

CHILD WELFARE IN UTAH

Children's safety, permanency, and wellbeing is the responsibility of us all. This calls for wise investment of resources to achieve the best possible outcomes. Utah recognizes the way to achieve these outcomes is to make resources available to support families in their homes and communities. Through our IV-E Waiver Child Welfare Demonstration project, we are striving to strengthen parents' capacity to care for their children in their home, and to safely reduce the need for foster care.

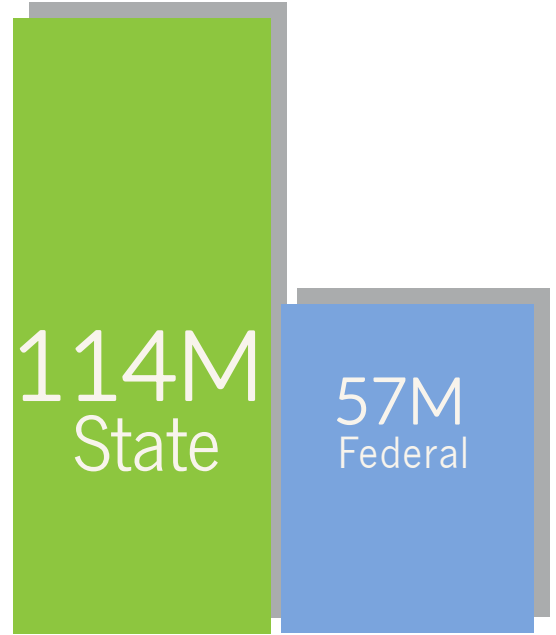
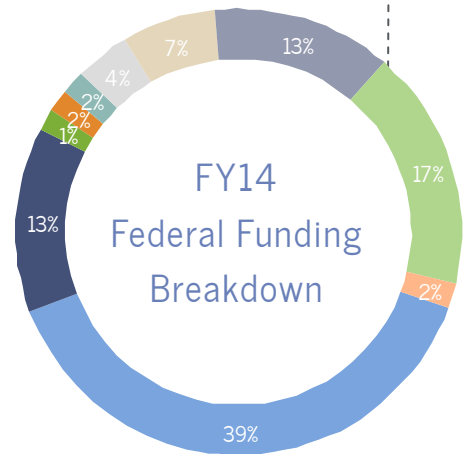
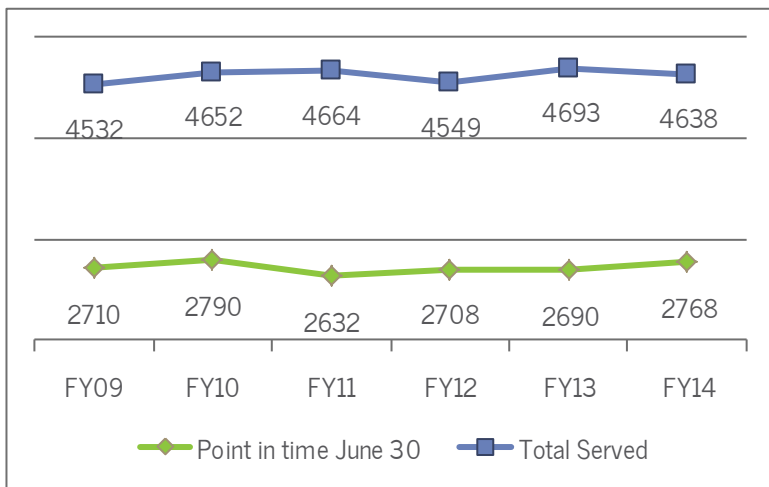


TABLE 1 FY14 FUNDING MIX
*Federal dollars reflect 33% of child welfare financing in Utah



- Title IV-E Foster Care
- Title IV-E Adoption
- Chafee Independent Living
- Adoption Incentive Grant
- Family Violence
- Federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families
- IV-B Part 1
- TANF transfer to SSBG
- SSBG
- Other Federal Sources

Number of Children Served in Utah Foster Care Yearly



CHILD WELFARE FINANCE REFORM: ALIGNING RESOURCES WITH OUTCOMES

A long-term vision must drive child welfare finance reform. Over the past decade, we have learned that quality outcomes are most often realized when children and families are engaged with organizations that are invested in their long-term permanency, wellbeing, and safety. Although our IV-E Waiver has given us the opportunity to employ innovative strategies based on research and evidence of what works, the need to broadly align federal resources with desired outcomes still remains.

The following table provides policy recommendations, ideas, and strategies that we believe are worthy of consideration and further analysis in the conversation surrounding federal child welfare finance reform.

Underlying Principles/Goals	Policy Ideas	Possible Funding Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and state shared responsibility for safety, permanency, and well-being regardless of child's home circumstances Administrative simplification State flexibility for comprehensive needs and services Funding limits promote shorter foster care and congregate care stays to accelerate permanency Policy and funding that better promotes reunification as permanency option for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All children receiving child welfare services are eligible for Title IV-E to support their safety, well-being and permanency Increase state's ability to use IV-E funding for prevention, early intervention, and in-home services by reducing their dependence on out-of-home care Services allowable under Title IV-B may be funded under Title IV-E for the in-home option Incentivize in-home and community-based services Evidenced inclusion of quality assurance and outcomes for federal funding accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduated match rate of federal funding for children in foster care and congregate care exceeding a specified time frame Title IV-E eligibility time limits for foster care and congregate care with limitations for children reentering foster care within specified time period Implementation of time limits for expansion of eligibility phased in gradually