

Questions for DHHS regarding [HB 661-FN](#)

Compiled by Rep. M. Mooney

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#	Topic	Questions
1	Accounting Unit	<p>A. Where do current Social Security Administration (both Title II and Title XVI) benefits for foster children who receive them go in the NH state budget?</p> <p>B. What accounting unit(s) includes them?</p>
2	Taxpayer dollars to be spent compared to benefits that would be conserved	<p>A. If HB 661 were adopted, approximately how many SSI/SSA dollars would be conserved and what would it cost the state to implement this policy change? In other words, how many taxpayer dollars would be spent to save how many SSI/disability dollars? Would it cost the state more than would be conserved for the youth in State custody? If so, how much more would it cost? The following questions are relevant to this inquiry:</p> <p>B. Please provide the number of youth in DCYF custody who were eligible for SSA benefits during the last fiscal year (7/1/2024-6/30/2025), broken down by type of benefit (i.e. RSDI/Title II, SSI/Title XVI)</p> <p>C. How many staff members does DCYF currently employ to manage benefits for these youth? What percentage of each staff member’s time is devoted to managing these benefits?</p> <p>D. What is the total SSA revenue DCYF actually received from each type of benefit during the last fiscal year?</p> <p>E. What is the number of SSI eligible youth in DCYF custody in the last fiscal year for whom the Department received IV-E maintenance funds?</p> <p>F. What is the total amount of IV-E maintenance funds DCYF actually received in the last fiscal year for SSI eligible youth?</p> <p>G. How many SSI/other SSA applications did DCYF file for youth in custody during the last fiscal year?</p> <p>H. How many denials/terminations of SSI benefits did DCYF receive for youth in custody during the last fiscal year?</p> <p>I. How many appeals of denials/terminations did DCYF file during the last fiscal year?</p> <p>J. What new policies would be required beyond what is currently in Policies 2652 and 1676 (including each policy’s SOPs) to implement a child centered benefits management approach (as would be required if HB 661 passes)?</p>

3	Title IV-E AND 42 USC 674 AND HB 2 - 141:310 (2025)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Related to inquiry #2 above - May the State secure additional IV-E Maintenance or Administrative funds to reduce the anticipated negative fiscal impact of HB 661? B. What IV-E administrative funds does DHHS currently receive to implement DCYF Policy 1676 including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Screening and/or applying for benefits on behalf of children in custody; b. Establishing accounts and managing benefits on behalf of children in custody; and c. Drafting and submitting required reports to the SSA. C. What IV-E administrative or other federal funds could DHHS seek to perform, or supplement the cost of performing, any additional obligations if HB 661 were to pass including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New policy development and implementation; b. Training on policy implementation; c. Increased benefit management obligations - e.g.. setting up interest bearing and/or ABLE accounts for children receiving Title II benefits or SSI, respectively; d. Providing financial literacy training for youth receiving federal benefits; e. Any other costs included in the fiscal note. D. Could/do any of the IV-E administrative funds available or potentially available in the above-two bullet points cover staff salaries? If yes, what portion? If not, what specifically could/do the administrative funds cover? What is DHHS currently doing/pursuing, pursuant to HB 2, 141:310, to seek additional IV-E administrative funds?
4	Payees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. To avoid redundancy, if a foster child already has a responsible representative payee for managing funds can that payee remain (instead of being replaced by a DHHS payee)? B. If not, why?
5	ABLE Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. What does the state have to do to establish and manage ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) accounts for youth in DCYF's custody who are SSI beneficiaries? B. What, if any additional DHHS staff members would the establishment and maintenance of ABLE accounts for these youth require and why?
6	Interest Bearing Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Does DHHS maintain individual interest-bearing accounts for any youth in its custody receiving SSI or Title II SSA benefits? B. If so, for what portion of such youth? C. If not, does DHHS maintain an account compliant with GN 00603.020, including maintenance of sub account ledgers for each child receiving benefits? D. If DHHS does neither, when will NH DHHS start keeping these benefits in

		interesting-bearing accounts or begin maintaining an account complaint with GN 00603.020?
7	Other States	A. 9 States and Jurisdictions have enacted legislation or policies requiring them to conserve all Social Security benefits for children in their custody. These States/Jurisdictions are: Arizona, Kansas, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon and the District of Columbia. How many additional employees did each of these states require to implement this policy change?