

## **Improve Safety, Well-Being and Permanency for Iowa's Children**

**Child Abuse Prevention  
Child and Family Services  
Adoption Subsidy  
Boys State Training School  
Family Support Programs**

# Child Abuse Prevention – Administrative Support Only

## DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) is to prevent child maltreatment. The department works in partnership with a contracted ICAPP administrator, as well as stakeholders at Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Early Childhood Iowa (ECI), and the Iowa Department of Education (IDE), to provide coordinated support to local communities implementing programs and services such as: community development, home visitation, and family/caretaker education and support.

## WHO IS HELPED

Prevention services are funded through annual contracts awarded to local community-based volunteer councils. The department contracts with an administrator to provide support to these councils throughout the state.

## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

A new competitive procurement for the administration of ICAPP was issued for SFY18-23. This procurement increased the responsibilities of the ICAPP administrator to include services provided by local councils using Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant funds.

- A contract was issued to Prevent Child Abuse Iowa.
- The contract amount for SFY21 is \$282,865 and increases to \$298,748 by SFY23.

Funding for CBCAP administration is 100 percent federal and accounts for one-third of the combined contract costs, averaging about \$98,000 per year for SFY18-23. The remaining two-thirds of the annual administrator costs is funded via state birth registration fees, and varies between \$197,000 and \$233,000 annually.

# Child and Family Services

## DESCRIPTION

Child welfare and juvenile justice services are interventions for children, youth, and families, designed to improve safety, permanency, and well-being.

## WHO IS HELPED

Child welfare services are provided to families and children who are either at risk of abuse or who have experienced abuse and have been adjudicated a child in need of assistance. In addition, services are available to youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system and are employed or going to school.

Differential Response (DR) is a child welfare approach in which one of two pathways, family assessment or child abuse assessment, is assigned to accepted allegations of child abuse based on the type and severity of the suspected abuse reported. A combined total of 31,338 assessments were completed in SFY20; of these, 24,936 or 80% were child abuse assessments while the remaining 6,402 or 20% were family assessments.

The Family First Prevention Services Act, simply referred to as 'Family First,' restructured how the federal government spends money on child welfare in order to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes of children and families. Iowa will formally be implementing the Family First Act in October 2020, but has spent the past 2 years preparing the child welfare system for these changes. DHS has been providing training and developing tools that help safely reduce the use of foster care and residential services.

Key Iowa implementation components effective in the current SFY21 include:

- Statewide evidence-based foster care prevention services, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment services and in-home, parent skill-based programs, to reduce foster care placements and the resulting trauma experienced by children and families.
- The new Family-Centered Services (FCS) contracts providing evidence-based, in-home, parent skill-based programs: SafeCare® and Solution-Based Casework®. DHS allowed providers to claim up to \$100,000 as they develop capacity through training and certification.
- Prioritized family settings if children must be removed from their homes because of imminent danger.
- The Kinship Navigator program designed to support relatives and fictive kin caring for children. DHS contracted with a service provider to develop a pilot kinship navigator program in a few select counties. The program provides concrete supports, community resource information and referral, etc. Contingent on funding availability, DHS would like to expand this program statewide.
- Congregate care is limited to treatment programs only, such as treatment in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), when a qualified individual clinically assesses that the child cannot reside in a family or family-like setting due to the child's mental and behavioral health. This higher standard should result in decreased use of group care settings, resulting in availability of funds to reinvest in other child welfare services focused on preventing child abuse and neglect and then to prevent unnecessary child removals when abuse or neglect occurs.

As presented in the following table, foster care is defined as any out of home placement (not with a parent) through a Court Order or a Voluntary Placement Agreement. Data in this table comes from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS); AFCARS collects case level information for the state of Iowa on all children in foster care during a quarter.

#### Number of Out Of Home Placements Each Quarter

SFY19	Q1	8,655
	Q2	8,670
	Q3	8,613
	Q4	8,601
SFY20	Q1	8,486
	Q2	8,276
	Q3	7,948

The following table shows the average daily population for different levels of out of home care for SFY 16 through SFY20. Data in this table comes from the department's Family and Children Services (FACS) system:

