

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

As Nebraska's federal IV-E review agency, the Foster Care Review Office collects, evaluates, & disseminates data on children in foster care placement as defined by statute; uses trained citizen volunteers to review children's plans, services and placements to assure safety, security, and progress to permanent homes; disseminates findings & recommendations; legally advocates to promote children's best interests; visits foster care facilities; and sponsors educational programs (§43-1301 to §43-1321). Provides fiscal and administrative support for the Nebraska Children's Commission, the only collaborative leadership body that works with all branches of government created to reform the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems (§43-4202).

VISION:

Foster Care Review Offices' vision is: 1) every child in out of home care heals from the harmful effects of abuse and/or neglect; goes on to live in a safe, permanent home; experiences an enduring relationship with one or more caring adults; and has opportunity to grow up to become a responsible, productive adult; 2) every youth with delinquent behaviors can safely return to their community without further system intervention. **Nebraska Children's Commission's vision** is to be a high-level leadership body with broad membership that seeks to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska.

MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

The **Foster Care Review Office's** mission is to provide oversight of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems by tracking and reviewing children's cases; reporting on aggregate outcomes; and advocating on individual and systemic levels to ensure that children's best interest and safety needs are met. The **Nebraska Children's Commission** exists to improve safety and well-being for all children and families in Nebraska.

GOALS:

Foster Care Review Office goals are to:

- Utilize the case file review process to improve outcomes for children;
- Deploy technology to realize efficiencies in all agency processes;
- Strengthen staff and citizen reviewer's expertise; and
- Remain a leader in systemic collaboration and communication.

The Commission's goals are to develop:

- Integration, coordination, and accessibility of all services provided by the state, whether directly or pursuant to contract;
- Reasonable access to appropriate services statewide;
- Efficiency in service delivery; and
- Availability of accurate and complete data as well as ongoing data analysis to identify important trends and problems as they arise.

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Financial Data

| | FY16 Actual | FY17 Approp | FY18 Request | FY18 Recomm | FY19 Request | FY19 Recomm |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Operations Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 1,904,847 | 1,865,446 | 2,109,150 | 1,841,906 | 2,165,672 | 1,872,766 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 135,700 | 5,700 | 138,136 | 5,700 | 140,657 |
| Federal Fund | 360,189 | 609,592 | 441,325 | 407,203 | 458,394 | 407,203 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Operations | 2,265,036 | 2,610,738 | 2,556,175 | 2,387,245 | 2,629,766 | 2,420,626 |
| Aid Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Aid Funding | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 1,904,847 | 1,865,446 | 2,109,150 | 1,841,906 | 2,165,672 | 1,872,766 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 135,700 | 5,700 | 138,136 | 5,700 | 140,657 |
| Federal Fund | 360,189 | 609,592 | 441,325 | 407,203 | 458,394 | 407,203 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Agency | 2,265,036 | 2,610,738 | 2,556,175 | 2,387,245 | 2,629,766 | 2,420,626 |

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Program 116 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

As Nebraska's federal IV-E review agency, the Foster Care Review Office collects, evaluates, & disseminates data on children in out-of-home care or trial home visits; uses trained citizen volunteers to review children's plans, services and placements to assure safety, security, and progress to permanent homes; disseminates findings & recommendations to legal parties of reviewed children's cases; legally advocates for children's best interest with all stakeholders; visits foster care facilities; provides quarterly and annual reports to the Legislature and stakeholders; and sponsors educational programs as outlined in §43-1301 to §43-1321.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Maintain independent tracking system on children in foster care placements. Collect/verify children's information. Review individual children's plan, services, and placements. Make specific findings and recommendations that are provided to all legal parties. Promote safety, security and permanency for children, including taking legal standing, attending court, visiting foster care facilities, and sponsoring/participating in educational programs. Disseminate information. Release annual/quarterly reports with data analysis and systemic recommendations. Research and deploy more efficient technologies. Strengthen staff/citizen reviewer expertise. Lead/participate in system collaboration.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

As Nebraska's IV-E review agency, the Foster Care Review Office tracks all children in out-of-home care/trial home visits; utilizes trained citizen volunteers to review children's plans; promotes best interests of children through disseminating FCRO findings & recommendations; attending court; visiting children's placements; advocating for children on an individual and systems level; and reporting information on children in out-of-home care and trial home visit as outlined in §43-1301 to §43-1321. The FCRO determines the outcomes and results of the child welfare and juvenile justice programs through the measures outlined in the supporting documentation and has a CQI process to monitor internal performance.

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE
Program 116 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Financial Data

| | FY16 Actual | FY17 Approp | FY18 Request | FY18 Recomm | FY19 Request | FY19 Recomm |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Operations Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 1,745,255 | 1,865,446 | 1,914,421 | 1,841,906 | 1,965,630 | 1,872,766 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 |
| Federal Fund | 360,189 | 609,592 | 441,325 | 407,203 | 458,394 | 407,203 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Operations | 2,105,444 | 2,480,738 | 2,361,446 | 2,254,809 | 2,429,724 | 2,285,669 |
| Aid Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Aid Funding | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 1,745,255 | 1,865,446 | 1,914,421 | 1,841,906 | 1,965,630 | 1,872,766 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 | 5,700 |
| Federal Fund | 360,189 | 609,592 | 441,325 | 407,203 | 458,394 | 407,203 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Program | 2,105,444 | 2,480,738 | 2,361,446 | 2,254,809 | 2,429,724 | 2,285,669 |

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Program 353 - CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Nebraska Children's Commission was created by LB821 (2012), and extended in April of 2016 with LB746, signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts. LB746 renewed the Commission as a high level leadership body to provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public, and private stakeholders in child welfare and juvenile justice programs and services. It is the only statutory body working with all three branches of government on these issues. Tasks include creating a strategic plan for child welfare and juvenile justice programs and services, and monitoring and evaluating the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Improve the safety and well-being of all children and families and provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare and juvenile justice programs and services. Provide a broad restructuring of the goals and create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare and juvenile justice system programs and services. Create a system of care including prevention through treatment services for the child welfare system. Analyze case management workforce issues to make recommendations to the Legislature. Review the operations of DHHS, and consider the potential of contracting nonprofit entities as a lead agency.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The Nebraska Children's Commission serves as a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public, and private stakeholders in child welfare and juvenile justice programs and services [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202(1)]. As a high level leadership body with membership from legislative, executive and judicial branches along with system stakeholders, the Commission works to improve the safety and well-being of all children and families in Nebraska [Neb. Rev. Stat. §42-4202(1)]. Additional information on the Commission's initiatives and intended outcomes and results through June 30, 2019 are outlined in the supporting documentation.

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE
Program 353 - CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Financial Data

| | FY16 Actual | FY17 Approp | FY18 Request | FY18 Recomm | FY19 Request | FY19 Recomm |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Operations Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 159,592 | 0 | 194,729 | 0 | 200,042 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 130,000 | 0 | 132,436 | 0 | 134,957 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Operations | 159,592 | 130,000 | 194,729 | 132,436 | 200,042 | 134,957 |
| Aid Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Aid Funding | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Funding | | | | | | |
| General Fund | 159,592 | 0 | 194,729 | 0 | 200,042 | 0 |
| Cash Fund | 0 | 130,000 | 0 | 132,436 | 0 | 134,957 |
| Federal Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Revolving Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Program | 159,592 | 130,000 | 194,729 | 132,436 | 200,042 | 134,957 |