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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #266

Kinship Care and Foster Care (Children and Families -- Child Welfare)

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 99, #16; Page 106, #3; Page 107, #4; Page 108, #5 and #6]

CURRENT LAW

In substantiated cases of abuse or neglect, a court can order the removal of a child from their home and placement in a setting the court determines will best serve the child's interests, such as the home of a foster family, the home of a relative under a kinship care agreement, a congregate care facility, or an institution. In addition to court-ordered kinship care, a child can be formally placed in the home of a relative under a voluntary kinship care agreement without a court process. A kinship caregiver can be appointed guardian of a child in their care, creating a permanent legal relationship; this is referred to as long-term kinship care. Long-term, voluntary, and court-ordered kinship caregivers as well as foster care providers are eligible for monthly payments intended to support the costs of caring for the child.

A small number of kinship caregivers, other relatives, or others with a close connection to a child become licensed foster care providers under a child-specific license, referred to as Level 1 foster care. Most foster care providers, including relatives and non-relatives, are licensed to provide basic foster care, or Level 2. Some providers are licensed to care for children with more intensive needs, referred to as treatment foster care and divided into Levels 3–5. The following table summarizes the placement setting of all children in court-ordered out-of-home care placements and voluntary kinship care.

Statewide Out-of-Home Care Placements as of December, 2022

Voluntary and Long-Term Kinship Care	5,637
Basic Foster Home (Level 2)	3,387
Court-Ordered Kinship Care	1,516
Treatment Foster Home (Level 3–5)	1,165
Residential Care Center	240
Group Home	223
Trial Reunification	146
Missing From Out-of-Home Care	66
Detention	59
Institutions	57
Shelter	45
Supervised Independent Living	39
Child-Specific Foster Home (Level 1)	<u>31</u>
Total	12,611

County and tribal child welfare agencies provide monthly out-of-home care maintenance payments, except in Milwaukee County where all child welfare activities are administered by DCF's Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS). Uniform statewide rates for these payments are established in statute. Kinship care and child-specific foster care providers currently receive \$300 per child per month. Basic and treatment foster care providers receive monthly maintenance payments ranging from \$420 to \$545 per child depending on the child's age, and may also qualify for certain supplementary and exceptional monthly payments, including payments to enable siblings to be placed together or minor parents to be placed with their children and a one-time reimbursement for the costs of clothes when a child is initially placed in their care.

While county and tribal child welfare agencies (and DMCPS) administer out-of-home care payments, the state funds some of these expenditures. Kinship care payments are fully funded by the state, using federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding. DCF also provides funding for administrative costs associated with kinship care, again supported with TANF funds. Costs of foster care maintenance payments, in contrast, are borne by county and tribal agencies, although DCF provides Children and Family Aids (CFA) payments to each county that can be used to offset these and other child welfare and human services expenditures. The amount distributed under CFA is fixed in statute, and is \$101,162,800 in 2022-23.

Title IV, Part E, of the Social Security Act provides a significant source of federal funding for CFA payments and other state child welfare expenditures. Counties report foster care maintenance payments and administrative expenditures, and DCF submits claims for eligible expenditures to the federal government to receive Title IV-E reimbursement at the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), generally 60%. To be eligible for Title IV-E reimbursement, cases must meet certain criteria, including criteria related to the income of the child's family and the case process. Based on past years, DCF estimates that 57.7% of foster care cases will qualify for reimbursement under Title IV-E. At the expected FMAP, this equates to federal funding covering 34.5% of total foster care costs.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Assembly Bill 43 and Senate Bill 70 would make statutory changes and provide funding to expand eligibility for kinship care placements to people who have a like-kin relationship with the child, and certain others, and to increase kinship care and foster care reimbursement in the following ways: (a) provide flexible supports for kinship caregivers; (b) provide a 5% increase to rates paid to basic and treatment foster care providers; and (c) increase rates paid to child-specific foster care and kinship care providers to match the rates paid to other foster care providers, including increasing base monthly rates and providing certain additional payments currently made to other foster care providers. The bill would also provide funding to contract for access to a national database to help identify potential kinship care placements. As indicated in the Alternatives presented in this paper, several of these proposals interact with each other, yielding the combined fiscal effects shown.

2. The federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) conducts a federal child and family services review (CFSR) to determine each state's conformance with federal requirements under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act. DHHS conducted a CFSR for Wisconsin in 2018, which included a review of 65 cases (40 foster care and 25 in-home cases) in Barron, Brown, and Milwaukee counties, and interviews with local stakeholders. DHHS determined that Wisconsin was not in substantial conformance with the systemic factor of foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment, and retention. The CFSR stated that local stakeholders reported a severe shortage of foster homes and that there was a shortage of licensed foster homes for children with complex treatment needs. According to some stakeholders, the lack of available homes resulted in children being placed into higher levels of care than necessary or in congregate care because they were the only resources available. In one county, the report identified that staff have stayed in the office with children because there were no placements available. Further, in some areas siblings had to be separated because of the lack of available placements for sibling groups.

3. A shortage of kinship caregivers and foster families can strain existing resources and lead to a shortage of available placements for children in the out-of-home care system. Inadequate availability of placements can result in children switching between temporary placements and children being placed into settings inappropriate for their needs.

4. In 2021, the most recent year for which placement outcome data is available, children were placed with relatives in 6,467 placements, 31% of the 21,026 total out-of-home care placements made that year. This includes kinship care, child-specific foster care, and placements with relatives licensed as basic or treatment foster care providers. In 878 of these cases (14%), the placement was ended at the request of the agency or relative caregiver and the child was moved to a new out-of-home care placement. This typically indicates that the relative was not able to maintain the placement.

5. This suggests that a significant number of children have relatives with the desire and commitment to become kinship or foster care providers, but many of these relatives face barriers to doing so. Additionally, the figures above do not capture the number of relatives that pursued providing kinship or foster care, but were not able to overcome financial or other barriers to accept the placement. Furthermore, many children who require placement in out-of-home care have someone ready and willing to serve as their caregiver who does not meet the current definition of kin to qualify as a kinship or child-specific foster care provider.

