

# Department of Health and Human Services

## Division of Child and Family Services

### Rural Child Welfare and Information Services Budgets

#### Overview / Program Description

The Rural Child Welfare program oversees and performs child protective services, foster care services, and services related to adoption for the 15 rural and frontier counties in Nevada. The Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY) program is the federally mandated case management system and is utilized by all three child welfare agencies in Nevada.

#### Eligibility Criteria / Population Served

Children who are suspected or confirmed to be abused or neglected. Services and supports are provided to children, families, foster parents, kin and fictive kin caregivers, and families pursuing adoption.

#### Impact to Service Delivery

The Rural Region for Child Welfare will hold five positions vacant. Child protection and child welfare services are not generally voluntary, and so there is no ability to create waitlists or decline services. The loss of these staff will likely result in the agency's inability to meet federal standards related to case progress and completion timeliness. In addition, the remaining staff will experience increases in caseloads, reducing the time available for each child and family served.

The updates to the UNITY system will not be impacted due to the identification of additional federal funds that can fully support the costs of the project. Implementation has been delayed from the original targeted implementation plan.

#### Mitigation Strategies

With the loss of the ability to fill these positions, Child Welfare will work collaboratively with the Wraparound in Nevada (WIN) program to assist with care coordination to streamline caseloads and the needs of youth and families. Positions may be geographically re-allocated to ensure each rural Nevada community can be most appropriately served.

The Information Services project affected by this budget reduction has been moved to federal grant funding.

#### Program Area Preserved

The Washoe and Clark county child welfare agencies will be awarded their full incentive payment. These payments were proposed to be cut by 67 percent but were restored during the Legislative Session. If the counties are able to demonstrate they fully met their proposed goals for innovative or enhanced services in FY 2021, they receive the same historical funding they receive in prior years.

FY21 original allocation

Rural Child Welfare \$8,220,871  
Information Services \$4,517,032

Special Session Reduction

Rural Child Welfare \$7,937,181  
Information Services \$4,423,282

Total Reduction

Rural Child Welfare \$283,690  
Information Services \$93,750