

## NCHCW Housing-Child Welfare Cost Study 2015

In the absence of an adequate supply of safe, decent, and affordable housing, child welfare workers often must separate homeless and precariously housed families in order to protect children from the lingering effects of homelessness. In fact, nearly 30 percent of the children in foster care are there because their parents lack adequate housing. The main source of federal funding, Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, will cover the cost of foster care, but not the cost of housing and supportive services to keep the families together and safe.

In an effort to encourage policy makers to allow agencies to use these dollars flexibly so that these children can return home, or avoid foster care altogether, NCHCW conducted a study of federal child welfare funds (Title IV-E). This study compared the cost of foster care to the cost of using federal funds to subsidize housing and provide services for these families.

This research shows considerable savings to states when Title IV-E funding is used to subsidize housing and supportive services. In fact, **the U.S. would save \$822,992,330** if housing plus services intervention were applied to all Title IV-E eligible families who need it, or **\$32,458 per family**. The provision of housing and services is a good use of public dollars but also offers front line workers the resources they need to adequately address the problems they confront along with the families they serve every day. The state by state savings are included in the chart below.

### State by State Comparison of Potential Savings

<i>State</i>	<i>Foster care plus services for children separated because of housing problems</i>	<i>Total cost for housing plus services to reunite families who are separated because of housing problems</i>	<i>Savings</i>
Alabama	\$9,566,207	\$5,373,792	\$4,192,415
Alaska	\$3,457,221	\$1,310,064	\$2,147,157
Arizona	\$22,904,269	\$8,457,951	\$14,446,319
Arkansas	\$11,301,726	\$3,385,747	\$7,915,980
California	\$167,154,445	\$94,930,255	\$72,224,191
Colorado	\$18,497,458	\$6,300,716	\$12,196,743
Connecticut	\$16,493,421	\$4,296,347	\$12,197,074
Delaware	\$947,166	\$340,979	\$606,188
District of Columbia	\$10,522,057	\$2,407,440	\$8,114,617
Florida*	\$3,578,049	\$30,340,331	-\$26,762,282
Georgia	\$20,171,898	\$6,685,177	\$13,486,722
Hawaii	\$5,877,218	\$1,434,807	\$4,442,411
Idaho	\$2,950,176	\$1,519,022	\$1,431,155
Illinois	\$49,803,637	\$17,978,384	\$31,825,253
Indiana	\$24,369,345	\$8,703,054	\$15,666,291
Iowa	\$6,940,987	\$3,869,996	\$3,070,992
Kansas	\$7,062,289	\$2,008,995	\$5,053,294



State	Total cost for foster care plus services for children separated because of housing problems	Total cost for housing plus services to reunite families who are separated because of housing problems	Savings
Kentucky	\$13,988,688	\$4,664,114	\$9,324,574
Louisiana	\$17,698,654	\$3,274,740	\$14,423,914
Maine	\$5,495,761	\$1,440,832	\$4,054,928
Maryland	\$22,527,153	\$8,098,615	\$14,428,538
Massachusetts	\$18,900,243	\$5,463,018	\$13,437,225
Michigan	\$29,802,345	\$14,772,487	\$15,029,858
Minnesota	\$12,184,439	\$3,404,392	\$8,780,047
Mississippi	\$3,580,704	\$1,968,461	\$1,612,243
Missouri	\$18,594,385	\$9,103,709	\$9,490,676
Montana	\$3,818,974	\$1,169,761	\$2,649,213
Nebraska	\$5,881,695	\$1,530,173	\$4,351,522
Nevada	\$10,313,465	\$5,202,372	\$5,111,093
New Hampshire	\$5,496,374	\$811,925	\$4,684,449
New Jersey	\$26,366,170	\$6,596,576	\$19,769,594
New Mexico	\$7,148,057	\$1,832,500	\$5,315,557
New York	\$121,005,575	\$34,920,800	\$86,084,775
North Carolina	\$23,488,181	\$7,269,282	\$16,218,899
North Dakota	\$3,937,875	\$780,861	\$3,157,014
Ohio	\$45,214,958	\$11,269,802	\$33,945,156
Oklahoma	\$10,692,672	\$5,856,867	\$4,835,806
Oregon	\$20,400,041	\$9,020,320	\$11,379,721
Pennsylvania	\$72,496,693	\$18,185,483	\$54,311,210
Rhode Island	\$4,153,055	\$1,393,724	\$2,759,332
South Carolina	\$10,595,813	\$3,084,386	\$7,511,427
South Dakota	\$1,998,118	\$1,057,342	\$940,775
Tennessee	\$14,154,834	\$4,558,788	\$9,596,046
Texas	\$73,849,277	\$22,728,941	\$51,120,335
Utah	\$6,294,877	\$1,776,951	\$4,517,926
Vermont	\$3,540,240	\$818,220	\$2,722,019
Virginia	\$17,647,299	\$4,899,633	\$12,747,666
Washington	\$28,836,045	\$14,493,263	\$14,342,782
West Virginia	\$11,575,348	\$1,884,610	\$9,690,738
Wisconsin	\$15,346,186	\$4,316,234	\$11,029,952
Wyoming	\$595,549	\$247,088	\$348,461
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>\$1,240,231,658</b>	<b>\$417,239,328</b>	<b>\$822,992,330</b>