Expanding Kinship Care Eligibility to Like-Kin

6. AB 43/SB 70 would provide \$7,826,700 FED under TANF in 2023-24 and \$9,661,300 FED under TANF in 2024-25 to expand eligible placements under the kinship care program to include adults with a strong relationship to the child similar to a familial relationship ('like-kin'). The expansion would also include first cousins once removed (cousins with one generation difference), who are currently excluded from the statutory definition of 'relative,' and people identified by a Native American child's tribe or band according to tribal law, code, resolution, or tradition.

7. For many children, placement with someone they already know and trust creates significantly less disruption and emotional upheaval than placement with a foster parent that is a total stranger. However, these trusted relationships do not always follow strict blood or marriage ties. For example, a preferred placement may be a close family friend, a godparent, or a caregiver who has formed a close emotional bond with the child in a school, camp, or childcare setting.

8. Placement with like-kin can also help maintain connections between the child and their parents when they are in out-of-home care. This may reduce the emotional strain of the removal, and may help the parent(s) progress more quickly toward safe reunification. Maintaining contact and connections between the child and their parents can also ease the short- and long-term mental, emotional, and social consequences of the removal, the time in out-of-home care, and reunification.

9. A caregiver who already knows a child well may be better-equipped to care for the child. Knowledge of a child's needs, preferences, and behavior support effective parenting. In addition, an emotional connection may drive a like-kin caregiver to provide more committed and higher-quality care than a foster parent with no pre-existing connection to the child would provide.

10. While many effects of placement with a relative are difficult to measure systematically, studies have demonstrated that children placed in kinship care, on average, experience fewer placement moves than children placed with non-relative foster care providers. Children placed in kinship care also exhibited fewer behavioral issues than their peers placed with non-relatives.

11. Current statutes and administrative rules require child welfare agencies to take several actions to protect the safety and welfare of a child before they can be placed in kinship care, including conducting background checks, and these same procedures would be required for placements with like-kin under the bill. Criminal background checks must be conducted on the proposed caregiver and all adults in the household, and past convictions for most violent crimes, crimes against children, sex-related crimes, and drug-related felonies, among others convictions, automatically disqualify the proposed placement. The child welfare agency must also consider additional information related to any criminal charges and convictions, any past findings of child abuse or neglect, the safety and necessary furnishings of the proposed caregiver's home, and the characteristics and abilities of the proposed caregiver to provide stable and committed care, including demonstrating a positive approach in any past or current parenting. Based on this information, child welfare agencies must determine that the proposed placement would be in the best interests of the child before a child can be placed in kinship care.

12. While it is difficult to predict how many children will have someone who is like-kin who

is able to serve as a kinship caregiver and is determined to be the placement that best serves the child's interests, DCF estimates that the eligibility expansion would increase usage of kinship care by approximately 20%, corresponding to 1,300 children.

13. Expanding eligibility for kinship care will not change the judicial standard of selecting the placement that serves the child's best interests, but will allow more alternatives to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

14. In light of the benefits of placements with a caregiver who has a close connection to the child and the need for more home-based placement providers statewide, the Committee could expand eligibility for kinship care to include like-kin. [Alternative AX]

15. Alternatively, to maintain current eligibility restrictions for kinship care, the Committee could take no action. [Alternative AY]

16. The decision whether to make like-kin eligible for kinship care affects the expected kinship care caseload, and so affects the cost of several other alternatives described in this paper, such as changes in kinship care rates. In these cases, alternatives including the expanded definition of kin are designated 'X' and alternatives corresponding to the current-law definition are designated 'Y.' If the Committee decides to make like-kin eligible for kinship care, no alternatives marked 'Y' may be selected, while if the Committee maintains current law, no alternatives marked 'X' may be selected. The attached tables summarize which issues have costs impacted by the like-kin expansion.

17. Adopting the expansion to like-kin and taking no other action described in this paper [Alternatives AX, B2, C4, D2, E5X, and F5] would require a net increase in TANF funding of \$2,956,000 in 2023-24 and \$3,391,900 in 2024-25.

Relative Search Services

18. AB 43/SB 70 would also provide \$391,200 GPR annually to contract for access to a national database to identify relatives of a child. DCF and county child welfare agencies would use this service to improve their ability to identify potential kinship care placements, as well as facilitating compliance with requirements to notify certain relatives of a child's removal from their home.

19. Currently, DCF contracts for family search services that require a manual request process completed by state staff, typically taking 24 hours. County and tribal child welfare agencies must relay requests through DCF instead of accessing the service directly. DCF indicates that an increasing number of county and tribal agencies have contracted with other family search vendors to gain direct and immediate access to this data. The number of requests made by DCF has decreased by 50% since 2019.

20. To ensure this information is equally available in all counties and reduce the financial burden on county child welfare agencies, the Committee could provide the requested funding. This decision is independent of the decision to include like-kin under kinship care; the contracted service would facilitate locating potential kinship care providers under either definition. [Alternative B1]

Increasing Reimbursement and Supports

21. As an alternative or complementary strategy to expanding eligibility, the Legislature could increase the availability of kinship and foster care providers by increasing the reimbursement and supports provided to them.

22. AB 43/SB 70 would provide the following funding to make changes to the base monthly reimbursement, exceptional payments, and supports available to kinship and foster care providers:

a. \$7,868,200 GPR in 2023-24 and \$7,845,900 GPR in 2024-25 to fund flexible supports for kinship care providers;

b. \$578,000 (\$378,800 GPR and \$199,200 FED under Title IV-E) in 2023-24 and \$1,156,000 (\$757,600 GPR and \$398,400 FED under Title IV-E) in 2024-25 to provide a 5% increase to basic and treatment foster care base monthly maintenance payment rates;

c. \$8,284,900 (\$13,200 GPR, \$7,000 FED under Title IV-E, and \$8,264,700 under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$16,522,700 (\$26,500 GPR, \$13,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$16,482,300 under TANF) in 2024-25 to increase kinship care and child-specific foster care rates to match the age-based rates paid to basic and treatment foster care providers; and

d. \$181,000 (\$6,100 GPR, \$3,300 FED under Title IV-E, and \$171,600 under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$352,400 (\$6,700 GPR, \$3,600 FED under Title IV-E, and \$342,100 under TANF) in 2024-25 to provide exceptional monthly payments to kinship and child-specific foster care providers to support the placement of siblings or minor parents and their children together and one-time clothing allowances, as currently provided to basic and treatment foster care providers.

