



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

Foster care and permanency programs are open-ended entitlement programs that provide partial reimbursements to states for the cost of providing foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardian assistance to children who meet certain federal eligibility criteria. Each state (including the states, territories, and tribes) is reimbursed for direct financial assistance according to a formula—based on the state’s federal medical assistance percentage rate—which can range from 50 percent to 83 percent of the state’s 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 states. About 60 percent of the amount in federal payments to states is for spending associated with support for foster care.

## Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Guardianship

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars											2024-	2024-
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2028	2033
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>													
<b>Estimated Outlays</b>	9,415	9,754	9,864	10,134	10,422	10,707	11,042	11,314	11,594	11,875	12,164	<b>50,881</b>	<b>108,870</b>
<b>Estimated Outlays for Foster Care</b>													
Maintenance Payments	1,731	2,003	2,004	2,055	2,107	2,161	2,217	2,274	2,334	2,392	2,452	<b>10,330</b>	<b>21,999</b>
Administration	2,849	2,921	2,994	3,070	3,148	3,229	3,312	3,399	3,488	3,575	3,665	<b>15,362</b>	<b>32,801</b>
Training	308	315	323	331	340	348	357	366	375	384	394	<b>1,657</b>	<b>3,533</b>
Information Technology	215	221	226	232	238	244	250	256	262	269	276	<b>1,161</b>	<b>2,474</b>
Prevention Services and Technical Assistance	110	176	181	211	251	281	351	351	351	351	351	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2,855</b>
Kinship Navigator Program	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<b>44</b>	<b>94</b>
Subtotal	5,221	5,644	5,737	5,908	6,093	6,272	6,497	6,656	6,820	6,981	7,148	<b>29,654</b>	<b>63,756</b>
<b>Estimated Outlays for Adoption Assistance</b>													
Maintenance Payments	3,040	3,045	3,046	3,122	3,201	3,282	3,366	3,452	3,541	3,632	3,724	<b>15,696</b>	<b>33,411</b>
Administration	536	550	564	578	592	607	623	639	655	672	689	<b>2,891</b>	<b>6,169</b>
Training	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>49</u>	<b>207</b>	<b>442</b>
Subtotal	3,615	3,634	3,650	3,741	3,836	3,933	4,034	4,137	4,243	4,352	4,462	<b>18,794</b>	<b>40,022</b>
<b>Estimated Outlays for Guardianship</b>													
Maintenance Payments	307	309	310	317	325	333	342	351	360	369	379	<b>1,594</b>	<b>3,395</b>
Administration	20	21	21	22	22	23	23	24	25	25	26	<b>109</b>	<b>232</b>
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>3</u>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>
Subtotal	329	332	333	341	349	358	367	377	387	396	408	<b>1,713</b>	<b>3,648</b>
<b>Estimated Outlays for Other Components</b>													
Independent Living	249	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	<b>715</b>	<b>1,430</b>
Tribal Technical Assistance	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>
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>-2</u>	<u>-2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-16</b>
Subtotal	250	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	144	146	146	<b>720</b>	<b>1,444</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION INFORMATION</b>													
By fiscal year													
<b>Average Monthly Caseload (Thousands of cases)</b>													
Foster Care	141	139	138	137	135	134	133	132	130	129	128	n.a.	n.a.
Adoption Assistance	560	574	588	603	618	634	650	667	684	702	719	n.a.	n.a.
Guardianship	42	43	44	45	46	47	49	50	51	53	54	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. = not applicable.

a. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act extended sequestration for mandatory spending through fiscal year 2031.