

Testimony Before the DC City Council  
Committee on Youth Affairs  
Budget Oversight Hearing - Child and Family Services Agency  
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Mother's Outreach Network  
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## Introduction

Good afternoon, Chairperson Parker and Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Melody Webb, and I am the Executive Director of Mothers Outreach Network (MON), head of the DC Guaranteed Income Coalition, as well as a resident of Ward 6 and native Washingtonian.

MON is a non-profit advocacy organization that engages impacted mothers, primarily Black, in the struggle for family preservation through policy advocacy and community organizing by transforming government income and child welfare laws, policies and practices from punitive to empowering. We do this work through grassroots organizing, community lawyering, and policy advocacy. Rooted in the fundamental belief that everyone deserves the freedom and dignity to meet their basic needs, the DC Guaranteed Income Coalition convenes impacted DC residents, allies, and advocates to advance basic income strategies to eliminate poverty in Washington, DC. Children thrive in the context of stable and nurturing families; through our work, we envisage a District that equips parents with the resources and support they need so whole families can thrive.

We are currently in the recruitment stage for Phase III of the Mother Up Research Pilot Project, an unconditional guaranteed income program for economically challenged Black mothers involved with DC's Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), with goals of easing financial burdens, preventing further CFSA intervention, and keeping families together. An independent evaluation<sup>1</sup> of Phase II of the pilot by researchers at the Access to Justice Lab (A2Lab) at Harvard Law School has already shown promising results in demonstrating the power of unconditional cash assistance for moms navigating the child welfare/family regulation system.

I am here today to speak with you about CFSA Flex Fund spending – specifically, the agency's lack of transparency in Flex Fund reporting, its discretionary decision making in determining families' eligibility to receive funds, and its insufficient distribution of Flex Funds year to year. While CFSA acknowledges poverty as a driver of system involvement, its practices around flex funding reveal the limitations of offering material support within an agency that has a mandate to investigate and monitor families, rather than promote economic stability or reduce poverty. At its center, this testimony poses a larger question about the suitability of CFSA as the administrator of Flex Funds.

## Poverty and CFSA Involvement in Washington, DC

In 2024, approximately 36,600 District children lived below the poverty line;<sup>2</sup> more than 8 out of 10 of those children were Black, despite representing just under half of all children living in Washington, DC.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Access to Justice Lab, Report on the Mother Up Phase 2 Pre-pilot Study (November 5, 2025), available at <https://bit.ly/MotherUpReport>

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2020-2024 5-year estimates. Data accessed via Kids Count Data Center: <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Administration for Children's Services, *2024 Child Maltreatment Report*

A family's involvement with Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), DC's family policing agency, is often a direct result of economic hardship. Under DC Code, child neglect is easily conflated with poverty, defined as "harm to a child's health or welfare," due to "the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, education, or medical care."<sup>4</sup> In practice, this often means conditions of poverty legitimize governmental investigation, surveillance, and separation of primarily Black families through CFSA. In 2024, over 90% of open CFSA cases involved an allegation of neglect, and **85% of cases were opened due to neglect-based allegations alone.**<sup>5</sup> Entrenched racial inequities in economic outcomes for families in DC are also reflected within CFSA, where **4 out of 5 children in foster care are Black.**<sup>6</sup> These disparities are not accidental, but rather reflective of longstanding policies that treat conditions of poverty as evidence of parental failure rather than an indicator of unmet needs.

For too long, policymakers have overlooked economic insecurity – resulting from historical patterns of harmful policies and disinvestment grounded in structural racism – as the root cause of neglect. Rather than supporting families during times of financial hardship or addressing the conditions that contribute to economic insecurity, families have been systematically surveilled, separated, and regulated via the child welfare system. MON aims to challenge these practices and support family stability through cash support, practical legal and tax help while advancing the inclusion, rights, and empowerment of system-impacted Black mothers to transform government income and child welfare systems.