23. DCF indicates that services and financial support under the proposed flexible supports program for kinship caregivers (item a above) could provide assistance with costs of care that may otherwise jeopardize a placement or potential placement, such as clothing, food, transportation, child care, and extra-curricular activities. This program is modeled on the existing Targeted Safety Support Funds (TSSF) program, which provides financial support to families to prevent the need to remove a child from their home.

24. Participating county and tribal child welfare agencies can provide TSSF to families when they have determined that a child is unsafe but a corrective plan has been implemented to enable the child to remain with their parents. DCF allocates an annual amount to each participating agency for the program, and agencies are required contribute 9.89% of total expenditures from local funds. The state share is funded under TANF, with an allocation of \$6,282,400 in 2022-23. In 2022, DCF allocated an additional \$10,000,000 to counties and tribes under the program, supported by a one-time surplus in Title IV-E revenue.

25. Funding is available to basic and treatment foster parents as well to meet certain exceptional costs and enable children to remain in a stable placement in a family setting, as specified in the statewide foster care rate policy. Child welfare agencies pay all basic and treatment foster care

providers the base rates established in statute, currently ranging from \$420 to \$545 per month based on the child's age, and in some cases must provide specified supplemental and exceptional payments. These can include a one-time reimbursement for the costs of purchasing clothing for a child when they are initially placed in out-of-home care; ongoing payments based on the provider's level of license and a standardized assessment of the child's behavioral, mental, emotional, and physical needs that exceed normal care needs; ongoing payments based on exceptional costs of care or necessary expenses to enable a child to remain in a home setting, such as transportation costs to the child's current school; and a monthly supplement of \$100 to enable siblings to be placed together or minor parents to be placed with their children. Total foster care monthly payments, including the base rate and these supplements, may not exceed \$2,000 per child.

26. Under these statewide rate policies, the average monthly payment for basic and treatment foster care providers is significantly higher than the base rate to account for additional costs of care. As of March 31, 2022, the most recent data available, the average total payment was \$872 per month for basic foster care and \$1,432 for treatment foster care (excluding Level 5, which provides reimbursement under a different structure for a small number of children with extremely high needs).

27. These payments for basic foster care, including supplements, remain well below the full costs of caring for a child. Analyses by the USDA and the Brookings Institution indicate that a typical US family with two children will expend an average of \$1,375 per child per month to raise the child from birth to age 18. This estimate does not include costs that are more likely to occur in foster care than otherwise typical, such as costs of behavioral needs related to the disruption of removal and placement in out-of-home care or the abuse or neglect the child experienced before removal.

28. Base foster care rates in most neighboring states are somewhat higher than Wisconsin's current rates, although rates in Illinois are lower. Depending on age and state, base rates in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota range from \$503 to \$964 per month. Rates in Illinois range from \$384 to \$471. Direct comparisons between states are difficult, however, because different states may rely more or less heavily on supplementary or exceptional rates to compensate foster parents.

29. 2017 Act 260 created a program under which DCF provides grants to counties, nonprofit organizations, and tribes to support foster parents and provide normalcy for children placed in out-of-home care. Grantees may use this funding to support a broad range of costs, including incentives to retain foster parents, enhancing foster parent education, and reimbursing foster parents for foster care-related expenses. Beginning in 2018-19, DCF has been budgeted \$400,000 GPR annually to fund these grants.

Flexible Supports for Kinship Caregivers

30. Under current law, kinship care and child-specific foster care providers are not eligible for supplemental payments to account for a child's unusually high needs or exceptional expenses. The TSSF program is limited to parents, to provide supports for children to remain in their home, while the one-time clothing allowance, supplementary payments based on assessed needs, exceptional expense payments, sibling payments, and flexible supports under 2017 Act 260 are all limited to licensed basic and treatment foster care providers, to enable and maintain stable foster care

placements.

31. Child welfare agencies consistently report that TSSF provides a highly effective intervention to enable parents to safely continue caring for their children. Providing similar funding for flexible supports for kinship caregivers could provide agencies a similarly powerful tool to enable relative caregivers to safely continue caring for children placed with them.

32. County and tribal agencies and caregivers also indicate that the cost of caring for a relative child is the primary concern kinship caregivers face, and a key barrier preventing potential caregivers from accepting a relative's child and becoming a kinship care provider. Providing flexible supports could enable child welfare agencies to meet needs that would otherwise prevent a child from being cared for by their relative, increasing the number of children that benefit from relative care and making non-relative foster care placements available for other children in need.

33. Federal restrictions on the use of TANF funding prevent states from using these federal funds to provide the full array of flexible supports proposed to assist kinship caregivers. While TANF currently partially supports the TSSF program, the supports provided to parents are primarily time-limited and intended to assist parents in resolving crises or taking corrective actions to ensure children's safety. In contrast, kinship caregivers, by accepting a relative child, take on a new, ongoing responsibility and may need ongoing supports to be able to meet specific needs or overcome barriers. In some cases, kinship caregivers may also face short-term costs or barriers, such as needs for clothes, sleeping arrangements, required safety equipment, or temporary child care to be prepared to accept a placement on short notice or to keep caring for a child during a disruption such as losing a job.

34. TANF funds cannot be used to provide material supports for a period longer than four months, nor within twelve months of previous assistance. These time limits would apply to expenditures for food, clothing, diapers, housing assistance, transportation, recreational activities, daycare, respite care, and any other material supports provided with TANF funds, which would also be required to address one-time needs related to a specific crisis situation or episode of need such as an initial placement. Certain other supportive services could be funded under TANF without being subject to time limits, under specific federal exemptions related to counseling and case management. These services include social supports, observation and home management guidance, services to address safety issues specific to a child's unique needs, assistance with basic parenting skills, certain physical and mental health and crisis support services not delivered by medical professionals or not available under the Medical Assistance program, parenting education, and case management.

