

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES (See narrative for political subdivision estimates)

	FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	\$1,059,298		\$1,246,398	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$1,059,298		\$1,246,398	

Any Fiscal Notes received from state agencies and political subdivisions are attached following the Legislative Fiscal Analyst Estimate.

This bill changes provisions under the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act. The Department of Health and Human Services administers the Bridge to Independence (B2I) Program. The bill would expand eligibility of the program to approximately 50 additional young people who had previous probation involvement. Based on an average stipend amount of \$944.14 monthly, the newly eligible individuals would require \$566,484 annually in state aid as the stipends are not eligible for federal funding. The fiscal impact assumes stipends begin July 2023, the start of FY24. Additionally, Medicaid would incur added state aid costs associated with a shift of individuals who are currently eligible under Medicaid Expansion to be eligible as Former Foster Care. Currently, as Expansion eligible there is a higher federal fund contribution however the federal contribution would decline with the shift in eligibility type. DHHS estimates the need for \$97,050 in FY24 and \$129,400 in FY25 in general funds to cover the shift in Medicaid cost allocation.

The bill's expansion to non-foster care involved youth would necessitate general fund usage to cover the added costs of administration as well. DHHS indicates 5.5 FTEs would need to be hired for case management, support, supervision and information sharing. The Foster Care Review Office would also need an additional FTE due to their obligation to track B2I participants and perform B2I case reviews. The fiscal impact assumes new staff starts October 2023 and totals, for both DHHS and FCRO, to \$395,764 in FY24 and \$550,514 in FY25. The Supreme Court indicates there may be additional work due to hearings which could be requested under the bill however the agency indicates no additional resources would be required.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE

LB: 14	AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Foster Care Review Office
REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman	DATE: 1-17-2023 PHONE: (402) 471-4180
COMMENTS: No basis to disagree with the Foster Care Review Office's assessment of no fiscal impact.	

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE

LB: 14	AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman	DATE: 2-17-2023 PHONE: (402) 471-4180
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' analysis and estimate of fiscal impact to the department appears reasonable.	

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES STATE BUDGET DIVISION: REVIEW OF AGENCY & POLT. SUB. RESPONSE

LB: 14	AM: AGENCY/POLT. SUB: Nebraska Supreme Court
REVIEWED BY: Ann Linneman	DATE: 2-17-2023 PHONE: (402) 471-4180
COMMENTS: The Nebraska Supreme Court's analysis and estimate of fiscal impact to the department appears reasonable.	

Please complete ALL (5) blanks in the first three lines.

2023

LB⁽¹⁾ 14

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ Foster Care Review Office

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Heidi Ore Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 1/13/2023 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-471-4676

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Explanation of Estimate:

The FCRO estimates that up to ten additional young adults would be eligible for bridge to independence case review selection each month should LB 14 be implemented.

Since 2018, the FCRO has absorbed the work of tracking bridge to independence program participants, completing a monthly case file selection process, sending required review notifications to interested parties, reviewing case files and completed questionnaires, holding calls scheduled for young adults to share information about their experience directly with FCRO staff, assessing young adults progress on goals, determining program outcomes, completing required reports to be sent to court on reviewed young adults in the bridge to independence program, and analyzing and reporting data collected; all with no additional funding allocated to FCRO for the bridge to independence case reviews. In 2020, tribal wards were also made eligible for this program through LB 489; however, the FCRO was not asked to submit a fiscal note at that time and has, in turn, absorbed the cost of those additional reviews.

To help ensure other FCRO system priorities are not negatively impacted we ask the committee to consider funding the FCRO's request for an IT Business System Coordinator position that was included in our 2023-25 Biennium Budget request. This would be an increase in salary, benefits, and operating expenses of \$96,793 in Fiscal Year 2023-24 and \$98,076 in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

The FCRO has requested this additional research team staff member to increase the FCRO's capacity to collect, analyze, and report on all children and youth in out-of-home care, and young adults in the bridge to independence program. This recent request is due to increased technical requirements of building, testing and maintaining accurate and efficient tracking infrastructure, conducting collaborative research with academic institutions and system partners, analyzing and reporting data through enhanced platforms (i.e., FCRO Data Dashboards on our website), and providing data-driven recommendations to decision-makers. It is anticipated that this position would further facilitate the examination of ways success in the bridge to independence program is dependent on the young adult's experiences and outcomes while a minor in the child welfare system. Such examination could lead to improvements in the child welfare system as well as the bridge to independence program.

Here is a link to the FCRO's June 2022 Quarterly Report which contained a special report on Bridge to Independence Extended Foster Care Program Case Reviews. [Microsoft Word - FCRO June 2022 Quarterly Report - Final \(nebraska.gov\)](#)

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2023-24	2024-25
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Benefits.....				
Operating.....				
Travel.....				
Capital outlay.....				
Aid.....				
Capital improvements.....				
TOTAL.....				

