

**Title XX**  
**Social Services Block Grant**  
**INTENDED USE REPORT**



**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

David Matlock, Secretary  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Designated State Services Agency

State Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS	
SECTION	PAGE NUMBER
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
STATE NEEDS ASSESSMENT/ REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1: SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA</b>	<b>5</b>
GOALS	<b>5</b>
LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SSBG FUNDS	<b>5</b>
PROOF OF AUDIT	<b>7</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2: INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>8</b>
ELIGIBILITY	<b>8</b>
NEED	<b>8</b>
ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES	<b>8</b>
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION	<b>9</b>
CONFIDENTIALITY	<b>9</b>
DIRECT DELIVERED SERVICES	<b>10</b>
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	<b>10</b>
FAMILY FOSTER AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY (RATE SETTING)	<b>10</b>
CASE MANAGEMENT	<b>11</b>
SERVICE DELIVERY LOCATIONS	<b>12</b>
DIRECT DELIVERY SERVICE LOCATIONS (PARISH & REGIONAL OFFICES)	<b>12</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3: SERVICES</b>	<b>16</b>
PRIORITIES FOR SERVICE PROVISION	<b>16</b>
ADOPTION	<b>17</b>
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES	<b>19</b>
PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES	<b>21</b>
FOSTER CARE/RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITY SERVICES	<b>23</b>
INDEPENDENT AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES	<b>26</b>
EXTENDED FOSTER CARE	<b>28</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4: FUNDING RESOURCES</b>	<b>31</b>
PRE-EXPENDITURE REPORT	<b>31</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5: POST EXPENDITURE REPORT</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6: PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS</b>	<b>33</b>
PUBLIC NOTICE/ PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY	<b>33</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING DRUG FREE WORKPLACE	
CERTIFICATION - DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING	
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE	
POST EXPENDITURE REPORT	
PRE EXPENDITURE REPORT	
POTPOURRI	
EQUAL DELIVERY OF SERVICES POLICY STATEMENT	

## INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), is the designated State Services Agency for administration of the federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to Louisiana. SSBG, which was established in 1981, consolidated federal assistance for social services into a single grant, where funding had been separately allotted for training, child day care and general social services. The legislation creating the SSBG was contained in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 [Public Law 97-35], which amended Title XX of the Social Security Act. The Title XX Social Services Program, developed in October 1975, established comprehensive social services assistance for individuals and families.

Prior to its expenditure of SSBG funds, each state must make a report on its intended use of the funds. This plan is intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 2004 of Title XX of the Social Security Act, as amended. It describes the types of activities to be supported and the categories or characteristics of individuals to be served through use of block grant funds and any appropriations of state funds for social services listed in this plan.

For the purpose of this report, the FFY 2026 expenditure projections are based on the final FFY24 SSBG award in the amount of \$21,955,503 and utilizing Title IV-A Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) transfer funds up to 10% of the State's TANF award (\$16,343,088). The appropriation and allocation of funds according to this plan are subject to legislative and gubernatorial approval as well as the availability of federal and state funds. In the event that funds are not available in the amounts anticipated, necessary reductions will be made in the budgeted services outlined in this plan; however, the state will make every effort to spend SSBG funds in the manner outlined in this intended use plan.

The state of Louisiana defines the administration and delivery of services, purchased and direct, and derived from multiple funding sources, as actual costs in the provision of social services to the citizens of the State.

Louisiana's entire allotment for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 has not been posted yet, therefore the FFY 2024 allotment is being used for the purposes of completing this plan. Louisiana's allotment for FFY 2024 was \$21,955,503.00. Because the State Fiscal Year (SFY) does not track the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY), grant funds are calculated at 75% of the FFY 2025 grant \$16,466,627.00 plus 25% of the FFY 2024 grant \$5,488,876.00, plus \$16,343,088.00 in TANF transfer funds, for a total of \$38,298,591.00. The allotments to the states are contingent upon Congressional appropriations for the fiscal year. If Congress enacts and the President approves a different authorization or appropriation amount, the allotments will be adjusted proportionately.

Louisiana's entire FY 2025 allotment is not available. Quarter 3 and quarter 4's allotment have not been released, therefore the FFY 2024 allotment is being used for the purposes of completing this plan. The FFY 2024 allotment was \$21,955,503.00; therefore, projected expenditures in FFY 2026 are based on this amount. SSBG funds are available to the state for expenditure in the federal fiscal year appropriated and in the following federal fiscal year.

**Needs Assessment Process for SSBG Funding:** For the past two decades Louisiana has utilized SSBG funds to serve the state's most vulnerable children and families primarily those at risk of child abuse and neglect or impacted by child abuse and neglect. DCFS works to efficiently expend SSBG

funds in the primary areas of prevention and intervention, protective services for children, foster care services for children, adoption services and independent/transitional living services for youth.

As one of the poorest states in the nation, Louisiana would benefit from additional funding, especially funding where a state match is not required. During FFY 2024, Louisiana continued to experience a high volume of cases in both investigations and foster care, as well as severe and damaging natural disasters but without significant budget increases. An increase in the state's allotment could be fully utilized to meet the increasing need in adoption services, foster care services for children and adults, independent/transitional living services, prevention and intervention and protective services for children.

## CHAPTER I

### SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM IN LOUISIANA

**GOALS:** The State of Louisiana will administer the Title XX Social Services Block Grant through the DCFS in accordance with Title XX of the Social Security Act as amended, and with applicable federal regulations including 45 CFR Part 96. Louisiana will provide services to low-income and vulnerable individuals and families directed toward achieving the goals of:

- I. Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
- II. Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency (i.e., reduction or prevention of dependency);
- III. Preventing or remedying neglect/abuse or exploitation of children; preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families;
- IV. Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care;
- V. Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

**LIMITATIONS ON USE OF SSBG FUNDS:** The following are prohibited uses of SSBG funds as set forth in the Title XX statute, as amended:

SEC 2005.[42 U.S.C. 1397d] (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) grants made under this title may not be used by the state, or by any other person with which the state makes arrangements to carry out the purposes of this title;

- (1) For the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility;
- (2) For the provision of cash payments for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board (other than costs of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary emergency shelter provided as a protective service);
- (3) For payment of the wages of any individual as a social service (other than payment of the wages of TANF recipients employed in the provision of child day care services);
- (4) For the provision of medical care (other than family planning services, rehabilitation services, or initial detoxification of an alcoholic or drug dependent individual) unless it is an integral but subordinate part of an allowable social service under SSBG unless the restriction is waived by ACF (42 USC 1397(d) (a) (4));
- (5) For social services (except services to substance use disorder or rehabilitation services) provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or prison, to any individual living in such institution (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(5));
- (6) For the provision of any educational service which the State makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(6));
- (7) For any child day care services unless such services meet applicable standards of State and local law (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(7));

(8) For the provision of cash payments as a service (this limitation does not apply to payments to individuals with respect to training or attendance at conferences or workshops) (42 USC 1397(d)(a)(8); or

(9) For payment for any item or service (other than an emergency item or service) furnished;

(A) By an individual or entity during the period when such individual or entity is excluded pursuant to section 1128 or section 1128A from participation in the program under this title, or (B) At the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician during the period when the physician is excluded pursuant to section 1128 or section 1128A from participation in the program under this title and when the person furnishing such item or service knew or had reason to know of the exclusion (after a reasonable time period after reasonable notice has been furnished to the person).

