ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Administration For Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services

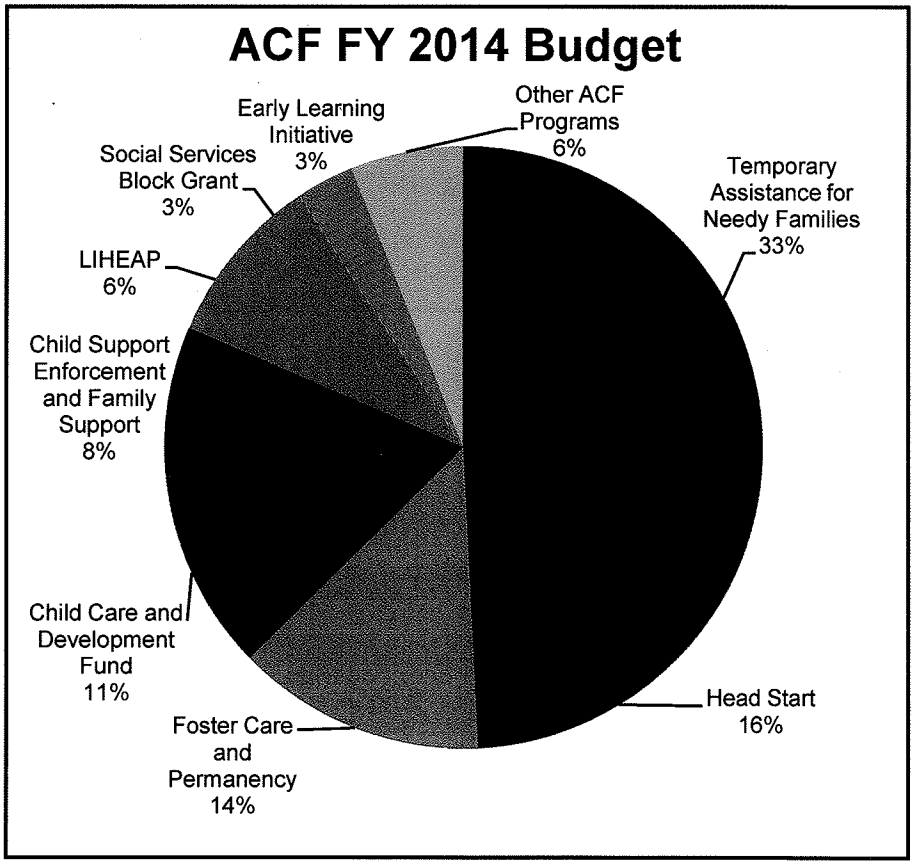
The Administration for Children and Families promotes the economic and social well-being of children, youth, families, and communities, focusing particular attention on vulnerable populations such as children in low-income families, refugees, and Native Americans.

dollars in millions	2012	2013	2014
Mandatory			
Budget Authority	33,432	34,015	34,176
Discretionary			
Budget Authority	16,316	16,543	17,780
Change in Mandatory Programs /1	—	—	-12
Total, ACF Budget Authority	**49,748**	**50,558**	**51,944**

1/ The FY 2014 Budget includes General Provision language that would redirect $12 million from anticipated unobligated Abstinence Education funding in ACF to support a new program to prevent pregnancy among youth in Foster Care.

The FY 2014 Budget request for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is $51.9 billion. ACF works in partnership with states and communities to provide critical assistance to vulnerable families while helping families and children achieve a path to success. ACF programs find safe and supportive families for abused children, work with newly-arrived refugees as they start their new lives in America, and work with troubled teens to leave the streets and find opportunity. The Budget includes additional funding for Head Start, Child Care, and Refugee programs and supports important reforms in Head Start, Child Care, and Child Support. The Budget also creates a new program to reduce teen pregnancy among youth in foster care.

