



Section D: Supporting Information

(1) Juvenile Justice Transfers

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**



**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008
Juvenile Justice Transfers**

Juvenile Justice Transfers

The Children’s Administration (CA) gathered data from the Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) on children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement as the last event of Federal FY 2007, and whose cases were closed as “transfer of custody”. Children experiencing a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement remain in the custody of the Children's Administration, unless they are transferred because their Juvenile Rehabilitation stay will exceed the child’s 18th birthday. While transfer of custody is rare, CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 125 children who were in out-of-home care during Federal FY 2007.

There was only one child who met the above criteria for transfer during FY 07, a Native American male.

SFY07 YTD			Male		Total Number	Total Percent
			Number	Percent		
Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt				
(b) Not Hispanic	Native American	(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	100.00%	1	100.00%
	Native American Total		1	100.00%	1	100.00%
(b) Not Hispanic Total			1	100.00%	1	100.00%
Grand Total			1	100.00%	1	100.00%

Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb_5_07 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement event as the last event of SFY07 Placement Episode and are closed during SFY07 with a Placement Result of Transfer of Custody.

During FY07 (State FY 07), CAMIS lists Juvenile Rehabilitation events for 125 children who were in out-of-home care.

Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 Juvenile Justice Transfers

Hispanic	RaceGrp	Age @ JREvtStrt	Female		Male		Total Number	Total Percent
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
(a) Hispanic	African American	(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	1	1.09%	1	0.80%
	African American Total			0.00%	1	1.09%	1	0.80%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%	1	1.09%	2	1.60%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs		0.00%	3	3.26%	3	2.40%
	Caucasian Total		1	3.03%	4	4.35%	5	4.00%
	multi	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.80%
	multi Total		1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.80%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs		0.00%	1	1.09%	1	0.80%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	3.03%	2	2.17%	3	2.40%
	Native American Total		1	3.03%	3	3.26%	4	3.20%
Other	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%	2	2.17%	3	2.40%	
Other Total		1	3.03%	2	2.17%	3	2.40%	
(a) Hispanic Total			4	12.12%	10	10.87%	14	11.20%
(b) Not Hispanic	African American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%	9	9.78%	10	8.00%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	2	6.06%	13	14.13%	15	12.00%
	African American Total		3	9.09%	22	23.91%	25	20.00%
	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	5	15.15%	24	26.09%	29	23.20%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	9	27.27%	20	21.74%	29	23.20%
	Caucasian Total		14	42.42%	44	47.83%	58	46.40%
	multi	(a) 11-15 Yrs	2	6.06%	2	2.17%	4	3.20%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	2	6.06%	4	4.35%	6	4.80%
multi Total		4	12.12%	6	6.52%	10	8.00%	
Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	2	6.06%	2	2.17%	4	3.20%	
	(b) 16-18 Yrs	3	9.09%	1	1.09%	4	3.20%	
Native American Total		5	15.15%	3	3.26%	8	6.40%	
(b) Not Hispanic Total			26	78.79%	75	81.52%	101	80.80%
(c) Not Reported	Caucasian	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%	2	2.17%	3	2.40%
		(b) 16-18 Yrs	1	3.03%	5	5.43%	6	4.80%
	Caucasian Total		2	6.06%	7	7.61%	9	7.20%
	Native American	(a) 11-15 Yrs	1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.80%
Native American Total		1	3.03%		0.00%	1	0.80%	
(c) Not Reported Total			3	9.09%	7	7.61%	10	8.00%
Grand Total			33	100.00%	92	100.00%	125	100.00%

Source: Placement & Legal Status.mdb_5_07 download. Unique count of children who experienced a Juvenile Rehabilitation placement event while open in out-of-home care during SFY07_YTD.

