

Report to Congress on State Child Welfare Expenditures

2020

Children's Bureau
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Introduction

Each year, states are required to submit information on their planned and actual expenditures for several child welfare programs to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Section 432(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act) requires HHS to compile and submit copies of the state expenditure forms to the Committee on Ways and Means of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the United States Senate. The law also requires HHS to synthesize the information from the state reports by providing the national totals of planned spending by service category for the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (title IV-B, subpart 1 of the Act), as well as planned and actual spending by service category for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program¹ (title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Act).

This report is prepared annually in response to this requirement. Attachment A of the report contains a copy of the required financial reports (known as the CFS-101 Parts I, II, and III) and the instructions for completing the forms. Copies of completed forms from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are provided as Attachment B of this report.

Title IV-B, Subpart 1 - Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services

The title IV-B, subpart 1, Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services program is designed to promote flexibility in the development and expansion of a coordinated child and family services program (section 421 of the Act). Funds may be used to support and expand services to children and families to:

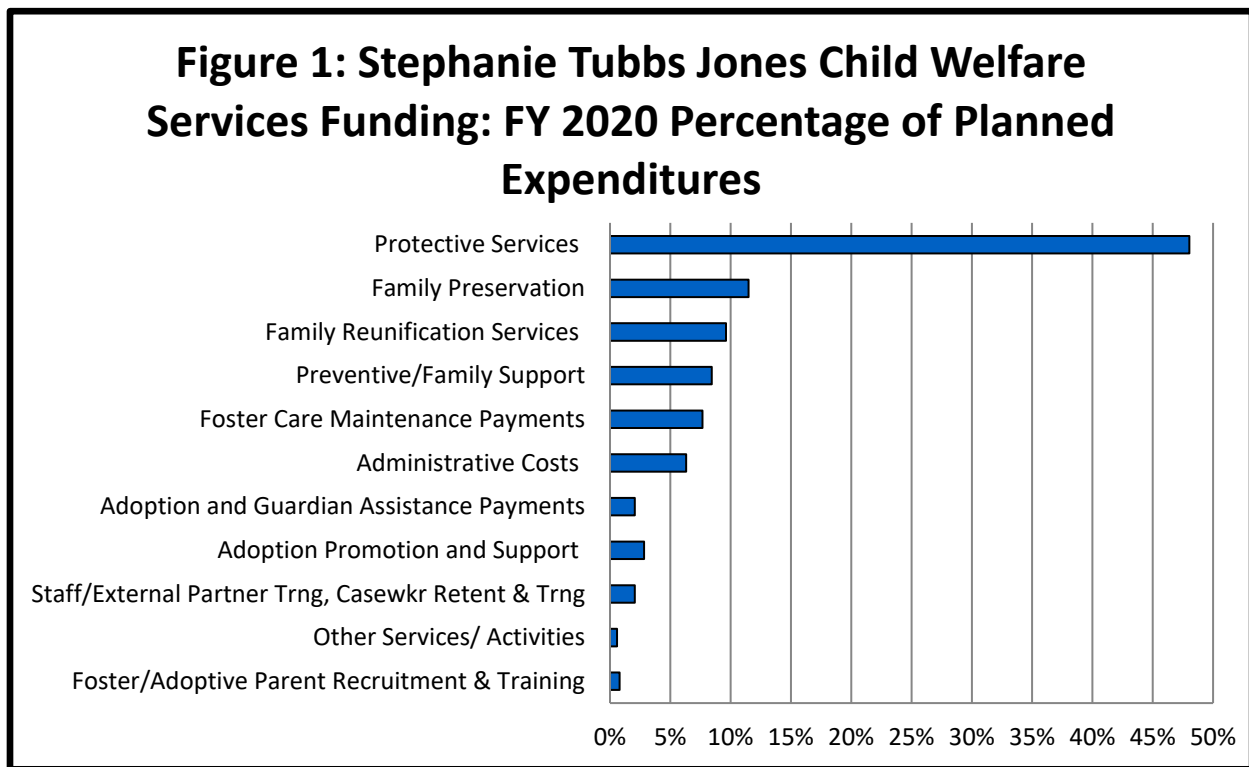
- Protect and promote the welfare of all children.
- Prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Support at-risk families through services that permit children to remain in their own homes, or to return to those homes in a timely manner whenever it is safe and appropriate.
- Promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children in foster care or those in adoptive families.
- Provide training, professional development, and support to ensure a well-qualified child welfare workforce.

