Report to Congress on State Child Welfare Expenditures

2015

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

Introduction

Each year, states are required to submit to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) information on their planned and actual expenditures for several child welfare programs. 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 House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate. As amended by the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-34), the law further 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 Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (title IV-B, subpart 2 of the Act).

This report was prepared in response to this requirement. Copies of the required financial reports (known as the CFS-101 Parts I, II, and III) from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are provided as Attachment A 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:

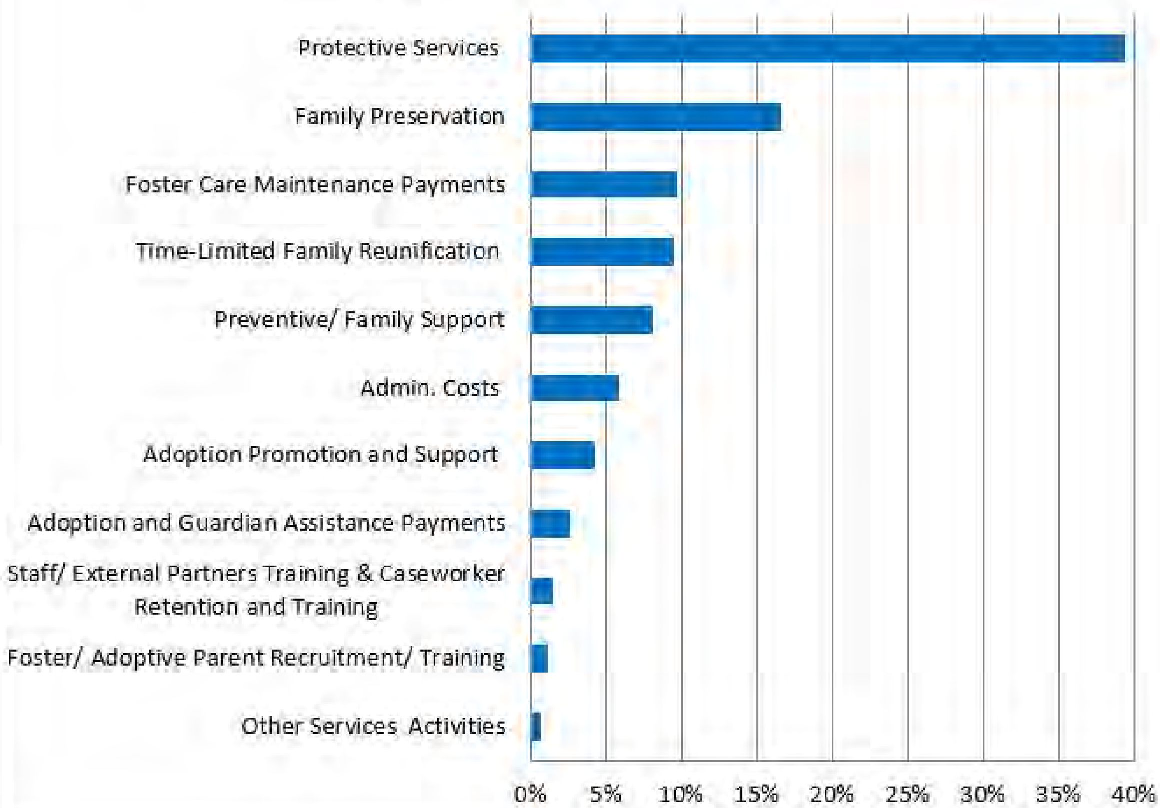
- Protect and promote the welfare of all children;
- Prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Support at-risk families through services that permit children to remain in their own homes, or to return to those homes in a timely manner whenever it is safe and appropriate;
- Promote safety, permanency, and well-being for children in foster care or those in adoptive families; and
- 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 the state's CFS-101 Part II. (Please see Attachment B for the template and instructions for the CFS-101 Part II.) Attachment C provides a chart of the fiscal year (FY) 2015 planned use of Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services funds as reported by each state in each category. Using the information compiled from the submission of the CFS-101 Part II for FY 2015, Figure 1 presents national information gathered for the planned spending by category for the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services program.