35. In recognition of the effectiveness of flexible supports and supplementary funding currently available both to parents and to basic and treatment foster care providers to enable caregivers to accept and maintain placement of children in home settings, the benefits of placement with a relative, and county and tribal child welfare agencies' need for suitable out-of-home care providers, the Committee could provide \$8,122,900 GPR in 2023-24 and \$8,219,100 GPR in 2024-25 to make flexible supports available to kinship caregivers. This amount reflects an adjustment to the amount provided under AB 43/SB 70 to account for revised projections of kinship care caseload. DCF estimates that 41% of court-ordered and voluntary kinship care placements would receive supports, at an average annual cost of \$3,500 per child. [Alternative C1]

36. In light of the availability of TANF funding that could be used to fund those supports described under Discussion Point 34, the Committee could provide a combination of GPR and TANF funding to provide flexible supports to kinship caregivers. This alternative would create additional administrative complexity for county and tribal child welfare agencies, as TANF eligible and ineligible expenditures would need to be tracked separately. Implementation of the program with split funding may also require restrictions on access to certain supports to preserve limited GPR funding, particularly concrete supports to meet ongoing costs or barriers beyond four months or for the duration of the kinship care placement. The Committee could provide any ratio of GPR to TANF funding to reflect budget priorities and an acceptable level of access to concrete ongoing supports that would require GPR funds. For example, providing 70% GPR may approximately reflect the share of expenses that would be ineligible for TANF if flexible supports were offered to kinship caregivers as proposed in AB 43/SB 70, without time limits or other policies designed to limit TANF-ineligible expenditures, although this ratio would depend on needs that are difficult to predict. This would require \$8,122,900 (\$5,686,000 GPR and \$2,436,900 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$8,219,100 (\$5,753,400 GPR and \$2,465,700 FED under TANF) in 2024-25. [Alternative C2]

37. The Committee could alternatively provide only TANF-funded flexible supports to kinship caregivers. Under this alternative, the program would not provide ongoing concrete supports; available supports would be limited to those described under Discussion Point 34. The Committee could reduce the amount of funding provided to reflect the more limited services that would be available, although demand for these services may be higher than under Alternative C2 if ongoing supports are not available. For example, the Committee could provide \$5,000,000 in TANF funding annually, or determine that a higher or lower amount would make the desired level of services available. [Alternative C3]

38. The Committee could also take no action on this item, making no flexible supports available to kinship caregivers. [Alternative C4]

39. In complement to any flexible supports provided, the Committee could increase reimbursement for kinship caregivers, as well as foster care providers, by increasing base rates (items b and c under Discussion Point 22 summarizing the AB 43/SB 70 proposal) and expanding eligibility for supplemental payments (item d).

Basic and Treatment Foster Care Rates

40. Base rates for basic (Level 2) and treatment (Levels 3–5) foster care were most recently increased under the 2019-21 budget, which provided a 4% increase effective January 1, 2020. Previously, rates were increased by 2.5% effective January 1, 2019, and 2.5% effective January 1, 2018. Over the five-year period 2018–2022, inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index has increased typical prices by a total of 20.4% (1.9% in 2018, 2.3% in 2019, 1.3% in 2020, 7.0% in 2021, and 6.5% in 2022). The cumulative increase in basic and treatment foster care rates over this same period was 9.3%. While foster care rate increases slightly outpaced inflation in 2018 through 2020, the sharp increase in inflation in 2021, compared to foster care rates held constant since 2020, accounts for the faster growth in typical prices than foster care rates.

41. The table below shows the current monthly foster care rates, which took effect January

1, 2020, and the proposed 5% increase to these rates, which would take effect January 1, 2024, under AB 43/SB 70.

Basic and Treatment Foster Care (Levels 2–5) Rates

	Current Rate	Rate Under Indicated Increase			
		2%	3%	4%	5%
Up to Age Five	\$420	\$428	\$433	\$437	\$441
Ages Five through 11	460	469	474	478	483
Ages 12 through 14	522	532	538	543	548
Ages 15 and Over	545	556	561	567	572

42. Modifying the statewide foster care rates affects state expenditures for foster care under the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) and the state foster care program for children who are awaiting open adoption, and affects county and tribal child welfare agencies' expenditures. To account for the additional cost to counties of increased rates, AB 43/SB 70 would increase Children and Family Aids (CFA) payments by the estimated cost. The CFA increase accounts for 66.23% of the total cost of this proposal. DMCPS foster care payments, state foster care payments, and the CFA program are all currently funded by a combination of GPR and federal revenue claimed under Title IV-E; the bill would provide a combination of GPR and Title IV-E funding approximately in proportion to the estimated amounts of revenue that can be claimed under Title IV-E for these expenditures.

43. In response to the need for family settings to place children in out-of-home care and recent inflation, the Committee could provide \$578,000 (\$378,800 GPR and \$199,200 FED under Title IV-E) in 2023-24 and \$1,156,100 (\$757,700 GPR and \$398,400 FED under Title IV-E) to increase foster care rates by 5%, effective January 1, 2024. [Alternative D1]

44. In consideration of inflation and other budgetary constraints, the Committee could also determine a different percentage increase to provide, scaling the cost up or down proportionally.

45. The Committee could also take no action on this item, maintaining rates for basic and treatment foster care providers at their current levels. [Alternative D2]

Kinship and Child-Specific Foster Care Rates

46. The monthly rate paid to kinship caregivers and child-specific (Level 1) foster care providers is currently \$300 per child of any age. The kinship relative foster care rate was most recently increased effective January 1, 2022, from a previous level of \$254. As described above, the current rate is significantly below the typical cost of caring for a child, and financial barriers are a common reason why potential kin caregivers are unable to accept a relative child or to continue providing care. An increase in the base rate could be provided in conjunction with flexible supports to increase reimbursement for kinship care providers.

47. Providing lower reimbursement rates to kinship and child-specific foster care providers

reflects longstanding practice, derived from child-only payments relative caregivers were eligible to receive under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program in effect until 1997.

