Agency Summary & Statutory Authority

The Division of Child Welfare has two budgeted programs and is responsible for child protection, foster care, and adoptions. The Child Welfare Program is responsible for the operating costs of the program including personnel, operating, and capital expenditures. The Foster and Assistance Payments Program includes trustee and benefit payments for services or items purchased directly for children in the child welfare system.

- The Division of Child Welfare is authorized 408.80 FTP
  - As of January 3, 2022, there were 30.58 vacant FTP, which is a vacancy rate of 7.4%
  - Responsible for child protection, foster care, adoption, independent living services for youth transferring out of foster care to adulthood, and compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act
  - During FY 2021, 2,867 children were served through foster care
    - 1,293 left the foster care system, and of those 57% were reunited with parents/caregivers

Please see publications from the Legislative Services, Budget & Policy Analysis Division for additional details: https://legislature.Idaho.gov/lso/bpa/pubs/
Even with staffing and financial challenges, the child welfare program staff has:

- Completed **10,606** safety assessments
- Reunited **759** children with their families
- Finalized **382** adoptions
- Worked with **1,191** licensed foster families
Challenges:

**Staffing:** Without appropriate staffing levels, children may end up staying in foster care longer than is necessary

**Recruiting & retaining foster families:** In the Treasure Valley, there are not enough foster homes for the children who need them

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1 & 2. To address current staffing challenges providing in-home services and support to families

3. To increase our foster care maintenance rates and increase adoption subsidy payments for children aged 0-21