Research demonstrates that poverty, income instability, and material hardship significantly increase the likelihood of abuse and neglect investigations.<sup>7 8 9</sup> A growing body of evidence has documented a multitude of benefits to providing economic support to families – among them a reduced risk for neglect, abuse, and subsequent child welfare involvement. The Mother Up Pilot adds to this body of evidence by documenting the impact of unconditional cash assistance on the stability of child welfare-involved families, parental commitment, and broader indicators of socioeconomic well-being. If economic hardship drives child welfare involvement, prevention efforts must include direct economic support for families. Flexible funding can help stabilize families before their situation escalates to a crisis, but the efficacy of supports depends on agency transparency, resource accessibility, and whether families can seek support without fear of surveillance or separation.

### **DC CFSA Flexible Funding Initiatives for Families**

Considering robust evidence demonstrating the link between economic instability, child welfare involvement, and child wellbeing, agencies across the country have begun flexible funding initiatives for system-involved families in recent years, particularly since the passage of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) of 2018. Like in other jurisdictions, DC has stated that it has expanded its approach to include strategies, programs, and services that purportedly stabilize families, prevent unnecessary separation, and promote family wellbeing since Council's passing of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Amendment Act of 2010 (D.C. Law 18-312). CFSA's Flex Funds are flexible assistance dollars dedicated to addressing the emergent and concrete needs of families, such as food, rental assistance,

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<sup>4</sup> D.C. Code § 4-1341.01

<sup>5</sup> Administration for Children's Services, *2024 Child Maltreatment Report*

<sup>6</sup> DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), Data Dashboard, Foster Care Demographics, FY2026 Q1

<sup>7</sup> Yang, M.-Y. (2015). The effect of material hardship on child protective service involvement. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 41, 113-125. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.05.009>

<sup>8</sup> Cancian, M., Yang, M.-Y., & Slack, K. S. (2013). The effect of additional child support income on the risk of child maltreatment. *Social Service Review*, 87(3), 417-437. <https://doi.org/10.1086/671929>

<sup>9</sup> Monahan, E. K. (2020). Income instability and child maltreatment: Exploring associations and mechanisms. *Children & Youth Services Review*, 108, 104596. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.104596>

utilities, transportation, childcare, clothing, and other supports. Administered by the District’s five Healthy Families Thriving Communities Collaboratives (Collaboratives) and CFSA’s Office of Thriving Families (OTF), Flex Funds are intended to stabilize families in crisis, prevent unnecessary entry into foster care, and support reunification after a child has been removed from the care of their family.<sup>10</sup>

In fiscal year 2024, CFSA was selected by the Doris Duke Foundation (DDF) to participate in the Opportunities for Prevention and Transformation Initiative (OPT-In for Families), which launched in 2025 as a joint effort between the Office of Hotline and Investigations (OHI) and OTF. OPT-In aims to “to create and test a meaningful alternative to the child welfare system – one that moves from a punitive system focused on assessing whether children should be removed from their homes to a prevention-oriented well-being system that leads to better outcomes across a child’s life.”<sup>11</sup> DDF has committed to allocating up to \$1 million annually to distribute cash assistance and material support to families engaged with the OPT-In program in order to “meet immediate needs and help reduce the risk of system involvement.”<sup>12</sup>

Families can receive a referral for the OPT-In program or to receive Flex Funds through CFSA’s 211 Warmline, a dedicated phone line for connecting District residents to services and supports, including families who have been reported to the CFSA Hotline and screened out.<sup>13 14</sup> Based on our research, it is not clear what differentiates Flex Funds from OPT-In cash assistance. For example, we do not know the circumstances or criteria used to determine whether a Warmline caller might receive a referral for flex funds or for OPT-In, whether OPT-In and Flex Funds employ the same approval process, or how much cash assistance OPT-In has distributed to families.

In addition to the lack of transparency surrounding these initiatives, overlapping cash assistance initiatives pose concerns about potential fragmentation and duplication of efforts within CFSA. Rather than investing in universal basic income or community-based economic support systems, DC continues to route material assistance to families through CFSA, an approach that risks further surveillance in the name of prevention, while leaving families uncertain about what supports are available, whether they are eligible, or how they might access them. Today’s testimony will focus on CFSA’s lack of transparency surrounding Flex Funds, discretionary decision-making for granting funds, and persistent underspending of allocated funds.

