2018 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB5001 (Chapter 1)

Bill Order » Office of Health and Human Resources » Item 346

Department of Social Services

Item 346	First Year - FY2017	Second Year - FY2018
Child Welfare Services (46900)	**$211,602,863**	~~**$219,775,860**~~ ***$226,252,697***
Foster Care Payments (46901)	$60,158,124	~~$62,104,143~~ *$66,507,369*
Supplemental Child Welfare Activities (46902)	$28,063,364	~~$32,249,287~~ *$32,349,287*
Adoption Subsidy Payments (46903)	$123,381,375	~~$125,422,430~~ *$127,396,041*
Fund Sources:		
General	$107,582,982	~~$109,715,398~~ *$111,958,184*
Special	$425,030	$1,425,030
Dedicated Special Revenue	$235,265	~~$485,265~~ *$585,265*
Federal Trust	$103,359,586	~~$108,150,167~~ *$112,284,218*

Authority: Title 63.2, Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 8 through 15, Code of Virginia; P.L. 100-294, P.L. 101-126, P.L. 101-226, P.L. 105-89, P.L. 110-351, P.L. 111-320, as amended, Federal Code.

A. Expenditures meeting the criteria of Title IV-E of the Social Security Act shall be fully reimbursed except that expenditures otherwise subject to a standard local matching share under applicable state policy, including local staffing, shall continue to require local match. The commissioner shall ensure that local social service boards obtain reimbursement for all children eligible for Title IV-E coverage.

B. The commissioner, in cooperation with the Department of Planning and Budget, shall establish a reasonable, automatic adjustment for inflation each year to be applied to the room and board maximum rates paid to foster parents. However, this provision shall apply only in fiscal years following a fiscal year in which salary increases are provided for state employees.

C. Out of this appropriation, $500,000 the first year and $500,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided for the purchase of services for victims child abuse and neglect prevention activities as stated in § 63.2-1502, Code of Virginia, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Board of Social Services.

D. Out of this appropriation, $180,200 the first year and $180,200 the second year from the general fund and $99,800 the first year and $99,800 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be provided to continue respite care for foster parents.

E. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 63.2-1300 through 63.2-1303, Code of Virginia, adoption assistance

subsidies and supportive services shall not be available for children adopted through parental placements. This restriction does not apply to existing adoption assistance agreements.

F.1. Out of this appropriation, $1,500,000 the first year and $1,500,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to implement pilot programs that increase the number of foster care children adopted.

2. Beginning July 1, 2017, the department shall provide an annual report, not later than 45 days after the end of the state fiscal year, on the use and effectiveness of this funding including, but not limited to, the additional number of special needs children adopted from foster care as a result of this effort and the types of ongoing supportive services provided, to the Governor, Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.

G. Out of this appropriation, $23,771,657 the first year and ~~$20,654,627~~ *$19,169,445* the second year from the general fund and $7,000,000 the first year and $7,000,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be provided for special needs adoptions.

H. Out of this appropriation $45,644,961 the first year and ~~$47,978,106~~ *$50,613,298* the second year from the general fund and $45,644,961 the first year and ~~$47,978,106~~ *$50,613,298* the second year from nongeneral funds shall be provided for Title IV-E adoption subsidies.

I. The Commissioner, Department of Social Services, shall ensure that local departments that provide independent living services to persons between 18 and 21 years of age make certain information about and counseling regarding the availability of independent living services is provided to any person who chooses to leave foster care or who chooses to terminate independent living services before his twenty-first birthday. Information shall include the option for restoration of independent living services following termination of independent living services, and the processes whereby independent living services may be restored should he choose to seek restoration of such services in accordance with § 63.2-905.1 of the Code of Virginia.

J.1. Notwithstanding the provisions of § 63.2-1302, Code of Virginia, the Department of Social Services shall negotiate all adoption assistance agreements with both existing and prospective adoptive parents on behalf of local departments of social services. This provision shall not alter the legal responsibilities of the local departments of social services set out in Chapter 13 of Title 63.2, Code of Virginia, nor alter the rights of the adoptive parents to appeal.