10.) The state may not use the amount transferred in from TANF (Assistance Listing 93.558) for programs, services or activities for individuals, children or their families whose incomes exceed the 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The official poverty guideline is revised annually by HHS. The poverty guidelines are issued each year in the Federal Register and HHS maintains a web page that provides the poverty guidelines (<http://aspe.hhd.gov/poverty/>).

**PROOF OF AUDIT:**

Sec. 2006. [42 U.S.C. 1397e]: Each state shall, not less often than every two years, audit its expenditures from amounts received (or transferred for use) under this title. Within 30 days following the completion of each audit, the State shall submit a copy of that audit to the legislature of the State and to the Secretary.

The Louisiana DCFS is submitting the Intended Use Report for the 2025-2026 Social Services Block Grant.

The Louisiana State Legislative Auditor is currently performing an audit of DCFS expenditures across all major federal programs to ensure compliance with Section 2006 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1397e.

## CHAPTER II

### INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Under Title XX of the Social Security Act as amended, states are allotted a set amount of federal funds as social service grants and are encouraged to furnish services directed at the goals listed in this plan. The state is responsible for identifying the categories or characteristics of individuals to be served through use of block grant funds.

Louisiana, through DCFS, will utilize its allotted funds to provide comprehensive social services on behalf of children and families in fulfillment of legislative mandates for child protection and child welfare programs. These mandated services, and other essential social services, are designated without regard to income (WRI) to individuals needing these specified services. Individuals to be served also include low-income persons (as defined in this plan), who meet eligibility criteria for services provided. The delivery of services is through direct provision and/or purchase of services. These services, as well as the administration of these program services, are funded by SSBG. Further, the State may transfer up to 10% of its TANF funds to the SSBG. Those eligible for services paid through TANF funds transferred to SSBG are children or their families whose income is less than 200% of the poverty level, as required by federal regulations.

#### **NEED:**

An individual's eligibility for services provided under this plan depends primarily upon the individual having a defined need for the services. Need for a particular service implies that the provision of that service will assist the individual or family members to advance toward the achievement of at least one of the five Title XX program goals listed in this plan. Defining the basis of need for a service requires assessment of the individual's situation to determine whether (a) the service would be helpful to the individual in meeting specific objectives and (b) a reasonable likelihood exists for achieving the service objective if the service is provided.

Part of the eligibility determination must include the assessment that the individual is in vulnerable circumstances or potentially at risk, or that the individual is unable to secure the services. In addition to having an established need, the individual must be included in one of the eligible categories below:

#### **ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES:**

- LaCHIP -** Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program offers health care assistance to children between the ages of 6 and 19 years. Eligibility for the program includes the household's income which cannot exceed 217% of the federal poverty limit.
- WRI -** Individuals in need of Adoption, Child Protective Services, Family Services, and/or Foster Care/Residential services are served without regard to income (WRI) no matter the individual's financial circumstances. Other services may be provided WRI when specifically authorized by DCFS personnel for individual cases or for designated high-risk groups. DCFS designates all individuals and families in need served through the Unite Louisiana Platform as a high-risk group WRI. Also, included WRI are individuals who are recipients of Title IV-E Adoption Assistance as amended by U.S. Public Law 96-272. This shall include Adoption Assistance recipients who relocate to Louisiana from another state that is signatory to the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance.

- TANF -** Recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and those persons whose needs were taken into account in determining the needs of TANF recipients.
- SSI -** Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments, or state supplemental payments, and blind and disabled individuals eligible for such payments except for their earned income.
- IE -** Income Eligible (IE): Are those families with gross incomes, which do not exceed 125% of the poverty level, as published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>.

**Family:** A family is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as two or more individuals who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption, although they may include other unrelated people.

**Adult:** Louisiana Revised Statute §46:2132 defines "adult" as any person eighteen years of age or older, or any person under the age of eighteen who has been emancipated by marriage or otherwise.

**Child:** The Louisiana Children’s Code defines “child” as any person under age 18 who has not been emancipated either judicially or by marriage.

**INCOME SCALE- Reference the chart below for the 125% poverty level for a family of four for 2025**

**Dollars Per Month**

Household/ Family Size	50%	75%	100%	125%	130%	133%	135%	138%	150%	175%	180%	185%
1	652.08	978.13	1,304.17	1,630.21	1,695.42	1,734.54	1,760.63	1,799.75	1,956.25	2,282.29	2,347.50	2,412.71
2	881.25	1,321.88	1,762.50	2,203.13	2,291.25	2,344.13	2,379.38	2,432.25	2,643.75	3,084.38	3,172.50	3,260.63
3	1,110.42	1,665.63	2,220.83	2,776.04	2,887.08	2,953.71	2,998.13	3,064.75	3,331.25	3,886.46	3,997.50	4,108.54
4	1,339.58	2,009.38	2,679.17	3,348.96	3,482.92	3,563.29	3,616.88	3,697.25	4,018.75	4,688.54	4,822.50	4,956.46
5	1,568.75	2,353.13	3,137.50	3,921.88	4,078.75	4,172.88	4,235.63	4,329.75	4,706.25	5,490.63	5,647.50	5,804.38
6	1,797.92	2,696.88	3,595.83	4,494.79	4,674.58	4,782.46	4,854.38	4,962.25	5,393.75	6,292.71	6,472.50	6,652.29
7	2,027.08	3,040.63	4,054.17	5,067.71	5,270.42	5,392.04	5,473.13	5,594.75	6,081.25	7,094.79	7,297.50	7,500.21
8	2,256.25	3,384.38	4,512.50	5,640.63	5,866.25	6,001.63	6,091.88	6,227.25	6,768.75	7,896.88	8,122.50	8,348.13
9	2,485.42	3,728.13	4,970.83	6,213.54	6,462.08	6,611.21	6,710.63	6,859.75	7,456.25	8,698.96	8,947.50	9,196.04
10	2,714.58	4,071.88	5,429.17	6,786.46	7,057.92	7,220.79	7,329.38	7,492.25	8,143.75	9,501.04	9,772.50	10,043.96
11	2,943.75	4,415.63	5,887.50	7,359.38	7,653.75	7,830.38	7,948.13	8,124.75	8,831.25	10,303.13	10,597.50	10,891.88
12	3,172.92	4,759.38	6,345.83	7,932.29	8,249.58	8,439.96	8,566.88	8,757.25	9,518.75	11,105.21	11,422.50	11,739.79
13	3,402.08	5,103.13	6,804.17	8,505.21	8,845.42	9,049.54	9,185.63	9,389.75	10,206.25	11,907.29	12,247.50	12,587.71
14	3,631.25	5,446.88	7,262.50	9,078.13	9,441.25	9,659.13	9,804.38	10,022.25	10,893.75	12,709.38	13,072.50	13,435.63

