

# CHILD WELFARE

## Scope of the Problem and Indicators of Need

Child welfare, in the context of state government, refers to a system of care and oversight of children that might be in danger or being hurt physically, emotionally or otherwise and the range of preventive and supportive service provided to at-risk families. Child welfare services in New Jersey are administered by the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS), which is a part of the Division of Children and Families (DCF). Generally, families become involved with DYFS as a result of someone (e.g., a teacher, a neighbor, etc.) calling the state's hotline to report concerns about child abuse or neglect. Many times, for children who come in contact with DYFS, poverty and maltreatment are linked. Calls to the hotline are received by a centralized registry, which screens and refers applicable cases to local DYFS offices. If there is no need to open a case, a family may be referred to other sources of assistance. Alternatively, DYFS may open a case and provide supervision and services to help the family stay together or temporarily provide out-of-home placement for children who cannot live safely with their parents. The number of children under the supervision of DYFS has increased by 25 percent from 2001 to 2005.<sup>1</sup> DYFS is required by law, once a child is placed out of the home, to provide services to help families reunify.<sup>2</sup> For children who cannot return home to their families after placement, DYFS is required to facilitate permanent living situations through adoption, kinship legal guardianship or other options. In order to assess whether New Jersey's budget allocations are effectively addressing the need for child welfare assistance, the following information looks into the scope of the need for these services. It begins with an overview of the system, its clients, and placement options. It follows with an in-depth look at the link between poverty and child welfare as well as the difficulties faced by the agency in the past. Finally, it explores funding issues going into the future.

In 2006, the DYFS hotline handled an average of 18,120 calls per month.<sup>3</sup> As of July 1, 2005, DYFS had a caseload of 63,341 children receiving services and was providing services to 33,570 families.<sup>4</sup> Approximately 19 percent of these children, 11,813, have been placed outside of their homes – in foster homes, para-foster homes, residential treatment centers, group homes, shelters, or other institutional settings. Eighty-three percent of the out-of-home placements—a total of 9,824 children—are with relative or stranger resource families, better known as foster care families. A total of 51,528 children, 80 percent of the DYFS caseload, live at home with their families, and are provided supervision or services. Data from late 2003 reveal that parental abuse and neglect and parental drug/ alcohol abuse account for nearly 31 percent and 28 percent of

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<sup>1</sup> New Jersey Kids Count 2006-The State of Children of our State. Association for Children of New Jersey.

<sup>2</sup> Federal and state law requires DYFS, in most cases, to make "reasonable efforts" to prevent placement and to reunify families. (42 U.S.C. 671(a)(15); N.J.S.A. 30:4C-11; N.J.S.A. 9:6-54; N.J.S.A. 9:6B-4).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ChildWelfareData/hotlinereferal.html>

<sup>4</sup> New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, *Period II Monitoring Report*, October 11, 2005; [http://www.aecf.org/njpanel/NJ\\_Monitoring\\_Report\\_II.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/njpanel/NJ_Monitoring_Report_II.pdf)

out of home placement cases, respectively—well over half.<sup>5</sup> The remaining out-of-home placements were due to inadequate housing, child behavioral problems, a parent’s mental disability, incarceration of a parent, abandonment by a parent, child delinquency, parental financial problems, a child’s disability, a child’s drug or alcohol abuse, parental death, parental surrender of a child, or other reason.<sup>6</sup> Out-of-home placements made by DYFS disproportionately occur to African-American children. Fifty-seven percent of children in DYFS out-of-home care are African-American while 24.1 percent are white and 11.5 percent are Latino/Hispanic.<sup>7</sup>

DYFS officials confirm that the majority of children involved with DYFS come from low-income families, with a disproportionately high number of children from low-income families placed into foster care. Indeed, many of the reasons for out-of-home placement listed above include child welfare issues that arise due to poverty. For instance, 1,444 children were placed in out-of-home care due to inadequate housing and 156 due to parental financial problems.<sup>8</sup>

New Jersey’s child welfare system has suffered over many years as a consequence of the state’s failure to invest adequate resources to serve families in need.<sup>9</sup> In 2004, a landmark settlement agreement was reached in a lawsuit against DYFS. In response, the Division developed a specific plan for child welfare reform in conjunction with an outside oversight panel, the New Jersey Child Welfare Panel. The reform plan, entitled *A New Beginning: The Future of Child Welfare in New Jersey*, acknowledged serious system deficiencies, including the lack of adequate services to support and preserve families, a lack of help to children in placement and their caregivers, an inadequacy of safe foster homes, a failure to provide oversight, insufficient caseworkers, and overwhelmingly high caseloads.<sup>10</sup>

A lack of services can sometimes result in the unnecessary removal of a child from their family or an over-extended stay in foster care or other substitute care. In order to best address child welfare and repair families, DYFS must provide resources for families in crisis. For example, nearly 5,000 placements in 2003 were caused at least in part by parental substance abuse. Yet, not nearly enough treatment facilities and slots are available to low-income people involved with DYFS. Only ten programs exist statewide that are available to women with children and only two are open to pregnant women.<sup>11</sup> Inadequate housing, financial difficulties, and mental health conditions were all factors in

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<sup>5</sup> This data captures multiple reasons for placements.