48. As described under 'Expanding Kinship Care Eligibility to Like-Kin,' placing a child with a relative or other person they have a pre-existing close relationship with can in many cases serve the child's best interest significantly better than placement with a stranger. Increasing kinship and child-specific foster care rates would reflect the value of this care.

49. Many jurisdictions struggle to recruit and retain foster families. Kinship and relative foster care provide opportunities to recruit caregivers for a specific child who might not otherwise have interest in serving as foster parents. Increasing county agencies' ability to recruit and retain these caregivers will increase the availability of basic and treatment foster families to care for children who do not have suitable kin or like-kin or would be better-served in a different setting.

50. To avoid creating different incentives between kinship care and child-specific foster care, all alternatives presented here provide the same rates for both. The costs of increasing kinship care rates would be funded under TANF, while the much smaller cost related to child-specific foster care would be split between GPR and federal funds under Title IV-E. As described in the section on basic and treatment foster care rates, CFA payments would be increased to account for the increase in costs borne by county child welfare agencies.

51. The cost of an increase in kinship care rates would be partially offset by a re-estimate of caseload in the program that is lower than the amount budgeted in the base year. The base year funding amount, determined in the 2021-23 budget, reflects an estimated average caseload of 7,979. Based on data on actual placements through March, 2023, the average caseload in 2022-23 is estimated to be 7,023. The kinship care caseload is expected to grow to an average of 7,049 in 2023-24 and an average of 7,133 in 2024-25. As a result, TANF funding could be reduced relative to the base by \$3,246,900 in 2023-24 and \$2,913,000 in 2024-25, absent any other changes described in this paper. This reflects a smaller reduction than is included in AB 43/SB 70, based on the updated actual placement data. This reestimate is included in all the alternatives presented under heading 'E.'

52. The cost of kinship care rates would also be affected by the proposed expansion of eligibility to include like-kin caregivers [Alternative AX]. As described previously, DCF estimates this change would increase kinship care placements by approximately 20%. The alternatives marked 'X' account for this increase.

53. In recognition of the benefits of placement with a relative, the Committee could provide age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care at rates matching the proposed basic and treatment foster care rates (5% above the current basic and treatment foster care rates), as under AB 43/SB 70. [Alternatives E1X and E1Y]

54. If the Committee maintains basic and treatment foster care rates at their current level, the Committee could provide age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care at matching rates. [Alternatives E2X and E2Y]

55. The Committee could increase kinship and relative foster care rates without bringing

them fully to the level of basic and treatment foster care rates. As an example, the Committee could adopt age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care 20% below the current rates for basic and treatment foster care. These rates would range from \$336 to \$436 per child per month, depending on the child's age. [Alternatives E3X and E3Y]

56. Alternatively, the Committee could maintain a single rate for kinship and child-specific foster care without variation based on the age of the child. This rate could be increased by any amount; Alternatives E4X and E4Y reflect a \$75 increase to \$375 per child per month. [Alternatives E4X and E4Y]

57. The Committee could take no action on kinship and child-specific foster care rates. Alternative E5X reflects the effect of the caseload re-estimate and the increase in caseload that would result from expanding kinship care to like-kin. Alternative E5Y reflects only the caseload reestimate. [Alternatives E5X and E5Y]

Sibling, Clothing, and Emergency Payments for Kinship and Child-Specific Foster Care

58. AB 43/SB 70 would expand eligibility for the one-time clothing allowance and \$100 per month sibling exceptional rate to kinship and child-specific foster care providers. The clothing allowance, as currently available to basic and treatment foster care providers, allows reimbursement for costs providers incur to acquire necessary clothing when a child is initially placed in their care. Reimbursement is limited to \$225 for children under age five, \$263 for children ages five through eleven, and \$300 for children twelve and older. Making this reimbursement available to kinship caregivers could help potential caregivers overcome financial burdens associated with accepting a relative's child, often on short notice, and adjusting to be able to care for the child.

59. Making the \$100 monthly supplemental payment for siblings available to kinship care providers would allow more siblings to remain together in out-of-home care, and would support kinship caregivers in taking on the additional responsibility and costs of caring for two or more children of a relative. The payment would also apply to children in foster care who are parents, making it easier for them to be placed with their child or children. The TANF funding required for these payments is higher than the amount shown in AB 43/SB 70, reflecting a technical correction described in the Administration's April 27, 2023, memorandum on technical errata.

60. As opposed to the other supplemental and exceptional payments currently made to basic and treatment foster care providers described under Discussion Point 25, such as supplements based on the standardized assessment of a child's behavioral and emotional needs, the clothing allowance and sibling payment can be implemented in kinship care with minimal additional administrative burden for children, kinship caregivers, and county and tribal child welfare agencies. This maintains the relative ease of initiating a kinship care placement as compared to licensure of a foster parent and placement in basic or treatment foster care, helping to make kinship care placements available on short notice and maintain the accessibility of voluntary kinship care to prevent abuse or neglect before it occurs.

61. Current statutes also enable DCF and child welfare agencies to make emergency payments to foster care providers in the event of a disaster or other emergency. AB 43/SB 70 would

create similar authority for kinship care payments. These payments would be in amounts determined by DCF and generally permitted only in areas of the state affected by a state- or federally-declared state of emergency or similar occurrence. Providing this authority has no estimated fiscal effect, and is included in each of the Alternatives presented under heading 'F' except Alternative F5 (take no action).

62. The cost to provide these payments would be impacted by the proposed expansion of eligibility to include like-kin caregivers [Alternative AX]. As described above, DCF estimates this change would increase kinship care placements by approximately 20%. The alternatives marked 'X' account for this increase.