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

**ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION**

Administrative responsibility for determining individuals eligible for direct delivered and other appropriate services, and for certifying groups eligible for a service, rests with DCFS, except for situations where sub-recipient contractors may be designated to determine eligibility.

Eligibility decisions on applications are made at the time the application is taken. Applicants and recipients have the right to appeal any decision concerning eligibility or eligibility re-determination for services, the continuation, termination, or reduction of services, or failure to act with reasonable promptness on a request for services. Notices of agency actions or anticipated actions are provided to applicants and recipients advising of proper procedures for requesting a fair hearing.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

The release of information from social service applications or case records shall be in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 46:56 as amended, and Chapter 5 of Title 12 in the Louisiana Children's Code regarding agency records of adoption proceedings. Copies of the statutes and related policy material may be requested from DCFS, Post Office Box 3318, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821.

### **DIRECT DELIVERED SERVICES**

The direct method of delivery for services so designated in this plan refers to direct provision by DCFS through its staff and by vendors, including ancillary professional services.

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

DCFS has a number of separate information systems that serve clients in child welfare. The Tracking, Information and Payment System (TIPS) is a computerized on-line, statewide information management and payment system capable of tracking client information and generating payments for clients served in all DCFS child welfare programs. Through TIPS, DCFS is able to collect and report the required data for the federally mandated Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). A Comprehensive Enterprise Social Services System (ACCESS) is the statewide system for intake of all reports of child abuse and neglect. This information management system contains intake records that are assigned to the Child Protective Services (CPS) program.

### **FAMILY FOSTER AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES (INCLUDING RATE SETTING):**

Costs to the SSBG may include services for implementation and operation of a family foster and residential care system, which shall establish reasonable rates of reimbursement for foster families and residential care providers.

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) contracted with six insurance companies in 2012 to administer and manage health services for citizens enrolled in Medicaid. Initially, specialized behavioral health services for all Louisiana citizens and those enrolled in the Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) were administered by a single management organization, Magellan Health Services. Primary healthcare services were managed by five Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and enrollment was determined by individual choice. In addition to specialized behavioral health services, Magellan was responsible for administering the use of residential care settings for children in DCFS custody. Additionally, Magellan assumed responsibility for managing the utilization of therapeutic foster care services for children with behavioral health challenges in DCFS custody. Child Welfare retained utilization management of therapeutic foster care services for children who were medically fragile in DCFS custody. Uniform rates were set for residential and therapeutic foster care services.

In December 2015, Louisiana re-procured its MCOs with the requirement that they administer primary healthcare and behavioral health services. Magellan retained the responsibility to manage CSoC.

The thirteen person statewide behavioral health and placement services unit continues to work closely with the managed care organizations and providers to ensure youth are connected with the appropriate behavioral health residential treatment and residential level of care to address their needs.

From the six MCO's contracted with LDH, DCFS selected three MCOs to be DCFS preferred providers. In 2025, DCFS reduced the preferred providers to two MCO's. The majority of children in custody of the state are enrolled with a preferred healthcare plan. At present, the available preferred

plans include Healthy Blue and Aetna Better Health. This selection of MCOs was made to ensure children, families and the DCFS maintain choice among health plans, and to enhance collaboration to meet the specialized needs of children in DCFS custody.

Pursuant to the transition to managed care, DCFS regained administration of agreements with child residential facilities and child placing agencies, given that these services are not Medicaid reimbursable.

“On October 1, 2021, Louisiana established Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) in accordance with Section 50741 of Public Law 115-123. At present, the network of residential providers consists of 20 child residential facilities, six of which are designated as QRTPs”. Of the providers not designated as QRTPs, two are specified child care institutions for children who are high-risk for human sex trafficking and one is a specified child care institution for adolescent females who are pregnant or parenting”.

The state also contracts with twelve (12) child placing agencies, to provide Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) to youth in Louisiana who are in DCFS custody. NMGH and TGH providers have a tiered level of care and reimbursement based on acuity and need for enhanced supervision. At present, NMGH has a two-tiered structure of care and reimbursement structure and TFC has a three-tiered structure of care and reimbursement.

### **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Specifications for all services set forth in this plan include requisite case management activities, which entail evaluation of referrals, assessment of service need, arrangements for utilization, and follow-up.

**SERVICE DELIVERY LOCATIONS**

The following pages list the location of DCFS parish, regional, and state offices.

**DIRECT DELIVERY SERVICE LOCATIONS  
Department of Children and Family Services  
Parish Offices**

**Louisiana State Office/Headquarters**

**Iberville Building  
627 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 3318  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821  
SSBG Inquiries: (225) 342-5918**

**Louisiana Regional and Parish Child Welfare Offices:**

<p><b>Region 1:</b></p> <p><b><u>Orleans Regional CW Office</u></b> 1450 Poydras Street, Suite 702 New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: (504) 568-7413</p>		
<p>Orleans CW Office 1450 Poydras St., Ste. 1600 New Orleans, LA 70112 504-680-9103</p>	<p>East Jefferson/St. Bernard CW Office 2400 Veterans Blvd. 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ste. 400 Kenner, LA 70062 504-361-6800</p>	<p>W. Jefferson/Plaquemines CW Office 401 Whitney Ave., Ste. 400 Gretna, LA 70056 504-361-6161</p>
<p><b>Region 2:</b></p> <p><b><u>Baton Rouge Regional CW Office</u></b> 7389 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Phone: (225) 925-6500</p>		
<p>East Baton Rouge CW Office 160 S. Ardenwood Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70806 225-925-6500</p>	<p>East/West Feliciana CW Office 12476 Feliciana Dr. Clinton, LA 70722 225-683-3734</p>	<p>Iberville/West Baton Rouge/Point Coupee CW Office 23075 Hwy. 1 Plaquemine, LA 70764 225-687-4373</p>
<p>East/West Feliciana 12488 Feliciana Drive Clinton, LA 70722 Phone: (225) 683-3734</p>		

