

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES: FY 2025 ENHANCEMENTS

HOUSE SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET COMMITTEE
SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 1/17/2024

FY 2025 ENHANCEMENTS IN THE GBR



Description	All Funds	SGF	CIF
Agency Enhancements			
Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)	\$17,000,000	\$8,500,000	\$0
Expand Foster Adopt Connect (FAC) Grants into Wichita	500,000	500,000	-
Support Family Resource Centers	1,125,000	1,125,000	-
Post-Adoption Services to Prevent Disruption and Removal	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
Sustain Child Care Prog. Improvements & Fully Match Fed. Funds	\$6,824,727	\$2,619,505	-
Fund Continuation of the Workforce Registry	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
Fund Child Care Sustainability Payments	15,000,000	15,000,000	-
Increase Funds for VR Caseload Assistance	2,675,747	569,934	-
Increase Grants for Centers for Independent Living	1,000,000	1,000,000	-
Fund Increases in Administrative Operating Expenses	1,626,796	766,794	-
Subtotal	47,852,270	31,081,233	1,100,000
Other GBR Changes			
Change CIF to SGF in the Family Preservation Program	-	3,241,062	(3,241,062)
SGF Savings from Licensing Changes for Relatives and Kin	-	(3,500,000)	-
Statewide Employee Pay Increases	TBD	TBD	-
Subtotal	-	(258,938)	(3,241,062)

ENHANCEMENT

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CCWIS)



Category	All Funds	SGF
Other Operating Expenses	17,000,000	8,500,000

- This enhancement represents the additional funding necessary to develop the new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS). An estimated \$17 million (\$8.5 million SGF) per year over a four-year period, or \$68 million (\$34 million SGF), is required.
- In addition to the \$68 million enhanced funding, \$41 million is projected to be spent from the DCF base budget over the four-year period for a total development cost of \$109 million.
- The federal match for the new system is 50 percent.
- The estimated costs are based on planning completed in the two prior fiscal years. The State utilized a contractor to assist the Agency and our Federal partners in developing the needs and estimating the resources.
- The CCWIS system would replace five existing legacy systems of various ages and capabilities. These systems use mainframe technology and unsupported operating systems and languages.

ENHANCEMENT

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CCWIS) CONT.



Category	All Funds	SGF
Other Operating Expenses	17,000,000	8,500,000

- The new system would standardize programmatic practices, lead to consistent and improved services, and lead to more informed management decisions.
- The project includes 3 RFPs, internal staff costs, hardware and licenses. The RFPs are for Design, Development and Implementation (DDI), a Quality Assurance Contractor (QI), and an Independent Verification and Validation Contractor (IVV).
- Three of the four RFPs have closed and are under review. The Design Development, and Implementation RFP is the largest contract providing a majority of the work.
- There were 11 bidders for the DDI contract. We have narrowed the bidders and are completing program demonstrations. We plan to award the DDI contract in March 2024 and the other contracts in April 2024.
- Because the project is currently under a competitive bid process, we are unable to give additional details.

ENHANCEMENT

EXPAND FOSTER ADOPT CONNECT (FAC) GRANTS INTO WICHITA



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	500,000	500,000

- This enhancement would expand Foster Adopt Connect into the Wichita region.
- Foster Adopt Connect is currently serving two counties in the Kansas City Region and five counties in the Southeast Region of the state.
- The services would include advocacy for children and parent needs, support/training, service coordination, educational guidance, and behavioral intervention.
- The Wichita Region has the highest percentage of children in foster care statewide and contains the largest urban city along with some very rural areas, making this region unique in its population and needs.