63. In recognition of the benefits of placement with a relative and the financial barrier that acquiring a full wardrobe for a relative's child can pose to potential kinship caregivers, the Committee could provide the one-time clothing allowance and monthly sibling exceptional payment and authorize DCF to provide additional payments in disasters or other emergencies. [Alternatives F1X and F1Y]

64. The Committee could provide only the monthly sibling exceptional payment, and authorize DCF to provide additional payments in disasters or other emergencies. [Alternatives F2X and F2Y]

65. Alternatively, the Committee could provide only the one-time clothing allowance, and authorize DCF to provide additional payments in disasters or other emergencies. [Alternatives F3X and F3Y]

66. The Committee could authorize DCF to provide additional payments in disasters or other emergencies but provide neither the one-time clothing allowance nor the monthly sibling exceptional payment. This Alternative would have no fiscal effect. [Alternative F4]

67. Finally, the Committee could take no action, maintaining the current restrictions against providing additional payments for kinship care during a disaster or other emergency. [Alternative F5]

68. Because the items addressed in this paper are interrelated, numerous alternatives are presented. Along with the Attachment, following is a guide to assist the Committee in reviewing the alternatives.

In summary, the issue with the largest potential GPR impact is the proposed flexible supports for kinship caregivers (alternatives section C). Following this, basic and treatment foster care rates (alternatives section D) and relative search services (alternatives section B) have the next largest potential GPR costs. The potential biennial GPR effect of each of the remaining items is under \$50,000. The two issues with the largest potential TANF effect are the inclusion of like-kin as kinship caregivers (alternatives section A) and kinship care rates (alternatives section E). Because the cost of a rate increase would be greater if the number of kinship care placements increases, the fiscal effects of these two issues are interrelated, and shown together under section E. Expanding eligibility for sibling exceptional payments and clothing allowances to kinship care (alternatives section F) would also have significant potential TANF cost. The alternatives under each of these sections are summarized in the tables included as an attachment to this paper.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Expanding Kinship Care Eligibility to Like-Kin

X. Modify statutes, as proposed in AB 43/SB 70, to expand eligible placements under the kinship care program to include first cousins once removed and like-kin, defined as people with a significant emotional relationship to the child or their family that is similar to a familial relationship. Exclude former foster parents from the definition of like-kin for this purpose, but specify that current and former foster parents may still participate in permanency planning for children placed in a qualified residential treatment program, as under current law. For Native American children, specify that like-kin can include people identified by the child's tribe or band according to tribal law, code, resolution, or tradition. Expand statutory provisions that apply to kinship care placements with a relative to also apply to placements with like-kin, including provisions of the Children's Code and Juvenile Justice Code. The fiscal effect of this Alternative depends on actions taken below; adopting this Alternative requires the Committee to choose from Alternatives marked 'X' under those items below that differentiate between 'X' and 'Y.'

Y. Take no action on kinship care eligibility, maintaining the current-law definition of kin. Adopting this Alternative requires the Committee to choose from Alternatives marked 'Y' under those items below that differentiate between 'X' and 'Y.'

B. Relative Search Services

1. Provide \$391,200 GPR annually to contract for access to a national database to identify relatives of a child.

ALT B1	Change to Base
GPR	\$782,400

2. Take no action on relative search services.

C. Flexible Supports for Kinship Caregivers

1. *Fully GPR-Funded Flexible Supports.* Provide \$8,122,900 GPR in 2023-24 and \$8,219,100 GPR in 2024-25 to make flexible supports available to kinship caregivers. Authorize DCF and county child welfare agencies to provide additional payments or services to support kinship care providers and create a GPR appropriation for that purpose. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules implementing such supports, including specifying eligibility criteria and qualifying costs and services.

ALT C1	Change to Base
GPR	\$16,342,000

2. *70% GPR-Funded Flexible Supports.* Provide \$8,122,900 (\$5,686,000 GPR and \$2,436,900 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$8,219,100 (\$5,753,400 GPR and \$2,465,700 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to make flexible supports available to kinship caregivers. Authorize DCF and county child welfare agencies to provide additional payments or services to support kinship care providers. Create a GPR appropriation and new TANF allocation for that purpose. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules implementing such supports, including specifying eligibility criteria and qualifying costs and services.

ALT C2	Change to Base
GPR	\$11,439,400
FED-TANF	<u>4,902,600</u>
Total	\$16,342,000

3. *Reduced Flexible Supports (TANF Only).* Provide \$5,000,000 FED (TANF) annually to make those flexible supports that qualify for TANF funding available to kinship caregivers. Authorize DCF and county child welfare agencies to provide additional payments or services to support kinship care providers, and create a new TANF allocation for that purpose. Authorize DCF to promulgate rules implementing such supports, including specifying eligibility criteria and qualifying costs and services.

ALT C3	Change to Base
FED-TANF	\$10,000,000

4. Take no action on flexible supports for kinship caregivers.

D. Basic and Treatment Foster Care Rates

1. *5% Rate Increase.* Provide \$578,000 (\$378,800 GPR and \$199,200 FED under Title IV-E) in 2023-24 and \$1,156,100 (\$757,700 GPR and \$398,400 FED under Title IV-E) to increase foster care rates by 5%, effective January 1, 2024. Modify these rates in statute. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$382,900 in 2023-24 and \$765,500 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

ALT D1	Change to Base
GPR	\$1,136,500
FED-IV-E	<u>597,600</u>
Total	\$1,734,100

2. Take no action on basic and treatment foster care rates.

E. Kinship Care and Child-Specific Foster Care Rates

1. *Age-Based Rates Matching 5% Increase.* Adopt age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care, effective January 1, 2024, at rates 5% above the current basic and treatment foster care rates. Modify these rates in statute. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$13,300 in 2023-24 and \$26,900 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

X. Provide \$13,169,100 (\$13,200 GPR, \$7,000 FED under Title IV-E, and \$13,148,900 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$24,076,400 (\$26,400 GPR, \$13,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$24,036,100 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt this rate increase under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT E1X	Change to Base
GPR	\$39,600
FED-IV-E	20,900
FED-TANF	<u>37,185,000</u>
Total	\$37,245,500

Y. Provide \$5,128,200 (\$13,200 GPR, \$7,000 FED under Title IV-E, and \$5,108,000 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$14,034,900 (\$26,400 GPR, \$13,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$13,994,600 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt this rate increase under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT E1Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$39,600
FED-IV-E	20,900
FED-TANF	<u>19,102,600</u>
Total	\$19,163,100