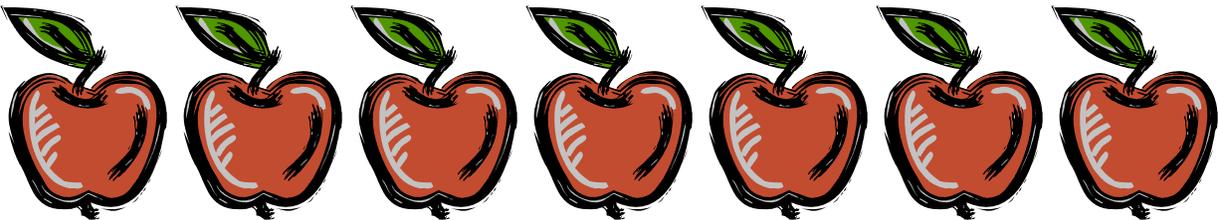
Age @ JR Evt Start reflects the child's age at the start of the earliest Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) event within the SFY07_YTD open episode.



Section D: Supporting Information

(2) Inter-Country Adoptions

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**



Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008 Inter-Country Adoptions

Children's Administration (CA) does not directly provide international adoption services, however the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR) does license child placing agencies that may provide international adoption services.

A computer alert reminds CA social workers to gather information on adoptions that may be international placements. This also allows CA to keep statistics on international adoptions.

From July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 there were no children placed in state foster care adopted internationally.



Section D: Supporting Information

(3) Child Welfare Demonstration Projects

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**



**Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008
Child Welfare Demonstration Projects**

Children's Administration (CA) did not have any Child Welfare Demonstration Projects during FY 2007.



Section D: Supporting Information

(4) Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**



Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008 Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

Foster Home Recruitment

Contracts with private agencies are the major component of the Children's Administration's (CA) foster home recruitment system.

New regionally based contracts were awarded for 2007-2008 as the result of a process using a Request for Proposals (RFP) for both recruitment and retention of foster homes. Lutheran Community Services Northwest – Families for Kids - was awarded contracts in three regions, Regions 1, 2 and 6. Olive Crest Foster Family Agency – Fostering Together was awarded contracts for Regions 3 and 4. The Foster Care Resource Network (FCRN) was awarded the contract in the other region, Region 5. The work of the contractors is based on using current or former foster parents as recruiters and paying them a monthly stipend. Each DSHS region also is assigned a salaried regional coordinator by the contractor Foster parent recruiters work within their own geographic areas, so they can more readily identify and recruit culturally appropriate homes for the local children. One change with the new contract was the addition of performance standards contractors are required to meet in regard to producing outcomes specific to the regions identified needs.

Compared to the last quarter on FY06, foster home applications for FY07 year-to-date have increased by 18%. This suggests that recruitment efforts are producing observable results.

The regional contracts require Children's Administration to establish a Regional Oversight Committee in each region to provide regional oversight and direction for the contracted work. The committees identify recruitment and retention areas/categories for recruitment and support and provide specific performance target numbers for their regions. The committees, which include state CA and DLR staff, Family to Family staff, and contracted providers, meet monthly to discuss outcomes, activities and direction.