**Region 3:**

**Covington Regional CW Office**

351 Holiday Boulevard  
Covington, LA 70433  
Phone: (985) 893-6363

Livingston CW Office 28446 Charley Watts Rd. Livingston, LA 70754 225-686-7257	St. Tammany CW Office 300 Covington Ctr. Ste. 1 Covington, LA 70433 985-893-6225	Tangipahoa/St. Helena CW Office 606 S. First St. Amite, LA 70422 985-748-2001	Washington CW Office 1017 Ontario Ave. Bogalusa, LA 70427 985-732-1470
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**Region 4:**

**Thibodaux Regional CW Office**

1416 Tiger Drive  
Thibodaux, LA 70301  
Phone: (985) 447-0945

Lafourche/Assumption CW Office 1416 Tiger Drive Thibodaux, LA 70301 985-447-0945	Ascension CW Office 1078 E. Worthey St. Gonzales, LA 70737 225-664-4603	St. John the Baptist CW Office 429 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. M LaPlace, LA 70068 985-652-2938	Terrebonne CW Office 1012 W. Tunnel Blvd. Houma, LA 70360 985-857-3630
St. Charles CW Office 429 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. M LaPlace, LA 70068 985-652-2938	St. James CW Office 429 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. M LaPlace, LA 70068 985-652-2938	St. John CW Office 429 W. Airline Hwy., Ste. M LaPlace, LA 70068 985-652-2938	

**Region 5:**

**Lafayette Regional CW Office**

825 Kaliste Saloom Road  
Building 3 Suite 150  
Lafayette, LA 70508  
Phone: (337) 262-5970

Acadia CW Office 600 N. Avenue G Crowley, LA 70526 337-788-7503	Evangeline CW Office 116 SW Railroad St., Ste. A Ville Platte, LA 70586 337-363-6011	Iberia CW Office 2500 Hwy. 14 New Iberia, LA 70560 337-373-0026	Lafayette CW Office 100 Asma Blvd., Suite 260 Lafayette 70508 337-262-5901
St. Landry CW Office 6069 I-49 Service Rd, Ste. C Opelousas, LA 70570 337-942-0050	St. Martin CW Office 1109 S. Main St., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl St. Martinville, LA 70582 337-394-6081	St. Mary CW Office 604 Second St. Franklin, LA 70538 337-828-5278	Vermilion CW Office 2729 Veterans Memorial Dr. Abbeville, LA 70510 337-898-1430

**Region 6:**

**Lake Charles Regional CW Office**

1919 Kirkman St. Lake Charles, LA 70601 Phone: (337) 491-2470			
Allen CW Office 213-A N. First St. Oberlin, LA 70655 337-639-2962	Beauregard CW Office 1891 Hwy. 190 W. DeRidder, LA 70634 337- 463-2069	Calcasieu/Cameron CW Office 1919 Kirkman St. Lake Charles, LA 70601 337-491-2470	Jefferson Davis CW Office 107 N. Cutting Ave. Jennings, LA 70546 337-824-9649

<b>Region 7:</b>  <b><u>Alexandria Regional CW Office</u></b> 900 Murray Street 1st Floor, Room A-100 P.O. Box 832 Alexandria, LA 71309-0832 Phone: (318) 487-5054		
Rapides/Grant CW Office 900 Murray St. Alexandria, LA 71309 318- 487-5311	Avoyelles CW Office 607 Tunica Dr. W. Marksville, LA 71351 318-253-7734	Catahoula/LaSalle CW Office 124 Airport Rd. Jonesville, LA 71343 318-339-6030
Concordia CW Office 1721 Carter St. Vidalia, LA 71373 318-336-8611	Vernon CW Office 1014 S. 6th St. Leesville, LA 71446 337-238-7030	Winn CW Office 1408 E. Lafayette St. Winnfield, LA 71483 318-648-6805

<b>Region 8:</b>  <b><u>Shreveport Regional CW Office</u></b> 1525 Fairfield Avenue, Room 864 Shreveport, LA 71101-4388 Phone: (318) 676-7100				
Caddo CW Office 1525 Fairfield Ave., Rm 864 Shreveport, LA 71101 318-676- 7100	DeSoto CW Office 104 Crosby St., Ste. B Mansfield, LA 71052 318-575-5330	Natchitoches/Red River CW Office 106 Charlene St. Natchitoches, LA 71457 318-357-3128	Sabine CW Office 195 Marthaville Rd. Many, LA 71449 318-256-4104	Webster/Bienville/Jackson/Claiborne CW Office 223 Pine St. Minden, LA 71055 318-371-3004
Bossier CW Office 1525 Fairfield Ave., Rm 864 Shreveport, LA				

71101 318-676-7100				
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**Region 9:**  
**Monroe Regional CW Office**  
 24 Accent Drive Ste. 106  
 Monroe, LA 71202  
 Phone: (318) 362-5417

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## CHAPTER III SERVICES

**PRIORITIES FOR SERVICE PROVISION:** The state’s statutory responsibility and planning for the provision of social services is based on the DCFS mission and LA Revised Statute 36:477.

**DCFS Mission:** DCFS is working to keep children safe, helping individuals and families become self-sufficient and providing safe refuge during disasters.

LA Revised Statute §36:477 provides that “the Office of Children and Family Services shall perform the services of the state relating to public assistance programs to provide aid to dependent children and to adults, who due to age, disability, or infirmity, are unable to adequately meet their basic needs. It shall also administer the food stamp program, child support programs, establishment of paternity programs, disaster relief grant programs for individuals and families, and such other programs as assigned by the secretary. It shall also conduct disability and other client eligibility determinations, and may conduct medical assistance client eligibility determinations. The office is authorized to enter into interagency agreements with other state agencies to conduct eligibility determinations. The office shall provide for the public child welfare functions of the state including but not limited to prevention services which promote, facilitate, and support activities to prevent child abuse and neglect; child protective services; voluntary family strengthening and support services; making permanent plans for foster children and meeting their daily maintenance needs of food, shelter, clothing, necessary physical medical services, school supplies, and incidental personal needs; and adoption placement services for foster children freed for adoption. It shall also perform the functions of the state relating to the licensing of child care facilities that do not receive federal funds under Title XIX of the Social Security Act and day care centers and agencies. The office shall issue and monitor domestic violence services contracts.”

