

Title IV-E Spending by Child Welfare Agencies in SFY 2022

Child welfare agencies across the United States are charged with protecting and promoting the welfare of children and youth who are at risk of or have been victims of maltreatment. State and local child welfare agencies rely on multiple funding streams to administer programs and services. In state fiscal year (SFY) 2022, state and local child welfare agencies spent \$34.3 billion in federal, state, local, and other funds. While many funding sources are available to child welfare agencies, each source has its own unique purposes, eligibility requirements, and limitations creating a complex financing structure that is challenging to understand and administer. Each state's unique funding composition impacts what services are available to children and families and the way in which child welfare agencies operate.

Other available resources

This document is one of many child welfare financing resources available on the [Child Trends](#) website, including a summary of national findings and detailed information on the following funding sources used by child welfare agencies:

- Title IV-B
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Social Services Block Grant
- Medicaid
- Other federal funds
- State and local funds

This document presents information about Title IV-E spending by child welfare agencies in SFY 2022 collected through Child Trends' national survey of child welfare agency expenditures.¹

Background

The largest federal funding source for child welfare agencies is Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, which in SFY 2022 was composed of the following programs:

- **Foster Care Program:** Covers costs related to providing foster care for eligible children, including administrative and training costs.
- **Adoption Assistance Program:** Covers costs related to providing adoption assistance for eligible children, including administrative and training costs.
- **Guardianship Assistance Program:** Covers costs related to providing kinship guardianship assistance for eligible children, including administrative and training costs.
- **Prevention Services Program:** Covers costs for approved services to prevent entry into foster care for eligible children and families, including administrative and training costs.
- **Kinship Navigator Program:** Covers costs for approved kinship navigator programs, including administrative and training costs.
- **Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood/Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs):** Assists youth transitioning out of foster care to adulthood.

- **Funding Certainty Grants:** Provides grants to jurisdictions that had a Title IV-E waiver demonstration project that operated through September 30, 2019, to help cover any negative fiscal impacts due to the end of the waiver.

Each of these programs is described in further detail in this document.²

Family First Prevention Services Act

The federal Family First Prevention Services Act (P.L. 115-123) was signed into law on February 9, 2018, and amends Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and other child welfare programs. The Act allows states and eligible Tribes with a prevention plan approved through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to seek Title IV-E reimbursement for preventive services provided to families with children at risk of entering foster care (“candidates for foster care”) or pregnant or parenting youth in foster care. These preventive services include evidence-based and approved mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs. These services have no income eligibility requirements, and states have some flexibility to define “candidates for foster care,” thus enabling reimbursement for these services for more children than other Title IV-E programs.

Additionally, for children and youth who do ultimately enter foster care, the Family First Prevention Services Act recommends that children be placed with families (kinship or foster) and limits the types of congregate care placement settings that are eligible for federal reimbursement.

The law also allows Title IV-E funds to help reimburse foster care maintenance payments for children placed with a parent in a family-based substance use treatment facility and to pay for eligible evidence-based kinship navigator programs.

While passed in 2018, states could not start claiming Title IV-E for prevention services until October 2019 (SFY 2020). If states began claiming Title IV-E for prevention services at that time, they were also required to adhere to the legislation’s restrictions on reimbursement for congregate care placements. Otherwise, the congregate care restrictions went into effect no later than October 2021 (SFY 2022).

This landmark legislation was followed by the Family First Transition Act (FFTA; P.L. 116-94), passed in 2019, which provides \$500 million in time-limited funding to give states additional flexibility and support to implement the Family First Prevention Services Act. The Family First Transition Act also provides time-limited Funding Certainty Grants to jurisdictions that had a Title IV-E waiver demonstration project that operated through September 30, 2019, to help mitigate negative fiscal impacts due to the end of the waiver.

