

## **Potential Sources of Federal Funding – Update**

Commission to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation to Families  
in the Child Protection System - October 3, 2022

### **Funding Review**

Pursuant to Resolve 2021, c.124, the Commission to Develop a Pilot Program to Provide Legal Representation to Families in the Child Protection System is established “to design a pilot program to provide legal counsel to parents or custodians as soon as the State opens a safety assessment to determine if a child is at risk of harm.” The resolve provides that the pilot program design must, among other things, include “options for federal or grant funding.”

Through our research, staff have explored a number of potential federal funding options, including various federal grant programs. At the August 22, 2022 meeting, the commission received presentations and materials regarding potential funding under the Title IV-E Foster Care Program and the Court Improvement Program. Since the August meeting, staff have conducted additional research regarding Title IV-E Foster Program funding, including how it is implemented in practice for pre-petition legal representation programs, and have gathered information on several additional funding options.

### **New and Updated Information**

For the October 3, 2022 meeting, staff have information to provide the commission regarding the following three potential sources of federal funds:

1. **Title IV-E Foster Care Program** (summary and additional follow-up information),
2. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** program, and
3. **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)** grants under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

Please see the attached documents with additional detail on each of these three potential funding sources.

Finally, we wanted to mention a potential new grant funding option that has been proposed in the President’s FY2023 budget related to civil legal services. The proposal would increase funding for the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) program under Title IV-B. Included in the proposal is a \$50 million set aside for a new grant program to provide *civil legal services to families involved in the child welfare system*.<sup>1</sup> Whether this funding will actually become available depends on the outcome of the FY2023 federal budget process.

---

<sup>1</sup> Congressional Research Service, Child Welfare in the President’s FY2023 Budget, April 26, 2022.  
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47080>