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

State Agency or Political Subdivision Name:(2) Department of Health and Human Services

Prepared by: (3) John Meals

Date Prepared 2-16-2023

Phone: (5) 471-6719

	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>		<u>FY 2024-2025</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	\$986,703		\$1,148,322	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	\$986,703		\$1,148,322	

Return by date specified or 72 hours prior to public hearing, whichever is earlier.

Explanation of Estimate:

LB14 will have a fiscal impact on DHHS as it will change provisions under the Young Adult Bridge to Independence Act, expanding eligibility for the Bridge to Independence (B2i) program to certain young adults with previous Probation involvement. This would increase Bridge to Independence participants by an estimated 50 young people each year according to Probation.

At this time the rate that each youth in B2i qualifies for is an average of \$944.14 monthly stipend. If LB14 is implemented, the increase in participants would result in an estimated increase of \$566,484 related to stipend payments per year. The B2i stipend is not part of Chafee funding. The young people purposed by LB14 would not be eligible for Chafee funding and may need additional funds to help secure stable housing.

CFS will need additional 4 FTE B2i Independence Coordinators as well as 1 FTE B2i Lead Independence Coordinator and 1 FTE B2i Supervisor to be able to provide case management, support, and supervision to the expanded population. In addition, CFS would need 1 FTE Program Specialist to manage the data/information sharing and provide technical support to the newly created team and youth.

For a young adult in B2i to be IV-E eligible, federal guidance (Social Security Act 475 (8)(B)) indicates that the young adult must have been in foster care under the responsibility of a Title IV-E agency. LB14 would require state general funds to cover the costs associated with this expanded population. Without approval of the State Plan from the Federal Department of Health and Human Services, DHHS cannot claim or plan for probation youth to be IV-E eligible.

For MLTC, this bill would result in a cost increase due to the shift from Expansion to the Former Foster Care (FFC) eligible population. It is estimated that for state fiscal year 2024 it would result in an estimated increase of \$97,050 and for state fiscal year 2025 an estimated increase of \$129,400. The initial eligibility of this population has no impact as these individuals, if eligible, will be initially eligible in existing programs. The increase in cost is a result of eligibility under the Former Foster Care (FFC) program, potentially until age 26 and loss of the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for the expansion group. This bill has no impact on existing eligibility systems, services, or operations.

Former Foster Care (FCC) is considered a mandatory group, and according to Medicaid expansion rules, individuals must first be reviewed under the mandatory groups. If Former Foster Care (FCC) is made available to this population, they must be enrolled into FFC. At this time, they are enrolled in the expansion group and are assessed for the enhanced 90% expansion FMAP.

This fiscal note assumes a start date of 10/1/23.

MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

PERSONAL SERVICES:

POSITION TITLE	NUMBER OF POSITIONS		2023-2024	2024-2025
	23-24	24-25	EXPENDITURES	EXPENDITURES
Child and Family Service Specialist	3	4	\$139,277	\$194,988
Child and Family Services Specialist Supervisor	0.75	1	\$43,262	\$60,567
DHHS Program Specialist	0.38	0.5	\$17,318	\$24,246
Benefits.....			\$69,950	\$97,930
Operating.....			\$53,362	\$74,707
Travel.....				
Capital Outlay.....				
Aid.....			\$663,534	\$695,884
Capital Improvements.....				
TOTAL.....			\$986,703	\$1,148,322

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2023

LB⁽¹⁾ 14

FISCAL NOTE

State Agency OR Political Subdivision Name: ⁽²⁾ 05 Supreme Court

Prepared by: ⁽³⁾ Eric Asboe Date Prepared: ⁽⁴⁾ 2/17/2023 Phone: ⁽⁵⁾ 402-326-9215

ESTIMATE PROVIDED BY STATE AGENCY OR POLITICAL SUBDIVISION

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>		<u>FY 2024-25</u>	
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
CASH FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
FEDERAL FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
OTHER FUNDS	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	=====	=====	=====	=====

Explanation of Estimate:

LB14 allows youth on probation to access the Young Adult Bridge to Independence program. It is estimated that 35-45 youth could be eligible. No additional Probation resources needed to implement the notice requirements to those eligible. Department of Health and Human Services would be responsible for providing any services.

LB14 would also increase judicial workload for the hearings that can be requested in Section 1. A complete estimate of the impact cannot be determined, however, at this time, no additional judicial resources required.

BREAKDOWN BY MAJOR OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE

Personal Services:

<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</u>		<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Benefits.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Travel.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital outlay.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aid.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
Capital improvements.....	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL.....	_____	_____	_____	_____