<sup>6</sup> Department of Youth and Family Services. September 30, 2003. *Active Pending Cases as of September 30, 2003, Reasons for Placement*.

<sup>7</sup> New Jersey Child Welfare Panel, *Period II Monitoring Report*, October 11, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Youth and Family Services. September 30, 2003. *Active Pending Cases as of September 30, 2003, Reasons for Placement*

<sup>9</sup> See, e.g., Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protective Services Final Report, 4-1 – 2, 1988 (“An analysis of the DYFS budget for the last seven years indicates that overall funding for DYFS has decreased.”)

<sup>10</sup> See “A New Beginning: The Future of Child Welfare in New Jersey. “

<sup>11</sup> This figure is based on LSNJ’s phone calls to all programs listed through the Division of Addiction Services or under contract with the DFD Substance Abuse Initiative, as well as several additional programs known to LSNJ.

a number of out-of-home placements, yet few DYFS services appropriately address the need for housing and mental health care. There is also a great need for increased services for adolescents, particularly those aging out of the foster care system. Some of them have experienced multiple placements and others have neither been adopted nor returned to their birth parents and face difficulties making it on their own. Approximately 1,600 children in placement in New Jersey are between the ages of 15 1/2 and 21.<sup>12</sup> DYFS provides services for half of these children, and has recently begun to provide some funding for advanced educational opportunities, but much more is needed. National data indicate a need for targeted services to children aging out of the foster care system. Nationally, only 54 percent of children had graduated from high school two years after aging out of foster care. Among these children, 38 percent were emotionally disturbed and 25 percent were involved with the legal system.<sup>13</sup>

The federal Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) of 2005 decreased federal funding for several programs that help such children. The DRA eliminated foster care assistance for children who live with grandparents or other relatives by \$380 million over 5 years.<sup>14</sup> Across the United States, more than 6 million children are raised in households headed by grandparents and other relatives; 2.5 million children live in these households without any parents present. In New Jersey, there are 127,263 children living in grandparent-headed households (6.1 percent of all children). There are another 44,132 children living in households headed by other relatives (2.1 percent of all children).<sup>15</sup> The DRA also limited access to federal funds for casework for children placed with unlicensed relatives and children transitioning out of institutions, such as hospitals or detention centers. In addition, it restricted Medicaid Targeted Case Management (TCM) services for children in foster care and others by \$760 million over 5 years. It did, however, increase mandatory funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program by \$40 million and added \$100 million in mandatory funding for new court improvement projects over the next five years. These modest increases do not offset the significant cuts and, in all probability, the loss of vital funding will hurt children who have been abused or neglected.

It is imperative that the budget allocations for child welfare services address the level of need within the state such that they are able to improve the welfare of children. Nearly one-fifth of all New Jersey DYFS cases end up in out-of-home placements while a majority remain at home under supervision. Parental abuse and neglect and parental substance abuse account for over half of all out-of-home placements, yet a number of placements are directly due to a lack of financial resources. As a result, interaction with DYFS occurs frequently for low-income families simply because of their lack of income. At the same time, services that would help reunite families and provide safe

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<sup>12</sup> Assembly Resolution 133, Memorializes Congress to appropriate authorized funds for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, passed September 23, 2002.

<sup>13</sup> Child Trends Data Bank – Foster Care, Child Trends.

<http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/indicators/12FosterCare.cfm>.

<sup>14</sup> CLASP – Final 2006 Budget Bill Cuts Services to Abused and Neglected Children by Casey Trupin, Vicki Turetsky, and Rutledge Q. Hutson, February 17, 2006.

<sup>15</sup> CLASP – Final 2006 Budget Bill Cuts Services to Abused and Neglected Children by Casey Trupin, Vicki Turetsky, and Rutledge Q. Hutson, February 17, 2006.

environments for children are lacking. Often, these missing services result in the inappropriate removal of children from the home and delay their return. Pending funding cuts under the DRA will further threaten the ability of DYFS to provide child welfare services at an adequate level.

# Child Welfare Programs

## Table of Contents

<b>Child Protective and Permanency Services</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Regional Diagnostic Centers</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Child Advocacy Centers</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Family Support Services</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Resource Families (including Foster Care, Pre-Adoptive Care, and Relative Care)</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Substitute Care (Residential Care, Group Homes, and Treatment Homes)</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Independent Living Programs and Services</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Subsidized Adoptions</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Division of Prevention and Community Partnership (DPCP)</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Other Child Abuse Prevention Programs</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Child Welfare Training Academy</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Office of the Child Advocate</b> .....	<b>27</b>

*Note: Some services that intersect with Child Welfare are referenced in this chapter but are more fully covered under the other indicated need areas, including Substance Abuse services, Housing services, Childcare, Education, Child Support and Mental Health services and the Children’s Behavioral Health Services (in Mental Health); please see the corresponding chapters of this report for more information.*

## Detailed Program Information

### **Child Protective and Permanency Services**

#### ***Program Purpose and Description:***

DYFS defines child protection as its most important responsibility, and includes within this responsibility receiving, responding to and investigating allegations of suspected child abuse or neglect.<sup>16</sup> The DYFS Office of Child Abuse Control operates a 24-hour hotline to receive reports of suspected abuse and neglect, which is linked to a statewide network of Special Response Units to respond to emergency reports. DYFS also investigates and provides child protection services through its statewide network of 32 local district offices. Where child abuse or neglect is substantiated or where family problems require intervention, DYFS either provides social services or refers families to community providers. When DYFS determines that children cannot remain safely at home, it seeks permission from the family court to place them in foster care or other substitute care. Each year since 1993, DYFS has received more than 67,000 requests for intervention and services.<sup>17</sup>

The Department of Human Services operates an Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU) that responds to allegations of abuse and neglect of children in out-of-home facilities and foster homes and takes action, as necessary, to ensure the safety of these children. This unit comprises a central administrative and screening unit and four regional investigative offices.

