

Department of Children and Family Services

MISSION

Promote safety by partnering with communities to strengthen families, keeping children at home whenever possible, and connecting them with stable, loving homes in times of need

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- **Child Safety:** Protecting children from harm by strengthening families and through timely, appropriate intervention and oversight
- **Well-Being:** Partner with over 50 community agencies to support the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of children and families
- **Permanency:** Achieving stable, lasting family connections through reunification, guardianship, or adoption
- **Prevention:** Reducing system involvement by strengthening the family unit through community-based supports that keep families together
- **Equity:** Ensuring fair, just, and culturally responsive practices that improve outcomes for all children and families



Department of Children and Family Services



CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$3,576.5



Salaries & Employee Benefits (9,897 positions)

1,554.1 (43%)



Services & Supplies

453.6 (13%)



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

1,568.8 (44%)

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$3,576.5



Federal Assistance

1,070.8 (30%)



State Assistance

1,685.2 (47%)



Fees/Charges for Services*

0.7 (<1%)



Other Resources**

20.2 (1%)



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

799.6 (22%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing



BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Foster Care and Related Contracts	66%
Adoptions Support Payments and Contracts	21%
Other Community Based Services and Prevention Supports	6%
Kinship-Guardianship Assistance	5%
Child Welfare Eligibility, Benefits & Supportive Services	2%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.



DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

- Increase prevention funding/spending and safely reduce foster care placements

Prevention Indicators	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
FC Placements	18,758	16,857	14,147	12,022	11,427
Prevention Spending	\$24,417,000	\$27,648,000	\$40,067,000	\$59,090,000	\$38,407,000

Safety Indicators	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Recurrence of Maltreatment	1,349 (7.0%)	1,125 (6.9%)	1,040 (7.3%)	910 (7.0%)	818 (6.9%)
Reentry into Foster Care	522 (9.5%)	511 (8.3%)	432 (7.9%)	358 (7.7%)	417 (10%)



BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$75.9M
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	\$66.4M

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Placement Payments (Foster Care, Adoptions & KinGAP)	\$32.4	Ongoing	0.0
Prevention	\$10.0	Ongoing	0.0
Housing	\$26.5	Ongoing	0.0
Flexible Family Support	\$7.0	Ongoing	0.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests



CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **1996 AFDC Lookback:** Federal funding negatively impacted due to maintaining the 1996 household income eligibility standards (Department will continue advocacy and networking efforts)
- **Rising Insurance Costs :** Insurance market conditions have driven significant cost increases for community-based providers (Department's mitigation effort is being implemented in coordination with broader funding frameworks)
- **High Needs Placements:** Reduced capacity at congregate care facilities (Department has developed alternative placements)
- **Family First Prevention Services Act:** Challenges drawing down federal prevention funding (Department is working with State to finalize the data system to ensure access to federal funding and other prevention related needs)
- **Funding Reduction:** Challenges to funding sources pose a risk towards the community safety net that families depend on (Department is closely monitoring expenditures and maximizing revenues)