

Adoption Assistance Expenditure Report

(FY 2021 Appropriation Act - Public Act 166 of 2020)

March 1, 2021

Sec. 534. The department shall submit to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office by March 1 of the current fiscal year a report on the adoption subsidies expenditures from the previous fiscal year. The report shall include, but is not limited to, the range of annual adoption support subsidy amounts, for both title IV-E eligible cases and state-funded cases, paid to adoptive families, the number of title IV-E and state-funded cases, the number of cases in which the adoption support subsidy request of adoptive parents for assistance was denied by the department, and the number of adoptive parents who requested a redetermination of adoption support subsidy.



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Adoption Assistance Ranges

The adoption assistance program is funded through federal funds (Title IV-E and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families [TANF]) and state general fund revenues. For fiscal year (FY) 2020, the lowest range across all fund sources paid out was zero-dollars for those contracts which are in place but are currently at a zero-dollar negotiated rate.

The following are the highest dollar amounts paid by fund source for a single adopted child for FY 2020:

Funding Source	Annual Assistance Amount
Title IV-E	\$36,963.96
State General Fund	\$22,720.08
TANF	\$33,883.63

Adoption Assistance Case Numbers

The total number of adopted children funded through the adoption assistance program for FY 2020 was 24,376. Some children received payments from at least two different funding sources.

Funding Source	Number of Children
Title IV-E	17,625
State General Fund	1,187
TANF	5,837

Adoption Assistance Denials

The adoption assistance program has certain federal and state eligibility requirements and the majority of children being adopted from the state child welfare system do qualify. For FY 2020, 156 adopted children did not qualify for program eligibility. The chief reasons for ineligibility are that they have not attained age three, do not have a level II determination of care (DOC) or higher or are not being adopted with another sibling age three or older and are not being adopted by a relative.

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Adoption Assistance Renegotiation of Agreement

Adoptive parents may choose to renegotiate their adoption assistance agreement with the department for up to the maximum rate the child was receiving when the child exited foster care into adoptive placement or down to as low as zero, at any point during their child's eligibility for the program. A total of two families sought renegotiation of their contract during FY 2020.