

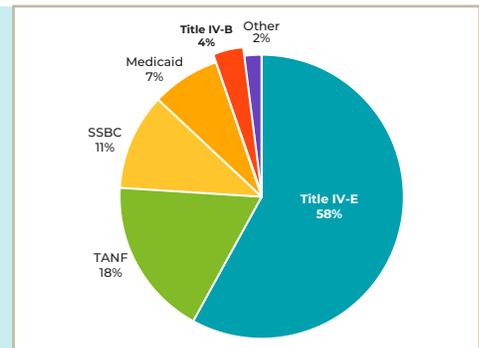


Child Welfare Federal Funding Streams: Title IV-B

Title IV-B of the Social Security Act is a small but important federal funding source for child welfare programs to keep families together.

Congress created [Title IV-B Subpart 1: The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services \(CWS\)](#) program in 1935 to provide federal funding with flexibility to meet the unique needs of states. Congress then created [Title IV-B Subpart II: Promoting Safe and Stable Families](#) (later renamed the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families,¹ or PSSF) program in 1993 to ensure states fund certain critical services outside the scope of larger funding streams like Title IV-E.

While Title IV-B makes up only 4% of federal child welfare funding, it remains a very important funding source given its flexible structure and focus on prevention. There are no federal eligibility rules for recipients of Title IV-B, so states and tribes have greater flexibility in reaching more children and families and with a wider array of services.



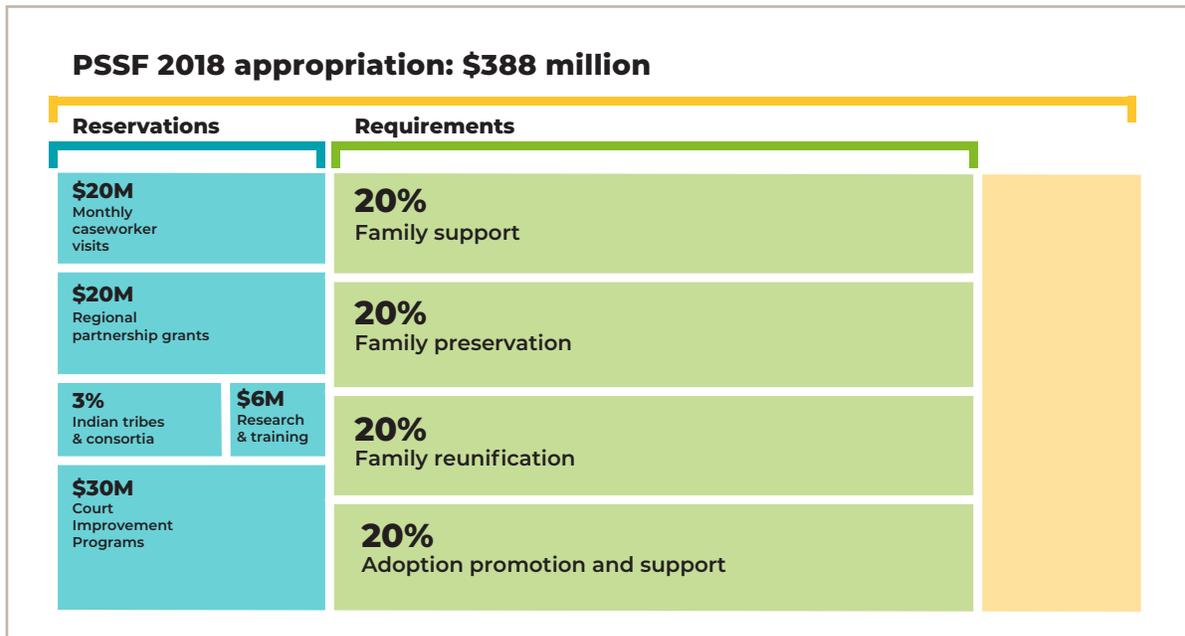
Generally, states and tribes must provide a 25 percent match for the federal funding provided.

Subpart 1, the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services (CWS) program, gives states and tribes flexibility to decide how funds would be best used to support families.

- CWS funding is distributed to states based on a formula using the number of children under 21 and the per capita income in the state.
- The CWS program provides grants for:
 - **Preventive intervention** to prevent children from being removed from their families and homes when possible
 - **Alternative placements** to support children without foster care placement
 - **Reunification efforts** to reunite children with their families as soon as possible
- States and tribes can choose how to use these federal funds for a range of different goals:
 - Protect and promote the welfare of all children
 - Prevent child neglect, abuse, and exploitation
 - Support families that are at risk of child welfare involvement so children can remain with their families or return to their families as soon as possible
 - Promote the safety, permanence, and well-being of children in foster care and adoptive families
 - Provide training, professional development, and support to ensure a well-qualified workforce

Subpart 2, MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program, provides funding that states and tribes must use for family preservation and support services.