## **SERVICE: ADOPTION**

***[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Adoption Services]***

**Definition:** Adoption services are those services or activities provided to assist in bringing about the adoption of a child. Component services and activities may include, but are not limited to, counseling the biological parent(s), recruitment of adoptive homes, and pre- and post- placement training and/or counseling

### **Service Activities:**

1. Recruitment, study and approval of potential adoptive families;
2. Individual/group counseling and assessment for children, biological parents, and adoptive parents before and during placement. Counseling for a limited time with biological parents;
3. Selection of adoptive parents, placement of child, and supervision of the adoption home;
4. Acceptance of children voluntarily surrendered by their legal and/or biological parents and arrangements for their pre-adoptive care and supervision;
5. Acceptance of children abandoned under Safe Haven legislation provisions; initiation of actions to make children available for adoption through legal termination of parental rights; and to effect legal transfer of children to adoptive parents;
6. Provision of legal services to make children available for adoption and establish new parentage;
7. Preparation of home studies and written confidential reports to the courts on private, agency, and intra-family adoptive placements;
8. Provision of intrastate and interstate adoption information exchange services;
9. Maintenance and management of referrals to the *AdoptUsKids* website to publicize waiting children and families to Louisiana adoption agencies, and to adoption support groups in and out of state;
10. Recruitment, study, and approval of adoptive homes for specific children with special needs;
11. Purchase of adoption services from licensed private agencies for recruitment, study, approval, placement and placement supervision;
12. Medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluations and treatment for children in adoptive placement to determine appropriateness of and/or to sustain the placement;
13. Certification of families to receive maintenance subsidies, and/or special services subsidies to facilitate the adoption of special needs children and to sustain adoptions;
14. Arrangements for interstate placement of children and for reciprocal supervision of such placements through Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children;

15. Provision of, or arrangements for, transportation when necessary for delivery of adoption services when such transportation is not otherwise available;
16. Expanded use of media recruitment as a vehicle for identifying prospective adoptive homes;
17. Arrangements for the notification of Title XIX entitlement in state of residence for Title IV-E Adoption Assistance eligible children through the Interstate Compact on Adoption and medical assistance;
18. Reevaluation of each IV-E and non IV-E family receiving an adoption subsidy every 5 years and annually, respectively, to determine eligibility for recertification;
19. Provision of ongoing reevaluation of each child's pre-existing medical or psychiatric condition at the time of payment request to assure that payment is made appropriately and that all other resources have been explored and ruled out before subsidy funds are be used;
20. Initial assessment of each applicant applying for an adoption subsidy to assure that he/she qualifies for services according to the definition of a child with "special needs" as defined by the State and to initiate an Adoption Subsidy Agreement that is effective until the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in accordance with eligibility guidelines;
21. Provision or arrangement of a limited number and range of post-adoptive services designed to help retain adoptive homes; specialized recruitment/retention activities by adoptive parent support groups; and
22. Maintenance of the Louisiana Adoption Voluntary Registry to facilitate voluntary contact between persons adopted in Louisiana and their birth family members. The following people are eligible to use the registry: an adopted person who is at least 18 years of age, a biological parent, a biological sibling who is at least 18 years of age, a parent or sibling or descendent (or his parent if a minor) of a deceased biological parent, an adoptive parent of a minor adopted child, and an adoptive parent or descendant of a deceased adopted person or his parent if a minor; and
23. Maintenance of the centralized adoption file room which includes adoption records of all adoptions confected in the state of Louisiana going back to the 1920's plus records of private agencies/attorneys that have ceased to do business; and provide information from these records as allowed by Louisiana law.

**Federal Goals:** III, IV

**State Objectives:**

1. To provide adoptive services to children available for adoption.
2. To provide reports to the court on adoption petitions filed in the state.

**Eligible Categories WRI:** All children determined by DCFS to be in need of this service

**Method of Delivery:** Direct

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Children

## **SERVICE: CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

*[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Protective Services for Children]*

**Definition:** Protective services for children are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children who may be harmed through physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, and negligent treatment or maltreatment, including failure to be provided with adequate food, clothing, shelter, or medical care. Component services or activities may include immediate assessment and intervention; emergency medical services; emergency shelter; developing case plans; initiation of legal action (if needed); counseling for the child and the family; assessment/evaluation of family circumstances; arranging alternative living arrangement; preparing for foster placement, if needed; and case management and referral to service providers.

Note: The *Louisiana Children's Code* is the legal basis for the State providing this service without the consent of those served.

Service provisions include the assessment of reports alleging abuse or neglect. (NOTE: Effective October 1, 2014 Louisiana no longer utilized a differential response process in its service array. This decision was based on national research findings and the implementation of the Child Welfare Assessment and Decision Making Model.) Reports are accepted based upon the completion of a Structured Decision Making (SDM) assessment tool. Each report must meet four elements including a child under age 18; allegations of abuse/neglect; abuse or neglect by a caretaker and abuse/neglect occurring within a specific timeframe.

### **Service Activities for Child Protective Services:**

1. Assessment of safety and of future risk from child abuse/neglect to the child (ren);
2. Medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluations of both the children and parents, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when necessary to assess or substantiate the circumstances of abuse, neglect or exploitation or to assess the need for services, and such evaluations are not otherwise available;
3. Participation in development and implementation of a time limited service plan, when circumstances warrant, to include prevention services, protective supervision, removal when necessary, and to specify needed services;
4. Arrangements for securing and utilizing homemaker services and mental health counseling, therapy and related services as indicated;
5. Short term counseling, information, and referral to service agencies that is supportive to the delivery of this service;
6. Referrals for ancillary services - Title XIX, Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Social Security benefits, etc;
7. Medical examination and treatment services, when not otherwise available, in emergency situations to alleviate pain and suffering, as an integral but subordinate part of this service; and
8. Arrangements for or provision of transportation when necessary to the delivery of this service and not otherwise available.

9. Determination as to whether a report is valid; report valid cases to the appropriate district attorney;
10. Requests for court intervention to order services/removal of custody in non-emergency cases in which the home situation presents substantial long term risk to the child/children;
11. Intervention through request to court for instant order to effect immediate removal of the child/children from the home in emergency cases; placement in licensed shelter care facility or foster home; and
12. Arrangements for alternative living arrangements with suitable relatives, state approved non-related family (i.e. neighbors) or approved foster family, or residential placement; and short-term voluntary/involuntary emergency shelter care up to 30 days in any six-month period when the need is documented by state department personnel (30 days may be consecutive or may accumulated over more than one stay).