### **Lack of Transparency and Discretionary Determinations in Flex Fund Spending**

MON began tracking CFSA’S flex fund spending in FY2020; in previous years’ testimony, I’ve highlighted a lack of clarity around who received Flex Funds in the past fiscal year, as well as who was eligible to receive them – specifically requesting that the agency differentiates dollars distributed to children and families served by CFSA In-Home Administration vs. those in out-of-home care. While line-item reporting has changed over the past seven fiscal years, line-item categories remain ambiguous. CFSA has not provided information regarding who received Flex Funds in a given fiscal year, who was eligible to receive funds, or how recipient eligibility was determined.

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<sup>10</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2024 Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)*. Retrieved [here](#).

<sup>11</sup> Doris Duke Foundation, OPT-In for Families, retrieved from: <https://www.ddf-opt-in.org/>

<sup>12</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2025-2026 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q84a, p. 143

<sup>13</sup> The 211 Warmline and Community Response Model is a key effort of Keeping DC Families Together (KDCFT) and its commitment to evolving into a “child and family wellbeing system.” The Warmline also provides referrals to families through the 211 Connects initiative.

<sup>14</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2025-2026 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q84

To answer some of these questions, I submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request (D.C. Code § 2-532(a-3)) to CFSA in or around April 22, 2025. First, I requested *any records from CFSA or its agents or contractors that shows or compares the amount of Flex Funds allocated to individuals (for direct in-home family services) and to institutions (for foster care services) in the past five fiscal years.*

Regarding this request, CFSA provided spreadsheets detailing all family Flex Fund expenditures for each individual Collaborative in fiscal years 2023 and 2024, although case type categories were not always consistent. For fiscal years 2019 through 2022, CFSA provided a series of Program Update documents for Family Flexible Service Funds, detailing monthly Flex Fund expenditures through September of each year for each of the five Collaboratives. While the documents provided allocations for different categories of Flex Fund recipients, the “CFSA Family Involved” category included CPS, Permanency, and In-Home Administration cases, and therefore did not answer my question regarding allocations to individuals for in-home services compared to those to institutions for foster care services.

The records CFSA provided show a discrepancy between publicly reported expenditures and those in the FOIA response, as CFSA did not provide expenditures for CFSA administered Flex Funds in the shared documents. By only sharing Collaborative spending, the total expenditures displayed in the documents provided with the FOIA response were significantly lower than total Flex Fund expenditures reported by CFSA during the oversight process each year. In 2019 and 2020, for example, total Collaborative flex spending documented in the FOIA response amounted to \$305,148<sup>15</sup> and \$346,477,<sup>16</sup> respectively, while total flex spending reported in CFSA’s Responses to Pre-Hearing Questions in FY2019 and FY2020 amounted to \$1,412,253<sup>17</sup> and \$1,105,710,<sup>18</sup> respectively. Based on the provided records of Collaborative-only expenditures, recipients of the majority of Flex Funds remain unclear. Without tracking who receives financial support, we cannot determine whether CFSA’s implementation of Flex Funds is truly preventing family separation, or whether prevention dollars are used to stabilize families before children enter into foster care.

My second request included *any records from CFSA or its agents or contractors showing the criteria CFSA uses or has used in deciding whether to give Flex Funds to individuals and institutions in the past five fiscal years.*

CFSA’s response included a flow chart demonstrating the process for requesting and approving flex funds. While the visual<sup>19</sup> illustrates the chain of responsibility for reviewing and approving requests for funds, it includes no information about the criteria by which eligibility is determined. In the response, CFSA shared that OTF does not “identify who/when funds are needed for CFSA involved youth/families. The social worker team and their management decide when families are appropriate for a flex fund request,” and that this is determined on a case-by-case basis.<sup>20</sup> CFSA’s response indicates that decisions about granting Flex Funds to families are made at the discretion of individual social workers, without any clear mandate or criteria. Without publicly available eligibility criteria, many families do not know Flex Funds exist, or they may be unsure whether they qualify to receive them. MON has worked with mothers

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<sup>15</sup> CFSA, *Family Flexible Service Funds Program Update – September 2019*. Obtained by FOIA request November 4, 2025.