2. *Age-Based Rates Matching Current Foster Care Rates.* Adopt age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care, effective January 1, 2024, at the current basic and treatment foster care rates. Modify these rates in statute. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$11,600 in 2023-24 and \$23,300 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

X. Provide \$11,863,800 (\$11,500 GPR, \$6,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$11,846,200 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$21,432,800 (\$23,000 GPR, \$12,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$21,397,700 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt this rate increase under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT E2X	Change to Base
GPR	\$34,500
FED-IV-E	18,200
FED-TANF	<u>33,243,900</u>
Total	\$33,296,600

Y. Provide \$4,057,800 (\$11,500 GPR, \$6,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$4,040,200 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$11,868,900 (\$23,000 GPR, \$12,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$11,833,800 FED under TANF) to adopt this rate increase under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT E2Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$34,500
FED-IV-E	18,200
FED-TANF	<u>15,874,000</u>
Total	\$15,926,700

3. *Age-Based Rates 20% Below Current Foster Care Rates.* Adopt age-based rates for kinship and child-specific foster care, effective January 1, 2024, at rates 20% below the current basic and treatment foster care rates. Modify these rates in statute. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$4,800 in 2023-24 and \$9,600 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

X. Provide \$6,638,300 (\$4,700 GPR, \$2,500 FED under Title IV-E, and \$6,631,100 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$10,849,600 (\$9,500 GPR, \$4,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$10,835,200 FED under TANF) to adopt this rate increase under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT E3X	Change to Base
GPR	\$14,200
FED-IV-E	7,400
FED-TANF	<u>17,466,300</u>
Total	\$17,487,900

Y. Reduce funding by \$227,300 (\$4,700 GPR, \$2,500 FED under Title IV-E, and -\$234,500 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and provide \$3,197,500 (\$9,500 GPR, \$4,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$3,183,100 FED under TANF) to adopt this rate increase under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT E3Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$14,200
FED-IV-E	7,400
FED-TANF	<u>2,948,600</u>
Total	\$2,970,200

4. *Flat \$375 Rate.* Increase the monthly rate for kinship and child-specific foster care from \$300 to \$375, effective January 1, 2024. Modify this rate in statute. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$5,700 in 2023-24 and \$11,300 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments.

X. Provide \$7,264,300 (\$5,600 GPR, \$3,000 FED under Title IV-E, and \$7,255,700 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$12,117,400 (\$11,200 GPR, \$5,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$12,100,300 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt this rate increase under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT E4X	Change to Base
GPR	\$16,800
FED-IV-E	8,900
FED-TANF	<u>19,356,000</u>
Total	\$19,381,700

Y. Provide \$286,000 (\$5,600 GPR, \$3,000 FED under Title IV-E, and \$277,400 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$4,236,300 (\$11,200 GPR, \$5,900 FED under Title IV-E, and \$4,219,200 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt this rate increase under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT E4Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$16,800
FED-IV-E	8,900
FED-TANF	<u>4,496,600</u>
Total	\$4,522,300

5. *Flat \$300 Rate (Current Law Reestimate).* Take no action on kinship and child-specific foster care rates.

X. Provide \$2,956,000 FED under TANF in 2023-24 and \$3,391,900 FED under TANF in 2024-25 to account for re-estimated caseload and the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT E5X	Change to Base
FED-TANF	\$6,347,900

Y. Reduce funding by \$3,246,900 FED under TANF in 2023-24 and \$2,913,000 FED under TANF in 2024-25 to account for re-estimated caseload under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT E5Y	Change to Base
FED-TANF	-\$6,159,900

F. Sibling, Clothing, and Emergency Payments for Kinship and Child-Specific Foster Care

1. *Sibling Rate, Clothing Allowance, and Emergency Payments.* statutes and administrative code to permit exceptional payments to allow siblings or a minor parent and their child to be placed together and initial clothing allowances in kinship and child-specific foster care. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$5,700 in 2023-24 and \$6,400 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments. Authorize emergency payments to kinship care providers, subject to DCF approval and in amounts determined by DCF, if any of the following apply to the location where the kinship care provider lives: (a) the Governor has declared a state of emergency; (b) the federal government has declared a major disaster; (c) the state has received federal funding for child welfare purposes due to an emergency or disaster; or (d) DCF determines that conditions such as a pandemic or other public health threat, a natural disaster, or unplanned school closures of five or more consecutive days have resulted in a temporary increase in care costs. Authorize DCF to promulgate administrative rules to implement these emergency payments.

X. Provide \$2,083,300 (\$6,100 GPR, \$3,300 FED under Title IV-E, and \$2,073,900 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$4,210,600 (\$6,700 GPR, \$3,600 FED under Title IV-E, and \$4,200,300 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT FIX	Change to Base
GPR	\$12,800
FED-IV-E	6,900
FED-TANF	<u>6,274,200</u>
Total	\$6,293,900

Y. Provide \$1,709,300 (\$6,100 GPR, \$3,300 FED under Title IV-E, and \$1,699,900 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$3,450,300 (\$6,700 GPR, \$3,600 FED under Title IV-E, and \$3,440,000 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT FIY	Change to Base
GPR	\$12,800
FED-IV-E	6,900
FED-TANF	<u>5,139,900</u>
Total	\$5,159,600

2. *Sibling Rate and Emergency Payments.* Modify statutes and administrative code to permit exceptional payments to allow siblings or a minor parent and their child to be placed together in kinship and child-specific foster care. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$2,700 in 2023-24 and \$5,800 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments. Authorize emergency payments to kinship care

providers, subject to DCF approval and in amounts determined by DCF, if any of the following apply to the location where the kinship care provider lives: (a) the Governor has declared a state of emergency; (b) the federal government has declared a major disaster; (c) the state has received federal funding for child welfare purposes due to an emergency or disaster; or (d) DCF determines that conditions such as a pandemic or other public health threat, a natural disaster, or unplanned school closures of five or more consecutive days have resulted in a temporary increase in care costs. Authorize DCF to promulgate administrative rules to implement these emergency payments.