The mandatory Budget includes $17.4 billion for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, $7.0 billion for Foster Care and related programs, $4.1 billion for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support, and $3.4 billion for the Child Care Entitlement to States for FY 2014.



ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: DISCRETIONARY

dollars in millions	2012	2013	2014	2014 +/- 2012
Head Start	7,969	8,017	9,621	+1,653
Child Care & Development Block Grant (discretionary)	2,278	2,292	2,478	+200
Refugee Programs /1				
Transitional and Medical Services	323	384	391	+68
Unaccompanied Alien Children	267	302	495	+227
Other Refugee Programs	178	213	237	+59
Subtotal, Refugee Programs	**768**	**900**	**1,123**	**+355**
Child Welfare/Adoption Assistance	357	360	357	—
Chafee Education & Training for Foster Youth	45	45	45	—
Family Violence Prevention	133	134	140	+7
Adoption Incentives	39	40	39	—
Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs	115	116	118	+3
Child Abuse	94	94	94	—
Promoting Safe and Stable Families (discretionary)	63	63	75	+12
LIHEAP				
Formula Grants	3,472	3,493	2,820	-652
Contingency Fund	—	—	150	+150
Energy Burden Reduction Grants	—	—	50	+50
Subtotal, LIHEAP Budget Authority	**3,472**	**3,493**	**3,020**	**-452**
Native Americans	49	49	49	—
Community Services Block Grant	677	682	350	-327
Other Community Services Programs	55	55	19	-35
Subtotal, Community Service Programs	**732**	**737**	**369**	**-363**
Disaster Human Services Case Management	2	2	2	—
Social Services Research & Demonstration	6	6	50	+44
National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being	—	—	*6*	*+6*
Early Childhood Evaluation	—	—	*3*	*+3*
Family Strengthening Initiative	—	—	*35*	*+35*
PHS Evaluation Funds (non-add)	*6*	*6*	*6*	—
Federal Administration	200	201	205	+5
Center, Faith Based/Community Initiatives (non-add)	*1*	*1*	*1*	—
Total, Program Level	**16,322**	**16,549**	**17,786**	**+1,464**
Less Funds From Other Sources				
PHS Evaluation Funds	6	6	6	—
Total, Discretionary Budget Authority /2	**16,316**	**16,543**	**17,780**	**+1,464**
Full-time Equivalents (including those financed with mandatory funds)	1,302	1,379	1,429	+127

1/ FY 2012 figures reflect reallocation of $98 million from refugee activities to Unaccompanied Alien Children.
2/ The FY 2014 Budget also includes General Provision language that would redirect $12 million from anticipated unobligated Abstinence Education funding in ACF to support a new program to prevent pregnancy among youth in Foster Care.

Head Start: In addition to launching the new $1.4 billion for Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, the President remains firmly committed to serving children through the existing Head Start program. The FY 2014 request includes an additional $197 million to strengthen services for children currently enrolled in Head Start, and avoid further enrollment reductions.

In FY 2014, ACF will continue to require grantees that do not meet rigorous quality benchmarks to compete for ongoing federal funding. The Budget requests $25 million above FY 2012 in support of this effort to minimize the potential for service disruptions in the transition between incumbent and new grantees.

Protecting Vulnerable Individuals

Refugee-Related Programs: Among the most vulnerable populations served by ACF are refugees coming to the United States in search of a better life and unaccompanied alien children (UAC) apprehended by law enforcement crossing the Southwest Border. Refugees, and other eligible populations, come to the United States fleeing violence, persecution and even torture. ACF is a key partner in the Administration's efforts to increase refugee arrivals, helping them begin new lives by providing time-limited cash and medical assistance and social services – job training and English instruction – so they can become self-sufficient as quickly as possible.

