

Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

Statutory Authority:

As Nebraska's IV-E review agency, trained citizen volunteers review the plans, services and placements of children in foster care 6 months or longer to assure children are safe, secure, and moving into permanent homes. The Board collects, evaluates, and disseminates data, disseminates the board's findings, takes legal standing and/or attends court on cases where the board believes the children's best interests are not being met, visits foster care facilities to ascertain if a child's psychological, physical and sociological needs are met, and sponsors educational programs as outlined in §43-1301 to §43-1321, Rev. Stat. Nebr., 1942, (1983 Cumm. Sup.)

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Foster Care Review Board is that every child and youth in foster care live in a safe, permanent home, experience an enduring relationship with one or more caring adults, and have every opportunity to grow up to become a responsible, productive adult.

The Board works to ensure this by reviewing cases, visiting facilities, tracking children, and taking legal standing on cases where the Board believes the children and youth's best interests are not being met. The Board collects data, disseminates data and findings through the annual report, community meetings, and legislative hearings.

Mission Statement:

The State Foster Care Review Board's mission is to ensure the best interests of children in foster care are being met through external citizen review, monitoring facilities that house children and youth, maintaining up-to-date data on a statewide tracking system, through legal standing, and disseminating data and recommendations through an Annual Report.

Goals:

1. Maintaining a Quality Tracking System (system is used for tracking and review)
2. Reviewing Children's Cases and Advocating for Their Best Interests
3. Restoring Funding for Staff to Facilitate Tracking and Review
4. Supporting Increased Advocacy as a Part of Review
5. Continuing Project Permanency and Tours of Foster Care Facilities
6. Working to Ensure Children's Safety in Placements
7. Improving the Child Protection System Infrastructure
8. Working with HHS to Increase Contractor Accountability
9. Communicating with HHS
10. Providing Educational Programs
11. Providing Public Information and Increasing Awareness of Foster Care Issues
12. Addressing General System Issues

Financial Data:

	Actual FY06	Approp FY07	Request FY08	Recom FY08	Request FY09	Recom FY09
General Fund	1,169,740	1,224,583	1,611,741	1,260,095	1,599,366	1,301,555
Cash Fund	3,060	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	385,505	555,249	731,229	556,631	725,604	558,803
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,558,305	1,785,832	2,348,970	1,822,726	2,330,970	1,866,358

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Program 116 - Administration & Operations

Program Objectives:

1. Maintaining a quality Tracking System and work to track all children in foster care.
2. Reviewing Children's cases and advocating for their best interests.
3. Continue to pro-actively work with the Courts to address issues concerning the best interests of children in foster care.
4. Working to ensure children's safety in Placements
5. Continue tours of Foster Care Facilities and Project Permanency
6. Providing Public info. and increasing awareness of Foster Care issues including the promotion of safety, security, and permanency for children by communicating pertinent issues by an annual report and other means.
7. Work with and Communicate with HHS on issues concerning children in foster care.
8. Provide Educational Programs
9. Maintain Partnerships

Financial Data:

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Performance Measures:

Description	FY06 Actual	FY07	FY08 Request	FY09 Request
# of Children Tracked	10421	10500	10500	10500
HHS, Court Plcmnt doct recivd	160000	160000	160000	160000
Reviews Conducted	4980	5800	8000	8000
# of Children Reviewed	3309	4800	6000	6000
Reports sent to legal parties	34860	40600	56000	56000
Times staff attend court	639	1000	1800	1800
Board's Recs Adopt in Court	480	750	1350	1350
Cases staffed with HHS	360	500	800	800
Volunteer Hours Donated	27000	27000	36000	36000
Visits to Foster Care Facilities	103	150	300	300
Education Programs	10	10	10	10
Data Forms Collected/Entered	4980	5800	8000	8000
Statutory Req. Findings Made	64480	75400	104000	104000
Persons invited to local bd mtgs	24900	29000	40000	40000