

Child Welfare Agency Spending in Hawai'i

Child welfare agencies across the United States protect and promote the well-being of children and youth who are at risk of, or have been victims of, maltreatment. In state fiscal year (SFY) 2016, the collective public investment in child welfare services totaled \$29.9 billion in federal, state, and local funds. State and local child welfare agencies rely on several major funding sources to administer programs and services, each with its own unique purposes, eligibility requirements, and usage limitations. The unique mix of sources in each state determines what services are available to children and families, which approaches are used, and the way in which child welfare agencies operate.

This document presents information on child welfare agency expenditures in Hawai'i for SFY 2016,¹ collected through Child Trends' national survey of child welfare agency expenditures. It is part of an array of child welfare financing resources, available on the [Child Trends](#) website, including a summary of national findings and detailed information on each funding source presented here.

Overall Expenditures

Overall child welfare agency spending in Hawai'i decreased slightly since SFY 2014 and decreased from SFY 2006 to 2016.²

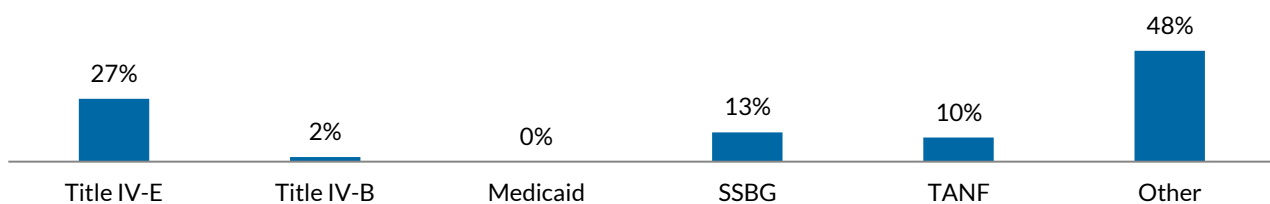
	Amount in SFY 2016	% change from	
		SFY 2014	SFY 2006
Overall	\$112,050,875	-3%	-17%
Federal	\$48,291,040	6%	-24%
State and Local	\$63,759,835	-9%	-10%

The proportion of spending from federal and state/local sources in Hawai'i has changed slightly from SFY 2014. Now, a slightly larger proportion of total expenditures is financed by federal dollars.



Federal Expenditures

'Other federal funds' is the largest federal funding source for Hawai'i.



Title IV-E

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act can be used for foster care, adoption, guardianship, and supports for transition-age youth (Chafee and Education and Training Vouchers).³

Total in SFY 2016:

\$13,104,696

Change from SFY 2014:

-55%

Title IV-B

Title IV-B⁴ of the Social Security Act can be used for a variety of child welfare services, including the prevention of maltreatment, family preservation, family reunification, services for foster and adopted children, and training for child welfare professionals.

Total in SFY 2016:

\$933,390

Change from SFY 2014:

-49%

Medicaid

Medicaid⁵ covers health-related services for millions of low-income individuals. Children who are eligible for Title IV-E Foster Care, Adoption, or Guardianship Programs are automatically eligible for Medicaid. States have the option to extend Medicaid coverage to all children in foster care, and more than half of states do.

Total in SFY 2016:

\$0

Change from SFY 2014:

-100%

TANF

In addition to providing cash assistance to low-income families, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)⁶ can also be used to support a variety of child welfare activities. TANF offers states very flexible funding for supporting children involved in the child welfare system.

Total in SFY 2016:

\$5,045,144

Change from SFY 2014:

New funding source
in 2016

SSBG

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)⁷ is a flexible source of federal funds that child welfare agencies can use to promote self-sufficiency, prevent or remedy child maltreatment, reduce inappropriate use of institutional care, and more.

Total in SFY 2016:

\$6,097,268

Change from SFY 2014:

-56%

Other federal funds

In addition to the major federal sources, child welfare agencies may use a variety of additional federal funding streams, such as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and the Adoption Opportunities Program.⁸

Total in SFY 2016:

\$23,110,542

Change from SFY 2014:

2190%

¹ Each state reported data based on its state fiscal year 2016, which for Hawai'i is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

² The survey captures funds expended by child welfare agencies, but not funds expended by other agencies (such as health or education agencies) on children served by the child welfare system. See the main report ("*Child Welfare Financing SFY 2016: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*") for more specific information on how this amount was calculated.

The survey instrument has been revised over the 10 rounds of the survey, so some data are not directly comparable.

The survey did not collect information about private dollars granted to child welfare agencies. Therefore, total spending is likely understated by a small amount.

In previous iterations of this survey (SFY 2012 and earlier), child support expenditures by child welfare agencies were treated as "other federal funds" and included in the total amount of federal funds and total amount of funds overall. In the SFY 2014 and 2016 surveys, we treated child support as its own category, separate from federal, state, and local funds. Note that these child support dollars are those made available to the child welfare agency as opposed to actual expenditures. As a result, we did not include child support in the total amount of funds (from federal, state, and local sources combined). While child support dollars are a relatively small share of child welfare expenditures, we still urge readers to exercise caution in making direct comparisons between the reported amounts of other federal funds, total federal funds, and total funds over the years due to the reclassification of these dollars. In SFY 2016, Hawai'i was unable to report how much they collected in child support.

To enable comparisons, all dollar amounts from previous years have been inflated to 2016 levels using the gross domestic product deflator (accessed at www.measuringworth.com/uscompare/).

When making comparisons between two years, we excluded from analyses states that lacked sufficient data in either year.

Hawai'i was unable to provide state and local expenditures separately in SFY 2016. Instead, they reported state and local expenditures combined.

³ By "foster care," we refer to the Title IV-E Foster Care Program, which comprises foster care maintenance payments, administration, training, and Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) costs. By "adoption," we refer to the Title IV-E Adoption Program, which comprises adoption assistance payments, administration, and training. By "guardianship," we refer to the Title IV-E Guardianship Program, which comprises guardianship assistance payments, administration, and training. By "transition supports," we refer to the Title IV-E Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood/Education and Training Vouchers.

⁴ For this survey, states were asked to report only dollars claimed by the state/local child welfare agencies and to exclude any IV-B dollars expended by non-profits, courts, or other entities in the state unless the funds flowed through the state/local child welfare agency to the outside entity. Thus, because some IV-B dollars may have gone directly to, and been spent by, these outside entities, the total reported here may not represent the state's total IV-B expenditures.

⁵ For the survey, researchers asked states to report *only those Medicaid funds which covered costs borne by the child welfare agency and/or for which the child welfare agency paid the nonfederal match*. It excludes Medicaid-funded costs for the child welfare population that were borne by any other agencies (e.g., the health department) unless the child welfare agency paid the nonfederal match, and so excludes costs associated with health care coverage. It should be acknowledged, therefore, that this understates (by a significant, yet indeterminate, amount) the degree to which Medicaid supports child welfare clients and child welfare activities.

⁶ The formal TANF category names and definitions are available in the survey instrument, available in Appendix R of the "*Child Welfare Financing SFY 2016: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*" report.

Total TANF expenditures exclude any funds transferred to SSBG.

⁷ The formal SSBG category names and definitions are available in the survey instrument, available in Appendix R of the "*Child Welfare Financing SFY 2016: A survey of federal, state, and local expenditures*" report.

⁸ See endnote 2.

Acknowledgement: We thank the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Casey Family Programs for their support and the expert consultation they provided to us throughout the project.

DECEMBER 2018