ACF provides a safe environment for UAC until their claims to remain in the United States are adjudicated or ACF can identify a family member or guardian who can take custody of the child. In FY 2012, the number of UAC that entered ACF's custody doubled to nearly 14,000. ACF was able to accommodate the additional children because of one-time savings it realized in its refugee programs and by re-programming funds within the refugee account. In FY 2013, ACF anticipates (in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security) it will need to serve approximately 23,500 UAC. ACF has reduced its per child cost by negotiating lower daily rates for most children and speeding the family reunification process to reduce the length of time children remain in care. Despite these efforts, overall UAC costs rise because of the increased number of children. To provide services for the projected numbers of both UAC and refugees, Congress provided a FY 2013 refugee appropriation of $1 billion, an increase of $248 million above the FY 2012 appropriation.

Based on the significant increases in UAC arrivals that have continued for the past eighteen months, the FY 2014 Budget requests $1.1 billion for the Office of Refugee Resettlement, including $495 million to provide shelter to an estimated 26,000 UAC. Funds are also included to provide eight months of cash and medical services for 70,000 refugees and 55,000 other arrivals, and to maintain refugee social services, and assistance to victims of trafficking and torture.

Victims of Human Trafficking: ACF aids in the fight against international human trafficking by identifying victims in the United States and certifying them as eligible to receive federal benefits and services in the same way that refugees are supported. The ACF budget also includes an increase of $10 million for a new initiative to prevent and address domestic human trafficking. This proposal will provide direct services to domestic victims of human trafficking, including case management services for victims of all ages, and a housing pilot targeted to minors. Funds will also support training for service providers, as well as research and evaluation to ensure that the lessons learned from this initiative can be widely disseminated through existing service systems for vulnerable groups.

Runaway and Homeless Youth: To support the President's Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Budget requests an additional $3 million to develop a national count and an improved understanding of the needs of runaway and homeless youth. The information collected through this national effort will assist in the implementation of more effective and efficient strategies for preventing and addressing youth homelessness.

Family Violence Prevention: The Budget includes $140 million, an increase of $7 million, for Family Violence Prevention and Services programs. These programs are the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of domestic violence shelters and services for victims of domestic violence and their children. The increased funding will help to serve an additional 27,000 victims, and support increased call volume to and enhanced technology and services for the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

Federal Administration: The Budget includes $205 million for ACF program administration, including pay and benefits for the majority of agency staff, an increase of $5 million over FY 2012. Additional funding will cover increased operating costs and staff that are implementing critical Head Start reforms. Almost 1,700 grantees will be evaluated over the next three years and, for the first time in the history of this program, those that fall short of quality benchmarks, including classroom instruction, health and safety, and management, will have to compete for continued funding against other organizations in their communities.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: MANDATORY

The FY 2014 Budget request for ACF Mandatory programs is $34.2 billion. ACF serves the nation's most vulnerable populations through mandatory programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Child Care Entitlement to States, Child Support Enforcement, Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, Guardianship Assistance, Independent Living, and Promoting Safe and Stable Families.

The Budget supports improved access to high-quality child care for low-income children, increases the child support that is paid to families, and promotes fathers' involvement in the lives of their children. The Budget continues existing funding for the TANF program and proposes to restructure the contingency fund to make it more effective.

Child Care Entitlement to States

The Budget supports important reforms in the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the Child Care Entitlement to States. The Budget request for the Child Care Entitlement is an increase of $7 billion over 10 years, including an increase of $500 million in FY 2014. Total child care funding for the Child Care and Development Fund is $5.9 billion in FY 2014. The Budget request includes $200 million in discretionary funding for competitive grants to help states raise the bar on the quality of child care through improved regulation, monitoring, and transparency for parents, while providing sufficient mandatory funds to continue providing access to child care subsidies for low-income families. In FY 2014, the request would enable 1.4 million children to receive child care assistance – approximately 100,000 more children than could be served without the additional funding requested. These improvements, along with a new preschool program in the Department of Education and $1.4 billion in discretionary funds for new Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships to support states and communities in expanding the availability of high-quality learning opportunities for infants and toddlers, are key elements of the Administration's broader education agenda designed to help every child reach his or her academic potential and improve the nation's competitiveness.