ENHANCEMENT

SUPPORT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

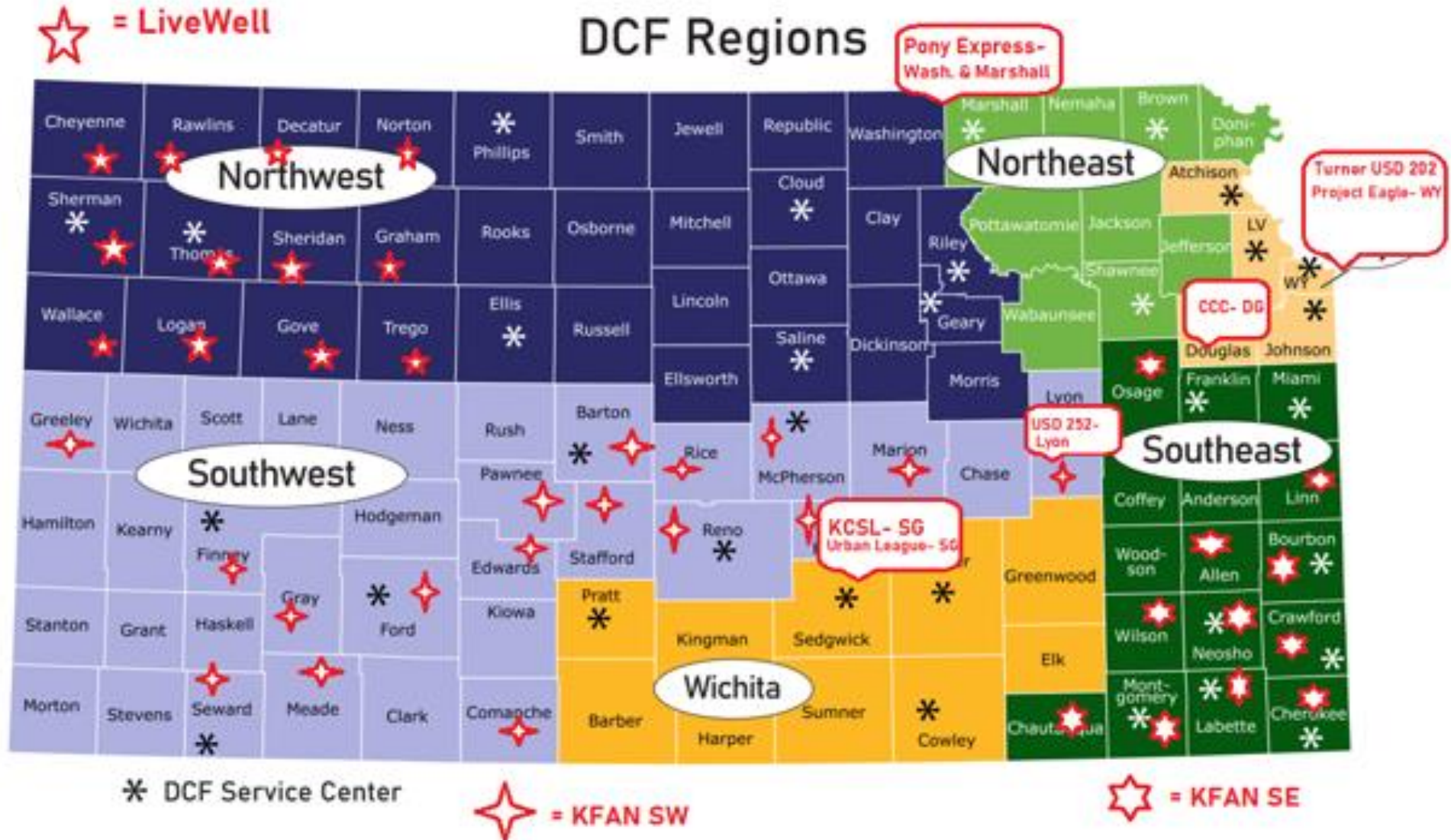


Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	1,125,000	1,125,000

- This enhancement would continue support for nine existing sites for which one-time federal funding ends September 30, 2024. It provides \$125,000 for each center.
- Family Resource Centers support families and communities by identifying, accessing, and providing services for families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- They are a community-based resource established as a familiar hub to provide direct support to all families.
- States which have implemented a network of FRC's have achieved a 63% reduction in child abuse cases, 50% reduction in out-of-home placements, and gains in economic self-sufficiency, health, social support, and family functioning.

ENHANCEMENT

SUPPORT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS CONT.



ENHANCEMENT

POST-ADOPTION SERVICES TO PREVENT DISRUPTION AND REMOVAL



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	1,000,000	1,000,000

- Current services for post adoption supports are limited. While families may receive services initially at the time of adoption, there are not services specifically targeted to youth reaching adolescence several years after the adoption has been finalized.
- The enhancement would allow evidence-based services to be specifically targeted to the needs of adoptive children and families.
- There has been an average of 93 post-adoption removals per year since SFY 2015. Of these removals, 71 percent have occurred in the sixth year or later following adoption.
- As children age, more directed and supportive services are needed to address potential problems which could result in the removal of the child from the adoptive home. This would allow the establishment and issuance of grants to specifically address adopted children at risk of removal.

ENHANCEMENT

SUSTAIN CHILDCARE PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS & FULLY MATCH FEDERAL FUNDS



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	6,824,727	2,619,505

- The \$2.6 million SGF would match \$4.2 million in federal funds available in FY2025, resulting in a total of \$6.8 million in additional childcare assistance funds.
- The additional funds would allow recent Child Care Assistance enhancements to continue.
- The Child Care caseload and the cost of care per child have increased by approximately 40 percent since FY 2019. This trend is expected to continue. Recent childcare changes include increases in the income limit, transitioning from hourly payments to full and part-time payments, and increases in the percentile of market rates.
- There are not enough federal funds to support Child Care Assistance in the long term. This enhancement would help bridge funding gaps in future years.

ENHANCEMENT

FUND CONTINUATION OF THE WORKFORCE REGISTRY



Category	All Funds	SGF	CIF
Other Operating Expenses	1,100,000	--	1,100,000

- These funds would provide ongoing maintenance and support for a child care Workforce Registry which was initially developed using federal CCDF Pandemic Relief Funds. The federal pandemic funds are ending.
- The Workforce Registry does the following:
 - assists in the tracking of education progression
 - facilitates the improvement of the supply and quality of child care services
 - assists in the assessment and development of a child care provider’s professional development.
- This request represents only ongoing maintenance costs.
- CIF funds allows the reduction of administrative expenditures from the federal CCDF fund.