<sup>16</sup> CFSA, *Family Flexible Service Funds Program Update – September 2020*. Obtained by FOIA request November 4, 2025.

<sup>17</sup> CFSA, *FY 19-20 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*.

<sup>18</sup> CFSA, *FY 20-21 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*. See Appendix A, Table 1.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix B for flow chart

<sup>20</sup> CFSA, November 4, 2025, FOIA Request No. Webb ROO9893-042325-123025

who previously testified that agency caseworkers noted their lack of furniture, but they were unaware CFSA had resources to provide it for them. When material support is dependent on whether a social worker chooses to offer or grant Flex Funds, families with the same presenting needs may experience different outcomes.

An approval process that relies on discretionary decision making by staff creates more opportunity for implicit bias, opens the door for inconsistent determinations across families, and risks exacerbating entrenched racial inequities within CFSA. In a system where Black families are already disproportionately investigated and separated, broad worker discretion over who receives support risks reproducing the same inequities the funds are purportedly intended to mitigate.

### **Agency Flex Fund Underspending**

Each year, CFSA has consistently underspent its allocated flex dollars – funds dedicated explicitly to providing families with supports such as food, clothing, or housing. Between fiscal years 2020 through 2025, CFSA’s remaining balance of Flex Funds has ranged from \$188,000 to over \$800,000 – an average unexpended budget of more than 30 percent.<sup>21</sup> Over the last six fiscal years, more than **\$2.5 million in dedicated funds** for food, housing, childcare, and other essential supports never reached DC families.<sup>22</sup> This demonstrates not only an administrative failure, but a structural one; agencies designed to investigate and regulate families are not well positioned to effectively administer the economic relief families need.

This trend continues into the current fiscal year. According to the Agency’s FY2025-2026 *Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, **CFSA spent just 4.8% (\$86,295) of its approved budget of \$1,792,980** in the first quarter of fiscal year 2026 (October 1-December 31, 2025).<sup>23</sup> In the first three months of the fiscal year, CFSA reported spending:

- \$0 for Child Care – Clothing (Allocated amount: \$100,000)
- \$0 for Child Care – Furniture (Allocated \$270,000)
- \$0 for Food Vouchers (Allocated \$248,877)
- \$0 for Emergency Funds (Allocated \$210,000).

The actual proportion of unspent Flex Funds from FY26 Q1 was complicated to determine based on CFSA reporting. In the agency’s Flex Funds spending table, CFSA omitted \$283,000 in unspent Community Flex Funds and instead listed the amount as “N/A\*” without explanation. Total unspent funds were then reported as \$1,423,683, rather than \$1,706,683 (see Appendix A, Table 4).<sup>24</sup>

Further inconsistencies emerged during the May 12 testimony of CFSA Director Tanya Torres Trice at the FY27 Budget Oversight Hearing, where the Director reported CFSA had spent more than half of the Flex Funds budget to date, with a remaining balance of \$246,000 in Collaborative spending and \$164,000 in the “in-home CPS pot” of Flex Funds.<sup>25</sup> According to CFSA’s own reporting, however, the Collaboratives had over \$600,000 funds remaining while CFSA retained more than \$1.1 million after Q1 - total

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<sup>21</sup> Calculated based on data from CFSA *Performance Oversight Hearing Responses* FY 2020-2026. See Appendix A.

<sup>22</sup> Calculated based on data from CFSA *Performance Oversight Hearing Responses* FY 2020-2026. See Appendix A.

<sup>23</sup> Calculated based on data from CFSA *Performance Oversight Hearing Responses* FY25 and FY26. See Appendix A, Table 4.

<sup>24</sup> CFSA, *FY 25-26 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*. See Appendix A, Table 4.

<sup>25</sup> T. Torres Trice, CFSA FY 2027 Budget Oversight Hearing, Testimony before the Committee on Youth Affairs, Washington, DC, 12 May 2026

expenditures 16 times that of the total reported through the end of the first quarter.<sup>26</sup> Such discrepancies without questions or explanation raise broader concerns about the accuracy and transparency of CFSA's reporting.