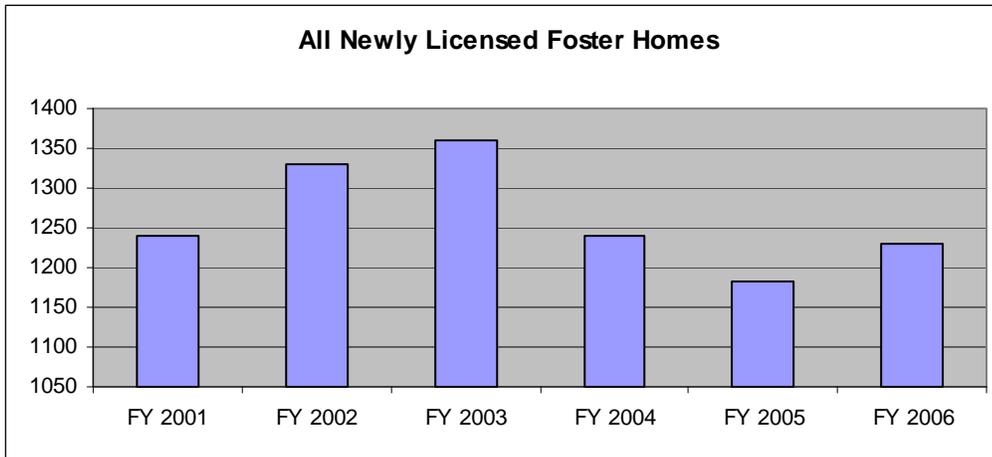
A renewed emphasis on community-based recruitment was demonstrated when CA became part of the Family to Family Initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. This initiative stresses family involvement in team decision-making about children (removal and placement), greater community involvement in the child welfare system, and in better collection of data and use of it to help with decision-making as well as community-based recruitment and retention of foster homes. Family to Family community meetings are being utilized to increase community awareness and enhance recruitment efforts.

The number of newly licensed homes measures the success of "diligent recruitment" of foster homes. This number has remained between about 1,200-1,400 homes from 2000 to present.

For the coming year, the regionally based contracts will continue through March 2008 with the option of extensions with the existing contractors. Training and Technical Assistance has been requested to work with the contractors and the Regional Oversight Committees to 1) Develop a statewide theme for recruitment and retention efforts that could be utilized by all of the contractors and that would stand the test of time, and 2) Develop a "Toolbox" for and with the contractors to promote community ownership of recruitment and retention with the ultimate goal of an increase in the total numbers of quality foster and adoptive homes. Children's Administration anticipates one day of TA at the quarterly meeting with the contractors and oversight committee representatives from each region in late June, 2007 to begin work with contractors in identifying their wish list for a Tool box and beginning development of the Toolbox and a statewide theme. A second day of TA will be scheduled in conjunction with the Foster and Relative Caregiver Conference in September, 2007 at Ocean Shores, WA. CA will utilize Adoption Incentive Money to pay for contractors and CA oversight committee members to stay an extra night and for the conference registration as an incentive for participation in the TA. The end of the second day should result in meeting the outlined goals. Children's Administration believes the new teamwork included as part of the contracts, the

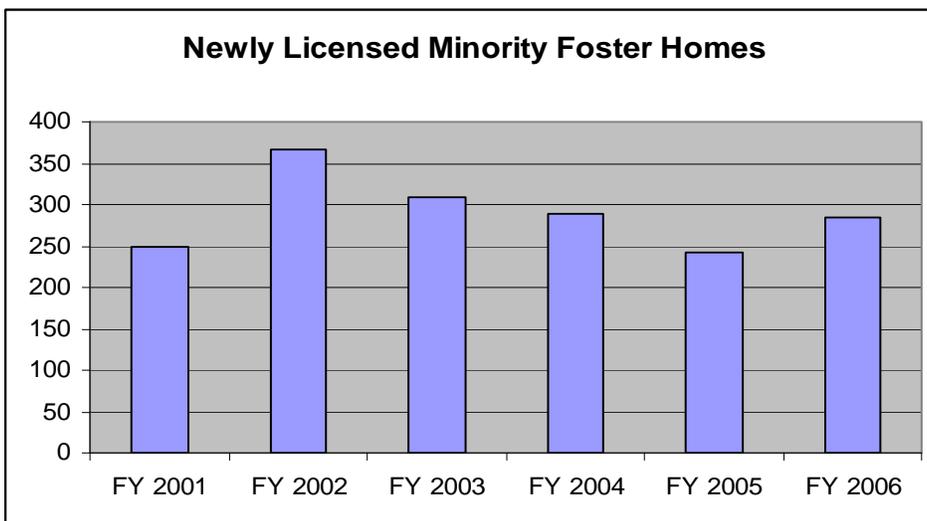
Technical Assistance and the combined work of recruitment and retention under one contractor will help increase the number of homes.

