

Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

Statutory Authority:

Duties and organization of the Foster Care Review Board are outlined in 43-1301 to 43-1318, Rev. Stat. Nebr., 1942, (1983 Cumm. Sup.) The Foster Care Review Board is the state IV-E review agency. The plans, services and placements of children in out of home care 6 months or longer are reviewed by citizen volunteers to assure children are safe, secure, and moving into permanent homes in compliance with PL 96-272, child caring facilities are toured, up-to-date data is maintained on a tracking system, data is disseminated through an annual report, and findings are shared with all legal parties. When deemed appropriate by the state board, a request to appear in further court hearings.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Foster Care Review Board is that every child and youth in out of home 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 finding 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 out-of-home 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. To increase the agency's focus on fiscal management in light of the increase in the size of the Board following implementation of LB 642.
2. To protect the integrity of data on the over 10,000 children per year tracked by the Board as they are in out of home care.
3. To increase agency efficiency by making our word processing system compatible with other state agencies.
4. To review the increased numbers of children in out of home care.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	1,036,388	1,025,665	1,369,328	1,073,139	1,333,227	1,131,093
Cash Fund	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	129,994	174,624	230,000	233,181	230,000	215,781
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,166,382	1,206,289	1,605,328	1,312,320	1,569,227	1,352,874

Agency 70 - State Foster Care Review Board

Program 116 - Administration & Operations

Program Objectives:

- 1.1 Review all children and youth in out-of-home care to assure they have permanency plans, timely and appropriate services and appropriate placements.
- 1.2 Recruit, train staff and support local Foster care review boards throughout the state.
- 2.1 Operate and maintain a computerized tracking system.
- 2.2 Collect and verify information regarding children in out of home care.
- 3.1 Disseminate data on children through special reports, fact sheets and an annual report.
- 3.2 Increase public knowledge and understanding of child welfare issues.
- 4.1 Promote safety and security of children by touring child care facilities, legal standing, working to reduce recidivism and promote permanency.
- 5.1 Encourage appropriate placements, adequate services & timely court review.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY98	Approp FY99	Request FY00	Recom FY00	Request FY01	Recom FY01
General Fund	1,036,388	1,025,665	1,369,328	1,073,139	1,333,227	1,131,093
Cash Fund	0	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Federal Fund	129,994	174,624	230,000	233,181	230,000	215,781
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	1,166,382	1,206,289	1,605,328	1,312,320	1,569,227	1,352,874

Performance Measures:

Description	FY98 Actual	FY99 Current	FY00 Request	FY01 Request
children and youth reviewed	3478	3500	3780	3800
reports sent to legal parties	37380	37880	42500	43000
cases referred for legal standing	30	35	40	45
cases resolved w/o court involvement	236	236	276	280
special request cases for review	15	25	30	35
community members trained	53	60	125	75
community volunteers serving	364	364	400	400
hours donated by volunteers	28677	28677	30910	30910
local review boards	51	51	55	55
agencies contacted re reporting	40	40	45	45
court contacts re reporting	93 all	93 all	93 all	93 all
cases added to the tracking system	5844	6000	6200	6400
case updates on the tracking system	24000	26000	28000	30000
Annual Reports distributed	600	600	600	600
data requests	132	144	150	152
co-sponsored/sponsored ed programs	3	7	8	10
FCRB presentations	25	25	40	45
child caring facilities toured	12	14	16	18
situations ident. and action taken	1	6	3	4
standing due to case stall or danger	30	35	40	45
FCRB agrees with permanency plan	40%	40%	40%	40%

Governor's Recommendation Includes:

The Governor's recommendation includes additional funding to maintain the agency's mainframe tracking system database. Funds are also added to allow the agency to connect to the communications backbone, to obtain internet access in the Lincoln office, and to convert six additional computers to a consistent format.