
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2026

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Child Protective Services — TANF

Purpose and History

Child Protective Services (CPS) programs are administered by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and provide child welfare and adoption services. Child welfare services and interventions for children, youth, and families are designed to improve child safety, permanency, well-being, and community safety. The Adoption Subsidy Program provides financial support to families that adopt special needs children. When courts terminate the parental rights of abused or neglected children, the HHS strives to find permanent adoptive families as quickly as possible. The HHS uses field operations staff to provide child assessments, case management, and adoptive placement services. Child Protective Services falls under the Division of Family Well-Being and Protection within the HHS.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

The Child Protective Services — Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) appropriation receives annual funding from the TANF block grant through the Health and Human Services Appropriations Act.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families is a federal block grant program that provides moneys to states for the purpose of supporting families in need. The grant is distributed by the federal Administration of Children and Families and was established in 1996 by the [Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act \(PRWORA\)](#). In the State of Iowa, programs funded by the TANF block grant are administered by the HHS.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families has received \$16.500 billion in federal funds per year since its adoption. Iowa receives a TANF payment of approximately \$131.0 million annually to fund the various TANF programs in the State.

States can use TANF funds to address the program's [four purposes](#):

- Providing assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives.
- Ending the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Preventing and reducing the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [232](#), [232B](#), [233](#), [234](#), [235](#), [235A](#), [237](#), [238](#), and [600](#)
Iowa Administrative Code [441](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Child Protective Services: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/CPS
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