

COVID-19 IMPACT ON

THE 14,000 CHILDREN IN MISSOURI STATE CUSTODY

AND THE PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS WHO CARE FOR THEM

As family stress increases, so does the risk of child abuse.



Child abuse is an emergency; and social workers are the first to respond.



Social workers need access to **affordable PPE and technology**.

11,000 children are sheltering-in-place in foster homes.



Like many families, foster homes are experiencing unemployment and more household costs.



Foster families deserve a **temporary rate increase** to cover the increase cost of caring for children in state custody.

1,500 children are sheltering-in-place in residential facilities; nearly 70% of these children are in state custody.



Organizations have a significant cost increase in food, cleaning supplies and technology.



Organizations **need help paying for increased operations costs** to keep children safe.

Missouri will receive over \$6.5 billion in federal aid from the Coronavirus Aid and CARES Act. The approved and signed Supplemental Budget has areas that can support Missouri's human services organizations and individuals who are caring for the children in Missouri state custody. Cornerstones of Care estimates losing \$1.5 million+ from March-May between increased costs and lost program revenue. **We are asking for the following actions:**

- ✓ **Temporary rate increases to foster families.** Kansas, Illinois and other states have already taken this important step. The \$9m allocated for FFPSA transition could be used to meet this need.
- ✓ **Temporary rate increases for residential and transitional living services** to cover the increased costs of staffing, food, and cleaning. Both Kansas and Illinois took these steps. The state's increase in FMAP could be utilized to cover these increased costs.
- ✓ **Assistance accessing and paying for PPE.** Federal stimulus and FEMA support are currently being utilized for these expenses and could provide supplies to organizations providing care to children in the care and custody of the state.