

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Extended Foster Care
2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	(\$7,726,000)	(\$8,501,000)	(\$16,227,000)
Total	(\$10,639,000)	(\$11,695,000)	(\$22,334,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Children's Administration (CA) is submitting the following reduction option that would eliminate the extension of foster care benefits to youth over the age of 18. By implementing this reduction, CA expects to stop providing financial support, placement services, and case management to 258 youth currently enrolled and over 400 youth projected to be enrolled in the 2015-17 Biennium.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

In October 2008, Congress passed the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. One of the key provisions of the legislation allows the states to use federal foster care funds to provide foster care services to youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who engaged in certain qualifying activities. In 2011, the Legislature established extended foster care (EFC) services for youth ages 18 to 21 who engaged in secondary or secondary education equivalency program. In 2012, the Legislature expanded eligibility to include youth who were enrolled in a postsecondary academic or postsecondary vocational program. In 2013, the Legislature expanded the program to youth who participated in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment. In 2014, the Legislature expanded eligible participants to youths who were employed 80 or more hours per month.

The EFC program provides the same services that were available to the foster care youth when they were under 18 years of age if they choose to opt into the program. This includes payment for a variety of placement options, from supervised independent living (dorms or apartments) to intensive facility-based care. Other services such as transportation, independent living skill development and respite care are provided as these services are part of the foster care entitlement.

The EFC estimated total forecasted cost is \$7,725,000 GF-State and \$9,989,000 Total Funds and for non-forecasted cost is \$8,502,000 GF-State and \$12,345,000 Total Funds in the 2015-17 Biennium. This reduction amount presumes Children's has received its entire Maintenance Level request to fund the non-forecasted EFC costs.

Legislation would be required to eliminate the EFC program. The program would end on July 1, 2015.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The Washington Association of Youth Advocates has repeatedly requested to not only maintain but increase funding for services to adolescents. Likewise, parties include congressional delegates and current and former judges have interest



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in maintaining adolescent services, especially for those adolescents engaged in or at risk of being engaged in commercial sex trafficking.



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