

Reimagining Foster Care: A Budget Plan for 2017 - 2018

We believe that children and foster parents involved in child welfare deserve strong support in Olympia to help them thrive. Parents deserve the support needed to reunify, if possible. To achieve these goals, we will advocate for bills and budget that support reform, and increase support for children, foster parents and parents over the next biennium.

REFORM SYSTEMS: Establish and stabilize system reforms that improve performance outcomes and accountability.

- 2017: Enact legislation (HB 1661 / SB 5498) creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families including the Office of Innovation and Alignment (*Approximately \$10 million*)
- 2018: Continue implementation of Performance Based Contracting per HB 2446 (*Approximately \$2.5 million*)

SUPPORT CHILDREN AND VALUE FOSTER PARENTS: Stabilize placements and permanency for foster children and instill a culture of respect for foster parents.

- 2017: Expand and support foster parents:
 - Increased training and support (*\$350,000*)
 - Maintain and expand successful programs that support foster parents that allows us to maximize and redirect existing resources (Mockingbird Family Model, crisis support services, therapeutic foster care)
- 2017: Stabilize the workforce
 - Lower caseloads and increase caseworker support (*Approximately \$9.1 million*)
 - Establish a compensation structure that adequately reflects caseworker responsibilities (*TBD*)
- 2017: Expand successful adoption program (Wendy's Wonderful Kids) for hard to place, legally free foster children (*\$500,000*)
- 2017/18: Provide legal representation to all children and parents in the dependency system at the earliest point possible (*\$2 million/\$4 million*)
- 2017/18: Increase support for CASA (*\$1 million/\$2.8 million*)

REUNIFY FAMILIES: Support reunification and stabilization of families.

- 2017: Stabilize parent-child visitations by increasing reimbursement for travel (*\$3.044 million*)
- 2017: Stabilize access to in-home services by (*reimbursing travel: \$2.430 million*)
- 2017: Fund Chemical Dependency specialists in CA (*\$1.144 million*)
- 2018: Restore funding for Family Reconciliation Services and crisis intervention services (*Approximately \$1 million*)
- 2017/18: Expand Parents for Parents / Dependency 101 program (*\$100,000 in 2017/\$240,000 in 2018*)

HELP YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS: Support youth as they transition into adulthood.

- 2017: Provide educational stability and support for high school graduation through Graduation Success (*Approximately \$4 million*)
- 2017: Establish an avenue for foster youth to obtain their driver's licenses (*Approximately \$800,000 - Transportation budget*)