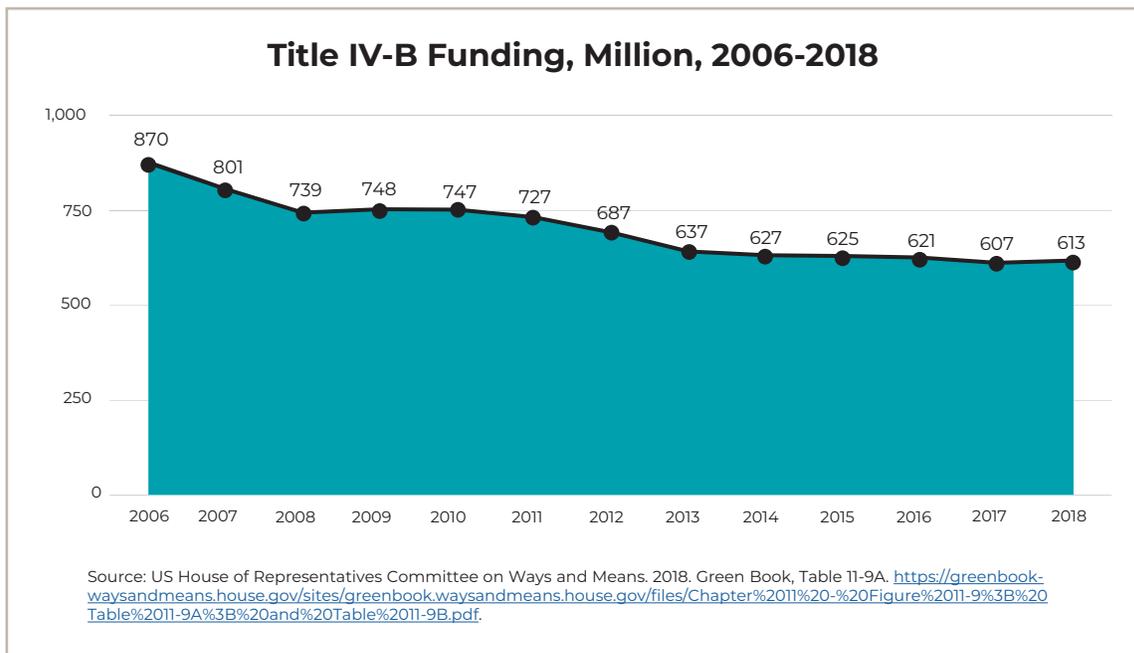
- The goals of the PSSF program are to prevent unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve quality of care and services for children and their families, and promote permanency for children.



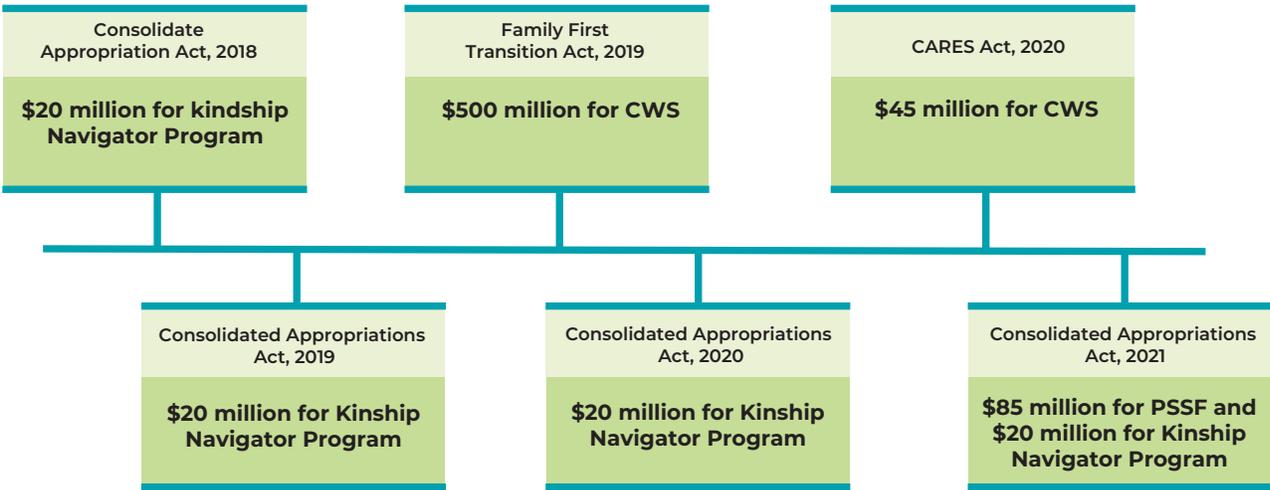
- Examples of how the funds are used:
 - Parenting and healthy marriage classes to increase relationship skills
 - Home-visiting services to support young parents with their first child
 - Respite care for caregivers of children with special needs

Despite the important goals of Title IV-B, funding has not been increased in decades.

- Congress authorizes funding on a discretionary basis for CWS and on a discretionary and a capped mandatory basis for PSSF.



- In 2018, CWS was authorized at \$325 million and appropriated at \$269 million and PSSF was authorized at \$345 million and appropriated at \$338 million. PSSF funding increased in 2005 but has remained the same for more than 15 years.
- While other federal funding sources for child welfare agencies have remained the same or seen increases over the past decade, Title IV-B funding for services to children and their families has decreased from [\\$739 million in 2008 to \\$613 million in 2018](#).
- This decrease is due to two key factors:
 - Sequestration—or automatic spending cuts—which has reduced PSSF funding each year since 2013.
 - Stable appropriations levels over the past decade that do not account for inflation.
- Despite this deprioritization of Title IV-B funding, Congress has given extra money to these programs in times of emergency over the past decade. Recent time-limited Title IV funds include:



Additional Resources

- For more information on Title IV-B funding over time, see Green Book, [Title IV-B Funding Figures and Tables](#), 2018
- For state-level data on expenditures and services, see Child Trends, [Child Welfare Financing SFY 2018](#), March 2021
- For more information about Title IV-B for tribes and tribal consortia, see Capacity Building Center for Tribes, [Title IV-B Funding Overview](#), July 2018

Endnote

¹In 2019, the Family First Transition Act renamed the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF) in honor and memory of MaryLee Allen, the Children’s Defense Fund’s late Director of Policy, in recognition of her more than 40 year career devoted to protecting children and strengthening families. Read more at <https://www.childrensdefense.org/blog/family-first-transition-act-honors-marylee-allen/>.