Partnership Fund Pilots

ACF has joined with OMB's Partnership Fund for Program Integrity Innovation in three pilot projects:

- Integration and Interoperability in Health and Human Services: ACF is administering a competitive grant program for state projects designed to explore improved systems interoperability and integration in eligibility and enrollment systems, case management systems, and other related systems. States are using these grants to explore system design and implementation options focused on interoperability issues ranging from common client databases to data governance issues.
- TANF Program Integrity: ACF will award competitive grants to states to test innovative ways to identify improper payments in the TANF program while also identifying strategies to target benefits to the neediest families.
- Automation of Foster Care Transfer Records: ACF will work with states to test a web-based system for exchange of foster care information with the goal of expeditious exchange of case documentation and timeliness of communication and case assignment. Results will guide and support continuous quality improvement.

Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs

The Budget request is $4.1 billion in budget authority in FY 2014 for Child Support Enforcement and Family Support Programs.

The Budget includes $2.0 billion over 10 years for an initiative to modernize the Child Support system and promote responsible fatherhood. Of those costs, $1.8 billion impacts the Child Support program and $254 million impacts Foster Care. Child Support

average 451,000 children per month, an increase of 12,000 over FY 2013, will qualify for this assistance in FY 2014.

The Budget includes $124 million for the Guardianship Assistance program, an increase of $1 million above FY 2013, reflecting an increase in the number of children participating in Guardianship Assistance programs. Under this program, state title IV-E agencies provide a subsidy on behalf of a child to a relative who has been granted legal guardianship of that child. An estimated average 24,000 children per month, an increase of 4,000 over FY 2013, will participate in FY 2014.

The Budget also includes $140 million for the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, the same level as in FY 2013. This program funds services for youth who will likely remain in foster care until they turn 18 and current or former foster children between the ages of 18 and 21.

The Foster Care, Adoption Assistance, and Independent Living programs demonstrated success in improving safety, permanency, and well-being of children in FY 2010, the latest year for which complete performance data are available. Working with the states, these programs support the goal of minimizing disruptions to the continuity of family and other relationships for children in foster care by decreasing the number of placement settings per year for a child in care. In FY 2010, 85 percent of children who had been in care less than 12 months had two or fewer placement settings, which exceeded the Agency's target of 80 percent. Placement stability is necessary for children and youth to be able to form and maintain consistent relationships with caretakers and other adults, which is a core skill for life-long success.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The Budget includes $485 million for Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF). Of this amount, $345 million supports the mandatory portion of PSSF, $75 million supports the Personal Responsibility Education Program, $50 million supports Abstinence Education and a new Pregnancy Prevention Program for Foster Care Youth proposal, and $15 million supports the reauthorization of the Family Connection Grants. The Budget proposes to reauthorize the Family Connection Grants through FY 2016.

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-34) reauthorized PSSF through FY 2016. This funding will continue support for a variety of state child welfare activities, including family preservation services, community-based family support services, time-limited reunification services, and adoption promotion and support services. Under the reauthorization, states are required to address the trauma children in child welfare have experienced and to have explicit protocols for oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications.

Child Welfare Demonstrations

The Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-34) provided HHS with authority to approve up to 10 child welfare waivers in each of fiscal years 2012–2014. These cost-neutral demonstrations allow for more flexible use of federal funds in testing new approaches to service delivery and financing structures with the aim of improving outcomes for children and families involved in the child welfare system. The demonstrations are required to have one or more of the following goals:

- Increase permanency for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time in foster placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth;
- Increase positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families in their homes and communities, including tribal communities, and improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth; and/or
- Prevent child abuse and neglect and the re-entry of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

HHS established priority consideration for applicants focusing on promoting social and emotional well-being and addressing trauma.

- In September 2012, nine waiver demonstrations were approved for the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.