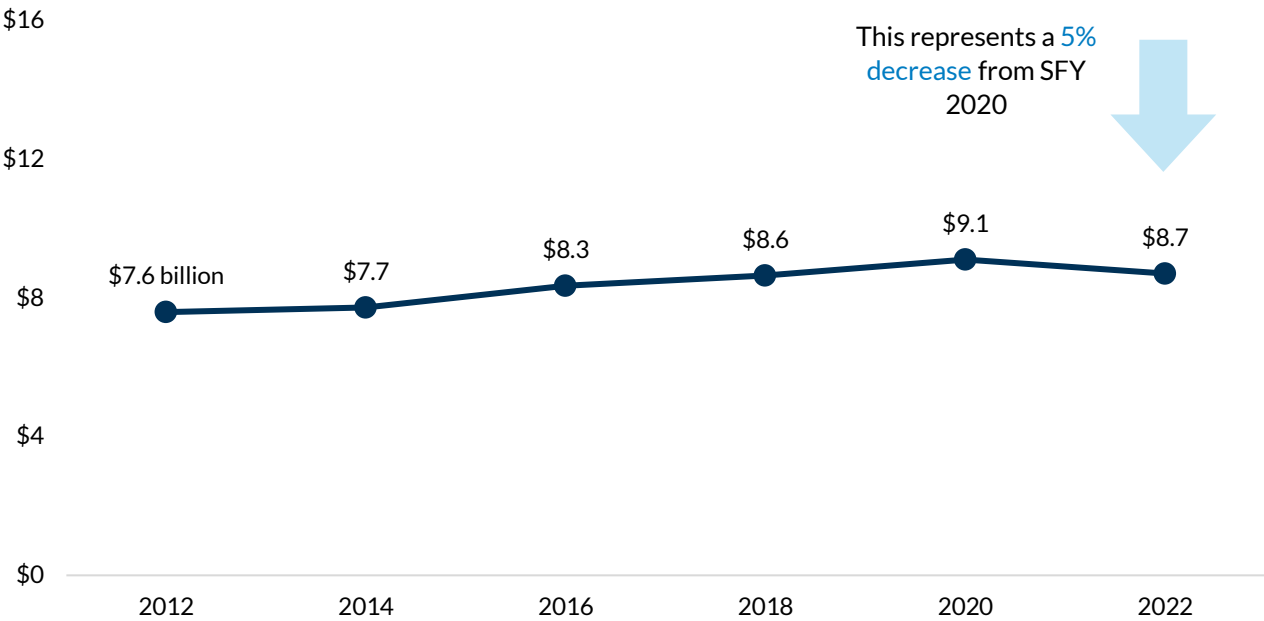
The data in this resource capture SFY 2022 expenditures, which is the second fielding of this survey in which states could have received reimbursement for new programs authorized through the Family First Prevention Services Act and new time-limited funds through the Family First Transition Act.

Overview of Title IV-E spending

\$9.5 billion

In SFY 2022, child welfare agencies reported spending **\$9.5 billion** in Title IV-E funds.³

Title IV-E expenditures have **increased by nearly 15 percent** over the decade (among states with sufficient data in SFYs 2012 and 2022). The following graph shows the trend line over the decade.⁴



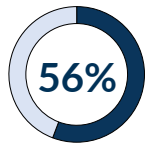
All dollar amounts have been inflated to 2022 levels. The figures presented in this graph reflect an analysis of 42 states with sufficient data in all six surveys conducted between 2012 and 2022 (surveys conducted every two years). Therefore, the total amount of SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures presented in this graph (\$8.7 billion) differs from the total amount presented in the text (\$9.5 billion).

Between SFYs 2020 and 2022, **more states reported a decrease** than an increase in the use of Title IV-E funds by child welfare agencies.⁵ Changes in Title IV-E expenditures ranged from **-25 percent to 49 percent**, depending on the state.

States experiencing changes in the use of Title IV-E funds



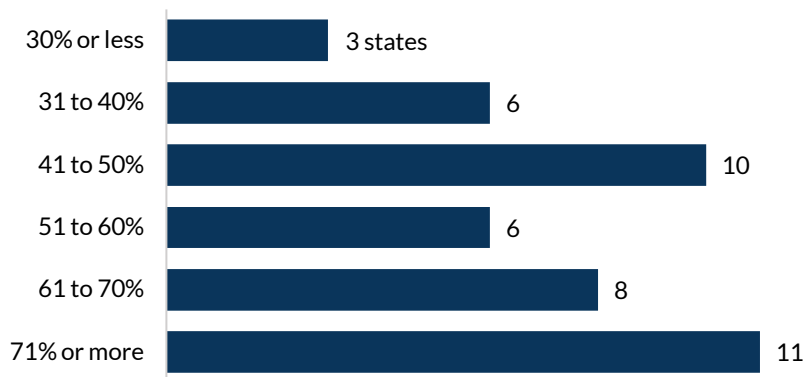
Title IV-E as a share of all federal funds