The first chart reflects the numbers since FY 2001 and is the latest data available:



Recruitment of minority homes has been largely based on the recruitment and retention contracts with Lutheran Community Services Northwest, Olive Crest Foster Family Agency and the Foster Care Resource Network in the six Children’s Administration regions. For the coming year, these contracts will continue to focus on the regional needs with an emphasis on the recruiting homes that reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of children in state care. The number of newly licensed minority homes has varied significantly between years, as noted in the chart below. The number for FY 2007 is within the range of the newly licensed homes since 2000.

The chart below reflects the numbers since FY 2001 and is the latest data available:



Many foster homes are licensed for more than one child, so actual capacity differs from the number of licensed homes. Capacity, however, does not equate to availability. Foster parents are not required to accept the number of children for which they are licensed. They often chose to temporarily decline placements because of such issues as family medical problems or the need to “recharge” between placements. Many families never intend to accept the maximum number of

children they are licensed for, but are willing to have children on a respite basis for other families. It is the gap between capacity and availability along with the need for optimum "matching" between child and foster home that drives our recruitment efforts.

While understanding that capacity does not equate to availability, another measure of our recruitment efforts is the comparison of licensed capacity by race of foster parent to number of children in care by race.

The following updated chart presents that information and reflects the latest data available:

Children in Care By Race Compared to Foster Home Capacity 2/07

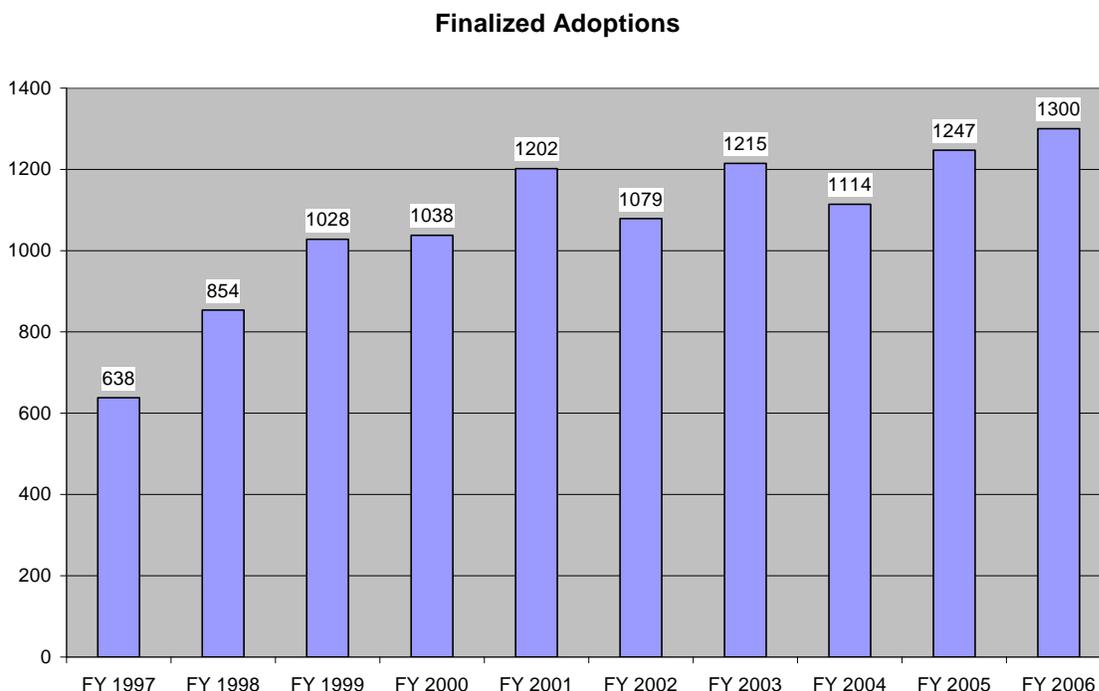
Hispanic	Race	Data	Children	Capacity
(a) No	African American	Number	617	1256
		%	9.14%	9.25%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	65	296
		%	0.96%	2.18%
	Caucasian	Number	3125	9575
		%	46.30%	70.52%
	Multi	Number	532	35
		%	7.88%	0.26%
	Native American	Number	668	775
		%	9.90%	5.71%
	Other	Number	24	101
		%	0.36%	0.74%
	Unreported	Number	4	438
		%	0.06%	3.23%
(a) No Number			5035	12476
(a) No %			74.59%	91.88%
(b) Yes	African American	Number	33	16
		%	0.49%	0.12%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	9	3
		%	0.13%	0.02%
	Caucasian	Number	558	419
		%	8.27%	3.09%
	Multi	Number	102	8
		%	1.51%	0.06%
	Native American	Number	138	31
		%	2.04%	0.23%
	Other	Number	216	505
		%	3.20%	3.72%
	Unreported	Number	11	67
		%	0.16%	0.49%
(b) Yes Number			1067	1049
(b) Yes %			15.81%	7.73%
(c) Unreported	African American	Number	51	0
		%	0.76%	0.00%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	4	0
		%	0.06%	0.00%
	Caucasian	Number	321	0
		%	4.76%	0.00%
	Multi	Number	53	0
		%	0.79%	0.00%
	Native American	Number	129	0
		%	1.91%	0.00%
	Other	Number	2	0
		%	0.03%	0.00%
	Unreported	Number	88	53
		%	1.30%	0.39%
(c) Unreported Number			648	53
(c) Unreported %			9.60%	0.39%
Total Number			6750	13578
Total %			100.00%	100.00%