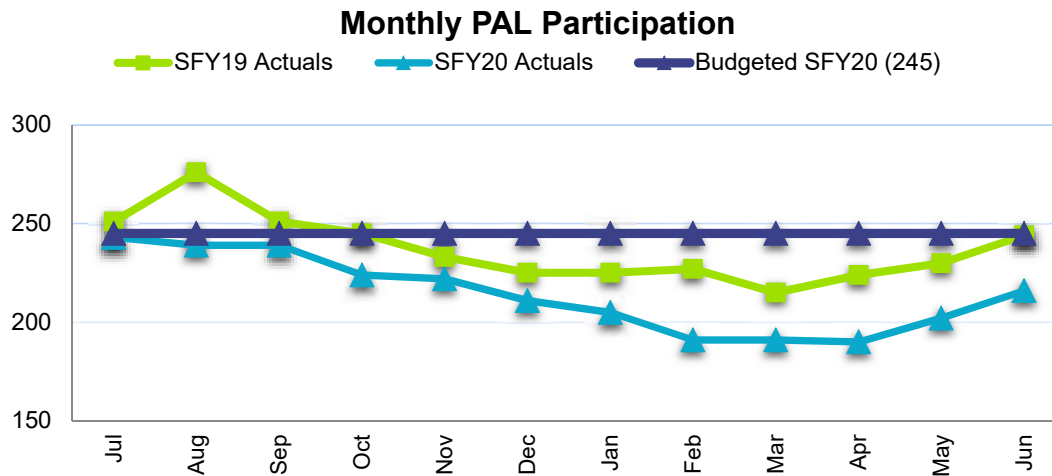
#### Out of Home Placements by Level of Care

	SFY16	SFY17	SFY18	SFY19	SFY20
Group	635	576	530	479	427
Shelter	147	148	166	163	129
SAL	67	56	69	61	53
Licensed Foster Home	1,759	1,750	1,901	1,946	1,756

Family First not only reduces the number of children in foster care, but ultimately will affect the number of youth “aging out” of foster care. This will allow repurposing of funding to extend and enhance services for foster care alumni.

Recent changes to foster care transition programs include the following:

- Equalized financial supports provided by Aftercare/PAL, so youth who age out of relative care get the same support as youth who age out of state paid care.
- Aftercare participants who aged out of relative care are newly eligible for start-up funds, limited to \$600 per participant, for rent, deposit, and other costs associated with getting a first apartment.
- Extended aftercare from age 21 to age 23, to maintain stability in housing, employment, and educational goals of the participant.
- Aftercare initiated participant financial supports up \$300 per quarter to participants age 21 and 22, which can be used for housing, transportation, and food.
- The Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV), which provides up to \$5,000/year for college or career funding for foster care alumni, was extended from age 23 to 26. ETV requirements to start by age 21 were removed, allowing students to start school when they were ready.



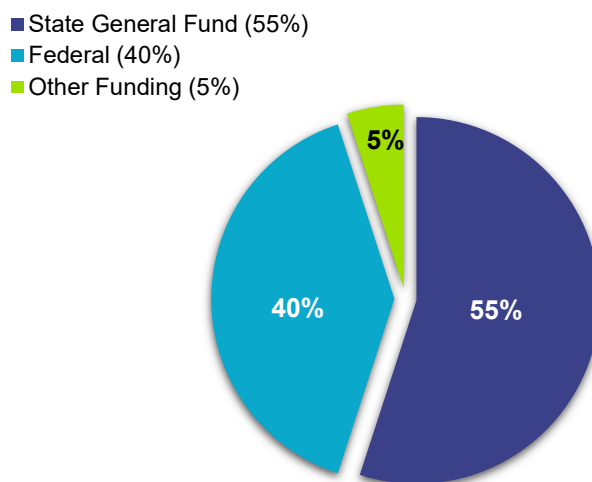
## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

Child and Family Services includes a broad range of services and interventions for children, youth and families at risk. Children, youth and families may receive multiple services and interventions over the course of a year.

The total budget for SFY21 is \$163,383,443:

- \$65,767,167 is federal
  - TANF: \$32,380,654
  - SSBG: \$ 8,315,971
  - Other: \$25,070,542
    - includes IV-E and IV-B parts 1 & 2
- \$89,071,930 is state general fund
- \$ 4,302,724 is other state funds
- \$ 4,241,622 is other recoveries

### SFY21 Funding



# Adoption Subsidy and Reinvestment

## DESCRIPTION

Adoption subsidy is a financial support provided to families who adopt special needs children. The funds assist families with the cost of raising a child, and costs associated with the needs of the child. Reinvestment is the required use of state savings resulting from federal legislation that expanded eligibility for federal matching funds for children receiving an adoption subsidy, reducing state expenditures. States are required to reinvest this savings in specified qualified expenditures.

## WHO IS HELPED

When courts terminate the parental rights of children who have been abused or neglected, the DHS strives to find permanent adoptive families as quickly as possible. Adoption subsidy provides a monthly payment to parents of eligible children. Families who receive adoption subsidy are also eligible for post-adoption support services.