Without meticulous year-to-year tracking, CFSA's underspending of Flex Funds is not made clear. Each year, CFSA reports its total flex fund expenses in the previous fiscal year, the current fiscal year's approved budget, and spending through the first quarter of the current fiscal year. Allocations and total spending for a single fiscal year never appear next to one another; calculating the difference requires reference to a previous year's performance oversight pre-hearing responses.

In a city where 12,000 families live in poverty,<sup>27</sup> CFSA's consistent underutilization of flex dollars is not due to lack of need, especially when 9 out of 10 of the agency's cases include allegations of neglect. Testimonials from Mothers Outreach Network affiliated parents over the past several years attests to this need, including for appropriate furniture for toddlers and housing conditions repairs. Although CFSA has failed to distribute its existing funds for supporting the material needs of families over the past several years, the agency was granted an additional \$1 million annually over the next three years for the same stated purpose through its new OPT-In program. While CFSA's stated goals include transforming into a comprehensive child and family wellbeing system, spending practices tell another story. Tension between CFSA's stated commitment to supporting families and its spending priorities is also reinforced by the Mayor's proposed FY27 budget, which includes a **decrease of nearly \$4.5 million** to the Office of Thriving Families, including a near **\$3.6 million reduction in primary prevention programming.**<sup>28</sup> According to CFSA testimony in the FY27 Budget Oversight Hearing, the projected FY27 Flex Funds budget is \$600,000, a cut of nearly two-thirds of the approved budget for FY26.<sup>29</sup> The significant reductions in CFSA's primary prevention infrastructure, along with consistent underspending of much-needed economic relief, put CFSA's suitability for administering anti-poverty efforts into question.

While the growing focus on family preservation and family wellbeing among child welfare agencies has shifted their language, stated goals, and the programming available to families, their authority to investigate and regulate families has not. For many families - parents and children alike - interactions with child welfare agencies are traumatic. The fear and distrust parents feel toward the system is rooted in long, well-documented histories of family separation as a tool for control and punishment, particularly for Black and Indigenous families. At MON, we know firsthand that asking CFSA, or any child welfare agency, for help paying bills or putting food on the table does not seem like a viable option for parents, especially when their struggle to house or feed their children could be used as justification for a neglect investigation by the same agency.

The success of Mother Up and other unconditional cash programming illustrates that families know how to support and provide for their children without the discretionary gatekeeping of government agencies. We know firsthand that families stabilize when you give Black mothers cash without conditions, and children thrive when their families have access to the support they need. CFSA's underspending of Flex dollars, lack of transparency in reporting, and reliance on worker discretion are all evidence of CFSA's

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<sup>26</sup> Calculated based on data from CFSA *Performance Oversight Hearing Responses FY25 and FY26* (see Appendix A, Table 4) and the May 12, 2026 testimony of Tanya Torres Trice at the FY2027 CFSA Budget Oversight Hearing.

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census Supplementary Survey & American Community Survey Table B17010. Retrieved from [Kids Count Data Center](#).

<sup>28</sup> CFSA, FY 2027 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, E-7, Table RLO-4

<sup>29</sup> T. Torres Trice, CFSA FY 2027 Budget Oversight Hearing, Testimony before the Committee on Youth Affairs, Washington, DC, 12 May 2026

incompatibility with the provision of preventative economic support. Families deserve accessible and non-punitive pathways to assistance, where they can ask for help without fear. Government initiatives like the Child Tax Credit and TANF offer strong starting points for families in need of support. We believe Flex Funds have the potential to provide this support too, under the right conditions.

## **Recommendations**

### *Recommendation 1: Transfer administration of Flex Funds*

Families should be able to seek assistance without fear that doing so will prompt an investigation or subsequent involvement with CFSA. Rather than continuing to expand CFSA-administered cash assistance programs, the administration of Flex dollars should be transferred to agencies or community-based organizations whose primary mandate is economic stability, housing stability, or poverty alleviation - not child welfare investigation

In the immediate term, I urge CFSA and Council to:

### *Recommendation 2: Fully distribute FY2026 Flex Funds*

Ensure the entire Flex Funds budget (\$1,792,980) allocated to food, childcare, clothing, housing, and emergency supports is fully distributed to DC families by the end of FY26.