Title IV-E funds made up **more than half** of federal funds spent by child welfare agencies in SFY 2022.⁶

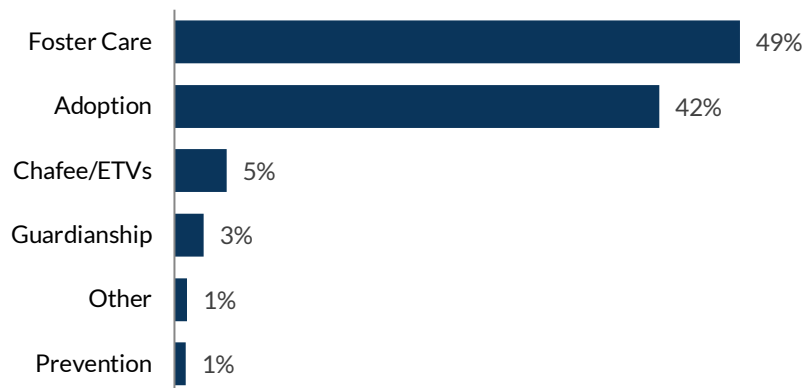
Title IV-E funds accounted for **24 percent** to **95 percent** of federal dollars spent by child welfare agencies in SFY 2022, depending on the state.

Percentage of federal expenditures



In SFY 2022, nearly all Title IV-E spending (**\$9.44 billion out of \$9.52 billion**) was spent by child welfare agencies on child welfare-related services/activities in the programs listed above (as opposed to being spent on other allowable services/activities administered by child welfare agencies or other entities, such as juvenile justice, early childhood, behavioral health, or developmental disabilities programs). The remainder of this resource focuses specifically on child-welfare related services/activities.

The vast majority of Title IV-E spending on child welfare services/activities was for Foster Care and Adoption programs.⁷



Other includes spending on the Kinship Navigator Program and Funding Certainty Grants.

Foster Care Program

The Title IV-E Foster Care Program is an entitlement program⁸ that reimburses states for a portion of costs associated with the following services for eligible children:

- a. Maintenance payments that cover the costs of shelter, food, and clothing⁹
- b. Child placement services and other administrative costs, including case planning and review activities on behalf of children in foster care; costs associated with children determined by the state to be candidates for foster care (i.e., those at imminent risk of entering care and for whom efforts are being made to prevent entry into care or pursue removal); information technology costs; and legal representation related to foster care¹⁰
- c. Expenses related to training staff and foster parents¹¹

Total in SFY 2022:

\$4,746,269,594

Change from SFY 2020:

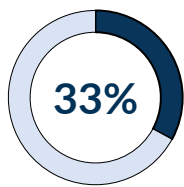
4%

Entitlement programs require payments to persons, state and local governments, or other entities if eligibility criteria established in law are met. Entitlement payments are legal obligations of the federal government and do not have a set funding ceiling.

Federal reimbursement for Foster Care Program costs varies depending on the type of service and the state's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The FMAP determines the amount the federal government reimburses a state for eligible costs. The FMAP rates for all states are reassessed and updated annually and are higher for states with lower average per capita income. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) increased states' FMAP rates by 6.2 percentage points from January 1, 2020, through March 31, 2023, when a phase down began to take effect.

