

January 26, 2026

Adoption of Utah's Hardest to Place Children

Social Services Appropriations
Subcommittee



Utah Department of
Health & Human
Services

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Budget request

\$1,000,000 One-time FY27 General Fund

\$0 Ongoing General Fund



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Challenges

- State funding supports youth connection advocates who help children at greatest risk of aging out of foster care without a permanent family
- Limitation on funding from the Dave Thomas Foundation after initial phase



How will this request address the challenges?

- Public-private partnership helps youth find permanent homes
- Find right family for every child using evidence-based approach
- Ongoing collaboration with proven results





Before WWK, the majority of children reported feeling their voice was not heard in the recruitment process.



Youth served by WWK are **1.5 times** more likely to be adopted.



Youth with mental health disorders served by WWK are more than **3 times** as likely to be adopted.



