



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Director
AMY CARLSON

DATE: June 10, 2016

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Alice Hecht, Fiscal Analyst, LFD

RE: Child and Family Services Division Federal Requirements

During the March LFC meeting there was a request for LFD to look into the federal requirements for funding of Child and Family Services Division (CFSD). The committee heard testimony that Texas had pulled out of the federal funding system and forsaken federal requirements; LFD was requested to examine the impact of funding CFSD without the use of federal funds, using Texas as a model.

After making contact with Texas agencies it turns out they have not foregone federal funding or oversight and there is no state to look to as a model for running CFSD without federal funding.

Currently CFSD has a budget of around \$75.3 million. Approximately \$30.6 million is federal with about \$1.9 million in state special revenue and the rest being general fund. The following table illustrates the funding breakout of the CFSD budget.

Child and Family Services Division FY 2016 Budget (\$ Millions)		
Funding Source	Budget	Share of Total
General Fund	\$42.8	56.9%
Special Revenue	1.9	2.5%
Federal	30.6	40.6%
Total	\$75.3	

Montana's foster care caseload has more than doubled since 2009. In recent years, high staff turnover and vacancy rates in caseworkers have made the increased caseload difficult to maintain. Currently the Protect Montana Kids commission and the Child, Families, Health and Human Services interim committee are overseeing interim studies and reports concerning what can be done to improve caseloads and outcomes.