- Reinvestment funds can be used for a number of post-adoption services including subsidized guardianship and other child welfare services. At least 30 percent of the savings must be spent on post-adoption services, post-guardianship services and services to support positive permanent outcomes for children at risk of entering foster care.
- Iowa currently uses reinvestment funds to support a multifaceted child welfare level of care tool, the Treatment Outcome Package (TOP). This data-driven system employs a comprehensive assessment of 12 key indicators to: identify a child's unique needs; develop a treatment plan tailored to those needs including appropriate referrals; and tracks progress in addressing these needs.
- Iowa also uses reinvestment funds for a Subsidized Guardianship program
- Additional Adoption Reinvestment funds will be applied to supporting the development of services designed to ensure children are safe while reducing the use of foster care as an intervention. The following services are aligned with the Family First Act and eligible as adoption reinvestment expenditures:
  - Solution-Based Casework®
  - Non-agency services
  - SafeCare® implementation
  - Family Preservation Services

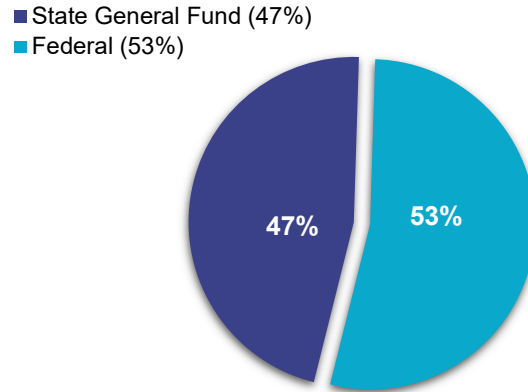
## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

Adoption Subsidy rates are based on family foster care rates. Adoption subsidy expenditures on behalf of children who meet IV-E eligibility criteria are eligible for federal funding.

The total Adoption Subsidy budget for SFY21 is \$80,416,748:

- \$37,474,106 (47 percent) is state general funds
- \$42,942,643 (53 percent) is federal IV-E funding

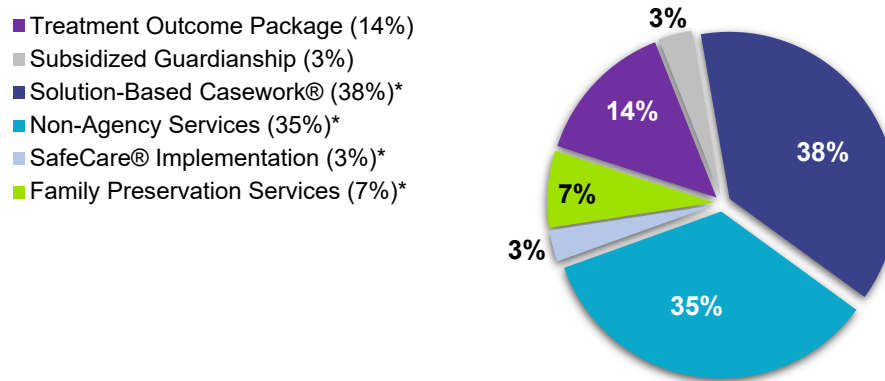
### SFY21 Adoption Subsidy



Adoption reinvestment obligations must be met with 100% state funds.

The total adoption reinvestment budget for SFY21 is \$9.3M.

### SFY21 Use of Reinvestment Funding



\* Family First programs represent 83% of SFY21 Reinvestment funding.

# Boys State Training School

## DESCRIPTION

The Boys State Training School (BSTS) provides treatment and educational services within a highly structured setting to assist youth who are adjudicated delinquent. The BSTS currently has 80 beds.

## WHO IS HELPED

The BSTS provides treatment and educational services to delinquent male youth between the ages of 12-18. The youth admitted to the BSTS are increasingly difficult to serve due to behavioral and mental health needs.

In SFY20, 168 youth were served:

- There were 76 admissions and 102 discharges.
- The average daily census was 83.

The typical child has had eight prior placements, is 16.5 years of age, and has special education needs. The average stay is 9.75 months.

## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

For SFY21, (excluding education costs):

The daily per diem rate is \$524.90.

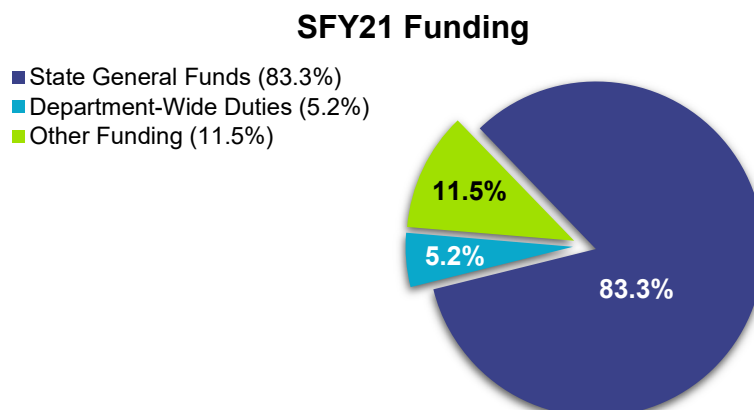
The cost per episode of care is \$73,963.

