# **ALABAMA'S CHILDREN 2016**

# Alabama's Children at a Glance<sup>1</sup>

State Population <sup>2</sup>	4,849,377	Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>5</sup>	27.7%
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>3</sup>	1,108,600	Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>6</sup>	26.2%
State Poverty Rate <sup>4</sup>	19.3%	Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>7</sup>	31.1%

#### CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Alabama had 21,204 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 20,921 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2014, there were 8,697 victims of abuse or neglect in Alabama, a rate of 7.9 per 1,000 children, decreasing 1.3% from 2013. Of these children, 40.1% were neglected, 47.3% were physically abused, and 20.3% were sexually abused.
- The number of child victims has decreased 7.2% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010. 10
- In 2014, there were 17 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Alabama.
- 4,556 children in Alabama lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 5,350 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 1,683 aged 5 or younger, and 797 were 16 or older.<sup>12</sup>
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has decreased 14.8% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.<sup>13</sup>
- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in Alabama, 50% were white, 37% were black, 5% were Hispanic, less than 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and 7% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.<sup>14</sup>

#### ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,929 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Alabama, 35% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.<sup>15</sup>
- 548 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Alabama in 2014, increasing 5.8% from 518 in 2013. 16
- Of the 4,556 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 1,027 or 22.5% waiting to be adopted. 17
- In 2014, approximately 59,910 grandparents in Alabama had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren. 18
- 503 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 were living with relatives while in care. 19



#### CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Alabama decreased from 40,903 in 2014 to 32,656 in 2015, a 20.2% change. 13,932 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 18.4% from 2014.<sup>20</sup>
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Alabama, 12 received TANF benefits. <sup>21</sup>
- \$179,524,456 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Alabama, including 22% on basic assistance, 0% on child care, 2% on transportation, and 76% on nonassistance.<sup>22</sup>
- \$71,057,962 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Alabama, serving 131,046 participants.<sup>23</sup>
- In 2014, Alabama distributed \$305,979,180 in child support funds, increasing 4.5% from 2013.<sup>24</sup>
- 339,000 children in Alabama lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs. 25
- In 2014, the unemployment rate in Alabama was 6.8%.<sup>26</sup>
- 16.8% of households in Alabama were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.<sup>27</sup>

#### CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2014, Alabama had a monthly average of 24,200 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 25,200 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 26,000 were recepients in 2012.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Alabama, a family of three could make no more than \$25,728 at application, which is equivalent to 47% of the state's median income.<sup>29</sup>
- As of early 2015, Alabama had 7,887 children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2014, Head Start served 16,606 children in Alabama, increasing 3.42% from 2013.<sup>31</sup>

### **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- 637,750 children in Alabama were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, increasing 6.6% from 2013.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2014, Alabama had 105,491 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, decreasing 7% from 2013, when 113,490 children were enrolled.<sup>33</sup>
- In 2014, Alabama had 42,422 uninsured children.<sup>34</sup>



- 5,989 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Alabama in 2014.<sup>35</sup>
- 501 infants under age 1 died in Alabama in 2013.36
- In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Alabama was 14.5 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 58.4 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 32 births for girls ages 15 to 19.<sup>37</sup>
- Cumulative through 2014, there were 11,842 adults and adolescents and 77 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Alabama.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2014, an estimated 20,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 276,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Alabama.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2014, approximately 10,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2014, approximately 11,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>41</sup>

#### **VULNERABLE YOUTH**

- 377 children in Alabama aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.<sup>42</sup>
- 80% of high school students in Alabama graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year. 43
- 25,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Alabama were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.<sup>44</sup>
- 103,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.<sup>45</sup>
- 33.7% of young adults in Alabama ages 25 to 34 had an associate's degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.
- In 2014, there were 10 reports of children in Alabama aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 22 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.<sup>47</sup>

### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- 51 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Alabama in 2014, equal to the number reported in 2013.<sup>48</sup>
- 144 children younger than 18 were arrested in Alabama in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 3 of the arrests in 2014.<sup>49</sup>
- 933 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Alabama in 2013.<sup>50</sup>



## CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE<sup>51</sup>

- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for those children and families.<sup>52</sup>
- According to a 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these
  high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA
  recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.<sup>53</sup>
- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%.<sup>54</sup> Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.<sup>55</sup>
- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care. <sup>56</sup>
- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between \$30,000 and \$49,999.<sup>57</sup>
- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor's degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master's degree. 58
- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to
  adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number
  represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.<sup>59</sup>

#### FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Alabama spent \$298,638,882 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, \$159,206,357 was from federal funds, \$139,084,485 from state funds, and \$348,040 from local funds.
- In 2012, of the \$159,206,357 in federal funds received for child welfare, 27.4% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7.3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 50.5% was from Medicaid, 10.7% came from Social Services Block Grant, 3.6% was from TANF, and 0.6% came from other federal sources.<sup>61</sup>
- Alabama received \$30,606,153 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including \$6,369,174 for maintenance payments and \$24,236,979 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.<sup>62</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "At A Glance" statistics are from 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2016). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates: 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2016). Selected Economic Characteristics, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

- <sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf</a>.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-7: Maltreatment Types of Victims, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf</a>.

Note: The percentage difference is a CWLA calculation. Overlap in the percentages of types of abuse is possible as a child may have experienced more than one type of abuse.