Adoption Recruitment and Services

Cross-jurisdictional resources are used to facilitate timely adoptive or permanent placements for waiting children. There are numerous activities involved in recruitment of adoptive families for waiting children. The placement of a child in a cross-jurisdictional placement many times is the most suitable placement and can avoid delays in finding a permanent placement for a child.

CA makes every effort to establish permanency for children unable to return to the care and custody of their birth parents through adoption, guardianship, long term foster care and/or relative placements. Permanency via adoption was achieved for 1,300 children in the care and custody of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) during FY 2006 as reported in the Children's Administration Performance Report 2006.

Over the past nine years, the trend in finalized adoptions has continued in a growth pattern, although there are fluctuations from year to year as indicated in the chart below:



Adoptive family recruitment is a challenging and on-going effort for social workers. Finding families who can potentially "best meet each child's individual needs" requires workers to engage in several different types of recruitment activities.

- Generalized adoption recruitment provides information to the general public regarding the on-going need for adoptive families.
- Targeted adoption recruitment aims its message at a specific group or population of individuals or families who may have specific interests or abilities in caring for children who need a permanent home.
- Child specific adoption recruitment profiles the strengths and needs of an individual child or sibling group.

Workers who are engaged in adoption recruitment activities are encouraged to cast the broadest net possible, which in turn reaches the greatest number of individuals and families who may be

interested in adoption. In order to find the most appropriate family for a child who does not have a permanent adoptive family identified, there must be a ready resource of waiting prospective adoptive families who have the potential to meet the unique special needs of each child. In an effort to locate potential adoptive families, CA provides numerous recruitment sources to social work staff. These options include individual staff recruitment activities, attending adoption consortiums to meet with other adoption agency staff, recruitment contracts with community partners and utilization of local, regional and national adoption exchanges. In FY 2004, Washington began placing some of our waiting children on the National AdoptUSKids website (www.adoptuskids.org).