Children eligible for the Title IV-E Foster Care Program include those in out-of-home placements who would have been considered financially "needy" in the home from which they were removed based on state-level measures in place in 1996 under the former Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program. This income requirement is referred to as the "lookback" and is controversial in part since the poverty measures are not adjusted for inflation each year, which effectively reduces the pool of Title IV-E eligible children over time. In fact, data collected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) show that the percentage of children in foster care who are eligible for Title IV-E has been decreasing over time, including between FFYs 2020 and 2022.¹²

To be eligible for Title IV-E foster care, children must also have entered care through a judicial determination or voluntary placement and be in a licensed or approved foster care placement. States have the option to extend foster care to age 21 and seek Title IV-E reimbursement for the costs of this extended care if the youth meet certain criteria. However, between December 27, 2020, and September 30, 2021, the Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act relaxed the eligibility requirements and age limit for extended foster care.¹³



One third of Foster Care Program expenditures were for **foster care maintenance payments**. Out of the total \$4.7 billion, \$1.6 billion was used for foster care maintenance payments (a 6% decrease since SFY 2020),¹⁴ and \$3.2 billion was used for child placement services and other administrative costs, including caseworker activities on behalf of children, training, and Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)/Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) costs (a 9% increase since SFY 2020).¹⁵

Despite increased FMAP rates for foster care maintenance payments, we observed a 6 percent decrease in maintenance payments. Many states indicated on this survey that these decreases were due to reduced caseloads due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is supported by national data showing declines in foster care caseloads between 2020 and 2022.¹⁶ Two states also indicated the Family First Prevention Services Act restrictions on claiming Title IV-E for some residential placements has caused a decrease in their Title IV-E foster care maintenance claims. These restrictions went into effect for all states no later than October 1, 2021.

While maintenance payments decreased, child placement services and other administrative costs increased. Two states with large increases indicated it was due to increased SACWIS/CCWIS costs. One large state indicated its increase was due to higher salary costs. In addition, states claimed close to \$93 million more in legal representation costs in FFY 2022 than in FFY 2020.¹⁷ This increase is expected given the federal government began allowing states to seek Title IV-E reimbursement for the costs of attorneys representing Title IV-E eligible children and their parent(s) in January 2019. Federal claims data also show increases in Title IV-E administration claims for candidates for foster care (i.e., those at imminent risk of entering care and for whom efforts are being made to prevent entry into care or pursue removal).

Adoption Assistance Program

Like the Foster Care Program, the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program¹⁸ is an entitlement program in which the federal government reimburses each state for a set percentage of eligible costs in the following categories:

Total in SFY 2022:

\$3,681,738,547

Change from SFY 2020:

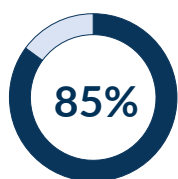
2%

- Adoption assistance payments on behalf of eligible children¹⁹
- Placement services, non-recurring adoption assistance payments, and administrative costs related to adoptions of eligible children²⁰
- Expenses related to training staff and adoptive parents for eligible children²¹

Children are eligible for the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program if they are a “child with special needs” as determined by the state (42 USC 673). In the context of child welfare, special needs can refer to characteristics that make it more difficult to find an adoptive family for a child.²² Such characteristics include, but are not limited to, membership in a sibling group; age; ethnic or racial background; medical, physical, or emotional disabilities; or risk of physical, mental, or emotional disability based on family history.²³ Originally, children must also have met one of the following criteria to be eligible for Title IV-E

adoption assistance: (1) they would have been considered financially “needy” in the homes from which they were removed based on measures in place in 1996 under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program (the “lookback”); (2) they are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI); (3) they are children whose costs in a foster care setting are included in the Title IV-E foster care maintenance payment being made on behalf of their minor parents; or (4) they were eligible for Title IV-E adoption assistance in a previous adoption, but their adoptive parents died or the parents’ rights to the children were dissolved.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) contained a provision that phased out the criteria above (starting with older children in care), so that by FFY 2018, all children with special needs who were adopted (with some additional eligibility criteria) would be eligible for recurring Title IV-E adoption assistance payments. However, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018 paused this phase-in process until July 1, 2024. Therefore, in FFY 2022, the expanded eligibility applied to those with special needs who (1) were age 2 or older;²⁴ (2) had been in care for 60 continuous months; or (3) were a sibling of a child who met the age or length-of-stay requirement and were being placed in the same adoptive family as that sibling. This expansion of eligibility criteria increased the number of children qualifying for the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.²⁵ Given this increased federal support, states were required to calculate the amount of state funds they saved and use those savings for child welfare purposes.