The BSTS is largely funded by state general funds with a small amount of funding from other sources.

- ✓ *In SFY21, 76.6 percent of the BSTS operating budget is for staffing costs and 23.4 percent is for support costs.*
- ✓ *61 percent of the staff are direct care, 8 percent are professional and treatment professionals, 5 percent are maintenance, 5 percent are other support staff, 16 percent are educational, and 5 percent are administrative.*

The total budget for SFY21 is \$19,233,100:

- \$16,029,488 (83.3 percent) is state general fund.
- \$ 1,000,000 (5.2 percent) transferred from department-wide duties which is also state general fund.
- \$ 2,203,612 (11.5 percent) is from other funding sources.





# Family Support Programs

## DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Comprehensive Family Support programs – Family Support Subsidy (FSS) and Children at Home (CAH) – is to assist families of children with developmental disabilities to meet the special needs of their disabled children. Family Support Subsidy (FSS) provides a monthly payment to families that is used to support the family in keeping their child at home. Children at Home (CAH) provides funds for a particular need as they arise; examples include adaptive equipment, special clothing, counseling, parent training, and respite.

## WHO IS HELPED

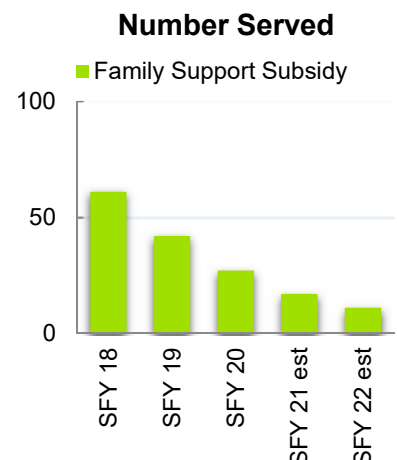
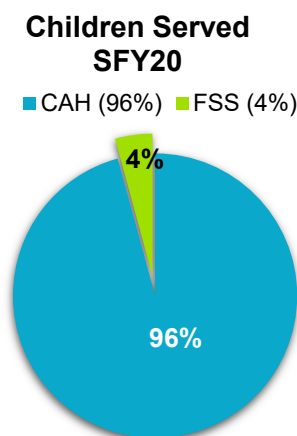
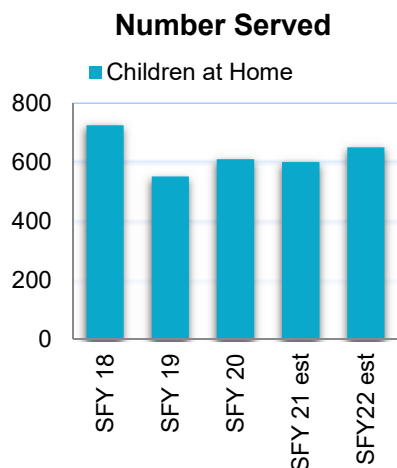
Both programs serve families of disabled children. Eligibility and availability are different.

### Family Support Subsidy (FSS)

- Child under age 18 who lives at home and has a developmental disability which results in substantial functional limitation in three or more areas of major life activity.
- Family income below \$40,000 (net taxable income).
- Enrollment in the FFS program ended July 1, 2010, as Medicaid waiver programs expanded to provide more services to additional populations. Children previously enrolled continue to receive benefits until age 18 so long as they otherwise remain eligible. The program will end when the last eligible child turns 18, projected to be in July 2024.

### Children at Home (CAH)

- Person under 21 with a disability who lives at home or has a discharge plan to return home within 60 calendar days.
- Family income below \$60,000 (net taxable income).
- DHS works with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to provide day-to-day administration of the program. This arrangement was established to support a statewide program. IDPH partners with EveryStep, formerly Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa, to provide statewide coverage.



## COST OF SERVICES & FUNDING SOURCES

- The annual cost per child receiving Family Support Subsidy services for the full 12 months in SFY20 was \$3,730.
- The average annual cost per child of providing Children at Home services in SFY20 was \$744.

The Comprehensive Family Support programs are funded exclusively by state dollars.

Total funding in SFY21 is \$949,282, including \$74,087 for Family Support Subsidy (FSS) and \$875,195 for Children at Home (CAH).

### FSS Funding SFY21