Other activities that focused on adoption recruitment include:

➤ Adoption Consortiums

Adoption Consortiums promote inter-regional linkages on behalf of children. These consortiums provide a collaborative staffing process between the department and private agencies around the state to increase awareness of children in need of adoptive families and approved adoptive families waiting for placements. The consortiums are often the first step in the recruitment process, when family members and/or the current caregiver are not a permanent resource. Consortia activities many times assist workers in making appropriate matches without the need to make a national search.

➤ Local and National Adoption Exchanges

The Children's Administration contracts with the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE), a private agency with recruitment experience and expertise, to place children on the Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE) and the NWAE exchange. Children who are not in an identified adoptive home and have a permanent plan of adoption should be registered with the WARE that provides a photo-listing that is distributed to all Washington State private agencies and DCFS social work staff who provides adoption services for children and families. The book provides a picture and a brief description of each child and is only accessed by social workers or families that have an approved adoptive home study.

The latest data available (from FY 2006) indicate there were 171 new children registered, making a total of 360 Washington children registered with WARE. During this past year 128 children were placed which is a decrease from 174 in FY 2005. For these waiting children recruitment expands to a national level after 90 days. The NWAE website (www.nwae.org) served 230 children in FY 2006, 77 of these children were placed, 42 have pending placements, 11 children were withdrawn, and 100 children are still in need of active recruitment. The average wait time for a child who is registered to be placed on the Exchange is 8.54 months. NWAE staff also attends the regional consortium meetings to provide outreach to staff about recruitment options.

➤ Purchase of Service

The Purchase of Service (POS) program provides contracts to private agencies in Washington and other states, for the recruitment and placement of children into adoptive homes and as well as the finalization of the adoption. The POS program began as a pilot project in early 1980, to help offset the cost of recruitment that private agencies provide for eligible children in need of adoptive families. One of the eligibility factors includes the length of time a child is registered with WARE before an adoptive family is identified and placement occurs. In FY 2006, 44 children were referred to the program which resulted in 35 child specific contracts, 19 adoptions have been finalized, one placement disrupted and the other children are still pending adoption finalization.

- The Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP)

The Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP) has helped to meet the goal of increasing child specific adoption recruitment. During this past year, CA continued the child specific recruitment contract with Northwest Resources/Northwest Adoption exchange (NWAE). The contract provides specialized recruitment for special needs children each fiscal year. In FY 2006 CA increased the total number of children recruited from 35 to 60. This project accepts children who are legally free, registered with the Washington Adoption Resources Exchange (WARE), have a permanent plan for adoption, and have located no family through other recruitment methods. The contract builds upon community partnerships with local child placing agencies to bolster recruitment efforts and commitment to permanency for the children of Washington State who are waiting for adoptive families.

Since the inception of this contract in July 2001, there has been a 70% success rate in placing the enrolled children with adoptive families. Many lessons have been learned along the way including identification of additional staff training needs, the critical importance of preparing children for adoption, and making good placement decisions. CA staff's participating in these recruitment efforts have become strong supporters of child-specific recruitment and call to have children placed on a waiting list for the next available slot.

➤ AdoptUSKids Campaign

Washington State in collaboration with the Families for Kids, Northwest Adoption Exchange, and Families like Ours began participating in the AdoptUSKids campaign launched in 2004. The ad campaign is slated to run for a minimum of three years.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families has partnered with, The Adoption Exchange Association, The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids and the National Ad Council to launch a new public service advertising campaign. The campaign issues a call to action to prospective parents asking them to consider adopting a child or children from foster care. The campaign aims to significantly increase the awareness of the urgent need to provide loving, permanent homes for these children. The campaign targets prospective parents, assuring them that they don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent, and that just being there makes all the difference.

The most important characteristics for prospective parents are a belief in adoption and an ability to commit, patience and perseverance, a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective, a love of children and parenting, the ability to be flexible, tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own, the strength to be consistent and set limits, a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs, and resourcefulness.

Children placed on the website (www.adoptuskids.org) are there as part of the Specialized Adoption Recruitment Project (SARP). To date there have been 216 children registered with the website and 123 children placed.