More than **three quarters** of Adoption Assistance Program funds were used for **adoption assistance payments**. Out of the total \$3.7 billion, \$3.1 billion was used for adoption assistance payments (a 2% increase over SFY 2020)²⁶, and \$550 million was used for administrative costs and training (a 1% increase since SFY 2020).²⁷

The increase in this program is partially explained by higher FMAP rates from the FFCRA, meaning the federal government paid a larger share of eligible costs. The higher FMAP rates began in January 2020 and continued past SFY 2022, meaning the higher rates were in effect for part of SFY 2020 but all of SFY 2022. In addition, the number of children receiving Title IV-E adoption assistance payments increased between FFYs 2020 and 2022.²⁸

Note that while eligibility for the Adoption Assistance Program expanded over the past decade, eligibility criteria remained the same between SFYs 2020 and 2022 and therefore does not explain the increase in Adoption Assistance Program spending during that timeframe.

Guardianship Assistance Program

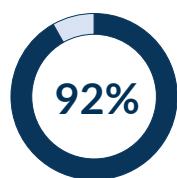
The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 gives states the option to operate a Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program (also referred to as “GAP” or “KinGAP”).²⁹ As with the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs, GAP is an entitlement program in which the federal government reimburses each state for a percentage of eligible costs in the following categories:

Total in SFY 2022:
\$272,731,234

Change from SFY 2020:
9%

- Kinship guardianship assistance payments to relatives who become the legal guardians of eligible children for whom the relatives previously served as licensed foster parents³⁰
- Placement services, non-recurring guardianship assistance payments, and administrative costs related to guardianships from foster care of eligible children³¹
- Expenses related to training staff and guardians of eligible children³²

In states with a GAP, children are eligible if they are exiting foster care to legal guardianship with relatives (the definition of relative, which can include fictive kin, is determined by each state) and meet the following conditions: (1) the child has been eligible for Title IV-E foster care maintenance payments while residing in the home of a licensed prospective relative guardian for at least six consecutive months; (2) the state or Tribe has determined that returning home or being placed for adoption are not appropriate for the child; (3) the child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian, and the prospective guardian is committed to caring permanently for the child; and (4) for children age 14 and older, the child has been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship arrangement. Siblings of eligible children placed in the same kinship guardianship arrangement are also eligible even if they themselves do not meet the criteria above.³³



The **vast majority** of Guardianship Assistance Program funds were used for **guardianship assistance payments**. Out of the total \$273 million, \$250 million was used for guardianship assistance payments (a 9% increase over SFY 2020)³⁴, and \$22 million was used for administrative costs such as training and non-recurring guardianship expenses (a 6% increase since SFY 2020).³⁵

The increase in this program is partially explained by higher FMAP rates via the FFCRA that applied to part of SFY 2020 but all of SFY 2022. GAP expenditures also increased due to more states starting a GAP and most states with existing GAP programs claiming more expenditures.

Prevention Services Program

The Family First Prevention Services Act allows states to seek Title IV-E reimbursement for approved services to prevent placement into foster care.³⁶ Those eligible for these services include:

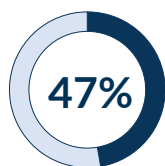
- Children at imminent risk of being placed in foster care unless services are provided to help them stay safely at home or in a kinship placement (i.e., a “candidate for foster care” as determined by the state)
- Pregnant or parenting children in foster care
- Parents or kin caregivers of candidates for foster care

Total in SFY 2022:
\$64,113,531

Change from SFY 2020:
1,551%

Unlike some other Title IV-E programs, eligibility for the Prevention Services Program is not dependent on income. However, only certain types of prevention services can be reimbursed by Title IV-E. Services

eligible for reimbursement include mental health and substance use prevention and treatment services and in-home parent skill-based programs. These programs must meet evidence standards prescribed in the Family First Prevention Services Act and be determined by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse to be promising, supported, or well-supported. The original Family First Prevention Services Act indicated that through October 1, 2026, all states with a prevention plan approved by ACF could receive 50 percent reimbursement for allowable expenditures. After that time, the reimbursement would depend on each state's FMAP. The Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act increased federal reimbursement to 100 percent between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021, which encompassed part of SFY 2022 for many states. The Family First Prevention Services Act also required states to spend 50 percent of their prevention program spending on well-supported programs, but this rule was relaxed for FFYs 2020-2023 via the Family First Transition Act.