### *Recommendation 3: Publish clear, established eligibility criteria for support funds*

Establish clear and publicly available eligibility criteria for flex funds, requiring that CFSA publish written eligibility standards and approval criteria for both Flex Funds and OPT-In cash assistance. This ensures families, advocates, and providers understand what kind of supports are available, who is eligible to receive them, how requests are evaluated, and who determines whether funds are granted.

### *Recommendation 4: Strengthen transparency and fiscal accountability for Flex Funds*

This includes annual public reporting that identifies:

- Total allocations, total expenditures, and unspent balance of flex dollars for the previous fiscal year.
- Detailed line-item spending categories, with definitions that describe supports available within each category as well as eligible recipients.
- Number and expenditures by type of flex fund recipients, clearly distinguishing between families receiving CFSA in-home services, kinship families, foster families, families with children in out-of-home care, institutional recipients, and families without any CFSA engagement.

## **Questions**

As I conclude my testimony, I leave you with the following questions:

1. For each line item in the flex funds budget, please specify:
  - a. What can funds be spent on within that budget item?
  - b. Who is eligible to receive funds within that budget item? (e.g., families served by In-Home administration, families with children in out-of-home care, foster families, kinship families, families without system involvement, institutions, CFSA contractors, etc.)
2. Please clarify: how does the management and administration of funds differ for line items identified as 'Collaborative-Managed'?
3. Other than funding source, how does CFSA differentiate flex funds from DDF's OPT-In for Families?
  - a. What are the eligibility requirements, and how do they differ from flex funds?

- b. How does the process for making determinations about OPT-In fund requests differ from that of flex funds?
4. How have OPT-In funds been used in FY26 to date?

**Conclusion**

CFSA Flex Funds conceptually reflect a critical understanding of the ways poverty and material hardship lead to child welfare involvement and family separation. However, CFSA's underspending year to year, its lack of transparency, and reliance on worker discretion limit its intent as a primary prevention strategy. Families should not have to face the risk of investigation in order to access basic necessities like housing, food, or childcare. At MON, we know the difference cash can make for families; children thrive when their parents are supported without conditions and trusted to do what's best for their families. If the DC Council is truly committed to preventing family separation and promoting child and family wellbeing, we need investments in accessible, transparent, and non-punitive economic support, so families can ask for help without fear in order to meet the needs of their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

## Appendix A

### Flex Funds Use in the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency FY20-26

**Table 1. Flex Funds Allocations, Expenses, and Leftover FY 2020 & FY 2021**

Description	FY20 Allocated <sup>30</sup>	FY20 Expenses <sup>31</sup>	FY20 Leftover	FY21 Allocated <sup>30</sup>	FY21 Expenses <sup>32</sup>	FY21 Leftover
Child Care: Clothing	\$141,918.00	\$137,200	\$4,718.00	\$141,918	\$97,500.00	\$44,418
Child Care: Furniture	\$227,583.36	\$229,878	-\$2,294.64	\$177,583	\$126,239.00	\$51,344
Child Care: Other Services	\$689,677.83	\$460,306	\$229,371.83	\$689,678	\$114,946.31	\$574,732
Emergency Funds	\$400,000.00	\$84,926	\$315,074.00	\$145,000	\$79,269.51	\$65,730
Food Vouchers	\$115,000.00	\$193,400	-\$78,400.00	\$115,000	\$38,333.33	\$76,667
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,574,179.19</b>	<b>\$1,105,710</b>	<b>\$468,469.19</b>	<b>\$1,269,179</b>	<b>\$456,288.15</b>	<b>\$812,891</b>

