



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #201

### State Foster Care and Adoption Assistance (DCF -- Children and Families)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 90, #2]

#### CURRENT LAW

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is budgeted funds for: (a) adoption assistance payments to persons who adopt children with special needs; and (b) out-of-home care costs for children under guardianship of the state (children with special needs in cases where parental rights have been terminated and who are awaiting adoption) who do not live in Milwaukee County. [Funding for foster care payments DCF makes on behalf of children with special needs in Milwaukee County is budgeted as part of the budget for the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.]

Base funding for these payments is \$99,483,700 (\$50,211,500 GPR and \$49,272,200 FED).

#### GOVERNOR

Provide \$2,271,400 (\$1,723,600 GPR and \$547,800 FED) in 2011-12 and \$5,645,600 (\$3,150,400 GPR and \$2,495,200 FED) in 2012-13 to reflect reestimates, based on historical expenditures, of the amount of funding required to support adoption assistance payments and foster care payments. The bill would provide a total of \$101,755,100 (\$51,935,100 GPR and \$49,820,000 FED) in 2011-12 and \$105,129,300 (\$53,361,900 GPR and \$51,767,400 FED) in 2012-13 for DCF to make these payments.

#### MODIFICATION

Reduce funding in the bill by \$2,405,900 (-\$1,403,600 GPR and -\$1,002,300 FED) in 2011-12 and by \$3,304,900 (-\$1,478,900 GPR and -\$1,826,000 FED) in 2012-13 to reflect reestimates of state costs for foster care and adoption assistance payments in the 2011-13 biennium.

**Explanation:** This modification reflects: (a) more recent expenditure information than was available when the Governor's budget was prepared (payment data through March, 2011, instead of data through June, 2010, used in developing the Governor's bill); and (b) a reestimate of the amount of federal revenue that will be available to support these payments. This estimate assumes that: (a) expenditures for adoption assistance will increase by approximately 0.2% each month; and (b) expenditures for foster care will increase by 1.98% annually over the next two years.

<b>Change to Bill</b>	
Funding	
GPR	- \$2,882,500
FED	<u>- 2,828,300</u>
Total	- \$5,710,800

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