Almost half of Prevention Services Program funds were used for prevention services. Out of the total \$64 million, \$30.3 million was used for prevention services, and \$33.8 million was used for administrative costs such as training and evaluation.

While this program is growing, many documented implementation challenges have prevented the program from expanding as quickly as many originally anticipated. For example, challenges include strict definitions of an “evidence-based” program, eligibility restrictions, and administrative burden and infrastructure requirements for program implementation.³⁷

Kinship Navigator Program

The Family First Prevention Services Act allows states to seek Title IV-E reimbursement for 50 percent of approved Kinship Navigator Program expenditures.³⁸ Kinship navigator programs help kinship caregivers access supports and services to meet the needs of children in their care and their own needs.³⁹ States have the flexibility to determine which children and families are eligible for the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program, including how “kinship caregiver” is defined.⁴⁰

Total in SFY 2022:
\$11,813,595

Change from SFY 2020:
721%

The Family First Prevention Services Act states that to receive reimbursement, the kinship navigator programs must be considered promising, supported, or well-supported according to the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. However, due to the lack of rated programs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provided states with the option of receiving transitional payments for kinship navigator programs that were not yet rated but showed evidence of effectiveness.⁴¹

The Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act temporarily increased federal reimbursement for the Kinship Navigator Program to 100 percent, relaxed the evidence requirements, and expanded allowable uses of program funds through September 30, 2021, which was part of SFY 2022 for many states.⁴²

As expected, since this is a newer program for states and due to the flexibilities provided during the COVID-19 pandemic, expenditures for kinship navigation are on the rise.

Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood/Education and Training Vouchers

The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood⁴³ (Chafee Program) allocates funding to states for expenses related to independent living activities that prepare youth to successfully transition out of foster care. Funding can also be used for services for some young people who have already left foster care. The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) component of the program provides vouchers up to \$5,000 per year for post-secondary education or vocational training. Unlike the other Title IV-E programs, the Chafee Program operates as a capped entitlement with only a designated amount of funds available. Funding for the ETV component is discretionary with the amount subject to annual appropriations, which can vary from year to year. A state must fund no less than 20 percent of Chafee Program costs with non-federal dollars to receive its full allotment of federal Chafee Program funding (i.e., it must provide \$1 for every \$4 in federal funding it receives through the Chafee Program).

Total in SFY 2022:
\$315,489,741

Change from SFY 2020:
78%

Discretionary funding is approved at certain amounts each year through the appropriations process. This is the process by which Congress determines how much money to devote to different programs or activities, which is subject to change.

The growth of this program is due to the influx of resources from the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act. This legislation provided an additional \$344 million for the Chafee Program (with no required state match) that could be used between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2022.⁴⁴ The Act also increased the age of eligibility for the Chafee Program to age 26 between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2021 and relaxed requirements that limited how much Chafee Program funds states could use for room and board between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021. The law also provided \$50 million (with no required state match) in additional funding for ETVs; increased the maximum ETV amount from \$5,000 to \$12,000 between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2022; and relaxed eligibility and allowable uses between April 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021.

Funding Certainty Grants

For states operating under a Title IV-E waiver on September 30, 2019, the Family First Transition Act of 2019 provided time-limited Funding Certainty Grants for FFYs 2020 and 2021 to help ease the fiscal impact caused by the end of the waivers.⁴⁵ States that received these grants can use the funds for any purpose authorized under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, for activities associated with implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, and for activities previously funded under waivers. While these funds were awarded at the end of FFYs 2020 and 2021, they remain available through September 30, 2026.⁴⁶