**Table 2. Flex Funds Allocations, Expenses, and Leftover FY 2022 & FY 2023**

Description	FY22 Allocated <sup>31</sup>	FY22 Expenses <sup>33</sup>	FY22 Leftover	FY23 Allocated <sup>32</sup>	FY23 Expenses <sup>34</sup>	FY23 Leftover
Child Care: Clothing	\$141,918.00	\$83,875.00	\$58,043.00	\$141,918.00	\$110,000.00	\$31,918.00
Child Care: Furniture	\$177,583.36	\$128,045.48	\$49,537.88	\$177,583.16	\$205,584.00	-\$28,000.84
Child Care: Other Services	\$687,677.83	\$550,577.10	\$137,100.73	\$687,677.83	\$410,295.12	\$277,382.71
Emergency Funds	\$145,000.00	\$63,299.71	\$81,700.29	\$70,000.00	\$82,546.41	-\$12,546.41
Food Vouchers	\$115,000.00	\$90,669.42	\$24,330.58	\$115,000.00	\$158,365.93	-\$43,365.93
Emergency Funds (CPS - Collaborative Managed)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$70,702.96	N/A
Kinship (Collaborative-Managed)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$74,774.44	N/A

<sup>30</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2019-2020 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q12.

<sup>31</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2020-2021 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q12.

<sup>32</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2021-2022 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q12.

<sup>33</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2022-2023 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Q11.

<sup>34</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, *FY 2023-2024 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses*, Attachment Q52-53.

Housing (Collaborative-Managed)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$81,443.34	N/A
CFSA Involved & Community (Collaborative-Managed)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$469,069.20	N/A
<b>TOTAL (does not include Collaborative-Managed)</b>	\$1,267,179.19	\$916,466.71	\$350,712.48	\$1,192,178.99	\$966,791.46	\$225,387.53
<b>TOTAL (includes Collaborative-Managed)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1,662,781.40*	N/A

Note: In FY2023-2024, CFSA began reporting on “Collaborative-Managed” line items. N/A indicates no CFSA reporting on the corresponding line item, or that leftover fund calculations cannot be determined based on data provided.

\*Total flex fund spending reported by CFSA, including total for Collaborative-Managed funds.

**Table 3. Flex Funds Allocations, Expenses, and Leftover FY 2024 & FY 2025**

Description	FY24 Allocated <sup>33</sup>	FY24 Expenses <sup>35</sup>	FY24 Leftover	FY25 Allocated <sup>34</sup>	FY25 Expenses <sup>36</sup>	FY25 Leftover
Child Care: Clothing	\$120,000.00	\$93,927.27	\$26,072.73	\$120,000.00	\$84,276.00	\$35,724.00
Child Care: Furniture	\$82,932.31	\$188,558.65	-\$105,626.34	\$220,000.00	\$218,307.00	\$1,693.00
Child Care: Other Services	\$321,148.57	\$323,389.03	-\$2,240.46	\$322,000.00	\$377,977.00	-\$55,977.00
Emergency Funds	\$273,877.00	\$156,028.05	\$117,848.95	\$248,877.00	\$109,496.00	\$139,381.00
Food Vouchers	\$210,000.00	\$164,594.19	\$45,405.81	\$210,000.00	\$52,266.00	\$157,734.00
CPS (Collaborative Managed)	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00	\$70,000.00	\$38,363.00	\$31,637.00
Kinship (Collaborative-Managed)*	\$169,175.58	\$62,456.29	\$106,719.29	\$187,203.29	\$58,176.00	\$129,027.29
Housing (Collaborative-Managed)	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$19,436.00	\$80,564.00
Combined CFSA Involved + Community (Collaborative Managed)**	\$308,000.00	\$308,000.00	\$0.00	\$623,090.93	N/A	\$100,688.93

<sup>35</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, FY 2024-2025 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses, Q68

<sup>36</sup> Child and Family Services Agency, FY 2025-2026 Performance Oversight Hearing Responses, Q18

Note: In FY2025-2026, CFSA began splitting CFSA-involved and Community Flex Funds into two separate line items. N/A indicates no CFSA reporting on the corresponding line item, or that leftover fund calculations cannot be determined based on data provided.