ENHANCEMENT

FUND CHILD CARE SUSTAINABILITY PAYMENTS



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	15,000,000	15,000,000

- Over the course of the pandemic, over \$283 million in federal funding was provided to child care providers to offset the operational costs of providing care during pandemic disruptions.
- These grants provided a financial lifeline to many providers that were teetering on the brink of closure.
- While some stability has been brought to the sector, leaders now fear that the cliff created by these federal funds will cause providers to close without additional financial support.
- A round of state-level funding to support the operation and wages of these workers could help keep facilities open, increase wages for workers, and ensure slots exist for working families. This is particularly essential for home based providers.
- This funding would provide over 3,500 providers with about \$4,000 grants during FY 2025.

ENHANCEMENT

INCREASE FUNDS FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CASELOAD ASSISTANCE



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	2,675,747	569,934

- The regular adult caseload has been increasing and will exceed the budget in FY 2025.
- In addition, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) spending for youth, which is a subset of this caseload, is not in compliance with federal guidelines. A total of 15% of all dollars spent in Vocational Rehabilitation must be set aside for expenditures on youth ages 14 to 21. Additional SGF matching funds are needed to draw down the federal grant to meet this requirement.
- The additional funds for Pre-ETS would be used to pay contracted vendors to provide services in a manner similar to how traditional VR services are paid.
- The funding would also identify new and effective services, reimburse mileage for providers for travel to and from clients, especially in rural areas, and fund the caseload growth.
- With the requested funds, the agency would be able to meet the 15% Pre-ETS requirement and continue to provide services for all qualified adults that apply.

ENHANCEMENT

INCREASE GRANTS FOR CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING



Category	All Funds	SGF
Assistance	1,000,000	1,000,000

- This increase for the Centers for Independent Living would provide adequate and stable funding for mandated and core services to individuals with disabilities.
- Independent Living Centers maximize leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and further their integration and full inclusion into mainstream society.
- Centers for Independent Living continue to develop and provide mandated services and opportunities across the state for all people with disabilities while being responsible to individual community needs.
- The increase will be divided equally between the ten CILs and added to current grants.

ENHANCEMENT

FUND ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATING EXPENSES



Category	All Funds	SGF
Other Operating Expenses	1,626,796	766,794

- This enhancement funds administrative costs related to several different Agency programs. They include:
 - Postage increases
 - Employment verification contract
 - Administrative hearings fees
 - Software license fees and other IT costs
- Administrative operating costs for several programs have increased in recent years. Funding these increases prevents the need to make cuts in employment programs, child care, prevention, or any client services.
- In prior years these costs have had to be covered by reappropriations, holding positions open, or savings in programs. This adjustment properly budgets these need operating costs.
- This enhancement was funded by administrative SGF savings resulting from licensing relative foster homes discussed on slide 15.

OTHER CHANGES

CHANGE CIF TO SGF IN THE FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Category	All Funds	SGF	CIF
Grants	--	3,241,062	(3,241,062)

- The Family Preservation Program budget is \$12.0 million.
- Of this total, \$3,241,062 is funded by Children’s Initiative Funds.
- The Governor recommends replacing the Children’s Initiative Funds with \$3,241,062 from the State General Fund.
- Family Preservation services would be maintained.
- This change removes the CIF from child welfare and makes it available for programs the funds were originally intended for.

OTHER CHANGES

SGF SAVINGS FROM LICENSING CHANGES FOR RELATIVES AND KIN



Category	All Funds	SGF
Various	-	(3,500,000)

- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a new regulation that allows states to create licensing standards for relative or kinship placements that differ from existing licensing for family foster family homes.
- Meeting health and safety licensing requirements is one prerequisite for federal funding participation in foster care.
- Currently most relative or kinship placements are entirely state-funded because they do not meet licensing requirements.
- This regulatory change would allow relative or kinship placements that meet the separate relative licensing standards to be funded with federal matching Title IV-E Foster Care funds. Administrative costs associated with relative and kinship placements would also qualify for matching funds. This enhancement applies to the administrative cost savings. The program savings are in the Foster Care Program. The \$9.6m SGF savings in FC was adjusted during the Fall Consensus Caseload Process
- It is estimated that 80% of relative/kin homes will meet the new licensing standards, resulting in an increase of Title IV-E Foster Care funds for administrative costs and an equal savings in SGF.

OTHER CHANGES

EMPLOYEE PAY INCREASES



- The GBR includes a 5.0 percent pay increase for all DCF staff.
- The GBR also includes raising the minimum pay for state employees to \$15 per hour.
- This increase would precede the 5.0% general pay increase in the GBR.
- The increase to \$15.00 per hour would affect approximately 123 DCF employees.
- DCF has 100 Human Service Assistant positions in our field offices that currently pay under \$15 per hour. We have had difficulty in recruiting and filling these positions. This should help us fill and maintain those positions.

QUESTIONS?