States have broad flexibility to spend title IV-B, subpart 1 funds on services and activities that support these purposes.

Each year, states must provide estimated annual expenditures for the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services program within 17 broad service categories. This information can be found in each state's CFS-101 Part II. Attachment C of this report provides the compiled

¹ The Family First Transition Act, enacted December 20, 2019, changed the name to the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.

summary information of each state’s planned expenditures of federal fiscal year (FY) 2020 grant funds under the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services program. Figure 1 presents the aggregated planned spending by category for the program to provide the national picture.



As shown in Figure 1, states planned to spend approximately 47 percent of their grant funds on protective services. The next largest categories of planned expenditures were for family reunification services and family preservation services, both at approximately 11 percent. About 8 percent of funds are planned to be spent on prevention and family support services. Finally, foster care maintenance payments make up over 7 percent of planned expenditures. Consistent with the statutory requirement to spend no more than 10 percent of the federal grant award on administrative costs (section 422(b)(14) of the Act), states reported planning to spend 6 percent on administrative costs.

Table 1 provides a historical comparison of states’ planned expenditures for the five categories with the highest allocation of funding each year from FY 2016 to FY 2020. As can be seen, the most significant variations across years are in the categories of protective services and family preservation, while the other three categories have remained relatively stable. For FY 2020, there is a small increase in planned spending for family reunification services, while the proportion states planned to spend on both preventive/family support services and foster care maintenance remained stable.

Table 1. Planned Spending in the Top Five Categories for Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program

<i>Service Area</i>	<i>FY16</i>	<i>FY17</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>FY20</i>
Protective Services	45%	44%	47%	48%	47%
Family Preservation	11%	12%	11%	11%	11%
Preventive/Family Support	10%	8%	9%	8%	8%
Family Reunification Services	11%	10%	10%	10%	11%
Foster Care Maintenance	10%	10%	8%	7%	7%
Total of Top Five Expenditure Areas:	87%	84%	85%	84%	84%

Title IV-B, Subpart 2 – MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The purpose of the title IV-B, subpart 2, MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) grant program is to enable states to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services, family preservation services, family reunification services,² and adoption promotion and support services (section 430 of the Act).

The law requires states to spend a “significant portion” of PSSF funds on each of the four categories of services. Therefore, HHS instructs states that spending in each of the four categories of services must approximate 20 percent, unless the state provides a rationale for spending less than this proportion. No more than 10 percent of federal funds can be used for administrative costs (section 432(a)(4) of the Act).