Total in SFY 2022:
\$349,525,077

Change from SFY 2020:
8%

A Note About the End of Title IV-E Waivers

At first glance, it appears contradictory that total Title IV-E expenditures decreased between SFYs 2020 and 2022, but all individual Title IV-E programs show increases. However, an important recent shift in Title IV-E policy is that the Title IV-E waiver program ended in September 2019. Since 1994, waivers allowed the federal government to waive specific Title IV-E requirements to promote innovation in designing and delivering child welfare services. For instance, states with waivers could use Title IV-E funding to cover costs for children who were not traditionally Title IV-E eligible and pay for services that were not allowed under the typical Foster Care, Adoption, or Guardianship programs. All waivers ended in September 2019, which was during SFY 2020 for most states (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020). In SFY 2020, states reported spending \$892 million (in 2022 dollars) under the waiver program. In past surveys, we asked states how they used their waiver dollars. In SFY 2020, states reported spending 80 percent of their waiver dollars on services and activities that would have been reimbursed even without the waiver. This makes sense since states are still required to provide services like foster care and adoption subsidies to Title IV-E eligible children, even with a waiver. However, in SFY 2020, states reported spending 20 percent of their waiver dollars on services and activities that could only be claimed to Title IV-E because the waiver allowed them to expand eligibility and/or cover services that were not traditionally allowed under Title IV-E.⁴⁷ When the waiver program ended, states had to figure out how to cover the costs previously allowed under the waiver. Some of these costs could be shifted to new Title IV-E programs, notably the Prevention Program, but some could not. In other words, the increases seen across the current individual Title IV-E programs help offset the loss of the waiver dollars but do not make up for it all.

Acknowledgement: We thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs for their support and expert consultation throughout the project. We acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented in this resource are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of these organizations.

Main Report: Rosinsky, K., Fischer, M., Haas, M., Ibarra, A., & Williams, S.C. (2025). *Child Welfare Financing SFY 2022: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*. Child Trends. DOI: 10.56417/5123x6901v

Endnotes

¹ See the main report (*Child Welfare Financing SFY 2022: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*) for more specific information about the methodology, interpretation of findings, and important caveats.

Each state reported data based on its SFY 2022, which for most states is July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. Of the 46 participating states, only four (the District of Columbia, Michigan, New York, and Texas) reported a different SFY period.

The survey instrument has been revised over the 13 rounds of the survey, so some data are not directly comparable. See the main report for more details about changes to the survey and comparability.

For the purposes of the survey, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are considered states.

This year, Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, North Dakota, and West Virginia were unable to participate, resulting in a total of 46 participating states. When possible, we used U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) fiscal data to estimate their Title IV-E expenditures (see the main report for details).

² The following pieces of legislation are referenced in this resource:

Social Security Act Amendments of 1994. Public Law No. 103-432. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/house-bill/5252>

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. Public Law No. 110-351. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6893>

Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Public Law No. 115-123. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1892>

Family First Transition Act of 2019. Public Law No. 116-94. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865>

Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act of 2020. Public Law No. 116-260. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133>

³ This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data.

⁴ To enable comparisons, all dollar amounts from previous years have been inflated to 2022 levels using the gross domestic product deflator (accessed at www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/).

When making comparisons between expenditures or funding proportions between two or more years, we restricted the analysis to states with sufficient data in the years being compared. This is because some states provided incomplete information or did not respond to the survey in some years.

The percentage change between SFYs 2012 and 2022 is based on an analysis of 45 states with sufficient data.

The percentage change between SFYs 2020 and 2022 is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

⁵ Based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data

⁶ This percentage is based on an analysis of 44 states with complete federal expenditure data in SFY 2022.

⁷ Based on an analysis of 47 states that provided a breakdown of their Title IV-E spending

⁸ This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data. Percentage change from SFY 2020 is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data in SFYs 2020 and 2022.

⁹ Federal reimbursement is provided based on the state's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which varied from 50 percent to 78.31 percent in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2022. These amounts do not reflect increased FMAP rates as a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

Mitchell, A. (2025). *Medicaid's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)*. Congressional Research Service, (R43847; April 2, 2025), Washington, D.C. Available at: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R43847#:~:text=FMAP%20rates%20have%20a%20statutory,share%20of%20most%20Medicaid%20expenditures>

¹⁰ These expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 50 percent rate.

¹¹ Training expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 75 percent rate.

¹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2024a). *Title IV-E Programs Expenditure and Caseload Data*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/cb/report/title-iv-e-programs-expenditure-and-caseload-data>

¹³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2021a). *Guidance and instruction related to the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2104.pdf>

¹⁴ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data in SFYs 2020 and 2022.