2. Out of this appropriation, $342,414 the first year and $342,414 the second year from the general fund and $215,900 the first year and $215,900 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be provided for five positions to execute these negotiations.

K.1. The Department of Social Services shall partner with Patrick Henry Family Services to implement a pilot program in the area encompassing Planning District 11 (Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell Counties and the City of Lynchburg) for the temporary placements of children for children and families in crisis.

The pilot program will allow a parent or legal custodian of a minor, with the assistance of Patrick Henry Family Services, to delegate to another person by a properly executed power of attorney any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor for a temporary placement for a period that is not greater than 90 days. The program will allow for an option of a one-time 90 day extension.

2. The department shall ensure that this pilot program meets the following specific programmatic and safety requirements outlined in 22 VAC 40-131 and 22 VAC 40-191:

(i) The pilot program organization shall meet the background check requirements described in 22 VAC 40-191.

(ii) The pilot program organization shall develop and implement written policies and procedures for governing active and closed cases, admissions, monitoring the administration of medications, prohibiting corporal punishment, ensuring that children are not subjected to abuse or neglect, investigating allegations of misconduct toward children, implementing the child's back-up emergency care plan, assigning designated casework staff, management of all records, discharge policies, and the use of seclusion and restraint (22 VAC 40-131-90).

(iii) The pilot program organization shall provide pre-service and ongoing training for temporary placement providers and staff (22 VAC 40-131-210 and 22 VAC 40-131-150).

3. The Department of Social Services shall evaluate the pilot program and determine if this model of prevention is effective. A report of the evaluation findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the Governor, the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and the Commission on Youth by December 1, 2017.

L.1. Out of this appropriation, $1,015,451 the first year and $2,925,954 the second year from the general fund and $999,050 the first year and $2,886,611 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be available for the expansion of foster care and adoption assistance as authorized in the federal Foster Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351; P.L. 11-148).

2. In order to implement the Fostering Futures program, the Department of Social Services shall set out the requirements for program participation in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 675 (8) (B) (iv) and shall provide the format of an agreement to be signed by the local department of social services and the youth. The definition of a child for the purpose of the Fostering Futures program shall be any natural person who has reached the age of 18 years but has not reached the age of 21. The Department of Social Services shall develop guidance setting out the requirements for local implementation including a requirement for six-month reviews of each case and reasons for termination of participation by a youth. The guidance shall also include a definition of a supervised independent living arrangement which does not include group homes or residential facilities. Implementation of this program includes the extension of adoption assistance to age 21 for youth who were adopted at age 16 or older and who meet the program participation requirements set out in guidance by the Department of Social Services.

3. The Department of Social Services shall issue guidance for the program's eligibility requirements and shall be available, on a voluntary basis, to an individual upon reaching the age of 18 who:

(i) was in the custody of a local department of social services either:

(a) prior to reaching 18 years of age, remained in foster care upon turning 18 years of age; or

(b) immediately prior to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice and is transitioning from such commitment to self-sufficiency.

(ii) and who is:

(a) completing secondary education or an equivalent credential; or

(b) enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education; or

(c) employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

(d) participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment; or

(e) incapable of doing any of the activities described in subdivisions (a) through (d) due to a medical condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the program participant's case plan.

4. Implementation of extended foster care services shall be available for those eligible youth reaching age 18 on or after July 1, 2016.

M. Out of this appropriation, $1,417,846 the first year and $3,103,769 the second year from the general fund and $2,500,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be available for the reinvestment of adoption general fund savings as authorized in title IV, parts B and E of the federal Social Security Act (P.L. 110-351).

N. The Director, Department of Planning and Budget, shall unallot in the second year $490,000 from this item which reflects unused balances in adoption subsidy payments.