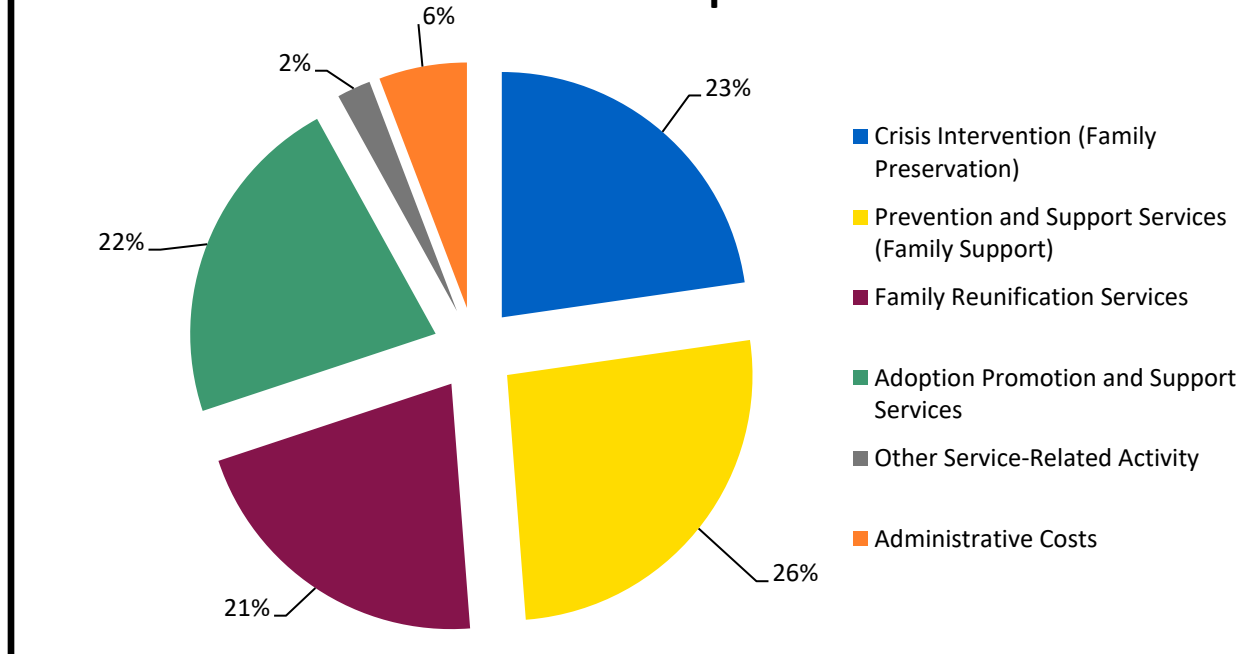
FY 2020 Planned Use

Each year, states are required to provide estimated annual expenditures for each PSSF program category on the CFS-101 Part I. Attachment D of this report provides the compiled summary information of each state’s planned expenditure of FY 2020 PSSF grant funds by category.

Figure 2 breaks out the percent of funds that states planned to spend by program category. The largest categories of planned expenditures were crisis intervention (family preservation) and prevention and support services (family support) with states planning to spend approximately 23 and 26 percent of funds on each category, respectively. States planned to spend approximately 21 percent of their funding on family reunification services and 22 percent on adoption promotion and support services. Around 6 percent was planned to be spent on administrative costs, and about another 2 percent was categorized as other service-related activities. Planned expenditure patterns for FY 2020 show little variance compared to states’ planned expenditures for FY 2019.

² The Family First Prevention Services Act, enacted on February 9, 2018, as part of Public Law 115-123, renamed this service category “family reunification services” and amended the definition by removing the time limit for providing reunification services to the family of a child in foster care and allowing reunification services to be provided for a period of up to 15 months once the child is returned home. The change in definition became effective on October 1, 2018.

