

# Reinventing 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 support to reunify with their children whenever possible. Foster parents need support to care for foster children. 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 / 2018: Enact legislation (HB 1661 / SB 5498) creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families including the Office of Innovation and Alignment (*Approximately \$19 million for the biennium*)
- 2018: Continue implementation of Performance Based Contracting per HB 2264 from 2012 (*Approximately \$2.5 million for 2018*)

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

- 2017 / 2018: Expand and support foster parents:
  - Increased training and support (*\$350,000 for the biennium*)
  - 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 / 2018: Stabilize the workforce. Lower caseloads and increase caseworker support (*Approximately \$9.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Expand successful adoption program (Wendy's Wonderful Kids) for hard to place, legally free foster children (*\$500,000 for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Fund and evaluate 2 demonstration sites that provide legal representation to all children in the dependency system at the earliest point possible (*\$1.2 million for 2017 / 2018*)
- 2017 / 2018: Increase support for CASA (*\$2.3 million for 2017 / \$4.6 million for 2018*)

**REUNIFY FAMILIES:** Support reunification and stabilization of families.

- 2017 / 2018: Stabilize parent-child visitations by increasing reimbursement for travel (*\$3.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Stabilize access to in-home services by reimbursing travel (*\$4.8 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Fund Chemical Dependency specialists in Children's Administration (*\$1.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2018: Restructure funding for Family Reconciliation Services and crisis intervention services (*Approximately \$1 million for 2018*)
- 2017 / 2018: Expand Parents for Parents / Dependency 101 program (*\$100,000 in 2017 / \$240,000 in 2018*)
- 2018: Fund Working Connections Child Care so children can successfully reunify with their families (*\$130,000 for 2018*)

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

- 2017 / 2018: Provide educational stability and support for high school graduation through Graduation Success (*Approximately \$4 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Establish an avenue for foster youth to obtain their driver's licenses (*Approximately \$800,000 for the biennium - Transportation budget*)

**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
BUDGET ONLY  
BILLS + FISCAL IMPACT**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
Performance Based Contracting	Budget only	\$2.5m	Did not include	\$207,000 – to ensure that all new and renewed contracts per HB 1661 are performance based;  Included proviso for continued implementation of PBC;  Included proviso related to a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Network Admin.
Trainings and support for foster parents	Budget only	\$350,000	\$2.051m For Adoption Support payment changes and respite/case aides for foster families	Did not include
Lower caseload size and provide additional support	Budget only	\$9.1m	Did not include	\$6.408 GFS; \$8.322 Total for 61 additional caseworkers
Adoption recruitment partnership (Wendy's Wonderful Kids)	Budget only	\$500,000	Did not include	\$500,000
Legal representation for dependent	Budget only	\$1.4m	Did not include	\$1.371 for demonstration and eval

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children and youth demonstration and evaluation				
Increase support for CASA	Budget only	\$6.9m	Did not include	\$1.0m
Transportation for parent child visitation	Budget only	\$3.1m	Did not include	\$2.648 GFS; \$3.044 Total (For improved visitation, including the ability to do transportation only contracts)
Reimbursement for travel for in-home services	Budget only	\$4.8m	\$500,000	\$4.568m GFS \$4.860m Total
Chemical Dependency specialists in child welfare offices	Budget only	\$1.1m	Did not include	Did not include
Family Reconciliation Services	Budget only	\$1m	Did not include	Did not include
Parents for Parents Expansion	Budget only	\$340,000	Did not include	\$340,000
Education stability and support for foster youth (Graduation	Budget only	\$4m	Did not include	\$1.368m

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Success)				
Kinship Navigators (4 additional Navigators + continuation of Tribal Navigators)	Budget only	\$1.5m	Did not include	\$936,000 (For Tribal Navigators)
Kinship Legal Clinics	Budget only	\$120,000	Did not include	Did not include
Home Visiting	Budget only	\$2.7m	\$1.4m – Retains 210 slots that would be cut; keeps HV whole	Retained 210 slots; \$1.044 to expand slots
TANF Grant Restoration	Budget only	\$30m	Did not include	\$11.863m GFS \$12.053m Total
Medicaid Rate Increase for Pediatric Care	<b>HB 1637</b> <b>SB 5471</b>  NTIB	\$15+ m (pediatric only; the bills were all Medicaid)	Did not include	Did not include
Department of Children, Youth, and Families and	<b>HB 1661</b> SB 5498	Approx. \$12m	Did not include	\$9.2m GFS \$9.4m Total
Forecasting BRS, Visitation, CPS	<b>HB 2008</b>	Approx. \$312,000	Did not include	\$156,000 for WSIPP work on the BRS assessment
Working Connections	<b>HB 1624</b>	\$130,000	Did not include	\$127,000

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Child Care for Child Welfare Involved Children				
Education Success for Foster and Homeless Youth	<b>SB 5241</b> HB 1628	\$3,000	Did not include	Unsure
Driver's Licenses for Foster Youth	<b>HB 1808</b>	\$800,000 (Transpo budget)	Did not include	\$500,000
Children's Mental Health	<b>HB 1713</b> SB 5763	\$4+m	Did not include	\$2.1m
Paperwork Reduction	<b>HB 1819</b> <b>SB 5749</b>	\$300,000	Included	Did not include
WorkFirst Poverty Reduction	<b>HB 1482</b> SB 5440	Minimal Fiscal Impact – \$16,000	Included \$44,000	\$60,000
Family Assessment Response	<b>HB 1825</b>	Indeterminate; Could likely be funded within existing funds	Appears to maintain funding for 17-19 biennium	Maintained funding for statewide implementation
Homelessness Information System	<b>HB 1630</b>	NA	NA	NA
Public Assistance Resources	<b>HB 1831</b> SB 5609	Need updated fiscal note	Did not include	\$5.119m+\$1.024m
Extended Foster Care Transitions	<b>HB 1867</b>	\$98,189	Did not include	\$480,000 GFS; \$678,000 Total

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Foster Care and Adoption Support	<b>SB 5890</b>	Did not request	\$2.051m	Did not include
Distracted Driving	<b>HB 1371 SB 5289</b>	\$0 GFS		
Tobacco to 21	<b>HB 1054 SB 5025</b>	Unsure	Did not include	
<b>SENATE BUDGET INCLUDED</b>				
Increasing the Placement Continuum	Budget only		\$3.722m	\$4.622m (Emergent placement options)
CPA Certification Reimbursement	Budget only		\$200,000	Did not include
Voices for Children	Budget only		\$25,000	Did not include
Increasing Placement Options (additional licensors)	Budget only		\$1.918m	Did not include

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## System Initiative Example

Policy, Operations, Funding, and Training

The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) proposes to align existing resources and statutes to serve unmet placement needs of youth exiting systems of care. The goal is to better align placements (SCRC, CRC, and HOPE beds) with the filing Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petitions to support youth placement and services. System integration of CRC placement with CHINS petition is displayed in a logic model from most to least restrictive placement. The intent is to maximize effective system support for youth at risk or experiencing housing instability.

*Please note that this draft document was used to show an example of the kinds of initiatives that are relevant to using an existing system to address housing instability for youth. If you have questions or need clarification on this, please contact Regina McDougall at the Office of Homeless Youth [regina.mcdougall@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:regina.mcdougall@commerce.wa.gov)*