#### ***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Child Protective and Permanency Services Evaluation Data</b>				
<b>Active caseloads</b>	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Children receiving services	63,000*	64,300	59,200	58,100
Families	33,000*	34,400	31,200	30,400

**Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)**

\*Note: Data revised to reflect revised totals. State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-36)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dyfs/dhscp.html>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<b>Child Protective and Permanency Services Direct State Services</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/ Recommen d</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
<b>Total Direct State Services</b>	<b>\$387,752,00 0</b>	<b>\$404,518,00 0</b>	<b>\$386,720,00 0</b>	<b>\$309,272,00 0</b>	<b>\$391,269,00 0</b>	<b>\$391,269,00 0</b>
General Fund	\$214,579,00 0	\$224,837,00 0	\$224,837,00 0	\$124,545,00 0	\$198,504,00 0	\$198,504,00 0
Federal Funds	\$173,173,00 0	\$177,194,00 0	\$159,784,00 0	\$182,658,00 0	\$190,556,00 0	\$190,556,00 0
Other Funds	---	\$2,487,000	\$2,099,000	\$2,069,000	\$2,069,000	\$2,069,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-37) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.29)</b>						

<b>Child Protective and Permanency Services Grants-in-Aid</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/ Recommen d FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
<b>Total Grant -in-Aid</b>	<b>\$300,878,00 0</b>	<b>\$341,788,00 0</b>	<b>\$319,915,00 0</b>	<b>\$346,938,00 0</b>	<b>\$405,314,00 0</b>	<b>\$402,314,00 00</b>
General Fund	\$243,731,00 0	\$254,794,00 0	\$254,443,00 0	\$302,374,00 0	\$357,246,00 0	\$354,246,00 00
Federal Funds	\$57,147,000	\$80,501,000	\$62,002,000	\$41,310,000	\$44,814,000	\$44,814,000 0
Other Funds	---	\$6,493,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,254,000	\$3,254,000	\$3,254,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.30)</b>						

***Additional Analysis:***

Please note that the first appropriations chart above is a breakdown of funds by source that are “Direct State Services.” Direct State Services are appropriations of funding for state operating costs, such as facility costs and staffing. The second chart is a breakdown of funds by source that are “Grants-in-Aid.” Grants-in-aid appropriations represent payments going to third party contracts (e.g., vendors or individuals).

These charts show both state and federal funds and include administrative costs for all programs administered under “Child Protective and Permanency Service”; this includes Initial Response/Case Management, Family Support, Subsidized Adoptions and Substitute Care. The information on these individual programs is delineated throughout this chapter, and the funds appearing for each of these subprograms come out of the overall “Child Protective and Permanency Services” funding listed above. Accordingly, only a portion of the “Child Protective and Permanency Services” appropriation formerly referred to as “Services to Children and Families,” is used for child protection.

According to the FY06 State Appropriations bill S3000, p. 121, out of the direct state services appropriations for “Child Protective and Permanency Services and Safety and Permanency in the Courts, \$750,000 shall be allocated to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program.” This is an increase of \$250,000 from the original \$500,000 for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program in the Governor’s proposed budget.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> FY06 Budget Book p. D-231.

**Regional Diagnostic Centers**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

The State of New Jersey has four Child Abuse and Neglect Diagnostic Centers that were established by legislation in May 1998 with an appropriation of \$1.5 million. The legislation established a network of regional diagnostic centers to facilitate a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to the investigation, medical evaluation and mental health treatment of child abuse and to improve the prosecution of child abuse and child sexual abuse. In addition to providing enhanced services to child victims and comprehensive medical evaluations to improve the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, the regional diagnostic centers also serve as a resource to educate the community and professionals about issues related to child abuse and neglect. The four centers are: 1) Center for Children's Support - a project of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and DYFS, serving child abuse victims in South Jersey by providing medical and psychological evaluations. The Center also provides medical and psychological reports and consultation to the county multidisciplinary teams; 2) Rapid Intervention Team - a project of Beth Israel Hospital, CHAMP Division in Newark, and DYFS, providing medical and psycho-social evaluations for child abuse victims in Northern New Jersey; 3) Central New Jersey Child Abuse Diagnostic Center – a project of St. Peter’s Medical Center and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, providing medical and psycho-social evaluations for child abuse victims in central New Jersey; 4) The Children's House - a project of Hackensack Medical Center, providing medical and psycho-social evaluations for child abuse victims in Northern New Jersey.<sup>19</sup>

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Regional Diagnostic Center Contracts Annual Funding Information</b>				
<b>County/Center</b>	<b>Year ending 12/31/01</b>	<b>Year ending 12/31/02</b>	<b>Year ending 12/31/03</b>	<b>Year ending 12/31/04</b>
Essex/New Beth	\$548,520	\$580,534	\$580,534	\$580,534
Bergen/Hackensack Medical Center	\$557,026	\$585,698	\$597,412	TBA
Middlesex / St. Peter’s University	\$663,639	\$688,297	\$702,063	\$702,063
Camden / UMDNJ	\$378,185	\$384,236	\$391,921	\$391,921
<b>Source: Division of Youth and Family Services Staff</b>				

Note - Information for State FY06 and FY07 is not yet available.