As shown in Figure 1, “Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Funding: FY 2015 Percentage of Planned Expenditures,” states planned to spend 39 percent of their grant funds on protective services. The next largest planned expenditure was for family preservation services at about 17 percent. The proportion of funds states planned to spend for these two categories is similar to the pattern of planned expenditures reported for FY 2014, when states planned to spend 40 percent of funds for protective services and 16 percent for family preservation services. For FY 2015, states planned to spend the same proportion of funds (10 percent) on foster care maintenance payments as in FY 2014. States planned to spend somewhat less of their title IV-B, subpart 1 allocation on preventive and family support services in FY 2015 compared to earlier years, 8 percent in FY 2015 versus 10 percent in FY 2014 and 11 percent in FY 2013. Consistent with the statutory requirement to spend no more than 10 percent on administrative costs (section 422(b)(14) of the Act), states reported planning to spend 6 percent on administrative costs.

Figure 1: Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Funding: FY 2015 Percentage of Planned Expenditures



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

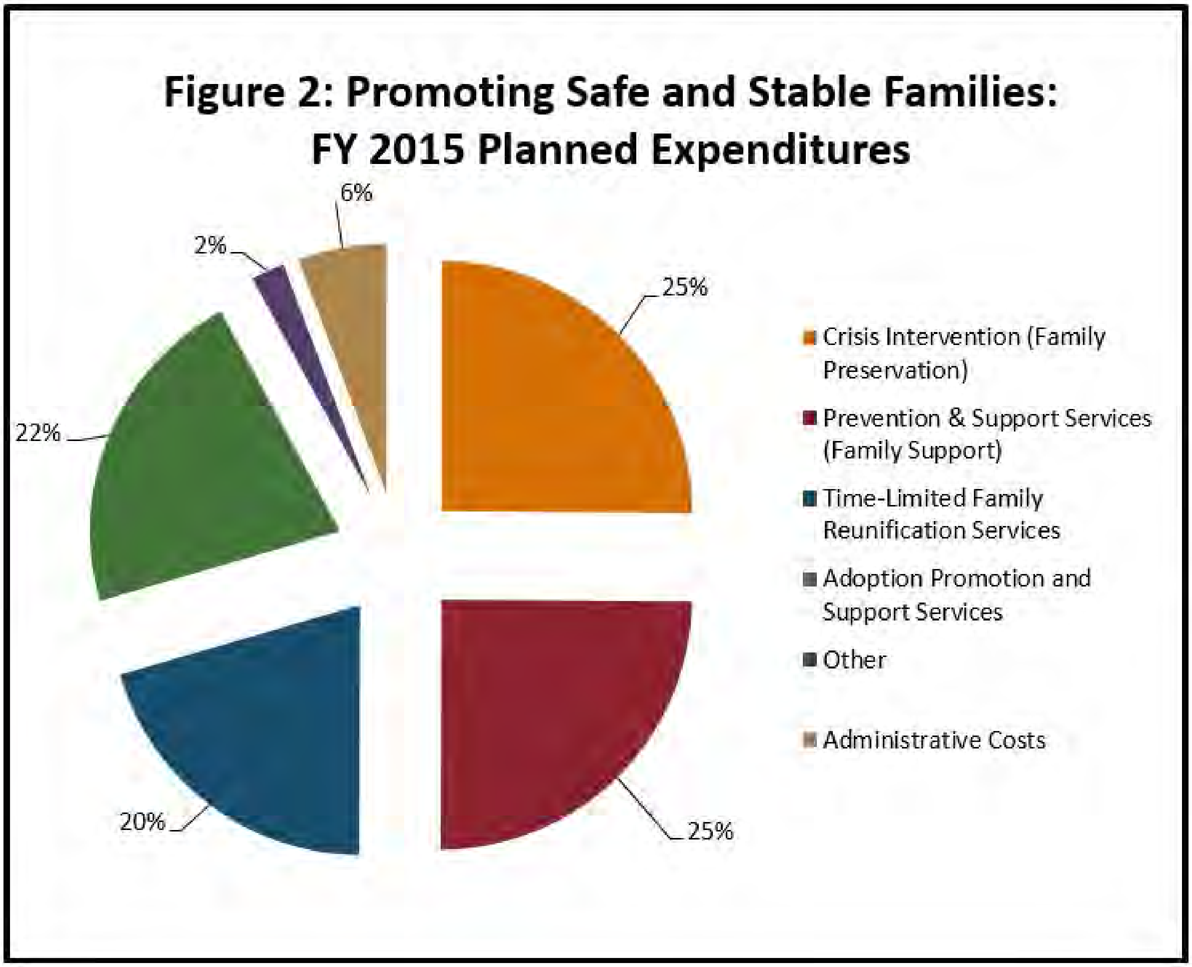
The purpose of the title IV-B, subpart 2, Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) grant program is to enable states to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support services, family preservation services, time-limited family reunification services, and adoption promotion 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 (section 432(a)(4) of the Act). 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 funds can be used for administrative costs (section 432(a)(4) of the Act).