- <sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Report from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 3-3: Child Victims, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf</a>.
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 4-2: Child Fatalities, 2010-2014.* Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf</a>.
- <sup>12</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children</a> in care 2014.pdf.
- Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Age Group, 2013, <1 and 1-5 age groups (Number). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/1889,2616/12988">http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6244-children-in-foster-care-by-age-group#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/1889,2616/12988</a>.
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  Note: The five and younger number is a CWLA calculation.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Numbers of Children In Foster Care on September 30th, by State FY 2005–FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children</a> in care 2014.pdf.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

- <sup>14</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2013(Percent).* Retrieved February 24, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6246-children-in-foster-care-by-race-and-hispanic-origin?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36/2638,2601,2600,2598,2603,2597,2602,1353/12992,12993.</a>
- 15 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). FY 2005 FY 2014 Foster Care: Entries, Exits, and in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year: Table: Numbers of Children Exiting Foster Care by State FY 20045–FY 2014. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/exiting</a> foster care2014.pdf.
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- <sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Table: Adoptions of Children with Public Child Welfare Agency Involvement By State: FY 2005 FY 2014*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children\_adopted2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children\_adopted2014.pdf</a>.

Note: The percentage is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2015). *Children in Public Foster Care Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014: Table: Children in Public Foster Care on September 30<sup>th</sup> of Each Year Waiting to be Adopted: FY 2005 – FY 2014.* Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children-waiting2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/children-waiting2014.pdf</a>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Data Profile. Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2014.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2016). *Child Maltreatment 2014: Reports from the States to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System: Table 2-1: Screened-In and Screened-Out Referrals*, 2014. Retrieved January 28, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2014.pdf</a>.

Retrieved February 1, 2016 from http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/.

- <sup>19</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2015). *Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System, Child Trends, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect: Children in Foster Care by Placement Type, 2013, Foster Family Home Relative (Number)*. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-type#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/2621/12994">http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6247-children-in-foster-care-by-placement-type#detailed/2/2-52/true/36/2621/12994</a>.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015</a>. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2015: Table: Total Families. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-caseload-data-2015</a>. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. (2015). Data & Reports: TANF Caseload Data 2014: Table: Total Recipients. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2014">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/caseload-data-2014</a>. Note: The percent differences are CWLA calculations.
- <sup>21</sup> Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2015) A State by State Look at TANF: State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Programs Do Not Provide Adequate Safety Net for Poor Families: TANF Provides a Safety Net to Few Poor Families: Map TANF-to-poverty ratio: # of families receiving TANF benefits for every 100 poor families with children (2013-2014). Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.cbpp.org/state-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-programs-do-not-provide-adequate-safety-net-for-poor">http://www.cbpp.org/state-temporary-assistance-for-needy-families-programs-do-not-provide-adequate-safety-net-for-poor</a>.
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Note: The percentages are a CWLA calculation.

- <sup>23</sup> USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2016). Program Data: WIC Program: Monthly Data State Level Participation by Category and Program Costs: Table: WIC Program—Total Number of Participants. Retrieved February 1, 2016 from <a href="http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program">http://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/wic-program</a>.
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- <sup>24</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement. (2015). FY2014 Preliminary Report. Retrieved February 2, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-report">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-report</a>.
- <sup>25</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center.(2014). *Population Reference Bureau, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey: Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden by Race, by State, 2013, Total Race (Number)*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from <a href="http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/7244-children-living-in-households-with-a-high-housing-cost-burden?loc=1&loct=2#detailed/2/2-52/false/36,868,867,133,38/any/14287,14288.</a>
- <sup>26</sup> Center for American Progress. (2015). *State of the states report 2015*. Retrieved March 10, 2016 from <a href="https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/22120741/2015\_states\_all.pdf">https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/22120741/2015\_states\_all.pdf</a>.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>28</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care. (2015). *FY 2014 Preliminary Data Table 1 Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served.* Retrieved February 2, 2016 from <a href="http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-data-table-1">http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/resource/fy-2014-preliminary-data-table-1</a>.
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- <sup>29</sup> Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2015). *National Women's Law Center, Building blocks, state child care assistance policies 2015*. Retrieved March February 16, 2016 from <a href="http://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CC">http://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CC</a> RP\_Building\_Blocks\_Assistance\_Policies\_2015.pdf.
- Note: Some states allow families, once they begin receiving assistance, to continue receiving assistance up to a higher income level than the initial limit. <sup>30</sup> Ibid.
- Note: A family that is eligible for child care assistance may not necessarily receive it. States may place families on waiting lists, or freeze intake (turning away eligible families without adding them to a waiting list).
- <sup>31</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning &Knowledge Center, Office of Head Start. (2015). *Head Start Program Facts Fiscal Year 2014*. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from <a href="http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2014-hs-program-factsheet.html">http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/factsheets/2014-hs-program-factsheet.html</a>.
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Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.

32 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2015, May 3). FY 2014 Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Retrieved February 16, 2016 from Medicaid.Gov: <a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2014-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf">https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2014-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf</a>.

Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.

- <sup>33</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2015, May 3). FY 2014 Unduplicated Number of Children Ever Enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP. Retrieved February 16, 2016 from Medicaid.Gov: <a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2014-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf">https://www.medicaid.gov/chip/downloads/fy-2014-childrens-enrollment-report.pdf</a>.

  Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation. Children who switched between CHIP and Medicaid are represented in both data sets.
- <sup>34</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). Types of Health Insurance Coverage By Age, Civilian noninstitutionalized population: 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved February 25, 2016 from

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  Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.
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