**Federal Goal: III**

**State Objective:** To remove, ameliorate, arrest or impede the progression of the conditions that endanger or threaten to endanger children through intervention efforts or through actions to obtain substitute care when necessary

**Eligible Categories: WRI:** All children under 18 years of age and their families, referred for or reported to be in need of this service. Such children and their families are eligible for any other service in this plan when such service is considered by state personnel to be necessary. Although any provider agency may provide services to an identified child protective services case without regard to income, the DCFS has sole responsibility for eligibility determination. Any service provided to such cases by provider agencies must be specifically authorized by DCFS on an individual basis.

**Method of Delivery:** Direct

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Children

## **SERVICE: PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES**

### ***[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Prevention and Intervention Services]***

**Definition:** Prevention and intervention services are those services or activities designed to provide early identification and/or timely intervention to support families and prevent or ameliorate the consequences of abuse, neglect, or family violence, to assist in making arrangement for alternate placements or living arrangements where necessary, assist families in achieving or maintaining self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency and achieve or maintain self-sufficiency. Such services may also be provided to prevent the removal of a child or adult from the home. Component services and activities may include investigation; assessment and/or evaluation of the extent of the problem; counseling, including mental health counseling or therapy as needed; developmental and parenting skills training; respite care; and other services including supervision, case management, and transportation.

#### **Service Activities:**

1. Assessment of family functioning, medical, psychological, and/or psychiatric evaluations of both children and parents, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when necessary to assess the family's ability to meet the safety and well-being needs of their children;
2. Arrangements for securing and utilizing family support services, as indicated by the service plan;
3. Participation in family team conferences and/or family team meetings, case reviews, staffings, and court reviews, etc. to determine the continued appropriateness of the case plan;
4. Evidence based family focused therapeutic interventions provided to the child or the child's family aimed at ameliorating or remedying personal and/or family problems;
5. Arrangement for legal services or actions as need indicates;
6. Arrangement for or provision of transportation, Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Family Resource Center services, or other activities necessary to the delivery of family services;
7. Develop community awareness of specific problems which have negative impact on children and families; and
8. Arrangement for, or provision of, specialized parent training in meeting children's physical and emotional needs;
9. Provision of specialized social services for high risk individuals and families, including information and referral services to agency programs and community resources, and follow-up on these services;

**Note:** When activities are to develop community awareness, as noted in number 7 above, or services are targeted to groups of parents, as noted in number 8 above, providers may be exempt from individualized case management/eligibility documentation activities. Such providers may be required to submit program narrative reports to DCFS.

**Federal Goals:** I, II, III, IV

**State Objective:** To provide pre-placement prevention or reunification services to families; Services to assist high risk individuals and families in achieving or maintaining self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency and achieve or maintain self-sufficiency.

**Eligible Categories:** WRI: All individuals determined by state personnel to be in need of this service subsequent to alleged child abuse or neglect or to certain high risk groups. Individuals/families whose need for Family Services is documented by state personnel are also eligible for all other needed services defined in this plan and necessary to the fulfillment of the service plan.

**Method of Delivery:** Direct (including vendor services)

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Adults and Children;

## **SERVICE: FOSTER CARE/RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES**

*[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Foster Care Services for Children]*

**Definition:** Foster Care (FC) services for children are those services or activities associated with the provision of an alternative family life experience for abused, neglected or dependent children, between birth and the age of majority, on the basis of a court commitment or a voluntary placement agreement signed by the parent or guardian. Services may be provided to children in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, group homes, emergency shelters, residential facilities, child care institutions, pre-adoptive homes or supervised independent living situation. Component services or activities may include assessment of the child's needs; case planning and case management to assure that the child receives proper care in the placement; medical care as an integral but subordinate part of the service; counseling of the child, the child's parents, and the foster parents; referral and assistance in obtaining other necessary supportive services; periodical reviews to determine the continued appropriateness and need for placement; and recruitment and licensing of foster homes and child care institutions.

**Residential Care Facilities** provide care for youth with special needs or who are unable to function successfully in family settings. Many of these individuals have special needs including, but not limited to, physical, mental or neurological conditions, emotional disturbances or behavior disorders.

### **Service Activities:**

1. Acceptance of custody of children through voluntary agreement, court order or legal surrender in accordance with departmental policy and federal and state law;
2. Identification, selection, and arrangements for placement (foster family homes, specialized foster family homes, relative/kinship homes, residential care facilities or other appropriate placement for basic care, required treatment, or transitional services), supervision of placement and planning for discharge or replacement as the need dictates;
3. Assessment of the functional capacity of the family and development and implementation of the individual's and family's case/treatment plans based on assessed needs;
4. Participation in family team conferences, administrative reviews, court reviews, and permanency hearings for identification of a permanent plan for the child;
5. Provision of supportive and concrete reunification services to reduce risk of harm to children and overcome or alleviate circumstances resulting in the child's removal and/or to overcome barriers to the child's return home as resources permit;
6. Provision of individual, family, and/or group counseling, when not otherwise available, (including social group therapy, parenting education, etc.) in support of improved functional capacity of the primary client and/or family, foster family, etc.;
7. Provision of medical services when not available through Medicaid such as diagnosis, treatment, supervision, prescribed laboratory tests, appliances, aids, supplies, medicine, glasses, and prostheses;

8. Provision of assistance in acquiring Medicaid dental and orthodontic care, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when absolutely necessary to the medical care of the child and not otherwise available;
9. Provision of short term room and board not to exceed twelve (12) consecutive months, or short term hospital services, including psychiatric or substance abuse, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when necessary to the delivery of this service;
10. Provision of training or instruction in self-help and daily living skills, adaptive behavior (behavior management, "token economics", etc.), and/or housing assistance to assist individuals to achieve successful independent living and social functioning;
11. Provision of educational training opportunities and employment assistance for recipients to include books, supplies, living allowances, and short term room and board, as an integral but subordinate part of this service;
12. Provision of clothing when the need arises due to emergencies, unusual situations, and one time needs including graduation clothing and layettes for newborns; provision of an individual's routine clothing needs when approved;
13. Recruitment, study, and approval of foster family homes and specialized foster family homes;
14. Pre-service and in-service training of foster parents and support of foster parents; training of caregivers in appropriate alternative placements;
15. Re-evaluation of foster homes at prescribed intervals;
16. Evaluation and supervision of interstate placements under the provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC);
17. Provision of monthly subsidies to approved foster family homes to care for children with special needs, and provision of respite care as needed to afford foster parents and caregivers with temporary relief from their care giving responsibilities as needed to sustain placements and foster home resources;
18. Provision of transportation for individual and escort, when applicable, and/or in-home services when necessary to the delivery of this service and not otherwise available;
19. Provision of opportunities for school/church/facility activities or other recreation on or off site including field trips, summer camps, vacations, music or dance lessons, and similar activities;
20. Maintenance of family ties and involvement in preparation for individuals' return to their own homes or relatives' homes, when applicable;
21. Provision of specialized social services for families of children in foster care, including information and referral services to agency programs and community resources, and follow-up on these services;
22. Provision of specialized social services designed to meet the particular social/developmental needs of individuals who are blind, deaf, or neurologically disabled;

23. Provision of aftercare planning for individuals after departure from placement;
24. Provision of opportunities through referral to appropriate state agencies for sheltered employment within facilities and/or in the surrounding community for individuals who cannot function in the competitive job market, or training for individuals to enter the competitive job market; and
25. Provision of legal services, expert testimony, and initiating court action to support permanency planning.