**Figure 2: Promoting Safe and Stable Families:
FY 2020 Planned Expenditures**

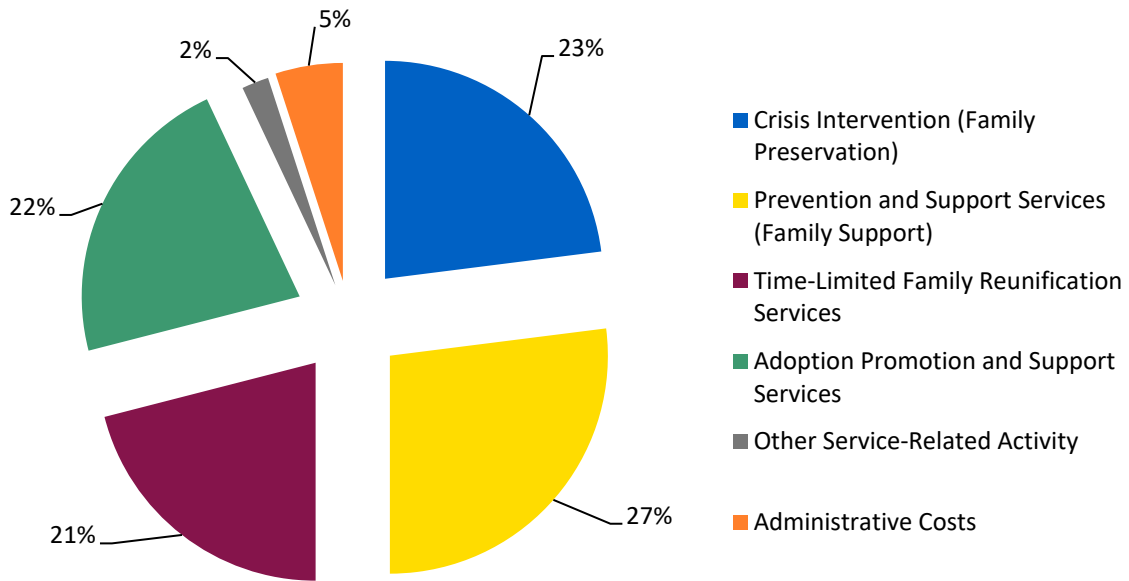


FY 2017 Actual Expenditures

States use the CFS-101 Part III to report their actual expenditures for PSSF for the most recently closed grant award. The funds for this program may be spent over a 2-year period ending on September 30 of the fiscal year following the year in which they were awarded. Therefore, the most recent submittal of actual expenditures for PSSF is for the FY 2017 grant award year. Attachment E provides the compiled summary information of each state’s actual use of the FY 2017 PSSF grant by expenditure category.

Figure 3 displays the percentage of funding spent nationally in each category. The overall pattern of FY 2017 actual expenditures was similar to states’ FY 2020 planned expenditures for this program. Because of the requirement that a significant portion of funding must be spent in each service category, there is limited movement of spending among categories from year-to-year. Nationally, states spent between 21 percent and 27 percent of their FY 2017 funds on each of the four program purposes and 4 percent on administrative costs. The largest investment of PSSF funds is in family support services.

**Figure 3: Promoting Safe and Stable Families:
FY 2017 Actual Expenditures**



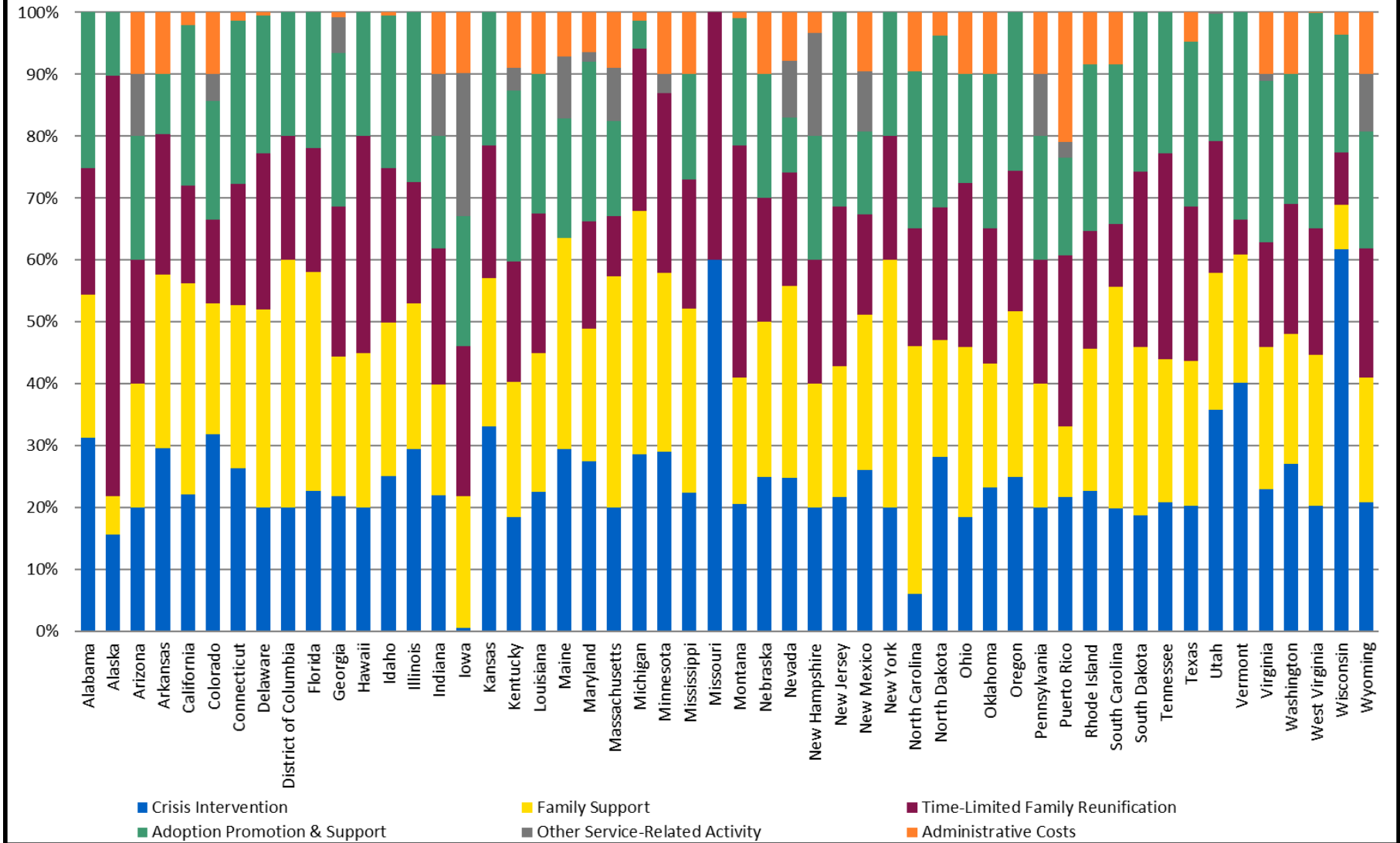
To look at changes in PSSF expenditures over time, Table 2 shows actual expenditure percentages in the four service categories for the past 5 completed grant years for all states. Overall, the expenditures have experienced limited fluctuations. The remaining 6 percent to 7 percent of the grant was expended on other service-related activities and administrative costs, with administrative expenditures averaging between 4 percent and 5 percent per year. In FY 2017, expenditures for administration increased by 1 percent to 5 percent of total PSSF expenditures.

