

Foster Care



A Guide to Who Controls Federal Programs, Policies & Purse Strings



**The Policy Exchange
Institute for Educational Leadership**

FOSTER CARE

**A Guide to
Who Controls
Federal Programs, Policies & Purse Strings**

Special Report #14

by

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&

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The Policy Exchange
The Institute for Educational Leadership
2000

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Foster Care

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& Purse Strings*

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INTRODUCTION

It's hard to make your voice count if you don't know who to talk to. This booklet tells you who the *federal* movers and shakers in the area of foster care are. It also tells you how to reach them.

The Policy Exchange developed this directory to help policy makers, practitioners, researchers, analysts, advocates, and children and youth in foster care understand who controls federal foster care programs, policies and purse strings. These programs, which account for billions of dollars in funding, range from the federal "IV-E" program that provides matching foster care funds to states, to the Independent Living program that provides grants to states to help foster care youth transition to life on their own.

We urge you to use this directory to let the people who can make a difference know your opinions about how to make federal foster care programs work better.

What Is in This Directory?

This directory contains basic information—name, title, address, phone, fax, email—for key federal staff who have power and influence over federal foster care programs, policies and purse strings.

This directory has two major sections: Congress (which makes the laws and determines funding), and the Executive Branch (which administers programs).

The section on ***Key Staff in the Congress*** (page 7) is divided into five parts:

Authorizing Committees – These committees draft the laws—both House and Senate, and both Republicans (the Majority) and Democrats (the Minority).

Appropriations Committees – These committees draft the bills that ultimately determine who gets the money, and how much they get both House and Senate, and both Republicans and Democrats.

Budget Committees – These Congressional budgeteers set broad spending targets for all program areas both House and Senate, and both Republicans and Democrats.

Congressional Leadership sets the policy agenda and legislative schedule both House and Senate, and both Republicans and Democrats.

Congressional Support Agencies provide members of Congress with nonpartisan research and analytical assistance. In the area of foster care, the three most important support agencies are the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service and the General Accounting Office.

The section on **Key Staff in the Executive Branch** (page 23) includes:

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families**, which is in charge of federal foster care programs.

The White House, Office of Management and Budget, which staffs the development of the President's Budget on all issues, including foster care.

What Is Not in This Directory?

As long as this list of committees, agencies and names may look, there are many things that this publication *does not* do.

This booklet does not tell you who the key people at the *state or local* levels are. States have primary responsibility for all child welfare services, including foster care. This includes caseworker training, case plan development,

recruiting and licensing foster families, and the day-to-day services caseworkers provide. Also, each state sets its own legal and administrative structures and requirements, pays a substantial amount of foster care costs, and determines how much to pay foster parents.

This booklet does not tell you who the key people are in the *courts*. Courts often make such crucial decisions as whether or not to place a child in foster care in the first place, return a child to his or her birth family, or terminate parental rights altogether.

This booklet does not tell you the names of other “key” staff who may be very influential, but who do not have “line” authority for federal foster care programs.

This booklet does not tell you the key people who control *other federal (as well as state and local) programs that are especially important to children and youth in foster care*. For instance, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce authorize such laws as Head Start, Title I, the Workforce Investment Act, and student financial aid. The table on pages 4-5 summarizes who *does* control these and other major federal programs important to children and youth in foster care—including child care, health, nutrition, social services, education, special education, student aid, job training, juvenile justice and housing assistance.

This booklet does not tell you *how federal foster care programs work*. You can find basic programmatic information, as well as the transcript of our July 1999 seminar on *The Federal Role in Helping Young People Transition from Foster Care*, on the Policy Exchange Web site (www.policyexchange.iel.org). (Ordering information is at the end of this publication.)

Finally, this booklet does not tell you *what you should say* to the people listed. That’s entirely up to you.

WHO CONTROLS MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS IMPORTANT TO CHILDREN & YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE?

