

## 2013-15 Policy Option Package

**Agency Name:** Department of Human Services  
**Program Area Name:** Child Welfare Programs  
**Program Name:** Adoption Services  
**Policy Option Package Initiative:**  
**Policy Option Package Title:** Post Adoption Program Buyback  
**Policy Option Package Number:** 106-1  
**Related Legislation:** Not applicable  
**Program Funding Team:** Safety

**Summary Statement:**

DHS's post adoption services program provides services to adoptive and guardianship families who provide permanent homes for DHS children. These services enhance the stability and functioning of Oregon adoptive and guardianship families and their children through the provision of a support network that includes information and referral services, consultation services in response to imminent and current adoptive family crises, support groups, and training. In the federal fiscal year ending September, 2011, the post adoption services contractor (ORPARC) provided 1,619 initial and follow up contacts with families, 34 reported crisis or disruption related services, and training to 718 individuals. Families who adopt special needs children must have adequate and competent support to help sustain their placements. The funding for post adoption services was eliminated in the 2011-13 budgets. The department was able to maintain the program using federal Adoption Incentive money which is not available after this biennium.

	General Fund	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<b><u>Policy Option Package Pricing:</u></b>	<b>\$108,480</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$325,439</b>	<b>\$433,919</b>

**1. WHAT WOULD THIS POLICY OPTION PACKAGE (POP) DO AND HOW WOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED?**

Post adoption services will end on June 30, 2013 without a policy option package. This POP will allow us to continue our contract with ORPARC for post adoption and guardianship services for families who provide permanency to 12,000 Oregon DHS children.

**2. WHY DOES DHS PROPOSE THIS POP?**

Most adopted children, because they suffered early deprivation or maltreatment, come to their new families with elevated risks for developmental, physical, psychological, emotional, or behavioral challenges. The issues and dynamics present in these permanent placements are often not understood by adoptive parents or the professionals they contact, or the families understand the issues but still struggle to meet the demands of parenting very high needs and challenging children. Post adoption services provides information and referral, education and training, support groups, mentoring, advocacy, and crisis intervention. Crisis intervention is a crucial part of this service in keeping these families intact. Allowing post adoption and guardianship services to expire is first a potential disincentive for families to adopt or become guardians of special needs children because families will know that the supports they receive in foster care will end with adoption or guardianship. It will also potentially increase the number of children returning to foster care or residential treatment because families in crisis will be unable to receive the support and advocacy they need within their homes. The 1,619 initial and follow up contacts received in a one year period by the post adoption services program will be deferred to branch offices who neither have the staff to respond, nor the expertise and competency to provide the needed level of services and advocacy for these families.

**3. HOW DOES THIS FURTHER THE AGENCY'S MISSION OR GOALS?**

Safe and equitable reduction of children in foster care is a primary goal of the Office of Child Welfare Programs within DHS. Post adoption services provide incentives to get children out of foster care and to keep children in permanent homes once they get there.

**4. IS THIS POP TIED TO A DHS PERFORMANCE MEASURE? IF YES, IDENTIFY THE PERFORMANCE MEASURE. IF NO, HOW WILL DHS MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS POP?**

Yes, this POP is tied to two key performance measures. Timeliness of Adoptions; exits to adoption in less than 24 months, and Timely Adoptions; the median number of months from date of latest removal from home to finalized adoption. The availability of post adoption services can help families make decisions towards adoption or guardianship and once a child is placed can help avoid disruption and lead to quicker finalizations.

**5. DOES THIS POP REQUIRE A CHANGE(S) TO AN EXISTING STATUTE OR REQUIRE A NEW STATUTE? IF YES, IDENTIFY THE STATUTE AND THE LEGISLATIVE CONCEPT.**

No

**6. WHAT ALTERNATIVES WERE CONSIDERED AND WHAT WERE THE REASONS FOR REJECTING THEM?**

Alternatives to consider other than the POP are to absorb the workload with existing field casework staff and to train existing field casework staff on the complexities of working with these families. The reasons for rejecting these alternatives are the already existing high caseloads for caseworkers and the time and costliness of developing their post adoption services competency.

**7. WHAT WOULD BE THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF NOT FUNDING THIS POP?**

The volume of contacts made to ORPARC will be deferred to either branch offices or to the adoption/guardianship coordinators in central office in order for families to get the information, referral, advocacy, and crisis intervention services they need to support their children. There will not be the level of competency, service delivery and advocacy that are currently provided by ORPARC staff who are experts in post adoption and guardianship family dynamics. Adverse effects of not funding the POP could include a disincentive to provide permanency for high special needs children, and more children returning to substitute care from permanent placements.

**8. WHAT OTHER AGENCIES (STATE, TRIBAL AND/OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT) WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS POP? HOW WOULD THEY BE AFFECTED?**

Private adoption agencies that place DHS children and Oregon Tribes would be affected by this POP. Families studied by private agencies and Tribes are eligible for ORPARC services for the DHS children that they adopt or provide guardianship for.

**9. WHAT ASSUMPTIONS AFFECT THE PRICING OF THIS POP?**

Foster or residential care rates would likely increase with more children adopted or in guardianships re-entering substitute care because families cannot get the crisis intervention they now rely on. Preventing only a small number of children re-entering DHS care makes this POP cost effective.

**Implementation Date(s):** July 1, 2013

**End Date (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**a. Will there be new responsibilities for DHS? Specify which Program Area(s) and describe their new responsibilities.**

No.

**b. Will there be new administrative impacts sufficient to require additional funding? Specify which office(s) (i.e., facilities, computer services, etc.) and describe how it will be affected. See Addendum A - Administrative Services Division LC/POP Impact Questionnaire (at the end of this document).**

No

**c. Will there be changes to client caseloads or services provided to population groups? Specify how many in each relevant program.**

No

- d. Will it take new staff or will existing positions be modified? For each classification, list the number of positions and the number of months the positions will work in each biennium. Specify if the positions are permanent, limited duration or temporary.**  
This POP will prevent an elimination of a program rather than adding a new one so no new staff or existing positions will be required if implemented.
- e. What are the start-up costs, such as new or significant modifications to computer systems, new materials, outreach and training?**  
None
- f. What are the ongoing costs?**  
IV-B, part 2 funds
- g. What are the potential savings?**
- h. Based on these answers, is there a fiscal impact?**

**TOTAL FOR THIS PACKAGE**

<u>Category</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>OF</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>TF</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Personal Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	0.00
Services & Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Special Payments	\$108,480	\$0	\$325,439	\$433,919		
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$108,480</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$325,439</b>	<b>\$433,919</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**DHS - Fiscal Impact Summary by Program Area:**

	<b>Post Adoption Services</b>	<b>Program Area 2</b>	<b>Program Area 3</b>	<b>Program Area 4</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$108,480</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$108,480</b>
<b>Other Fund</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Federal Funds- Ltd</b>	<b>\$325,439</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$325,439</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$433,919</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$433,919</b>
<b>Positions</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**What are the sources of funding and the funding split for each one?**

**Post Adoption Services Revenue Impact:**

<u>Description of Revenue</u>	<u>OF</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>TF</u>
Licensing fees (Comp Srce 0975)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medicaid (Comp Srce 0995)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (Comp Srce 0995)	\$0	\$325,439	\$0
Other (Comp Srce XXXX)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (Comp Srce XXXX)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$325,439</b>	<b>\$0</b>