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/NJTaskForce/njtf2a.html>

## **Child Advocacy Centers**

### ***Program Purpose and Description:***

Child Advocacy Centers are free-standing centers administered through DHS. They are based on a comprehensive team approach to children's advocacy. The goals of Child Advocacy Centers are to reduce the trauma experienced by child abuse victims and their families; enhance investigations, charging decisions, and prosecution of child abuse cases; and heighten community awareness and increase the skill level of professionals working in the field of child abuse.

The centers encourage all professionals involved in cases to work together as a team and provide a central point for professionals working on each case. Teams representing prosecution, law enforcement, mental health, medical, child protective and social services review cases and make recommendations. DYFS and law enforcement conduct joint investigations to facilitate investigations and reduce the need for multiple interviews. The centers also monitor case progress and ensure that clinicians and doctors have specialized training to do this work. Child Advocacy Centers also act as liaisons between outside agencies and units within the court system and Prosecutor's Offices, and maintain resource directories to access needed emergency services. The centers also provide information and training to the public on child abuse-related topics, including prevention, reporting and community advocacy.<sup>20</sup>

### ***Budget and Performance Trends:***

The description for this program refers to more than one center; however, there is budget information available for only one center - the Wynona M. Lipman Advocacy Center in Essex County.

<b>Wynona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center Grants-in-Aid Appropriations Data</b>					
<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$973,000	\$1,007,000	\$1,007,000	\$1,017,000	\$1,022,000	\$1,022,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-39) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p. 32)</b>					

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/NJTaskForce/gtcac.html>.

**Family Support Services**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

DYFS provides a limited array of services for families in crisis under the title of Family Support Services. These services include voucher day care, homemaker services, transportation assistance, psychological/therapeutic assessments, day treatment companionship, and legal and health related services. Family support services are intended to help preserve and strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The services provided currently are limited both in quantity and type; they do not match the range of family needs, and often families must wait to access the limited number of service slots that do exist. The DYFS reform plan announced its intention to invest resources in a wider array of important services, including substance abuse treatment, housing, domestic violence, mental and behavioral health, and physical health.

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Family Support Services Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Total program cost	\$60,783,000	\$67,647,000	\$67,773,000	\$70,686,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<b>Family Support Services Grants-in-Aid Appropriations Data</b>					
<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$52,649,000	\$54,306,000	\$54,290,000	\$55,982,000	\$58,839,000	\$58,839,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p. 32)</b>					

***Additional Analysis:***

The evaluation data for specific services under the heading of Family Support Services is not broken down in the FY05 or FY06 State Budget the way it was in the FY04 State Budget. Specifically, evaluation data appeared in the FY04 budget for “Day Treatment,” “Homemaker/Health,” “Psychological/Therapeutic,” and “Emergency Fund/Transportation Services” but does not appear this year. However, evaluation data on the overall “Family Support Services” costs does appear (see chart above).

## **Resource Families (including Foster Care, Pre-Adoptive Care, and Relative Care)**

### ***Program Purpose and Description:***

Foster care is the largest of the DYFS substitute care programs, providing family-based care for children who are temporarily unable to live at home. DYFS places children in foster care when they have been harmed or are at risk of harm, and either a family court judge has permitted DYFS to place them out of the home or the family has signed a “voluntary placement agreement.” There are approximately 6,300 foster children in New Jersey residing in over 4,000 DYFS-approved foster homes.<sup>21</sup> Foster parents must meet certain requirements and undergo a DYFS training program to be approved. Foster parents must be at least 21 years old, provide a safe environment for children and undergo a background check against criminal and DYFS records, and all household members must agree to the commitment of providing foster care. Foster parents receive financial assistance and other support, such as childcare, to help them care for their foster children. The average per capita cost for resource family care for a DYFS child in FY05 was \$732 monthly.<sup>22</sup> A resource family is entitled to a board stipend plus clothing allowance that currently range from \$509 to \$1,457 monthly, as well as any medical expenses necessary for the children, and possibly child care expenses for the children.<sup>23</sup> This rate will soon be increased in accordance with New Jersey’s child welfare reform plan. Foster care includes relative placements, when the relative or family friend with whom the child is placed meets the foster care licensing requirements. Collectively, stranger foster care and relative placements are now called “resource families.” The state also plans to recruit more resource families and provide caseworkers to support them. The quantity and quality of foster homes has been inadequate and has created unsafe conditions for children in foster care.

### ***Budget and Performance Trends:***

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dyfs/index.html>; information retrieved November 4, 2003.

<sup>22</sup> *FY2006 New Jersey Legislative Budget Book*. The cost is significantly more if the child is placed in any other type of setting, such as a group home (\$5,543 monthly) or a shelter (\$2,976 monthly).

