

2. Operation

Grants-in-aid to State public welfare agencies. Each State receives a uniform grant of \$70,000 and an additional grant which varies directly with the child population under 21 and inversely with the average per capita income. Each State's allotment of funds earmarked for day care services (fiscal years 1963-66) varied directly with child population under 21 and inversely with per capita income, except that there was a minimum State allotment of \$10,000.

The act specifies matching requirements by defining the "Federal share." For any State this is 100 percent less that percentage which bears the same ratio to 50 percent as the per capita income of the State bears to the per capita income of the United States except that the Federal share shall not be less than 33½ percent nor more than 66⅔ percent. The Federal share is defined as 66⅔ percent for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

State plans for child welfare services are developed jointly by the State agency and the Children's Bureau. Child welfare services are a wide range of preventive, protective and ameliorative services including: casework services to children and their parents in relation to behavior problems, parent-child relationships, physical or mental handicaps, emotional and social adjustment; services to children who have been neglected, abused, abandoned, or exploited; social services to mentally retarded children and their parents; services to unmarried mothers and their babies; homemaker services to keep the child in his own home when a parent is overwhelmed with responsibilities, incapacitated, or absent; foster care in foster family homes or institutions when a child must be removed from his home for a variety of reasons; adoption services to provide a new permanent home for a child when he has lost his own forever; and day care services to care for and protect the child while his mother works or for other reasons, such as illness of the parent or handicap of the child.

States use almost all of their Federal child welfare services funds to pay the salaries of child welfare personnel and to provide educational leave for promising staff.

3. History

The basic purpose of this grant has remained generally unchanged since its inception. However, the amount authorized for annual appropriation was increased in 1939, 1946, 1950, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1965.

The 1958 Social Security Amendments eliminated the reference to rural areas and other areas of special need which had been in the original act, thus making Federal funds available for urban children on the same basis as for rural children. The formula for allotment of funds was changed to make it consistent with the removal of the rural emphasis. Matching requirements and reallocation provisions were added. The provision with respect to return of runaway children was changed to include children up to 18 years of age and to provide for maintaining the child up to 15 days pending his return to his home community.

The 1960 amendments to the Social Security Act added a separate authorization for grants for special research or demonstration projects in the field of child welfare.