FY 2015 Planned Use

Each year, states are required to provide estimated annual expenditures for each PSSF program category on the CFS-101 Part I. (Please see Attachment B for the template and instructions for the CFS-101 Part I.) Attachment D provides the compiled 2015 PSSF grant program summary table of the planned use of funds for the federal fiscal year as reported by each state in each category.

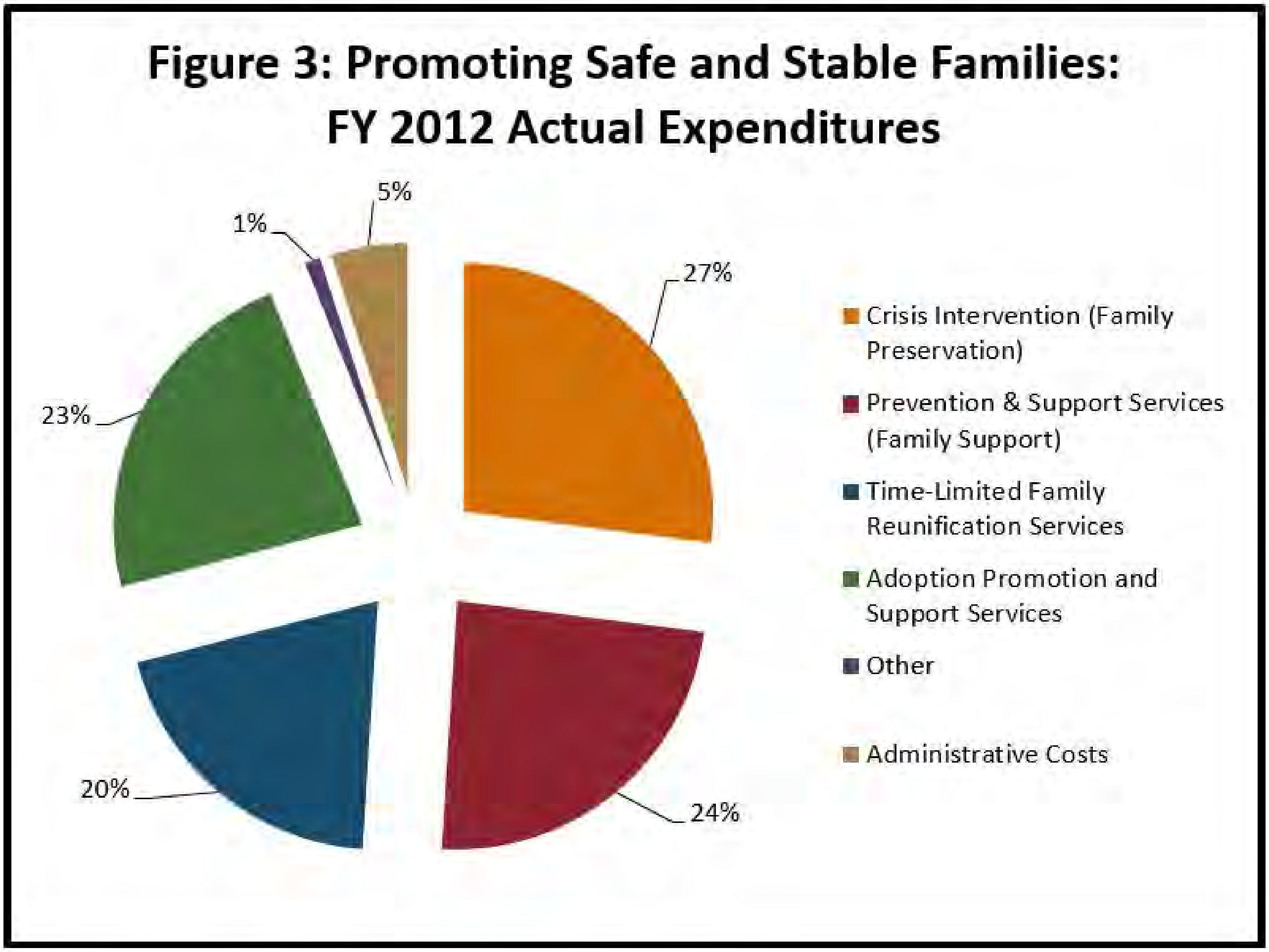
Figure 2, “Promoting Safe and Stable Families: FY 2015 Planned Expenditures” breaks out by category the percent of the funds that states planned to use for the program. The largest categories of planned expenditures are crisis intervention (family preservation) and prevention/support services (family support) with states planning to spend approximately 25 percent of funds on each category. States planned to spend approximately 20 percent on time-limited reunification services and 22 percent on adoption promotion and support services. States planned to spend around six percent on administrative costs; and about another two percent was categorized as “other.” Planned expenditure patterns for FY 2015 are almost identical to states’ planned expenditures for FY 2014.