**Federal Goals:** I, II, III, IV, V

**State Objective:** (Foster Care) To limit the number of children in permanent foster care (over 12 months).

Foster family care is viewed as the optimum placement setting for most children in the foster care system. DCFS utilizes a number of different types of foster homes, including those with special training in the care of children with specific needs or problems. Through the Healthy Louisiana and the Coordinated Systems of Care (CSoC) families may be determined as eligible for Intensive Home-Based Services (IHBS) or Multi Systemic Therapy (MST). These services may be utilized to support and assist foster families in the care of children with special needs or problems. Once the child is assessed and if the assessment indicates those children require a level of therapeutic intervention or behavior management not available in a family setting, they may be placed in residential treatment facilities until they are able to function in a less restrictive setting.

Casework services in the FC Program include assessment and service planning with the child and his family, arrangements for or direct provision of identified services such as counseling, parent education, client advocacy, and assistance in developing financial resources.

**Eligible Categories:** WRI: All individuals determined to be in need of this service by DCFS.

**Method of Delivery:** Direct Purchased: Reportable Unit of Service: One unit per day of placement

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Children. The term child for reporting purposes is defined to include minor individuals younger than age eighteen and those recipients eighteen years of age.

## **SERVICE: INDEPENDENT AND TRANSITIONAL LIVING SERVICES**

*[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Foster Care Services for Children]*

**Definition:** Independent/Transitional Living Services for youth are those services or activities associated with the provision of support, a living arrangement and an alternative family life experience for youth who have been abused, neglected or dependent, and achieve the age of majority in FC. Services are provided to youth in foster family homes, foster homes of relatives, or independent housing arrangements as long as the youth does not reside with the perpetrator of the childhood abuse. Component services or activities may include assessment of the youth's needs, and case management to assure the youth receives proper support, referral and assistance in obtaining other necessary supportive services, and other services including supervision and transportation.

### **Service Activities:**

1. Identification, application assistance, and arrangements for short term living situation, supervision of living situation and planning for transition to independent youth management of living situation, as the need dictates;
2. Assessment of the functional capacity of the youth to include educational/vocational status and reasonable expectation of timely achievement of educational/vocational goals;
3. Development and implementation of time limited youth service plan based on assessed needs;
4. Arrangements for securing and utilizing support services, as indicated by the service plan along with referrals for ancillary services such as, but not limited to, Title XIX, Public Assistance, Food Stamps, Social Security benefits, educational programs, employment programs, vocational programs, housing services, etc.;
5. Arrangements for or provision of transportation when necessary to the delivery of this service and not otherwise available;
6. Provision of short term room and board; and
7. Provision of opportunities through referral to appropriate state agencies for specialized care placement and/or sheltered employment within facilities and/or in the surrounding community for individuals who cannot function in the competitive job market, or training for individuals to enter the competitive job market;

**Federal Goals:** I, II, III

**State Objective:** To increase the number of youth transitioning successfully from FC to independence.

Family care is viewed as the optimum placement setting for most youth in the foster care system. Youth achieving the age of majority while in FC often require the ongoing support, assistance, and guidance of a family to finalize a secondary education and improve future outcomes in their employment, educational, and living situations. These supportive services are necessary to provide a stable transition into adulthood and independence as well as prevent the return of the youth to a family situation that was never safe enough to manage the care of the youth in their minority. DCFS utilizes a number of different types of settings to provide this ongoing support to youth, including foster

parents, relative foster parents and support of the youth in their own living situation. DCFS also works with the OCDD to transition the care of youth who are unable to developmentally accept responsibility for self-care. However, this transition of responsibility can occasionally involve barriers to living opportunities. In these situations, DCFS arranges for time limited provision of room and board to support successful transition of the youth.

Casework services include assessment and service planning with the youth; arrangement for provision of room and board, and assistance in developing a resource network for ongoing support in adulthood.

**Eligible Categories:** Youth in high school or working on a GED upon achieving age 18, graduating or earning GED within the SFY within which the youth reaches age 18.

**Method of Delivery:** Direct

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Youth. The term youth for reporting purposes is defined to include individuals age eighteen who have reached the age of majority in foster care.

## **SERVICE: EXTENDED FOSTER CARE**

*[SSBG Uniform Service Category: Foster Care Services for Children]*

**Definition:** Extends Foster Care (EFC) services to young adults. Criteria for program services are: Adjudicated as a Child in Need of Care (CINC); Aged out of foster care on 18th birthday; currently 18-21 years old. The youth has to meet one of the following: Enrolled in a secondary educational program or program leading to equivalent credential; Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education; Participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment; Employed at least eighty hours per month; or, Incapable of above educational or employment activities due to a medical condition.

EFC is a voluntary program and youth must sign a voluntary agreement to participate. Youth in EFC are no longer in the custody of DCFS. Youth in EFC are participating with an extension of foster care services. They retain all of their adult rights. The DCFS will be utilizing the evidence-based *LifeSet* model through Youth Villages as the case management model for EFC. This model is proven to have improved outcomes for youth. All current Foster Care, care-setting types will be available to EFC youth. Each care setting will be making a decision as to accepting/keeping EFC youth. The DCFS will be developing additional placement types available only to EFC youth to include additional transitional living facilities, housing options and host family homes.