Program	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Authorizing Committee & Subcommittee	SENATE Authorizing Committee & Subcommittee	EXECUTIVE BRANCH Department & Agency
Foster Care & Independent Living (Title IV-E)	Ways & Means Human Resources Subcommittee	Finance Full Committee	HHS Administration for Children & Families
Adoption Assistance (Title IV-E)	Ways & Means Human Resources Subcommittee	Finance Full Committee	HHS Administration for Children & Families
Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit	Ways & Means Full Committee	Finance Full Committee	Treasury Internal Revenue Service
Medicaid	Commerce Full Committee	Finance Full Committee	HHS Health Care Financing Administration
S-CHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program)	Commerce Health & Environment Subcommittee	Finance Full Committee	HHS Health Care Financing Administration
Food Stamps	Agriculture Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition & Forestry Subcommittee	Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Research, Nutrition & General Legislation Subcommittee	Agriculture Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services
Free & Reduced Price School Lunch & Breakfast	Education & the Workforce Early Childhood, Youth & Families Subcommittee	Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Research, Nutrition & General Legislation Subcommittee	Agriculture Food, Nutrition & Consumer Services

Social Services Block Grant	Ways & Means Human Resources Subcommittee	Finance Full Committee	HHS Administration for Children & Families
Head Start	Education & the Workforce Early Childhood, Youth & Families Subcommittee	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Full Committee	HHS Administration for Children & Families
Title I, ESEA (Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards)	Education & the Workforce Full Committee	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Full Committee	Education Office of Elementary & Secondary Education
IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)	Education & the Workforce Early Childhood, Youth & Families Subcommittee	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Full Committee	Education Special Education & Rehabilitative Services
Student Financial Assistance	Education & the Workforce Postsecondary Education, Training & Life-Long Learning Subcommittee	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Employment, Safety & Training Subcommittee	Education Postsecondary Education
WIA (Workforce Investment Act)	Education & the Workforce Postsecondary Education, Training & Life-Long Learning Subcommittee	Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Employment, Safety & Training Subcommittee	Labor Employment & Training Administration
JJDP (Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act)	Education & the Workforce Early Childhood, Youth & Families Subcommittee	Judiciary Youth Violence Subcommittee	Justice Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
Section 8 & Public Housing	Banking & Financial Services Housing & Community Opportunity Subcommittee	Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs Housing & Transportation Subcommittee	HUD Public & Indian Housing

And Finally . . .

This booklet goes to press (January 2000) shortly after the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 was signed into law. Many of the people listed in this directory played important roles in crafting this law, which provides additional services to help young people in foster care transition successfully to adulthood.

Any directory such as this is “out of date” the minute it is published. People move on. Still, the *positions* of people with power and influence usually remain the same year after year. That is why we have organized this directory by position, not names, so that it will continue to provide a road map to key people long after the names and faces change.

KEY STAFF IN THE CONGRESS

The following pages list key Congressional players in foster care policy—Authorizing Committees, Appropriations Committees, Budget Committees, Congressional Leadership, and Congressional Support Agencies.

Authorizing Committees create legal authority to begin or continue federal programs. The Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means are the authorizing committees for federal foster care programs.

Appropriations Committees typically set the amount of dollars federal departments, agencies and programs receive each year. The House and Senate Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies are responsible for the annual appropriations for foster care programs.

Budget Committees draft annual budget resolutions that set targets for federal spending and revenue, both in total and for broad program categories such as health and welfare.

The Republican and Democratic **Congressional Leadership** attempt to win support for their party's goals and are responsible for operating Congress as an institution. The Majority party (Republicans) sets the legislative calendar.

Several nonpartisan **Congressional Support Agencies** provide members of the House and Senate with nonpartisan research and analytical assistance.

The **Congressional Budget Office** (CBO) provides budgetary analyses, cost estimates and economic forecasts, sets out (but does not recommend) policy options, and tracks bills to make sure they comply with overall budget goals.