<sup>23</sup> DYFS Field Operations Casework Policy and Procedures Manual, II (D) 2506 – Levels of Care Rate Table.

<b>Resource Family Placements* Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average daily population	5,072	8,970	8,587	8,476
Total program cost	\$58,605,000	\$74,679,000	\$78,923,000	\$76,158,000
Average annual per capita	\$11,555	\$8,325	\$9,191	\$8,985
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

Note: \*The Actual fiscal 2005, Revised fiscal 2006 and the fiscal 2007 Budget Estimate include both paid Foster Care and Relative Care Placements as well as the resources from the Child Welfare Reform that support these placements. Actual fiscal 2004 data does not include paid Relative Care Placements (FY07 Budget Book p. D-36). The Funds above are estimated costs, not funds appropriated.

<b>Foster Care Grants-In-Aid Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
Foster Care	\$54,637,000	\$71,037,000	\$70,315,000	\$77,234,000	\$76,158,000	\$76,158,000
Foster Care & Permanency Initiative	\$7,777,000	\$8,049,000	\$8,018,000	\$8,131,000	\$8,108,000	\$8,108,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.31)</b>						

<b>Foster Care Schedule 2 (denotes federal revenue) Appropriations Data</b>				
	<b>FY 2005 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2006 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2007 Estimated</b>	<b>FY 2007 Actual</b>
Foster Grandparents program	\$726,000	\$1,080,000	\$1,127,000	\$1,127,000
Title IV-E Foster Care	\$85,975,000	\$150,612,000	\$135,017,000	\$127,680,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. C-24 &amp; C-28) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.10 &amp; p.15)</b>				

**Substitute Care (Residential Care, Group Homes, and Treatment Homes)**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) provides substitute care for children who cannot live at home safely. In addition to foster homes, substitute care also includes residential treatment centers, group homes, independent living placements, treatment homes and shelter care placements, providing different types of care depending on the specific needs of the child. Foster care, the largest substitute care program, is explained above. This section provides information on the other types of substitute care.

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Residential Placements Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average daily population	134	145	151	157
Total program cost	\$11,199,000	\$12,302,000	\$12,969,000	\$13,554,000
Average annual per capita	\$83,575	\$84,841	\$85,887	\$86,331
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<b>Group Home Placements Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average daily population	186	186	188	193
Total program costs	\$11,535,000	\$11,496,000	\$11,531,000	\$11,324,000
Average annual per capita	\$62,016	\$61,806	\$61,335	\$58,674
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<b>Treatment Home Placements Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average daily population	67	767	63	68
Total program cost	\$22,250,377	\$3,068,377	\$2,697,000	\$2,568,000
Average annual per capita	\$332,090	\$40,368	\$32,107	\$28,533
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<b>Substitute Care (Grants-in-Aid) Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
Residential placements	\$8,998,000	\$12,020,000	\$10,322,000	\$13,075,000	\$13,554,000	\$13,554,000
Group Homes	\$13,678,000	\$14,115,000	\$14,115,000	\$12,672,000	\$11,324,000	\$11,324,000
Treatment Homes	\$2,087,000	\$2,178,000	\$2,169,000	\$1,826,000	\$2,568,000	\$2,568,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p. 30-31)</b>						

Note: The previous line item "other residential placements" does not appear in this year's budget materials.

***Additional Analysis:***

Substitute care programs, other than foster care, are listed above with evaluation data and appropriation information. DYFS provides and has contracts with various agencies to provide substitute care. Funding for substitute care, including funds for other agencies providing this care, is included under the "Child Protective and Permanency Service" category in this budget, and the portion of that budget dedicated to other substitute care programs is contained in the last table under this section. The appropriations listed here do not cover the full costs of these programs. The remaining funds for residential placements are presented under Children's Behavioral Health Services in the Mental Health chapter. It is unclear how the remaining funds for the additional substitute care programs are provided.

**Independent Living Programs and Services**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

The federal John Chafee Foster Care Act was passed in 1999 to assist states in revising and expanding services provided to youth who are supervised by child welfare agencies and who will be aging out of the child welfare system. DYFS has developed several programs within the Independence Program in response to this act. The Independent Living Skills Programs are contracted services provided through non-profit community agencies to assist youth ages 15-20 to develop the skills necessary for transitioning to independence. These life skills training programs focus on areas such as employment, money management, community resources, communication, decision-making, problem solving, housing and inter-personal relationships. Aftercare Programs provide wraparound funds, short-term case management and information-referral services to youth aging out of DYFS. DYFS caseworkers are supposed to refer youth to a contracted aftercare program 6 months before their case will be closed, and the contracted agency is obligated to continue providing services for a minimum of 6 months after the case closes. Wraparound funds can be used for expenses such as security deposits, short-term rental assistance (no more than 4 months), driving lessons and/or household items. Post-Secondary Training and Education provides some funding for young adults to attend vocational school or college. This program is a cooperative effort of DYFS and the New Jersey Foster and Adoptive Family Services. Although funds are limited, adolescents may apply for these grants, or foster parents, independent living programs, or aftercare agencies may apply on their behalf. Transitional Living Programs provide supervised living and supportive services for young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 who were in a DYFS placement on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.<sup>24</sup>

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Independent Living Placements Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Number of children	121	131	134	138
Total program costs	\$5,486,000	\$5,506,000	\$5,355,000	\$5,516,000
Average annual per capita	\$45,339	\$42,031	\$39,963	\$39,971
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<sup>24</sup> John Chafee Foster Care: Independence Program pamphlet produced by New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Youth and Family Services.