Table 2. Actual Expenditure Percentages Across the PSSF Service Categories

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>FY13</i>	<i>FY14</i>	<i>FY15</i>	<i>FY16</i>	<i>FY17</i>
Family Preservation	26%	26%	25%	25%	23%
Family Support	24%	25%	26%	25%	27%
Time-Limited Family Reunification	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%
Adoption Promotion and Support Services	22%	22%	22%	23%	22%
Total Spent in Service Categories	93%	94%	94%	94%	93%

While the national picture indicates that at least 20 percent of the PSSF funds were spent on each of the four program purposes, there is some variation at the state level. Figure 4 (information from Attachment E) illustrates this variation across the states in the percent of funds spent in each category. As previously noted, HHS guidance to states specifies that they may deviate from the requirement to spend approximately 20 percent in each service category if they provide a

**Figure 4: Promoting Safe and Stable Families:
FFY 2017 Actual Expenditures by State**



rationale for doing so in their state plan. Most often when a state spent less than 20 percent in a category, it was because other funds were available and were used to support the purpose.

Conclusion

The title IV-B programs represent important sources of funding to assist states in providing child protective services and community-based services to support and preserve biological and adoptive families. While the Act allows expenditures of up to 10 percent of the grants for administrative costs, many states opt to use 5 percent or less of this grant funding for administration, instead focusing their investment of these grant funds on direct services to help families. The flexibility afforded by the programs allows states the discretion to target funds in ways that meet the needs of their service populations, helping them to develop coordinated services to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families.

Attachments

- Attachment A – CFS-101 Forms and Instructions for FY 2020
- Attachment B – Compilation of State CFS-101 Submissions for FY 2020 Funding
- Attachment C – Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services FFY 2020 Planned Use of Funding by State and Service Category
- Attachment D – MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program FFY 2020 Planned Use of Funding by State and Service Category
- Attachment E – MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program FFY 2017 State Expenditures by State and Service Category