¹⁵ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data in SFYs 2020 and 2022.

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2023a). *The AFCARS Report*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-30.pdf>

¹⁷ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2022). *Title IV-E Programs Expenditure and Caseload Data 2020*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/cb/report/programs-expenditure-caseload-data-2020>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2023b). *Title IV-E Programs Expenditure and Caseload Data 2022*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/cb/report/programs-expenditure-caseload-data-2022>

¹⁸ This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data. Percentage change from SFY 2020 is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

¹⁹ Federal reimbursement is provided based on the state's FMAP rate.

²⁰ These expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 50 percent rate.

²¹ Training expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 75 percent rate.

²² U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2010). *"Special Needs" Adoption: What Does it Mean?* Available at: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/specialneeds_507737_7.pdf

²³ U.S. DHHS, CB, 2010

²⁴ We simplified the statutory language, which requires that the child be at least 2 years of age by the end of the FFY in which the Title IV-E adoption assistance agreement was entered into.

²⁵ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2024b). *Adoption Savings Data*. Available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/report/adoption-savings-data>

²⁶ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

²⁷ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

²⁸ U.S. DHHS, CB, 2022

U.S. DHHS, CB, 2023b

²⁹ This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data. Percentage change from SFY 2020 is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

³⁰ Federal reimbursement is provided based on the state's FMAP.

³¹ These expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 50 percent rate.

³² Training expenses are reimbursed by the federal government at a 75 percent rate.

³³ Additionally, the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 states that children who were receiving guardianship payments or services under a Title IV-E demonstration waiver as of September 30, 2008 remain eligible for Title IV-E assistance or services under the same terms or conditions established previously in any terminated Title IV-E guardianship waiver.

³⁴ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

³⁵ Percentage change is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

³⁶ There were 19 states that reported Prevention Services Program expenditures for SFY 2022: Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Total reported amount in SFY 2022 is based on an analysis of 49 states with available data. This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data.

Percentage change is based on an analysis of 40 states with sufficient data in SFYs 2020 and 2022.

³⁷ Carmody, C. (2024). Evidence-based practice criteria's effect on the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act in Nebraska and Colorado. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 104, 102428. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0149718924000302>

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³⁸ There were 17 states that reported Kinship Navigator Program expenditures for SFY 2022: Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and Wyoming. There are potential discrepancies between the states reporting kinship navigator program expenditures on our survey versus states that reported kinship navigator expenditures in their HHS claims data. The source of these discrepancies is unclear.

Based on an analysis of 50 states. This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, and North Dakota based on HHS fiscal data.

Percentage change is based on an analysis of 40 states with sufficient data in SFYs 2020 and 2022.

³⁹ Social Security Act, Section 427. *Family Connection Grants*. Available at: https://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title04/0427.htm

⁴⁰ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2021b). *Temporary Flexibilities for Participating in the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Program*. Available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2105.pdf>

⁴¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2019). *Transitional Payments for the Title IV-E Kinship Navigator Programs*. Available at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi1907.pdf>

⁴² U.S. DHHS, 2021b

⁴³ Based on an analysis of 51 states. This amount includes estimated SFY 2022 Title IV-E expenditures for Alabama, Alaska, Hawai'i, Kentucky, Maryland, North Dakota, and West Virginia based on HHS fiscal data.

Percentage change from SFY 2020 is based on an analysis of 43 states with sufficient data.

⁴⁴ U.S. DHHS, 2021a

⁴⁵ There were 11 states reporting Funding Certainty Grant expenditures for SFY 2022: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, and Utah.

Total reported amount in SFY 2022 is based on an analysis of 44 states.

Percentage change from SFY 2020 is based on an analysis of 39 states with sufficient data.

⁴⁶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau (2020). *Family First Transition Act Funding Certainty Grants*. Available at: <https://acf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/pi2008.pdf>

⁴⁷ Rosinsky, K., Fischer, M., & Haas, M. (2023) *Child Welfare Financing SFY 2020: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*. Bethesda, MD: Child Trends. Available at: <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/child-welfare-financing-sfy2020>