

Child Welfare Financing

Secretaries' Innovation Group

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The Challenge

The major federal funding source for foster care is not aligned with good child welfare practice.



With research, social science discoveries and evidence of trauma-informed care, Utah believes we can better serve the short and long term interests of those in need of a child welfare system. **Supporting safe care for children *in their homes* without separating them from family in foster care is less traumatic and less costly.** Additionally, a multi-generation family service approach proves more effective in breaking cycles of dependence on prolonged, expensive government programs.

Ann Silverberg Williamson, Executive Director, Utah Department of Human Services, Senate Finance Committee Testimony,
April 4, 2015



Florida System of Care Report

- Children who are at risk of removal but who can safely remain at home through the provision of services should **remain in the home** and receive prevention and diversion services, as long as there is **no compromise** on the imperative of **child safety**.
- For children who must be removed from their homes and a **relative or a close family friend** is willing and able to provide a safe place to live, this is often the best option.
- For children where a relative is not an option, the best choice is often a **family foster home**. Children with specialized therapeutic needs can often be cared for in a **therapeutic foster home** with foster parents who are have specialized training and skills.



Florida System of Care Report

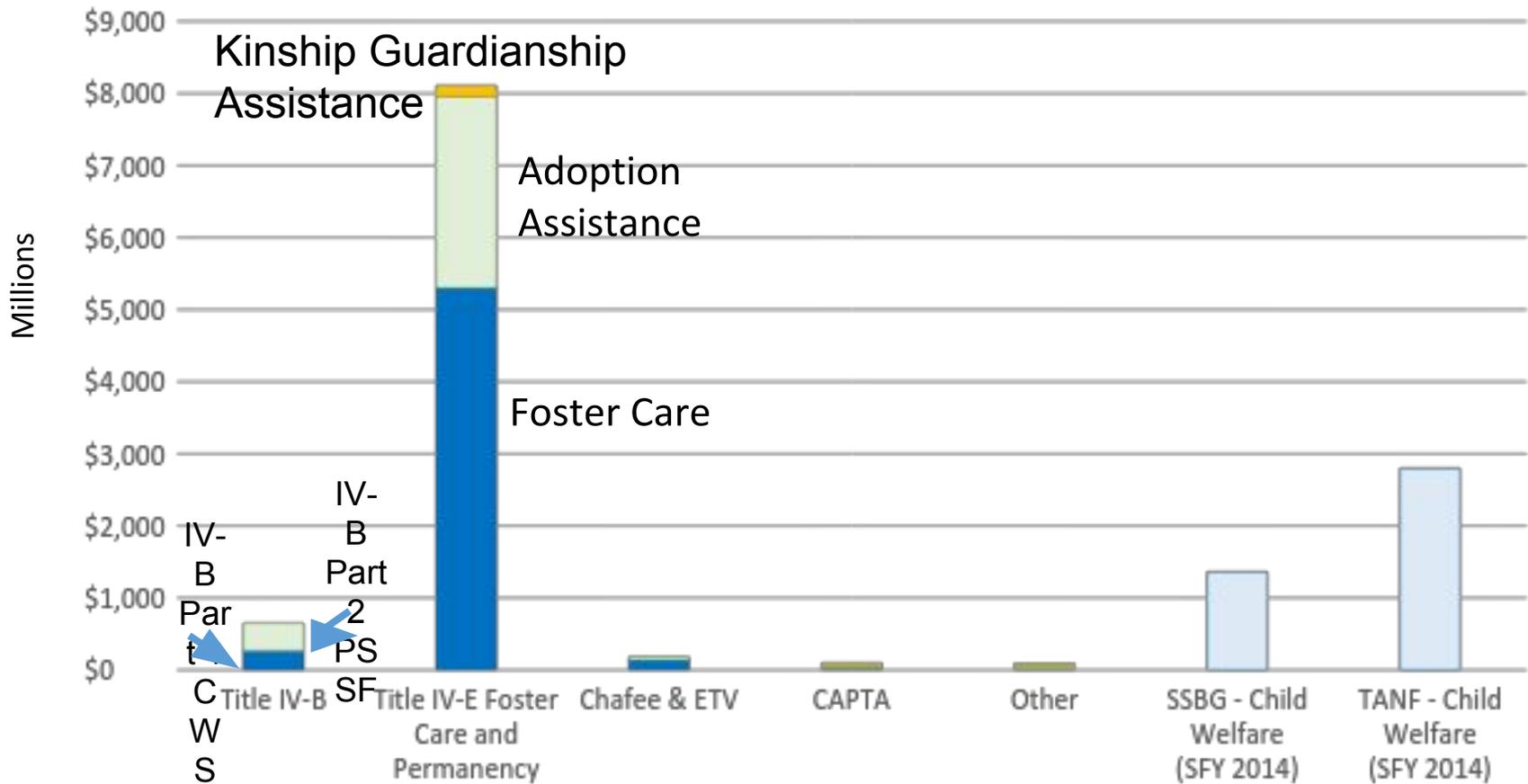
- For children **needing specialized therapeutic care** that cannot be provided even within a specialized therapeutic family home, **placement in a facility-based setting** is appropriate.
- Regardless of placement, children who enter out-of-home care and who can be reunified when the conditions that lead to the removal are remedied, **should be reunified as soon as it is safe** to do so.
- When children cannot be safely reunified with their biological parents, timely efforts must be made to **achieve permanency** through adoption or permanent guardianship.

