



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services

1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

December 31, 2019

The Honorable Daneya Esgar  
Chair, Joint Budget Committee  
Legislative Service Building, 3rd Floor  
200 East 14th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable Jonathan Singer  
Chair, House Public Health Care and Human  
Services Committee  
200 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 271  
Denver, Colorado 80203

The Honorable Susan Lontine  
Chair, House Health & Insurance Committee  
200 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 303  
Denver, Colorado 80203

The Honorable Rhonda Fields  
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services  
Committee  
200 E. Colfax Avenue, Room 269  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Representative Esgar, Representative Singer, Representative Lontine, and Senator Fields:

The Colorado Department of Human Services (Department), in response to 26-5-105.4 (8) C.R.S., respectfully submits this letter. The statute states that:

On or before December 31, 2013, and each December 31 thereafter, the state department shall prepare a report concerning the status of the Title IV-E waiver demonstration project, as described in this section. The state department shall deliver the report to the joint budget committee, the health and human services committee of the senate, the health, insurance, and environment committee of the house of representatives, and the public health care and human services committee of the house of representatives, or any successor committees, no later than December 31 of each year.

If you have questions, please contact me at 303-866-4544.

Sincerely,

Minna Castillo Cohen  
Director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families





**COLORADO**  
**Department of Human Services**

1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

**Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project  
2019 Annual Report**

**Tyler Allen**  
**Title IV-E Waiver Program Administrator**  
**December 31, 2019**

**Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project**  
**26-5-105.4(8)(a), C.R.S. (2019)**  
**12/31/2019**

**Statutory Reporting Requirement**

This report is provided pursuant to section 26-5-105.4 (8) C.R.S. (2019), that requires the Colorado Department of Human Services (Department) to report on the status of the Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project (Waiver).

“On or before December 31, 2013, and each December 31 thereafter, the state department shall prepare a report concerning the status of the Title IV-E waiver demonstration project, as described in this section. The state department shall deliver the report to the joint budget committee, the health and human services committee of the senate, the health, insurance, and environment committee of the house of representatives, and the public health care and human services committee of the house of representatives, or any successor committees, no later than December 31 of each year.”

**I. NUMBER OF COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT**

A total of \$1,875,787 was awarded to participating counties in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 to support the continued administration of the Waiver interventions. Forty-nine (49) counties were awarded an amount proportionate to their share of the \$6,000,000 FY 2018-19 award total to support four interventions: Family Engagement, Permanency Roundtable, Kinship Supports, and Trauma Informed Services.

Waiver implementation began in July 2013 with the Family Engagement, Kinship Supports, and Permanency Roundtable interventions. Implementation of the Trauma Informed Services interventions began in July 2014. Only counties previously utilizing Waiver interventions were allocated funding in FY 2019-20.

**II. INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY EACH COUNTY PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJECT**

**Family Engagement**

The Family Engagement intervention employs family meetings at pre-determined times to ensure families are engaged early and often, while involved with child welfare. Currently, forty-two (42) counties are participating in this intervention.

**Permanency Roundtable**

Permanency Roundtables (PRT) are a series of meetings focused on achieving permanency for youth and children in out-of-home placement. Twenty-four (24) counties are currently participating in this intervention.

### Kinship Supports

The Kinship Supports intervention focuses on providing supports to both certified and non-certified kinship care providers to improve the safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes of children residing in the kin's home. Currently, twenty-nine (29) counties are participating in this intervention.

### Trauma Informed Services

The Trauma Informed Services intervention utilizes trauma exposure and symptom screens, as well as trauma specific assessment tools, to identify traumatic exposure and develop appropriate service plans for those children and youth affected by trauma. The intervention supports the service plan through service coordination efforts, and supplementation of other payment sources. Fourteen (14) counties are currently participating in this intervention.

## III. INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTATION BY COUNTY

Table 1 indicates which interventions have been implemented in each of the forty-nine (49) participating counties.

Table 1- Intervention Implementation by County

COUNTY	Family Engagement	Permanency Roundtable	Kinship Supports	Trauma Informed Services
Adams	X	X	X	
Alamosa				X
Arapahoe	X		X	X
Archuleta	X			
Baca	X	X		
Bent		X	X	
Boulder	X		X	X
Broomfield	X		X	
Chaffee	X		X	
Cheyenne	X			
Conejos				X
Costilla				X
Crowley	X	X	X	
Custer	X	X		
Denver	X		X	X
Douglas	X	X		X
Eagle	X	X		X
El Paso	X		X	X
Elbert	X	X	X	

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>Family Engagement</b>	<b>Permanency Roundtable</b>	<b>Kinship Supports</b>	<b>Trauma Informed Assessment</b>
Fremont	X	X	X	
Garfield	X		X	
Huerfano	X	X		
Jefferson	X	X	X	X
Kiowa	X	X		
Kit Carson	X			
La Plata	X		X	
Larimer	X		X	X
Las Animas	X		X	
Lincoln	X	X	X	
Logan	X	X	X	X
Mesa	X	X	X	
Moffat	X		X	
Montrose	X	X		
Morgan			X	
Otero	X	X	X	
Ouray	X	X		
Park	X			
Pitkin	X	X		
Prowers	X	X	X	
Pueblo	X	X	X	
Rio Blanco	X	X	X	
Rio Grande				X
Saguache				X
San Juan	X		X	
San Miguel	X	X		
Summit	X			
Teller	X	X	X	
Weld	X		X	
Yuma	X		X	
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>

IV. OUTCOMES ACHIEVED BY THE PROJECT AS REPORTED TO THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (ACF)

Waiver Evaluation

The independent evaluator, Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), began work on the evaluation on August 30, 2013, and concluded on December 31, 2018. The final evaluation report was included as appendices to the 2018 Annual Legislative report. All progress and evaluation reports and their corresponding briefs are publicly available at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs/publications-reports>. The reports are located in the “Title IV-E Waiver” folder under the “Child Welfare Publications and Reports” tab of that page. No further evaluation activities have been administered or are required in 2019.

