



## **Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship**

Foster care and permanency programs are open-ended entitlement programs that provide partial reimbursements to states and certain other jurisdictions for the cost of providing foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardian assistance to children who meet certain federal eligibility criteria. Each jurisdiction (the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Indian tribes) is reimbursed for direct financial assistance according to a formula—based on that jurisdiction’s federal medical assistance percentage rate—which can range from 50 percent to 83 percent of the cost per child. Administrative and training costs associated with foster care and permanency programs are reimbursed at 50 percent and 75 percent, respectively, for all jurisdictions. About 60 percent of the amount of those federal payments is for spending associated with support for foster care.

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	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2026- 2030	2026- 2035
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>													
Millions of dollars, by fiscal year													
<b>Estimated Outlays for Foster Care</b>													
Maintenance Payments	1,799	1,836	1,884	1,943	2,009	2,079	2,152	2,227	2,306	2,393	2,483	9,751	21,312
Administration	3,099	3,203	3,339	3,518	3,728	3,951	4,188	4,440	4,713	5,006	5,312	17,739	41,398
Training	307	310	314	317	320	323	326	330	333	336	340	1,584	3,249
Information Technology	256	259	261	264	267	269	272	275	277	280	283	1,320	2,707
Prevention Services and Technical Assistance	181	211	251	281	351	351	351	351	351	351	351	1,445	3,200
Kinship Navigator Program	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>144</u>
Subtotal	5,656	5,833	6,063	6,337	6,689	6,987	7,303	7,638	7,995	8,381	8,784	31,909	72,010
<b>Estimated Outlays for Adoption Assistance</b>													
Maintenance Payments	3,411	3,445	3,480	3,515	3,550	3,585	3,621	3,657	3,694	3,731	3,768	17,575	36,046
Administration	551	557	562	568	573	579	585	591	597	603	609	2,839	5,824
Training	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>236</u>	<u>485</u>
Subtotal	4,008	4,048	4,089	4,130	4,171	4,212	4,255	4,297	4,341	4,384	4,428	20,650	42,355
<b>Estimated Outlays for Guardianship</b>													
Maintenance Payments	349	353	359	367	377	390	407	428	453	482	514	1,846	4,130
Administration	21	21	22	22	23	24	25	27	28	31	33	112	256
Training	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>
Subtotal	372	376	383	391	402	416	434	457	483	515	549	1,968	4,406
<b>Estimated Outlays for Other Components</b>													
Independent Living	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	715	1,430
Tribal Technical Assistance	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	20	40
Sequestration <sup>a</sup>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>-1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-10</u>	<u>-13</u>
Subtotal	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	146	147	147	147	725	1,457
Total Outlays	10,181	10,402	10,680	11,003	11,407	11,760	12,137	12,538	12,966	13,427	13,908	55,252	120,228

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	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2026-2030	2026-2035
<b>PARTICIPATION INFORMATION</b>													
Thousands of cases, by fiscal year													
<b>Average Monthly Caseload</b>													
Foster Care	121	122	123	125	128	131	135	138	141	145	149	n.a.	n.a.
Adoption Assistance	574	589	603	619	634	650	667	684	702	719	737	n.a.	n.a.
Guardianship	46	48	49	51	53	56	60	64	69	76	83	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. = not applicable.

a. The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, extended sequestration for mandatory spending through fiscal year 2032. The percentage reduction for that year is smaller than the reduction in place through 2031