

KEEPING KIDS SAFE AND FAMILIES HEALTHY 2.0

Caseload/Workload Study

	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14	FY 2014-15
Total Funds	\$0	\$468,555	\$0
General Fund	\$0	\$388,901	\$0

Summary of Request

The Department is requesting \$468,555 total funds including \$388,901 General Fund for FY 2013-14 to evaluate workload for county department child welfare workers.

Problem/Opportunity

Due to a lack of data, Colorado is currently unable to evaluate whether county child welfare departments are appropriately staffed, utilizing efficient and best business processes, or expediting practice changes that support caseworkers to enable the timely delivery of child welfare services that are tailored to preserve families and keep children safe.

- Requested funds would provide funding for a workload study to be conducted by the State Auditor's Office with the goal of achieving a better understanding of components of casework and caseload at county departments.

Proposed Solution and Anticipated Outcomes

It is recommended that Colorado conduct a caseload/workload study with the following scope:

- Determine the workload levels for child protection assessments, including differential response, traditional responses, and mixed caseload responses.
- Determine the workload levels for child protection workers, including specialties and generalists for workers who carry mixed cases.
- Determine the maximum number of workers that a child protection casework supervisor can carry, including assessment workers, ongoing workers, and mixed caseload staff.
- Conducting a workload study allows county departments to determine optimal staffing levels and identify needed practice changes to optimize resources.

Through the workload study Colorado will:

- Determine if there is adequate staffing/process in county departments to meet policy and legislative requirements related to delivering services to children and families to meet outcomes of child safety, permanency and well-being.
- Determine the caseload/workload to worker ratio, supervisor to caseworker ratio, and case aid caseload/workload ratio, and;
- Determine if changes in practice will require more resources or create efficiencies.

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