



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

President's 2011 Budget Blueprint

Today, President Obama released his budget plan for federal fiscal year 2011 which begins on October 1, 2010. The White House proposed a \$3.8 trillion for next year and plans to cut discretionary spending by roughly 17 percent. Entitlement spending, including Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security would be untouched, however it is unclear if Title IV-E is too. The president freezes agencies' budgets except for those that deal with national security.

The Administration for Children and Families administers more than 60 programs and its budget has an overall increase of \$9.3 billion for FY 2011. Programs seeing an increase include Head Start, Refugee Assistance, CAPTA, Adoption Incentives and Domestic Violence.

In child welfare, the president extends the IV-E FMAP bump of 6.2 percent for two more quarters until June 30, 2011 providing an additional \$237 million dollars for foster care, adoption and guardianship programs. Additionally, the budget proposal calls for an increase of \$10 million for discretionary child abuse and neglect programs. Absent from the budget is last year's home visitation program.

Items that are of particular interest to child welfare administrators are included below.

Title IV-E

The budget proposes a two quarter extension of the 6.2 percent increase in FMAP subject to legislation and paygo. If passed by Congress, this could mean additional states resources of \$106 million for foster care, \$126 million for adoption assistance and \$5 million for guardianship assistance until June 30, 2011. Last year, the House included an extension in both the jobs and health care packages.

Federal support for foster care continues to decline due to the AFDC look back. In last year's budget the administration estimated that the IV-E maintenance program would support 174,300 children each month. This year the estimated number of foster children the federal government will support will drop by 6,100 to 168,200. State and county government will find additional dollars to make up the difference. This continued decrease highlights the urgent need for child welfare financing reform.

The president's budget suggests that adoption assistance will be available for approximately 453,900 children each month, 27,500 more than the previous year. This may be due to the elimination of the look-back for the adoption assistance program. Interestingly, the 2011 budget indicates a decrease of \$52 million in federal support for the adoption assistance program and it is unclear why.

Finally, the president's budget includes \$78 million for the new guardianship assistance program. This will serve an estimated 14,300 children per month. This represents a \$22 million increase over last year's estimates. Reasons for the increase may be due to more states implementing the new option to support relatives as well as ACF's updated interpretation and program instructions due out soon.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The budget includes a reauthorization line item for TANF. The president's proposes a one-year extension of the program. State family assistance grants which help support employment and child welfare programs would remain at previous year's levels of \$16.48 billion.

The administration proposes to move the healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood \$150 million set-aside. This would be incorporated into a new \$500 million fatherhood, marriage and families innovation fund. The new fund would help states develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive responsible fatherhood program that rely on strong community partnership and collaboration. The fund would also allow states to build or strengthen family programs that improve outcomes for children.

The president's budget request also proposes merging the TANF Contingency and ARRA Emergency fund to expand the use of allowable activities for states to use resources. Last month, ACF notified states about the possibility of utilizing TANF funds for counseling services that help families in need of short term mental health or substance use treatment.

Additional resources and program tweaks are subject to legislation and paygo rules. The budget continues to provide TANF resources for tribes at \$8 million and territories at \$78 million.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The state court improvement program under PSSF is due for reauthorization. The president's budget includes a line item that would continue the program at current funding levels subject to legislation and paygo.

Increased Resources for Prevention

The budget proposal includes \$107 million for abuse and neglect programs an increase of \$10 million from last year. The additional resources are in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act discretionary program and will be used for a new grant program to encourage states to use evidence-based practices for preventing children abuse and neglect. CAPTA still needs to be reauthorized by Congress.

The budget also has an \$11 million increases for family violence prevention programs. These funds are dedicated to support domestic violence shelters and services for victims and their children. Additional funds will expand shelter capacity and support services as well as call volume to the Domestic Violence Hotline.

Incentives to Increase Adoptions

The budget increases funds for the Adoption Incentive program that provides bonuses to states for increasing the number of adoptions from foster care. To fully cover anticipated bonuses due to increased state performance and changes made through the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoption Act, the program has an additional \$3 million.

Refugee Assistance

With disasters such as Haiti, the increased need to provide services to refugee is highlighted in the President's FY 2011 budget. The proposal includes \$878 million for refugee, unaccompanied alien children and victims of trafficking and torture. This represents an increase of \$147 million over last year's proposal. These resources may be used for time-limited cash and medical assistance, English classes, and job-training services. Additionally, the budget includes a new \$25 million contingency fund which will remain available until expended.

Level Funded Programs

Like in year's past, many child welfare programs are level funded for the next fiscal year, including Independent Living and homeless and runaway youth programs. Social Services Block Grant was also level funded. Budget breakdowns and details are below.

Budget in Detail (in millions)	FY 2010	President's FY 2011 Request	Difference
<i>CAPTA State Grants</i>	\$27	\$27	Same
<i>CAPTA Discretionary Grants</i>	\$29	\$39	+\$10 million
<i>CAPTA Community-Based Prevention</i>	\$41	\$41	Same
<i>Title XX, Social Services</i>	\$1.7 billion	\$1.7 billion	Same
<i>Title IV-B(1), Child Welfare Services</i>	\$282	\$282	Same
<i>Title IV-B(2), Safe & Stable Families</i>	\$408	\$408	Same
<i>Family Connections Grants</i>	\$15	\$15	Same
<i>Title IV-E, Foster Care Assistance</i>	\$4.609 billion	\$4.539 billion	-\$70 million
<i>Title IV-E, Adoption Assistance</i>	\$2.501 billion	\$2.459 billion	-\$52 million
<i>Title IV-E, Guardianship Assistance</i>	\$56 million	\$78 million	+\$22 million
<i>Child Welfare Training</i>	\$27	\$27	Same
<i>Independent Living</i>	\$140	\$140	Same
<i>Ind. Living Training Vouchers</i>	\$45	\$45	Same
<i>Mentoring Children of Prisoners</i>	\$49	\$49	Same
<i>Adoption Opportunities</i>	\$26	\$39	\$13 million moved from the Children's Health Program
<i>Abandoned Infants</i>	\$12	\$12	Same
<i>Adoption Incentives</i>	\$39.5	\$42	+1.5 million
<i>Runaway/Homeless Youth Programs</i>	\$107	\$107	same
<i>Family Violence Prevention & Services</i>	\$130	\$140	+10 million
<i>Domestic Violence Hotline</i>	\$3	\$5	+\$2 million
<i>Abstinence Ed./Teen Preg. Prevention</i>	\$99	-0-	Eliminated

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