FY 2012 Actual Expenditures

States use the CFS-101 Part III to report their actual expenditures for PSSF for the most recent closed grant award. (Please see Attachment B for the template and instructions for the CFS-101 Part III.) The funds for this program may be spent over a two-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 FY 2012. Attachment E provides the compiled 2012 PSSF grant program summary table of the actual use of funds as reported by each state in each category.

Figure 3, “Promoting Safe and Stable Families: FY 2012 Actual Expenditures” indicates that the overall pattern of FY 2012 actual expenditures was similar to states’ FY 2015 planned expenditures for this program. However, states reported spending a somewhat higher proportion of FY 2012 funds for crisis intervention services (family preservation) and a slightly smaller proportion for prevention and support services (family support) than they planned to spend in FY 2015.



In the aggregate, states met the requirement that a significant portion of funds be used for each program purpose. Nationally, states spent between 20 and 27 percent of their FY 2012 funds on each of the four program purposes and less than four percent on administrative costs.

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, "Promoting Safe and Stable Families: FY 2012 Actual Expenditures by State" illustrates the 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 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. For example, Iowa did not use PSSF to fund family preservation services because they had other sources to fund those services.

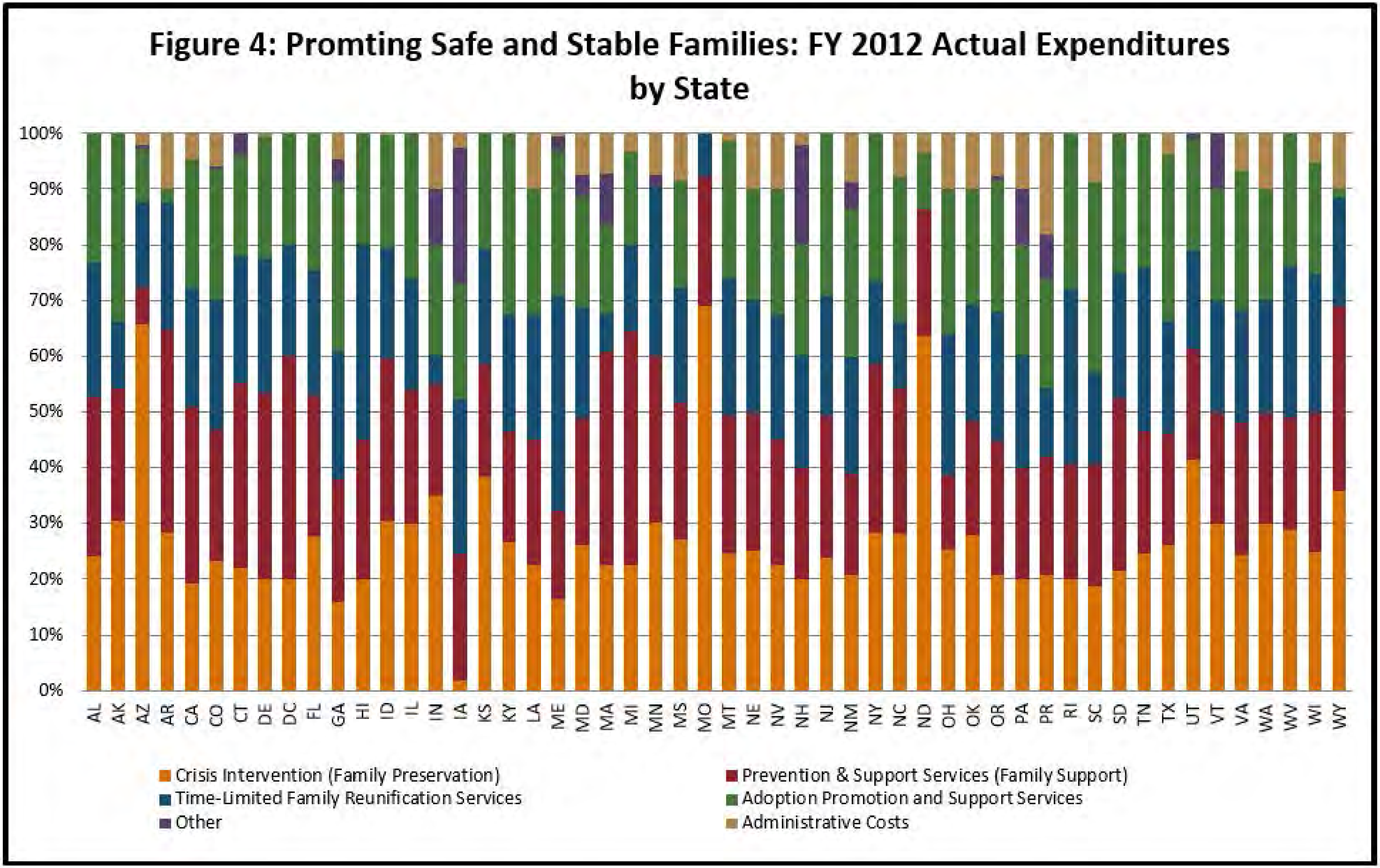


Figure 4: Promting Safe and Stable Families: FY 2012 Actual Expenditures by State
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
AL AK AZ AR CA CO CT DE DC FL GA HI ID IL IN IA KS KY LA ME MD MA MI MN MS MO MT NE NV NH NJ NM NY NC ND OH OK OR PA PR RI SC SD TN TX UT VT VA WA WV WI WY
Crisis Intervention (Family Preservation)
Prevention & Support Services (Family Support)
Time-Limited Family Reunification Services
Adoption Promotion and Support Services
Other
Administrative Costs

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. Only a small percentage of funds are spent on administrative costs. The flexibility afforded by the programs allows states 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.