

KEEPING KIDS SAFE AND FAMILIES HEALTHY 2.0

Workforce Tools – Mobile Computing Technology

	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Total Funds	\$1,923,000	\$723,000	\$723,000
General Fund	\$1,800,090	\$600,090	\$600,090
Federal Funds	\$122,910	\$122,910	\$122,910

Summary of Request

The Department of Human Services is requesting \$1,923,000 total funds, including \$1,800,090 General Fund in FY 2012-13, and \$723,000 total funds and \$600,090 General Fund in FY 2013-14 to create efficiencies for county department child welfare workers. This request provides funding to counties to implement mobile technology improvements for caseworkers. Counties will be able to apply for laptops, smartphones and tablets that are compatible with the Child Welfare TRAILS data system.

Problem/Opportunity

County child welfare workers spend a large amount of time away from the office working with families and in court hearings. When away, workers have limited access to mobile technology and are often unable to enter information into Child Welfare data systems. This results in:

- County caseworkers often writing notes longhand during investigations that have to be manually entered into data systems once back in the office.
- On average, caseworkers will spend one day manually entering child welfare data for every four days in the field, duplicating efforts already taken.

Proposed Solution and Anticipated Outcomes

An opportunity to increase statewide efficiency is to provide mobile technology hardware and data plans for the approximately 1,200 caseworkers in the state that need this technology. Timely data entry allows for expedited and informed decision-making and reduces the likelihood for errors. It is anticipated that increased technology will:

- Save caseworkers 24 hours per month in time spent on administrative data entry. This will allow caseworkers to focus on family engagement and direct child protection services.
- Reduce the likelihood of errors in data by providing real-time data entry into Child Welfare data systems.
- Allow caseworkers to take photos of injuries, and to document and consult with supervisors and medical professionals while still on scene with the child.
- Produce an annual cost avoidance of \$8,294,400 for counties by reducing caseworker time spent on administrative duties.