Florida Department of Children and Families Report to the Governor and Legislature, October 1, 2016



Federal Child Welfare Funding

FFY 2017 except as noted



Source: Congressional Research Service Report R44863 of June 7, 2017 based on appropriations provided in P.L. 115-31 after sequestration and 2016 Child Trends Survey of State Child Welfare spending in SFY 2014 (SSBG and TANF).



The IV-E “Look-Back”

1960

Flemming
Rule

1961

AFDC-FC

1980

IV-E FC

1996

AFDC
Repealed



But
The ghost
of AFDC
remains!





Some Past Proposals

- 2003 Bush Administration Child Welfare Program Option.
- 2004 Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care
- 2004 HR 4856, the “Child Safety, Adoption and Family Enhancement (Child SAFE) Act” introduced by Chairman Herger.
- 2006 Child Welfare waiver approved for capped allocations for Florida and two counties in California.

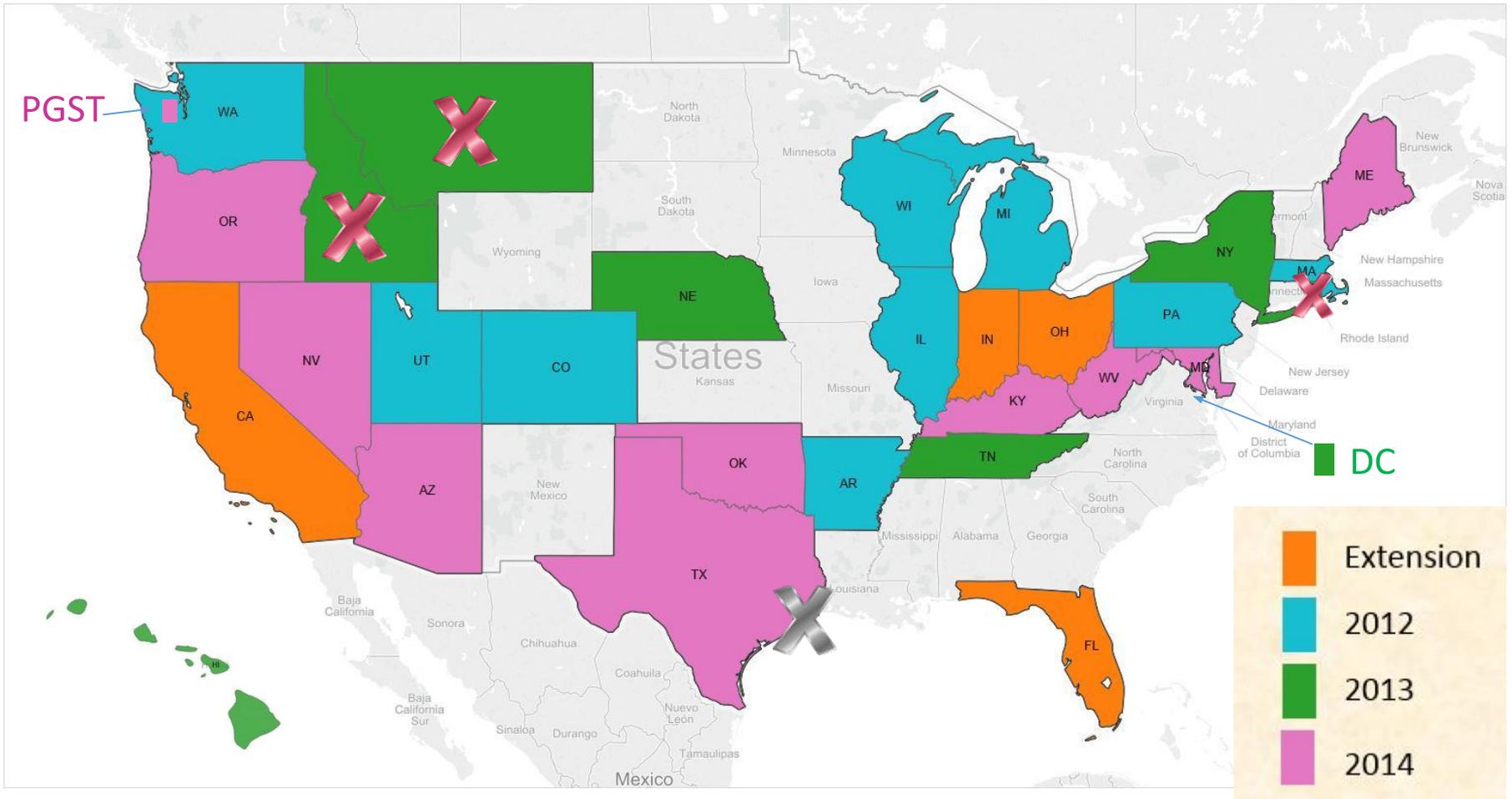


Past Proposals continued

- 2011 The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act authorized HHS to approve up to 10 new child welfare waivers in each of FFY 2012, 2013 and 2014.
 - Currently 27 jurisdictions are operating waivers with almost all having capped IV-E foster care allocations.
 - Under current law, all waivers end 9/30/2019 and cannot be extended.
- 2014 The “Triad Proposal”



Child Welfare Waivers





The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016

- State option for 12 months of IV-E funded prevention services for children at imminent risk of removal with no income test (10/1/2019)
 - Mental health prevention and treatment
 - Substance abuse prevention and treatment
 - In-home parent skill-based programs including parenting skills training, parent education and individual and family counseling.
- IV-E maintenance funding with no income test for a child placed with a parent in a licensed, family-based treatment program for up to 12 months.



FFPSA continued

- Federal matching funds (50%) for evidence-based Kinship Navigator Programs.
- HHS to identify model licensing programs for relative family homes.
- Restrictions on placement that is not a foster family home (10/1/2019) unless placement is:
 - A qualified residential treatment program (QRTP)
 - A setting specializing in providing prenatal, post-partum or parenting supports for youth, or
 - A supervised independent setting for a child 18 years of age or older.