<b>Shelter Care Placements Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average number of children	415	413	381	392
Total program cost	\$14,517,000	\$14,875,000	\$16,865,000	\$17,073,000
Average annual per capita	\$34,981	\$36,017	\$44,265	\$43,554
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)</b>				

<b>Independent Living and Shelter Care Grants-in-Aid Appropriations Data</b>					
<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$19,636,000	\$20,454,000	\$20,454,000	\$24,429,000	\$22,589,000	\$22,589,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p. 31)</b>					

Note: This funding is not just for independent living placements; it also includes shelter care.

## **Subsidized Adoptions**

### ***Program Purpose and Description:***

In child protection cases where the family court determines that the child cannot be safely returned home from foster care, DYFS must recommend and the court must approve a permanent living arrangement for the child. In the vast majority of those cases, DYFS recommends and the court agrees that the child should be placed for adoption. Adoption services were formerly provided by 6 regional Adoption Resource Centers (ARCs).<sup>25</sup> However, under the reform plan, the ARCs have been eliminated and the responsibility for adoption services returned to local DYFS offices. DYFS is the largest adoption agency in New Jersey, and ARCs place over 1,000 New Jersey children in adoptive homes each year. Many of the children have special needs, such as physical, emotional or educational disabilities, or are in a situation that makes them difficult to place (such as older children and sibling groups). People who adopt children with special needs are eligible to receive an [adoption subsidy](#), including a monthly maintenance payment, medical coverage and legal fees for the adoption finalization. DYFS conducts a home study of each potential adoptive home, to assess the applicant's ability to parent and provide a child with a nurturing environment.

### ***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Adoption Subsidies Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Average daily population	8,065	8,829	9,351	9,816
Subsidy cost	\$58,605,000	\$67,650,000	\$72,213,000	\$76,422,000
Average annual per capita	\$7,267	\$7,662	\$7,722	\$7,785

**Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-35)**

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dyfs/index.html>.

<b>Subsidized Adoption (Grants-in-Aid) Appropriations Data</b>					
<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$72,488,000	\$75,041,000	\$67,722,000	\$69,936,000	\$76,422,000	\$76,422,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations S2007 (p.31)</b>					

<b>Adoption Schedule 2 (denotes federal revenue) Appropriations Data</b>				
	<b>2005 Actual</b>	<b>2006 Estimated</b>	<b>2007 Estimated</b>	<b>2007 Actual</b>
Child Care Licensing/Adoption Law	\$314,000	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. C-11) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.2)</b>				

**Division of Prevention and Community Partnership (DPCP)**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

The Division of Prevention and Community Partnership (DPCP) was created to assess the resources needed and those available in communities throughout the state. The DPCP is expected to expand the role of DHS in the coordination and development of statewide prevention and early intervention efforts. The role of DPCP includes encouraging the development of culturally competent resources and services sufficient to meet the needs of each community as well as coordinating the network of resources and services. The DPCP is expected to pursue these goals, in part, by developing and facilitating county-wide child welfare planning councils and, more locally, community collaboratives, consisting of community members and service providers. It should be noted that more than one year after the Child Welfare Reform Plan and the inception of the DPCP, there are only two Child Welfare Planning Councils, after several attempts in other counties were abandoned. The focus has shifted to developing community collaboratives. Many of the funded community collaboratives represent entities that were organized prior to the creation or support of the DPCP.

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Prevention and Community Partnership (under the new Department of Children &amp; Families) Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Child Welfare Planning Councils Supported	n/a	3	21	21
Collaboratives Supported	n/a	14	18	18
Additional School-Based Youth Services Supported	n/a	19	37	37

**Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-36)**

<b>Prevention and Community Partnership Services Direct State Services Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/Recommended</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
General Fund	---	---	---	\$1,936,000	\$1,936,000	\$1,936,00
Federal Funds	---	---	---	\$383,000	\$481,000	\$481,000
<b>Total Direct State Services</b>	---	---	---	<b>\$2,319,000</b>	<b>\$2,417,000</b>	<b>\$2,417,000</b>
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-37) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.29)</b>						

<b>Prevention and Community Partnership Services Grants-in-Aid Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/Recommended FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
General Fund	---	---	---	\$19,645,000	\$37,947,000	\$37,947,000
Federal Funds	---	---	---	---	\$8,503,000	\$8,503,000
<b>Total Grants-in-Aid</b>	---	---	---	<b>\$19,645,000</b>	<b>\$46,450,000</b>	<b>\$46,450,000</b>
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.30)</b>						

***Additional Analysis:***

The Division of Prevention and Community Partnership was only recently created, so evaluation data and appropriations data for this program do not exist for prior fiscal years. It is a new program under the Office of Children’s Services, as specified by the Child Welfare Reform Plan.

