

## Financial Facts

### How Does the Growth of Child Welfare Allocations Compare to Total Children Served? F 1

Colorado Counties Inc.

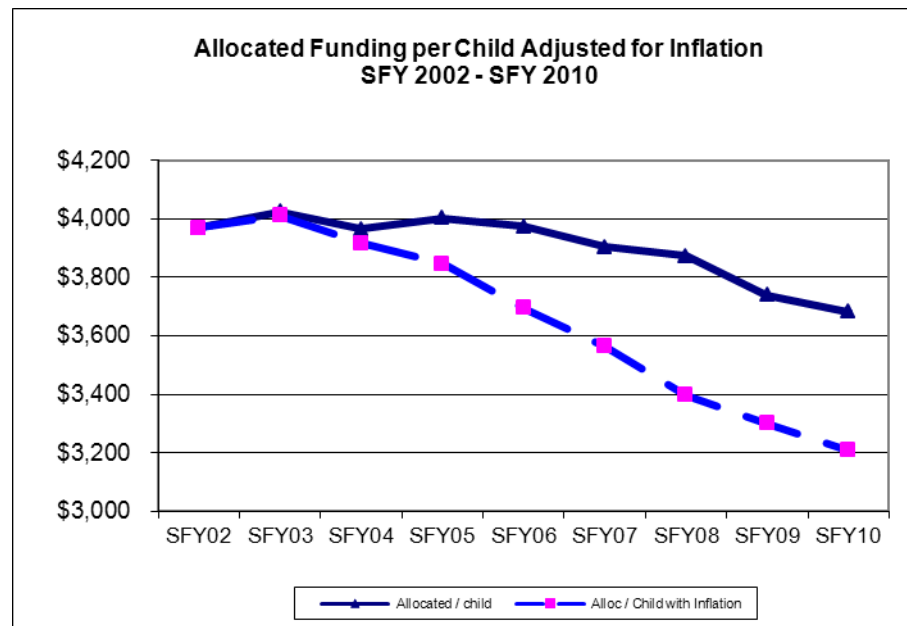
3-17-2011

- The number of **children served grew** from 2002 to 2010 by **31.9%**.
- Child welfare **allocations grew** from 2002 to 2010 by only **22.4%**.
- The amount of **funding per child served dropped by 7.2%** from 2002 to 2010, and by **19.2% when considering inflation**. In other words, child welfare purchasing power has not kept pace with the number of children served by child welfare.
- Colorado counties, similar to other states, have safely served more children with lower purchasing power through strategies, such as reducing out-of-home placements. Reducing out-of-home placements is a federal goal and best practice.

#### HOW DOES THE GROWTH OF CHILD WELFARE ALLOCATIONS COMPARE TO TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED?

From State Fiscal Year 2002 to 2010, the Child Welfare allocations grew by 22.4%. When adjusted for inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, the growth was only 6.6%.

At the same time, the number of children being served through the child welfare system, as measured through TRAILS data, increased by 31.9%. As a consequence, the allocated funding per child fell by 7.2%, and the purchasing power per child, as defined by the county allocations adjusted for inflation, fell by 19.2% from \$3,970 per child to \$3,209 per child.



**Sources:** TRAILS data. Child Welfare Allocations.

County prepared spreadsheet on total child welfare allocations and consumer price index for the Denver – Boulder – Greeley area.

**Note:** \*Total children served represents unduplicated count of children in new assessments and open cases (including subsidized adoption cases).