

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 out-of-home care; 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 in court; visits foster care facilities; and sponsors educational programs (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1301 to §43-1321). Provides fiscal and administrative support for the Nebraska Children's Commission, a high level collaborative leadership body created to reform Nebraska's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System (Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4202).

VISION:

The vision of the **Foster Care Review Office** is that every child and youth in out-of-home care is helped to heal from the harmful effects of abuse and/or neglect, and goes on to 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 vision of the **Nebraska Children's Commission** is to function as a high-level leadership body with membership from legislative, executive, and judicial branches along with system stakeholders, to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska.

MISSION AND PRINCIPLES:

As defined in the **Foster Care Review Office** guiding principles, the FCRO exists to advocate for children and youth on an individual, family and systemic level acknowledging that rural and urban areas of the State of Nebraska have unique needs. As defined in the **Nebraska Children's Commission** guiding principles/strategic plan, the NCC exists to improve safety and well-being for all children and families in Nebraska.

GOALS:

To promote safety, permanency and well-being for all children in out-of-home care, the FCRO goals are to enrich effective processes to complete case file reviews; to invest in significant technology infrastructures to improve the FCRO's ability to track and report on children's out-of-home care experiences; to cultivate a climate and culture to enhance staff and citizen reviewer's expertise; and to inspire systemic collaboration and communication. The NCC goals are to ensure a consistent, stable, skilled workforce; achieve community ownership of child well-being; enhance systems of care for children and families; and support collaborative information technology initiatives.

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Financial Data

	FY14 Actual	FY15 Approp	FY16 Request	FY16 Recomm	FY17 Request	FY17 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	1,497,590	1,616,119	1,710,119	1,762,717	1,710,119	1,802,709
Cash Fund	911	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
Federal Fund	333,286	499,812	499,812	500,866	499,812	501,170
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations	1,831,787	2,121,631	2,215,631	2,269,283	2,215,631	2,309,579
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	1,497,590	1,616,119	1,710,119	1,762,717	1,710,119	1,802,709
Cash Fund	911	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
Federal Fund	333,286	499,812	499,812	500,866	499,812	501,170
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,831,787	2,121,631	2,215,631	2,269,283	2,215,631	2,309,579

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, which operates under program 116, collects, evaluates, & disseminates data on children in out-of-home care; 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 in court; visits foster care facilities; and sponsors educational programs as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1301 to §43-1321.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Maintain independent tracking system on all children in out-of-home care. Collect/verify information on children and youth in out-of-home care. Review the plan, services, and placements of children in out-of-home care. Make findings based on the review and provide the rationale. Share findings/rationale with all legal parties to the case. Promote safety, security and permanency for children. Improve children's foster care experience. Take legal standing and/or attend court. Visit foster care facilities. Organize, sponsor and participate in educational programs. Disseminate information on children in out-of-home care. Release annual/quarterly reports with data, analysis, and recommendations.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

As Nebraska's IV-E review agency, the Foster Care Review Office tracks all children in out-of-home care, utilizes trained citizen volunteers to review the plans of children in out-of-home, works to promote the best interests of children placed in out-of-home care through disseminating the FCRO's findings, attending court, visiting children in their placements, advocating for children on an individual and systems level, and reporting information on children in foster care as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-1301 to §43-1321. The FCRO determines the outcomes and results of the child welfare program through the measures outlined in the supporting documentation.

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Program 116 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Financial Data

	FY14 Actual	FY15 Approp	FY16 Request	FY16 Recomm	FY17 Request	FY17 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	1,359,447	1,528,119	1,528,119	1,577,256	1,528,119	1,614,302
Cash Fund	911	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
Federal Fund	333,286	499,812	499,812	500,866	499,812	501,170
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Operations	1,693,644	2,033,631	2,033,631	2,083,822	2,033,631	2,121,172
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	1,359,447	1,528,119	1,528,119	1,577,256	1,528,119	1,614,302
Cash Fund	911	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
Federal Fund	333,286	499,812	499,812	500,866	499,812	501,170
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Program	1,693,644	2,033,631	2,033,631	2,083,822	2,033,631	2,121,172

Agency 070 - FOSTER CARE REVIEW OFFICE

Program 353 - CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Legislative Bill 821 was passed, and signed by Governor Dave Heineman on April 11, 2012, creating the Nebraska Children's Commission [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4201]. The Legislature created the Commission after documenting serious problems with the child welfare system under Legislative Resolution 37. The Commission was created as a high-level leadership body to provide a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare programs and services. The Commission has members from the legislative, executive and judicial branches along with system stakeholders, to improve the safety and well-being of children and families in Nebraska.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Improve the safety and well-being of all children and families in Nebraska by ensuring: the integration, coordination, and accessibility of all services provided by the state, whether directly or pursuant to contract; reasonable access to appropriate services statewide and efficiency in service delivery; the availability of accurate and complete data as well as ongoing data analysis to identify important trends and problems as they arise. Provide a broad restructuring of the goals of and create a statewide strategic plan for reform of the child welfare system programs and services in the State of Nebraska. Review the operations of the Department of Health and Human Services.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The Nebraska Children's Commission functions as a permanent forum for collaboration among state, local, community, public and private stakeholders in child welfare 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. §43-4202(1)]. Additional information on Nebraska Children's Commission initiatives and intended outcomes and results through June 30, 2016, are outlined in the supporting documentation.

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Program 353 - CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Financial Data

	FY14 Actual	FY15 Approp	FY16 Request	FY16 Recomm	FY17 Request	FY17 Recomm
Operations Funding						
General Fund	138,143	88,000	182,000	185,461	182,000	188,407
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 Operations	138,143	88,000	182,000	185,461	182,000	188,407
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
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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 Program	138,143	88,000	182,000	185,461	182,000	188,407