\*For FY25, Kinship includes the additional \$92,000 of grant funds that was added to the Kinship flex fund pot during FY24. This was the available balance from the \$100,000 referenced last year as provided in September 2023. [Note from CFSA]

\*\* For FY25, CFSA Involved/Community includes a \$200,000 one-time enhancement that was evenly distributed across the 5 Collaboratives to support the soft-launch of the 211 Warmline and the prevention efforts of the agency focused on concrete supports. [Note from CFSA]

**Table 4. Flex Funds Allocations, Expenses, and Leftover FY 2026**

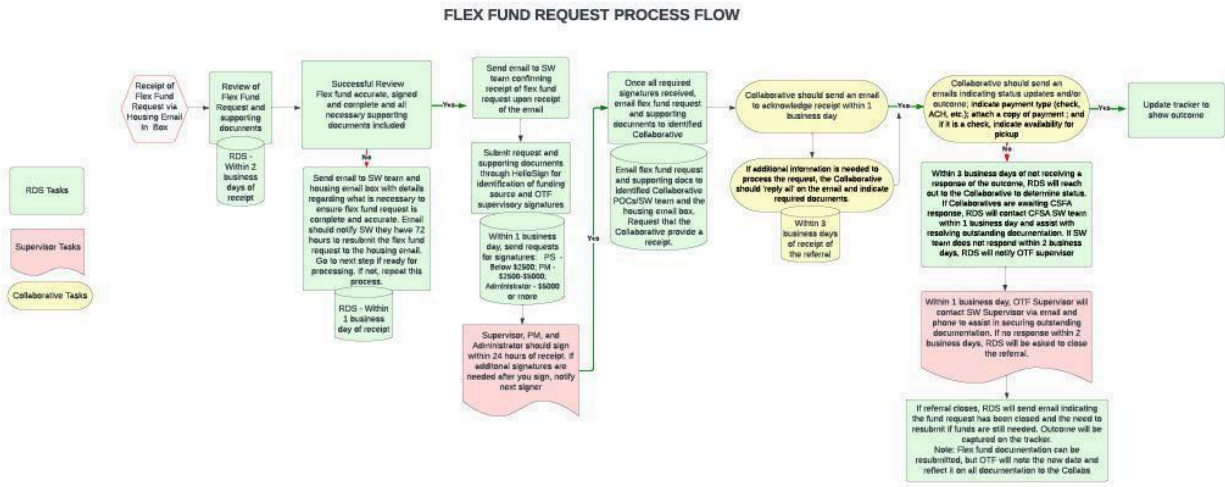
Description	FY26 Approved Budget <sup>35</sup>	FY26 Expenses as of 12/31/25 <sup>35</sup>	FY26 Available Budget as of 12/31/25 <sup>35</sup>
Child Care - Clothing	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Child Care - Furniture	\$270,000	\$0	\$270,000
Child Care - Other Services	\$320,000	\$45,295	\$274,705
Food Vouchers	\$248,877	\$0	\$248,877
Emergency Funds	\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000
CPS (Collaborative-Managed)	\$70,000	\$18,769	\$51,230
Kinship (Collaborative-Managed)*	\$129,027	\$7,897	\$121,129
Housing (Collaborative-Managed)	\$50,000	\$1,678	\$48,322
CFSA Involved	\$112,076	\$12,656	\$99,420
Community Flex Funds (Collaboratives - Managed)	\$283,000	\$0	N/A*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,792,980</b>	<b>\$86,295</b>	<b>\$1,423,683**</b> <b>\$1,706,683***</b>

\*N/A reported by CFSA in Responses to Pre-Hearing Questions for Performance Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (no explanation provided). Based on FY26 allocations and \$0 in expenses, this number should be \$283,000.

\*\*Available budget reported by CFSA in Responses to Pre-Hearing Questions for Performance Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Total does not account for \$283,000 allocated to Community Flex Funds.

\*\*\*Available budget based on total FY26 allocations (includes 283,000 of unspent Community Flex Funds line item).

# Appendix B CFSA Flex Fund Request Process



CFSA, obtained by FOIA request, November 4, 2025.