FFPSA

Additional Provisions

- Reauthorize and Revise Regional Partnership Grants
- Modernize the Chafee Foster Care to emphasize successful transition to adulthood.
- Require use of electronic system for Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care.
- And more...



Recent Legislation

(All passed House 6/20/2017)

- **Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act ([H.R. 2742](#))**
Sponsored by Reps. Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Danny Davis (D-IL)
Reduces the time it takes to place foster children across state lines with a family member, foster parent, or adoptive parent by requiring states to implement the National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE) system for exchanging information
- **Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act ([H.R. 2857](#))**
Sponsored by Reps. Kristi Noem (R-SD) and Judy Chu (D-CA)
Allows children to remain with a parent who is in a residential-based family substance abuse treatment facility
- **Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act ([H.R. 2834](#))**
Sponsored by Reps. Danny Davis (D-IL) and Kristi Noem (R-SD)
Strengthens regional partnership grants to more effectively help communities address the impacts of substance abuse
- **Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act ([H.R. 2866](#))**
Sponsored by Reps. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Terri Sewell (D-AL)
Reinforces flexibility in foster care licensing rules to place more children with relatives rather than with foster parents
- **Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act ([H.R. 2847](#))**
Sponsored by Reps. John Faso (R-NY) and Karen Bass (D-CA)
Maximizes the availability of support for older foster youth making the transition to adulthood by updating the Chafee Foster Care program



The Bottom Line

- All child welfare waivers end not later than October 1, 2019.
- FFPSA did not pass in 2016 and the prospects for passage in the current Congress are unclear.
- Possible options going forward include:
 - Passage of FFPSA or similar legislation.
 - Passage of legislation to extend waivers.
 - Passage of other legislation to enact an allocation of child welfare funds to provide more stability, flexibility and to better align funding with child welfare goals.
- All of the options have barriers to enactment.



Discussion