Broadly speaking, the implementation and administration of the Waiver interventions led to the following outcomes:

- Percentage of out-of-home removal days in kinship care increased (this outcome is considered positive because, children and youth are remaining within their families/kin communities during removal episodes at an increased rate)
- Percentage of foster and congregate care days decreased
- Total expenditures for out-of-home care decreased
- Interventions delivered with high adherence generally had better permanency and safety outcomes

V. MONEYS EXPENDED FOR THE PROJECT

A. Moneys Expended to Counties:

Table 2 indicates which counties have been awarded funding for Waiver interventions and related projects.

Table 2- Moneys Expended to Counties

County	Family Engagement	Permanency Roundtable	Kinship Supports	Trauma Informed Services	Total Waiver Budget
Adams	\$29,258	\$3,495	\$29,083	-	\$61,836
Alamosa *	-	-	-	\$4,855	\$4,855
Arapahoe	\$51,608	-	\$18,268	\$9,670	\$79,547
Boulder	\$16,949	-	\$32,111	\$47,283	\$96,344
Broomfield	\$5,584	-	\$621	-	\$6,205
Chaffee	\$5,900	-	\$1,876	-	\$7,776
Crowley*	\$10,550	-	-	-	\$10,550
Denver	\$102,289	-	\$170,387	\$38,761	\$311,438
Douglas	\$10,789	-	-	\$17,157	\$27,946
Eagle	-	-	-	\$14,224	\$14,224
El Paso	-	-	\$236,919	\$7,413	\$244,332
Elbert	\$6,253	\$189	\$782	-	\$7,223
Fremont	-	-	\$30,063	\$16,734	\$46,797

County	Family Engagement	Permanency Roundtable	Kinship Supports	Trauma Informed Services	Total Waiver Budget
Fremont*	\$925	\$321	-	-	\$1,247
Garfield	\$16,507	-	-	-	\$16,507
Garfield*	-	-	\$16,035	-	\$16,035
Huerfano	\$4,703	\$2,208	-	-	\$6,911
Jefferson	\$23,914	\$16,029	\$58,656	\$39,563	\$138,162
La Plata*	-	-	\$938	-	\$938
La Plata*	\$25,710	-	-	-	\$25,710
Larimer	\$71,521	-	\$59,713	\$212,749	\$343,982
Las Animas	\$1,107	\$2,553	-	-	\$3,659
Lincoln	\$232	\$1,352	\$29,258	-	\$2,640
Logan	\$7,367	\$1,876	\$3,752	\$1,501	\$14,495
Mesa	\$26,261	\$9,379	\$23,533	-	\$59,173
Moffat	\$5,540	-	\$2,777	-	\$8,318
Montrose*	\$21,883	\$5,614	-	-	\$27,497
Morgan	-	-	\$6,743	-	\$6,743
Otero*	-	-	\$9,207	-	\$9,207
Park	\$2,852	-	-	-	\$2,852
Pitkin	\$2,962	-	-	-	\$2,962
Prowers*	-	\$4,408	\$1,032	-	\$5,440
Pueblo	\$22,526	\$20,819	\$16,734	-	\$60,079
Rio Blanco	\$1,430	\$91	\$1,825	-	\$3,347
Summit	\$5,106	-	-	-	\$5,106
Teller	\$7,124	\$2,998	\$1,592	-	\$11,714
Weld	\$145,892	-	\$36,093	-	\$181,986
Yuma	\$665	-	\$1,342	-	\$2,007
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$633,409</b>	<b>\$71,332</b>	<b>\$761,136</b>	<b>\$409,910</b>	<b>\$1,875,787</b>

\* Counties acting as a regional fiscal officer (for those counties that chose to collaborate using a regional model); a single designated county received the funding/resources and was charged with allocating resources or services to the other participating counties in their collaboration. For example, Alamosa is the regional fiscal officer for Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, and Saguache counties. The table illustrates funds allocated to Alamosa on behalf of these counties, but does not show how funds were allocated to each individual county.

**B. Savings from the project:**

C.R.S 26-5-105.4 (4)(a) defines how IV-E Waiver savings to the Department can be earned, and how earned savings may be spent. During FY 2018-19, Waiver counties, as a collective, did not earn additional Waiver savings by reducing out-of-home placement costs among the IV-E eligible population. Those counties that had earned savings prior to FY 2018-19 expended all available funds prior to June 30, 2019.

**VI. ANY NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO FURTHER THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GOALS OF THE PROJECT RELATED TO CHILD SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING**

No further legislation is required to support the Waiver, as the project has concluded.

**VII. EXPECTATIONS FOR FY 2019-19**

Counties will continue to align their child welfare services and expenditures to prevent and reduce congregate care, as well as out-of-home placement. In the coming year, the Department will continue to provide county support through other transitional funding opportunities as they become available. The Department will continue to work with counties to utilize existing funding streams to support successful practice. Transitional intervention sustainability remains the common focus for participating Waiver counties, and the Department will continue to work with federal partners to align practices to FFPSA requirements.

**VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For additional information regarding Colorado's Title IV-E Waiver, please contact Tyler Allen, Title IV-E Waiver Administrator, at [tyler.allen@state.co.us](mailto:tyler.allen@state.co.us).