➤ Heart Gallery

The Children's Administration continues to participate in the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Washington Heart Gallery exhibit which includes a collection of 59 portraits of children, teens, adults, families and seniors supported by DSHS programs. The [Washington State Heart Gallery](#) is a unique portrait exhibit of compelling photographs of DSHS clients who need help and encouragement.

The Heart Gallery has been well received around the state however the overall effectiveness of the program for children in need of adoptive families has not yet been determined.

➤ Wednesday's Child Program

The Wednesday's Child Program provides adoption recruitment to youth utilizing partnerships with the media. The program focuses on recruitment through the use of local television stations. The NWAEE exchange continues to facilitate utilization of this recruitment mechanism for youth by coordinating with the Spokane and Idaho television stations, social workers, caregivers and youth.



Section D: Supporting Information

(5) Adoption Incentive Payments



**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Annual Progress and Services Report FY 2007 - FY 2008 Adoption Incentive Payments

The Children's Administration used adoption incentive funds for FY07 in the following ways to address barriers to adoption and permanency.

- Amend current contract with Northwest Adoption Exchange to register children who are legally free and not in their identified placement of choice. CA staff will need to be available for a 15 to 20 minute interview with the NWAEE staff, who will complete the paperwork and registration packet.
 - ❖ Anticipated expenditure-\$12,000 for 20 days in 6 Regions in CA offices with the highest number of legally free children.

- Provide supplemental funding to existing regional recruitment and retention contractors or other appropriate providers to identify or develop a support group in each region that will focus on adoptive family support. Provide funding for assessing the support group's needs and provide technical assistance in area of adoptions.
 - ❖ Anticipated expenditure-\$30,000 total (\$5000 per region)

- Dedicated monies for publication, printing and distribution of information packets/booklets that focus on post-adoption and post-guardianship supports.
 - ❖ Anticipated expenditure-\$20,000
 - Provide supplemental funding to existing regional recruitment and retention contractors for a half-day institute in conjunction with the Foster and Relative Caregiver conference in September, 2007. This half-day institute would be follow up to technical assistance received earlier from the NRC. Focus on utilizing national adoption recruitment methods, proven retention methods and developing a consistent statewide recruitment and retention message.
 - ❖ \$600 per person (includes Sunday through Wednesday, conference registration, hotel and meals)
 - ❖ Approximately 40 participants
 - ❖ NRC trainer if approved is no cost to CA
 - ❖ Miscellaneous-conference room for meeting-\$1000 max.
 - ❖ Total projected costs \$25,000

 - Four (4) staff to attend the NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children) Conference July 26-July 28, 2007 in Tampa, Florida. Two HQ Adoption Staff and two field staff (east side and west side offices). Some of the conference highlights which would benefit our work with adoption of adolescents and post-adoption support:
 - Understanding Adopted Teens
 - Building Capacity: Organizing Community Support for Adoptive Families
 - Finding Permanent Parents for Teens in Foster Care
 - Parent Support and Post-Adoptive Services
 - Innovative Adoptive and Foster Groups throughout the Country
 - Adoption and Other Options for Teens

 - Anticipated Expenditure: \$ 2000 per person (Includes conference registration, air fare, hotel, per diem, airport parking)
 - Total Expenditure: \$8000

Total expenditures: \$95,000

It is still unknown at this time if adoption incentive monies will be received in FY08. Planned activities for FY08 include the following:

1. Adoption training for staff statewide;
2. Creation of training materials that could be used for training in the regions, such as a video; to provide consistency of practice.
3. Printing of post-permanency brochures, including one Dependency Guardianships and Post-Adoption Support services;
4. Improved movement to permanency of legally-free children not placed in the home of their choice by contracting with WARE to register children with the exchange and increased numbers of children referred for child specific recruitment.
5. Funding to the regions for home studies, increased FTEs, and recruitment of adoptive families.