### **Service Activities:**

1. Acceptance of placement of young adults through voluntary agreement in accordance with departmental policy and federal and state law;
2. Assist young adults with identification and selection of safe and stable living arrangements (foster family homes, specialized foster family homes, relative/kinship homes, residential care facilities or other appropriate placement for basic care, required treatment, or transitional services);
3. Assessment of the functional capacity of the young adult and development and implementation of the individual's case/treatment plans based on assessed needs;
4. Participation in family team meetings, administrative reviews, court hearings, and permanency hearings for identification of a permanent plan;
5. Provision of supportive services to reduce risk of harm to young adults;
6. Provision of individual, family, and/or group counseling, when not otherwise available, (including social group therapy, parenting education, etc.) in support of improved functional capacity of the primary client and/or family, foster family, etc.;
7. Provision of medical services when not available through Medicaid such as diagnosis, treatment, supervision, prescribed laboratory tests, appliances, aids, supplies, medicine, glasses, and prostheses;
8. Provision of assistance in acquiring Medicaid dental and orthodontic care, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when absolutely necessary to the medical care of the young adult and not otherwise available;

9. Provision of short term room and board not to exceed twelve (12) consecutive months, or short term hospital services, including psychiatric or substance abuse, as an integral but subordinate part of this service, when necessary to the delivery of this service;
10. Provision of training or instruction in self-help and daily living skills, adaptive behavior (behavior management, "token economics", etc.), and/or housing assistance to assist individuals to achieve successful independent living and social functioning;
11. Provision of educational training opportunities and employment assistance for recipients to include books, supplies, living allowances, and short term room and board, as an integral but subordinate part of this service;
12. Provision of clothing when the need arises due to emergencies, unusual situations, and one time needs including graduation clothing and layettes for newborns; provision of an individual's routine clothing needs when approved;
13. Recruitment, study, and approval of foster family homes and specialized foster family homes;
14. Pre-service and in-service training of foster parents and support of foster parents; training of caregivers in appropriate alternative placements;
15. Re-evaluation of foster homes at prescribed intervals;
16. Evaluation and supervision of interstate placements under the provisions of the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC);
17. Provision of monthly subsidies to approved foster family homes to care for young adults with special needs, and provision of respite care as needed to afford foster parents and caregivers with temporary relief from their care giving responsibilities as needed to sustain placements and foster home resources;
18. Provision of transportation for individual and escort, when applicable, and/or in-home services when necessary to the delivery of this service and not otherwise available;
19. Provision of opportunities for school/church/facility activities or other recreation on or off site including field trips, summer camps, vacations, music or dance lessons, and similar activities;
20. Maintenance of family ties and involvement in preparation for individuals' return to their own homes or relatives' homes, when applicable;
21. Provision of specialized social services for families of young adults in Extended Foster Care, including information and referral services to agency programs and community resources, and follow-up on these services;
22. Provision of specialized social services designed to meet the particular social/developmental needs of individuals who are blind, deaf, or neurologically disabled;
23. Provision of aftercare planning for individuals after departure from placement;

24. Provision of opportunities through referral to appropriate state agencies for sheltered employment within facilities and/or in the surrounding community for individuals who cannot function in the competitive job market, or training for individuals to enter the competitive job market; and

25. Provision of legal services, expert testimony, and initiating court action.

**Federal Goals:** I, II, III, IV, V

**State Objective:** (Extended Foster Care) To ensure youth exiting foster care at 18 have the opportunity to participate in a specialized case management program that provides successful transition into adulthood. Casework services in the EFC Program include assessment and service planning with the young adults and their family, arrangements for or direct provision of identified services such as counseling, educational services, job readiness, parent education, client advocacy, and assistance in developing financial resources.

**Eligible Categories:** WRI: All individuals determined to be in need of this service by DCFS.

**Method of Delivery:** Direct Purchased: Reportable Unit of Service: One unit per day of placement

**SSBG Recipient Reporting Class:** Young adults. The term young adults for reporting purposes is defined to include individuals eighteen years of age and older.

## CHAPTER IV

### FUNDING RESOURCES

For the purpose of this report, the FFY 2026 expenditure projections are based on the final FFY24 SSBG award in the amount of \$21,955,503 and utilizing Title IV-A TANF transfer funds up to 10% of the State’s TANF award (\$16,343,088).

The appropriation and allocation of funds according to this plan are subject to legislative and gubernatorial approval as well as the availability of federal and state funds. In the event that funds are not available in the amounts anticipated, necessary reductions will be made in the budgeted services outlined in this plan; however, the state will make every effort to spend SSBG funds in the manner outlined in this intended use plan.

The following table reflects the anticipated expenditures of SSBG funds by service area for direct and purchased services. The delivery of services derived from multiple funding sources, and the administration of those service programs, are costs to the SSBG.

<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>PROJECTED EXPENDITURES</b>
Adoption	\$1,179,579.00
Foster Care – Children/Adults (EFC)	\$27,143,372.00
Prevention/Intervention	\$4,252,219.00
Independent/Transitional Living Services	\$91,958.00
Protective Services – Children	\$3,655,468.00
Administrative Cost	\$1,975,995.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,298,591.00</b>

## **CHAPTER V POST EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

Public Law 97-35, Section 1742 (a), requires that each state's Intended Use Report include a description of how the state has met the goals, objectives, and needs in the use of block grant funds for the previous fiscal year as identified in the previous year's pre-expenditure report.

Section 2006 of the Social Security Act as amended further requires that each state's SSBG post-expenditure report is to provide an accurate description of activities carried out with funds made available (or transferred for use) under Title XX so as "to secure a complete record of the purposes for which funds were spent" in a manner consistent with the pre-expenditure report. Section 607 of the Family Welfare Reform Act of 1988 amended Section 2006 to add additional specifications for the contents of SSBG post-expenditure reports and changed the frequency for reporting from biennially to annually.

The annual report for services funded by the SSBG for fiscal year 2024 can be found in the attachments of this report. The spreadsheets list the following: the type of service provided; the number of clients (adults and children) who received the service; the amount of the expenditure; and whether the service was provided by public or private means.

## CHAPTER VI

### PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

Notice of the public hearing and the availability of the SSBG Intended Use Plan were made available for public review on the DCFS website at <http://www.dcf.state.la.us>. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Potpourri section of the Louisiana Register on March 20, 2025. All interested persons were afforded an opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed plan to the DCFS Child Welfare Administrator, P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Additionally, copies for public review were available at DCFS State Office, 627 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on weekdays. When requested, copies were mailed to those individuals who telephoned or wrote DCFS requesting a copy.

### PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was held on May 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. All interested persons had the opportunity to provide comments and/or recommendations on the plan, orally or in writing, at a public hearing. This hearing was held in person at Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services-State Office located at 627 N. 4th Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 in room 1-129.

Interested persons had the opportunity to also join via Microsoft TEAMA: Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/log-in>  
Meeting ID: 271855526900 Passcode: Bc3jV2NU or Telephone by dialing USA (872) 239-6160  
Conference ID: 821009605#. Individuals with disabilities who required special services were provided with contact information for the Bureau of Appeals if assistance was needed. Hearing officer Natalie Allen presided and recorded the hearing. There were no participants present at the hearing and no request for copies have been received.