## **Other Child Abuse Prevention Programs**

### ***Program Purpose and Description:***

New Jersey has invested very little in child abuse prevention services, responding primarily to previously identified problems.<sup>26</sup> Several programs do provide limited preventive assistance, but much more is needed. The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect was created in 1983 by executive order, and was given the responsibility to recommend improvements in the state's response to child maltreatment, and to educate communities and professionals about prevention. In 1996, this Task Force was also established by statute, and its responsibilities were expanded to include studying and developing recommendations for DYFS practice and policies. The Task Force's prevention efforts include the Family Helpline and the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Project. The helpline, 1-800-THE-KIDS, staffed by trained volunteers, provides information, referrals and crisis intervention to parents and families. The hotline receives several thousand calls a year and is publicized through Public Service Announcements, posters, and bus signs to help inform the public about breaking the cycle of abuse. CAP is a national community prevention project that teaches children to protect themselves from victimization by providing instruction in assertiveness, using peer support, and emphasizing the importance of communicating with trusted adults. CAP also teaches parents and teachers how to respond to children in crisis.<sup>27</sup>

The New Jersey Children's Trust Fund was created by law in 1985 to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs, by financing prevention programs in New Jersey communities. The Trust Fund, a public-private partnership, identifies and supports community-based programs through annual grant awards and encourages the development of creative strategies for preventing child abuse and neglect.<sup>28</sup>

Safe Haven, established by the New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act, provides mechanisms for parents to give up unwanted infants anonymously and legally in order to prevent child abandonment and the related dangers. As long as the baby has not been abused, the person may give up the child without fear of arrest or prosecution. The act applies to children less than 30 days old, and establishes locations where the babies can be dropped off (such as emergency rooms and police stations) with no questions asked. Parents (or other adults a parent has asked to present the child) are not required to provide any information, although any offered information is recorded.<sup>29</sup> Program funding is devoted to advertising its availability.

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<sup>26</sup> Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection Services Final Report at 3-6 to 7, February 1998.

<sup>27</sup> <http://state.nj.us/humanservices/NJTaskForce/njtf2a.html#anchor11882325>; for additional information, contact Pat Stanislaski, Director, NJCAP at EIRC, 606 Delsea Drive, Sewell, NJ 08080.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/NJTrustFund/njctf2.html>.

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/childrensservices/moreabout.html>.

**Budget and Performance Trends:**

<b>Child Abuse Prevention Grants-In-Aid Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/ Recommen d FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
Public awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Program	\$277,000	\$287,000	\$283,000	\$289,000	\$290,000	\$290,000
Child abuse prevention	\$11,278,000	\$11,673,000	\$11,673,000	\$11,791,000	\$11,847,000	\$11,847,000
National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect	\$636,000	\$684,000	\$479,000	\$801,000	\$801,000	\$801,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-38 &amp; D-39) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.31)</b>						

<b>NJ Children's Trust Fund Schedule 2 (denotes dedicated revenue) Appropriations Data</b>				
	<b>FY05 Actual</b>	<b>FY06 Estimated</b>	<b>FY07 Estimated</b>	<b>FY07 Actual</b>
Children's Trust Fund	\$253,000	\$519,000	\$519,000	---
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p.C-20)</b>				

**New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act  
Direct State Services  
Appropriations Data**

<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$500,000	\$518,000	\$518,000	\$523,000	\$526,000	\$526,000

**Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-37) & State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.29)**

**Child Welfare Training Academy**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

The Training Academy was designed to be the central location for all training and development for new and existing staff of DYFS, DPCP, and Children’s Behavioral Health, as well as providing training related to child welfare services to personnel from other state agencies, contracted providers, resource parents, and members of the community. The training is expected to focus on skill-based curricula, classroom training with integrated on-the-job training and ongoing coaching and mentoring. The Child Welfare Training Academy is expected to provide DYFS case workers and supervisors with training and support on the new case practice strategies of investigation, family team meetings and one worker-one family. It should be noted that more than one year after the Child Welfare Reform Plan, the Child Welfare Training Academy is not yet prepared to start conducting trainings.

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

<b>Child Welfare Training Academy (Services and Operations) (under the new Department of Children and Families) Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Administration and Support Services	453	435	554	---
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-36)</b>				

<b>Child Welfare Training Academy (Services and Operations) Direct State Services Appropriations Data</b>						
	<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Approp.</b>	<b>Request/Recommended FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
General Fund	---	---	---	\$2,234,000	\$3,661,000	\$3,661,000
Federal Funds	---	---	---	\$1,788,000	\$1,788,000	\$1,788,000
<b>Total Direct State Services</b>	---	---	---	<b>\$4,022,000</b>	<b>\$5,449,000</b>	<b>\$5,449,000</b>
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-37) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p.29)</b>						

*Additional Analysis:*

The Child Welfare Training Academy was only recently created and it has not yet begun. Evaluation data and appropriations data for this program do not exist for prior fiscal years.

**Office of the Child Advocate**

***Program Purpose and Description:***

In September 2003, the Governor signed a law creating the Office of the Child Advocate. The law provides broad powers and responsibilities including investigating, reviewing and monitoring all state agencies and service providers to ensure the safety and protection of children. The office responds to allegations of abuse and neglect, operates a hotline that takes complaints about the state’s child protection system, and provides referrals when necessary. The office directly intervenes in the state’s child protection system by proposing methods to improve state agencies’ coordination and collaboration. The powers of this office include subpoena power, the power to demand corrective action and bring litigation, and the power to report publicly.<sup>28</sup>

In 2004, the Office of Child Advocate (the OCA) conducted several major investigations focusing on topics such as the Arthur Brisbane Child Treatment Center, the Jackson case, the health status of children in foster care, foster children in juvenile detention centers, and fatalities of children under DYFS custody or supervision or otherwise known to DYFS. The OCA continues to conduct thorough investigations and produce insightful reports on compelling problems within the child welfare system.