The ***Congressional Research Service*** (CRS) of the Library of Congress responds to requests—from simple queries to complex analyses—from members of Congress on a wide range of issues, including foster care.

The ***General Accounting Office*** (GAO) monitors how the Executive Branch spends the money Congress appropriates with a historical focus on uncovering waste and fraud and a more recent focus on assessing program results.

AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES

Senate Committee on Finance

William V. Roth, Jr., Chair (R - Delaware)

Daniel P. Moynihan, Ranking Minority Member (D - New York)

Republicans

Staff Director

Franklin Polk, Staff Director
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Democrats

Staff Director (Full Committee)

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House Committee on Ways and Means

Bill Archer, Chair (R - Texas)

Charles B. Rangel, Ranking Minority Member (D - New York)

Republicans

Staff Director (Full Committee)

A.L. Singleton, Chief of Staff
Committee on Ways and Means
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Staff Director, Subcommittee on Human Resources

No subcommittee staff director

Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Ted Stevens, Chair (R - Arkansas)

Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Minority Member (D - West Virginia)

Republicans

Staff Director (Full Committee)

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Committee on Appropriations
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Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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House Committee on Appropriations

C.W. Bill Young, Chair (R - Florida)

David Obey, Ranking Minority Member (D - Wisconsin)

Republicans

Staff Director (Full Committee)

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Democrats

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Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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BUDGET COMMITTEES

Senate Committee on the Budget

Pete V. Domenici, Chair (R - New Mexico)

Frank R. Lautenberg, Ranking Minority Member (D - New Jersey)

Republicans

Staff Director

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Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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House Committee on the Budget

John R. Kasich, Chair (R - Ohio)

John M. Spratt, Jr., Ranking Minority Member (D - South Carolina)

Republicans

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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Senate

Republicans

Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader (R - Mississippi)

Don Nickles, Senate Majority Whip (R - Oklahoma)

Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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Democrats

Tom Daschle, Senate Minority Leader (D - South Dakota)

Harry Reid, Senate Minority Whip (D - Nevada)

Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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House of Representatives

Republicans

J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House (R - Illinois)

Dick Armey, Majority Leader (R - Texas)

Tom DeLay, Majority Whip (R - Texas)

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Democrats

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Person with Primary Responsibility for Foster Care

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General Accounting Office

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KEY STAFF IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Two segments of the Executive Branch are particularly important to foster care policies, programs and funding—the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families administers federal child welfare programs, including foster care (Title IV-E), intended to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families and communities.

The White House, Office of Management and Budget is part of the Executive Office of the President. OMB is primarily responsible for developing the President’s budget and supervising its administration. OMB serves a variety of budgetary and managerial functions, including setting funding priorities, estimating program costs, overseeing federal regulations, and coordinating legislative proposals in all areas, including foster care.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Patricia Montoya, Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
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Children's Bureau
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Administration for Children and Families
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**THE WHITE HOUSE,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

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PUBLICATIONS BY THE IEL POLICY EXCHANGE

Special Reports

Solving the Maze of Federal Programs for Children & Families: Perspectives from Key Congressional Staff, Special Report #1, 1993, \$10

Linking Schools with Health & Social Services: Perspectives from Thomas Payzant on San Diego's New Beginnings, Special Report #2, 1994, \$10

Who Controls Major Federal Programs for Children & Families: Rube Goldberg Revisited, Special Report #3, 1995, \$20 (includes two color posters)

A Primer on Program Rules for Five Major Federal Programs—AFDC, Food Stamps, Medicaid, Section 8 Housing and Public Housing, Special Report #4, 1995, \$15

Workbook of Application Packets for San Diego Assistance Programs, Special Report #5, 1995, \$40

The ABC's of the Federal Budget Debate, Special Report #6, 1996, \$5

The New Oregon Trail: Accountability for Results, Special Report #7, 1996, \$5

Steer, Row or Abandon Ship? Rethinking the Federal Role for Children, Youth & Families, Special Report #8, 1997, \$5

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