal	2,834	2,945	3,052	3,150	3,249	3,344	3,443	3,547	3,652	3,757	3,865
Guardianship											
Maintenance	154	159	170	180	191	201	211	222	233	244	255
Administration	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Training	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Post-Demonstration Expenses	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4
Subtotal	171	177	189	201	212	223	235	247	259	271	284
Independent Living	140	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Tribal Technical Assistance	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sequestration	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8,567	8,401	8,600	8,886	9,078	9,267	9,470	9,668	9,911	10,086	10,263

Memorandum:

Average Monthly Caseload (Thousands of cases)

Foster Care	164	163	162	161	160	159	158	156	155	154	153
Adoption Assistance	504	521	537	552	567	580	594	609	624	639	654
Guardianship	34	35	37	39	41	43	45	47	49	51	53

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.