***Budget and Performance Trends:***

State budget materials refer to the Office of the Child Advocate as the “Child Advocate Agency.”

<b>Child Advocate Agency (under the new Department of the Public Advocate) Evaluation Data</b>				
	<b>Actual FY04</b>	<b>Actual FY05</b>	<b>Revised FY06</b>	<b>Estimated FY07</b>
Positions Filled	7	20	15	25
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-326)</b>				

<b>Child Advocate Agency Direct State Services Appropriations Data</b>					
<b>Orig. &amp; --Supple. FY05</b>	<b>Total FY05 Available</b>	<b>Expended FY05</b>	<b>FY06 Adjusted Appropriation</b>	<b>Request/ Recommend FY07</b>	<b>Actual Approp. FY07</b>
\$2,500,000	\$3,124,000	\$2,423,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
<b>Source: State FY07 Budget Book (p. D-327) &amp; State FY07 Appropriations Bill S2007 (p. 161)</b>					

## **Recommendations:**

### **Housing**

- Provide funding for housing, especially for rental assistance, to address the housing needs of families involved with the child welfare system.

Many families involved with the child welfare system have housing needs, and many children enter placement or remain in placement as a consequence of their family's homelessness or lack of adequate housing. A rental assistance program for families who are involved in or at risk of involvement in the child welfare system should be structured to assure reasonable housing and avoid placement of children for primarily housing reasons.

- Flexible funding must be made available, as outlined in the DYFS Reform Plan, to provide financial services to birth families, such as the security deposit on an apartment or past due rent. The procedure for formulating a policy on the implementation of Flexible Funds appears to be focused exclusively on resource families.

### **Substance abuse treatment**

- Funds must also be designated to increase treatment programs accepting pregnant women, to enable them to address their treatment needs before giving birth.
- Substance abuse treatment must integrate mental health services, to effectively serve the high percentage of individuals with dual diagnoses.

### **Mental health treatment**

- Ensure that all children receive adequate mental health services without the need to enter the child welfare or juvenile justice system.
- Ensure adequate services for all children under DYFS supervision.

### **Family visits for children in placement**

- Visitation should not be reduced or terminated due to a change in the planning goal of the case from reunification to termination.

Parent-child visitation should not be reduced or terminated due to a change in the case plan or goal. The case plan or goal is not based upon a hearing with evidence and judicial findings. That goal can be changed somewhat capriciously and can be returned to reunification. Visitation is generally viewed as a positive experience for a child and should not be reduced unnecessarily.

- DYFS must report on parent-child visitation schedules, to determine compliance with state law and DYFS policy on this issue.

In order to modify the ongoing caseworker practice of routinely recommending court orders that schedule parent child visitation for one hour weekly in the DYFS office, monitoring is required to become systemic and internal to DYFS as well as external.

Courts frequently indicate the frequency of visitation and leave the scheduling to DYFS. The Court Order should include:

- a. The visitation schedule;
- b. Whether the visitation must be supervised and, if so, with an indication of what specifically stands in the way of unsupervised visitation;
- c. The visitation supervisor, favoring relatives and family friends over DYFS workers;
- d. Location of the visitation [Supervised visitation should be permitted in the home of the birth parents or relatives, community organization office or even a public park, before a DYFS office is considered];
- e. Telephone contact. (If the telephone call is a toll call, DYFS should be ordered to provide phone cards to either the parent or child, or the foster parent if the child is too young.)

### **Kinship legal guardianship**

- The kinship legal guardianship law must also be used to allow children to preserve ties to their biological families in appropriate situations, where termination of parental rights and adoption are not in their best interests.
- The subsidy for kinship legal guardianships finalized before July 1, 2004, should be equalized with those finalized after that date.

The subsidy available to kinship legal guardians was recently raised to the level of the foster care subsidy for those finalized on or after July 1, 2004. The subsidy for kinship legal guardianships finalized before that date remains at less than half of the foster care subsidy rate.

### **Placement with relatives**

- Caseworkers must obtain a full list of relatives and family friends, both maternal and paternal, from parents and collateral contacts interviewed during investigation (including the person making the DYFS referral, teachers, and the child, if old enough).
- DYFS caseworkers should review immediately all relatives and family friends as possible placements when contemplating or effecting a removal. To avoid the need

for short-term emergency foster placements, the caseworker should conclude relative/family friend reviews within one week.

- Emergency foster placements are necessary to provide time to locate and make arrangements with relative resource families. To recruit emergency foster and relative homes, identify child care (usually in-home) providers that will accept children for a short period, so that working foster parents can accept emergency placements.
- Flexible funding and housing resources for relative caregivers must be made available, to assist relatives in making their homes ready for the children.

**Institutional Abuse Investigation Unit (IAIU)**

- Allow the Office of the Child Advocate to enforce and monitor compliance with IAIU's recommendations. Currently IAIU has no effective enforcement tool to ensure that its recommendations are followed.