

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Marie Noonan
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December 31, 2024

His Excellency Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State House
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Representative Sherman A. Packard
Speaker of the House of
Representatives
State House, Room 312
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Senator Sharon Carson
President of the Senate
State House, Room 302
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Representative Mark A. Pearson, Chairman
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205-207
33 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301

Representative Kenneth L. Weyler, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
33 North State Street
Concord NH 03301

Senator Bill Gannon, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
State House, Room 100
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Senator James P. Gray, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
State House, Room 103-A
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Honorable Paul C. Smith, House Clerk
State House, Room 317
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Honorable Tammy Wright
Senate Clerk
State House
107 N. Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

State Librarian
State Library
20 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu, Senators, Representatives, Clerks, and State Library:

The Department of Health and Human Services respectfully and in accordance with House Bill 1598-FN-A presents the *New Hampshire Division for Children Youth and Families Child-Centered Benefits Management Assessment Final Report* for your consideration and review.

On July 12, 2024, Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1598 (HB 1598) requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to “provide a report relative to the management of social security and veterans’ benefits for children in placement.” The enacted legislation further states that “[t]o assist in the preparation of this report, and to assist the department with implantation of the report’s recommendations, including the budget proposal for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department shall hire a consultant with knowledge of other

states’ efforts to manage such payments and benefits for children in placement.” This legislation appropriated to DHHS, the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of hiring the consultant.

On September 25, 2024, Governor and Council approved the DHHS entering into a sole source contract with the Public Consulting Group, LLC (PCG) who have subject matter expertise in working with various states to implement conservation of federal benefits for children in foster care throughout our country.


The Department met with PCG regularly to provide information to them to enable the completion of this comprehensive assessment and analysis of our current practices while analyzing and reporting on the budget effects of implementing and operationalizing various conservation of federal benefits models discussed thoroughly in this report. This report was further utilized to inform the detailed fiscal impact analysis of the budgetary costs of LSR 25-0373.0.

As described in detail in the attached *New Hampshire Division for Children Youth and Families Child-Centered Benefits Management Assessment Final Report*, the total Biennium Budget Impact for the 2026/2027 budget ending June 30, 2026 is as follows:

Category	Total
Lost SSI/RSDI Revenue	\$2,177,112
Lost Title IV-E Revenue	\$283,627
Implementation Cost	\$280,300
Ongoing Operations	\$461,300
Year 1 Budget Impact <i>(lost revenue, implementation, and year one ongoing operations costs)</i>	\$3,202,339
Year 2 Budget Impact <i>(lost revenue and year two ongoing operations costs)</i>	\$2,922,039
Total Biennial Budget Impact	\$6,124,378

****See pg. 22 Public Consulting Group’s *New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth, and Families Child-Centered Benefits Management Assessment Report*, Table 6. Total Fiscal Impact of Implementing a Child-Centered Benefits Management Program, Conserving 100% of SSI/RSDI Benefits**

Sincerely,



Marie Noonan
Director
Division for Children, Youth and Families

Attach.