



SFY18 Child Welfare Service Procurements, The Strengthening Families Act, and Iowa's Child Welfare System of Care

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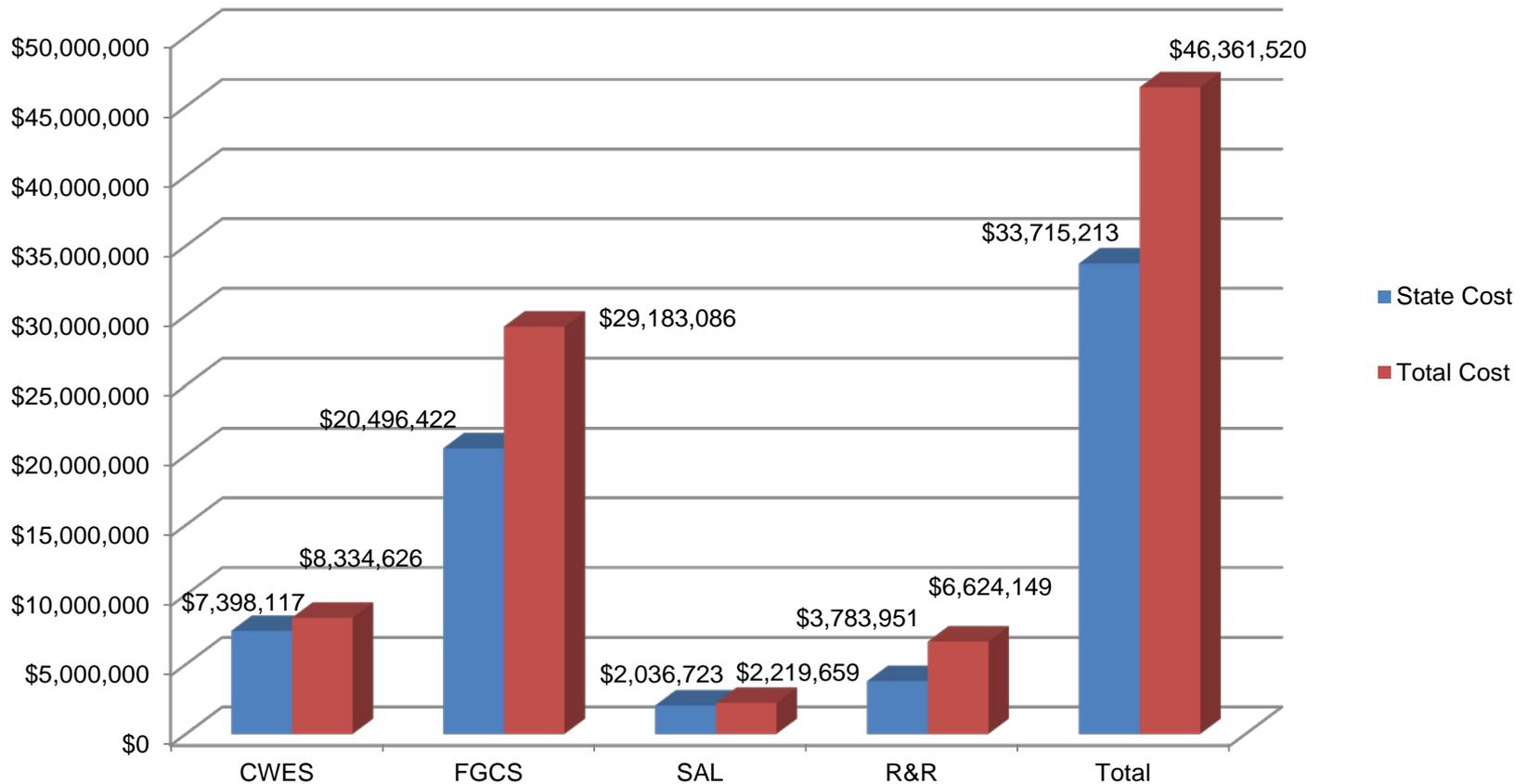
New Child Welfare Service Contracts Planned To Begin July 1, 2017 for SFY18

- Child Welfare Emergency Services (CWES)
- Foster Group Care Services (FGCS)
- Supervised Apartment Living (SAL)
- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families (R&R)
- Training and Peer Support

Contractor Capacity and Services Provided in SFY15

- Child Welfare Emergency Services
 - 13 Contractors with 15 shelters across Iowa and a daily average census of 156
- Foster Group Care Services
 - 14 Contractors with 63 licensed units across Iowa; 1,447 children were served
- Supervised Apartment Living
 - 6 Contractors with a monthly average of 71 youth
- Recruitment and Retention of Resource Families
 - 2,129 family foster care settings serving an average of 1,740 children monthly

Costs Of These Four Child Welfare Services In SFY15





DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements

- Conduct public, deliberate, and inclusive conversations with public and private partners to move together toward system enhancement and successful outcomes for children and families
- Work across natural boundaries to encourage dialogue between and among public and private stakeholders
- Build on lessons learned from past competitive procurements, contracts and contractors, and formally requested information from interested entities

DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements (Continued)

- Collectively identify areas needing improvement
- Collaborate to facilitate technical assistance from national experts that is provided to private providers, other key stakeholders, and state government
- Seek and use input from as many stakeholders as possible to inform development of Requests For Proposal (RFP)



DHS Approach To Upcoming Competitive Procurements (Continued)

- Collaborate with public and private partners for consensus on fundamental vision for and philosophy behind Iowa's child welfare system



Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

Safety for children emerges and is enhanced when we do all the following:

1. Families, children, youth and caregivers will be treated with dignity and respect while having a voice in decisions that affect them.
2. The ideal place for children is with their families; therefore, we will ensure children remain in their own homes whenever safely possible.
3. When services away from the family are necessary, children will receive them in the most family-like setting and together with siblings whenever possible.



Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

4. Permanency connections with siblings and caring and supportive adults will be preserved and encouraged.
5. Children will be reunited with their families and siblings as soon as safely possible.
6. Community stakeholders and tribes will be actively engaged to protect children and support families.
7. Services will be tailored to families and children to meet their unique needs.



Guiding Principles

For Iowa's Future Child Welfare System

8. Child welfare professionals will be supported through ongoing development and mentoring to promote success and retention.
9. Leadership will be demonstrated within all levels of the child welfare system.
10. Decision making will be outcome based, resource-driven and continuously evaluated for improvement.



Movement Toward A Child Welfare System Of Care

- Iowa's child welfare system must develop more evidence based and data driven approaches that support strong children and strong families
- Community networks that focus on the whole person and meet the needs for growth and development must be developed or strengthened

Anticipated Procurement and Related Events Schedule

- Public/private collaborations and input currently and ongoing
- Technical assistance provided for DHS, key stakeholder, and private providers beginning in February 2016 with other phases through the calendar year
- RFPs published in the fall 2016 with competitive bids accepted through early 2017
- New contractors begin services July 1, 2017
- Further Information can be found at:
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/node/2585>

Preventing Sex trafficking and Strengthening Families act (P.L. 113-183)

- Federal Legislation P.L.113-183
- President Obama signed the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, on September 29, 2014



Child Welfare Obligations: HR4980 summary

1. Identify and make services available for victims of sex trafficking
2. Ensure children and youth have adequate social and developmental opportunities, and that caretakers apply the Prudent Parent Standard
3. Support youth who are expected to “age out” of care through improved case management
4. Avoid APPLA permanency goal for children under age 16



Collaboration and Partnerships

Policy, practice changes, cross system work

- Requires teamwork
- Requires understanding
- Requires patience

Invaluable Partnerships:

- Iowa DHS Director's office, Policy, Practice, Training
- Iowa Attorney General's Office
- Iowa Department of Public Safety
- Iowa Department of Public Health
- Iowa State Patrol
- National Resource Centers
- DHS Service Contractors
- Youth



Social, Developmental Activities

- DHS promotes developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities:
 - To benefit children in family foster care, relative placements, shelter, group care, etc.
 - Whether the case manager is from DHS or is a juvenile court officer
 - Age and developmentally appropriate activities regardless of age

Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard

- Caretakers are permitted to make decisions on day to day activities:
 - Required training for licensed group and foster family providers
 - Foster parent activities form
 - Foster Group Care on-site decision maker
 - Provider training calls
 - Liability addressed in SF2238



Foster Care Transition

- DHS starts transition planning earlier and engaging the youth more effectively
 - Rights should be discussed in a way the child understands
 - The case plan must be developed in consultation with the child, and at the option of the child, 2 members of the case planning team, who are not the case manager or foster parent.
- Certain documents (BC, SS Card, State ID) must be provided to the child who ages out of foster care
- Restricts use of Another Permanent Planned Living Arrangement for youth under 16



OVERVIEW OF POLICY CHANGES

- Governor and DHS Director Certified Compliance
- DHS Administrative Rule chapters (Final)
 - 441-202 Foster care Placement and Services
 - 441-213 Licensing of Foster Homes
 - 441-217 Foster Parent Training
 - 441-175 Abuse of Children
- Employee Manual and Forms (Final)
 - 17E, Foster Care; 17A Intake; 17B Assessment; 17C Case Management; Appendix 17 Forms
- System changes primarily to track and report to HHS



DHS Training Snapshot

- New worker training
 - Transition Planning Specialists
- Ongoing training for Foster Group and Foster Family
 - Family foster parents trained by IFAPA
- DHS recorded webinar trainings
 - <http://servicetraining.hs.iastate.edu>
 - Human Trafficking Webinar
 - Foster care transition
 - Normalcy and prudent parent standard

DHS Pre-file/SF2258 in Process

- Implements the law
 - Anti-trafficking
 - Prudent parent standard
 - Transition
 - APPLA limitations
- Amendments emphasize court oversight for activities of children, strengthens requirements for providing documents, and removes unnecessary language in trafficking definitions

Passed Senate 48-0 February 29th



Questions

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