X. Provide \$2,031,200 (\$2,900 GPR, \$1,600 FED under Title IV-E, and \$2,026,700 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$4,113,800 (\$5,900 GPR, \$3,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$4,104,800 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT F2X	Change to Base
GPR	\$8,800
FED-IV-E	4,700
FED-TANF	<u>6,131,500</u>
Total	\$6,145,000

Y. Provide \$1,665,700 (\$2,900 GPR, \$1,600 FED under Title IV-E, and \$1,661,200 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$3,370,800 (\$5,900 GPR, \$3,100 FED under Title IV-E, and \$3,361,800 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT F2Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$8,800
FED-IV-E	4,700
FED-TANF	<u>5,023,000</u>
Total	\$5,036,500

3. *Clothing Allowance and Emergency Payments.* Modify statutes and administrative code to permit initial clothing allowances in kinship and child-specific foster care. Increase the statutory amount paid to counties under Children and Family Aids by \$3,000 in 2023-24 and \$600 in 2024-25 to account for the estimated cost to counties to provide increased foster care payments. Authorize emergency payments to kinship care providers, subject to DCF approval and in amounts determined by DCF, if any of the following apply to the location where the kinship care provider lives: (a) the Governor has declared a state of emergency; (b) the federal government has declared a major disaster; (c) the state has received federal funding for child welfare purposes due to an emergency or disaster; or (d) DCF determines that conditions such as a pandemic or other public health threat, a natural disaster, or unplanned school closures of five or more consecutive days have resulted in a temporary increase in care costs. Authorize DCF to promulgate administrative rules to implement these emergency payments.

X. Provide \$52,100 (\$3,200 GPR, \$1,700 FED under Title IV-E, and \$47,200 FED under

TANF) in 2023-24 and \$96,800 (\$800 GPR, \$500 FED under Title IV-E, and \$95,500 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the expanded definition of kin described in Alternative AX.

ALT F3X	Change to Base
GPR	\$4,000
FED-IV-E	2,200
FED-TANF	<u>142,700</u>
Total	\$148,900

Y. Provide \$43,600 (\$3,200 GPR, \$1,700 FED under Title IV-E, and \$38,700 FED under TANF) in 2023-24 and \$79,500 (\$800 GPR, \$500 FED under Title IV-E, and \$78,200 FED under TANF) in 2024-25 to adopt these payments under the current definition of kin [Alternative AY].

ALT F3Y	Change to Base
GPR	\$4,000
FED-IV-E	2,200
FED-TANF	<u>116,900</u>
Total	\$123,100

4. *Emergency Payments Only.* Take no action on sibling exceptional payments or clothing allowances under kinship and child-specific foster care. Authorize emergency payments to kinship care providers, subject to DCF approval and in amounts determined by DCF, if any of the following apply to the location where the kinship care provider lives: (a) the Governor has declared a state of emergency; (b) the federal government has declared a major disaster; (c) the state has received federal funding for child welfare purposes due to an emergency or disaster; or (d) DCF determines that conditions such as a pandemic or other public health threat, a natural disaster, or unplanned school closures of five or more consecutive days have resulted in a temporary increase in care costs. Authorize DCF to promulgate administrative rules to implement these emergency payments.

5. Take no action on sibling exceptional payments, clothing allowances, or emergency payments under kinship and child-specific foster care.

Prepared by: Carl Plant
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Costs Not Affected by Inclusion of Like-Kin in Kinship Care

	Biennial Change to Base			
	GPR	FED IV-E	FED TANF	Total
B. Relative Search Services (p. 5)				
B1: Provide Search Services	\$782,400	\$0	\$0	\$782,400
B2: Take No Action	0	0	0	0
C. Flexible Supports for Kinship Caregivers (p. 7)				
C1: Fully GPR-Funded Flexible Supports	\$16,342,000	\$0	\$0	\$16,342,000
C2: 70% GPR-Funded Flexible Supports	11,439,400	0	4,902,600	16,342,000
C3: Reduced Flexible Supports (TANF Only)	0	0	10,000,000	10,000,000
C4: Take No Action	0	0	0	0
D. Basic and Treatment Foster Care Rates (p. 9)				
D1: 5% Rate Increase	\$1,136,500	\$597,600	\$0	\$1,734,100
D2: Take No Action	0	0	0	0

Costs Dependent on Inclusion of Like-Kin in Kinship Care

	Biennial Change to Base							
	With Like-Kin Expansion (Alt. AX)				Current Definition of Kin (Alt. AY)			
	GPR	FED IV-E	FED TANF	Total	GPR	FED IV-E	FED TANF	Total
E. Kinship Care and Child-Specific Foster Care Rates (p. 10)								
E1: Age-Based Rates Matching 5% Increase	\$39,600	\$20,900	\$37,185,000	\$37,245,500	\$39,600	\$20,900	\$19,102,600	\$19,163,100
E2: Age-Based Rates Matching Current Foster Care Rates	34,500	18,200	33,243,900	33,296,600	34,500	18,200	15,874,000	15,926,700
E3: Age-Based Rates 20% Below Current Foster Care Rates	14,200	7,400	17,466,300	17,487,900	14,200	7,400	2,948,600	2,970,200
E4: Flat \$375 Rate	16,800	8,900	19,356,000	19,381,700	16,800	8,900	4,496,600	4,522,300
E5: Flat \$300 Rate (Current Law Reestimate)	0	0	6,347,900	6,347,900	0	0	-6,159,900	-6,159,900
F. Sibling, Clothing, and Emergency Payments for Kinship Care and Child-Specific Foster Care (p. 12)								
F1: Sibling Rate, Clothing Allowance, and Emergency Payments*	\$12,800	\$6,900	\$6,274,200	\$6,293,900	\$12,800	\$6,900	\$5,139,900	\$5,159,600
F2: Sibling Rate and Emergency Payments*	8,800	4,700	6,131,500	6,145,000	8,800	4,700	5,023,000	5,036,500
F3: Clothing Allowance and Emergency Payments*	4,000	2,200	142,700	148,900	4,000	2,200	116,900	123,100
F4: Emergency Payments Only*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F5: Take No Action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Authorization for emergency payments is a statutory change included in each alternative F1–F4. There is no associated change in funding required.

