

Calculating Value of Economic Impact

Key Validation Factors |

All data related to requests and when a church meets a need is provided by the agency partners submitting the requests.

An extensive research process was conducted by a nationally recognized child welfare consultant, who shared insights and information from state departments of children and families across the nation.

To ensure that we are not overstating in any way, we chose a conservative approach in our reporting of economic impact. We believe the economic impact is considerably larger than what we report.

Financial Value of Key Benefits of CarePortal Partnership |

- Value of one (1) hour time saved for workers (see Reference 1)

The median salary in 2014 for a child welfare worker nationally, according to US News and World Reports, was \$42, 120. With 2,080 working hours in a year, caseworkers make a median salary of **\$20.25** per hour.

- Value of one (1) week a child was kept out of foster care (see Reference 2)

In 2011, according to Zill, the average national cost of keeping a child in foster care for the U.S. government was \$25,782, or **\$494** per week.

- Value of not changing a placement (see Reference 3)

Cost to system of changing a placement: "Price (2007) conducted focus groups...and found that each placement change required at least 25 hours of casework time to process the change in placement (e.g., staff meetings, court reports, identifying a placement and placing a child in the new setting, and other paperwork)." Time of 25 hours multiplied by the median hourly salary = **\$506.25**.

- Value of Volunteer Time (see Reference4)

2018 estimated national value of each volunteer hour is \$24.69 and there is an average of 3.12 hours spent by volunteers for each request met. **\$77.03** is added to the economic impact for reach request met.

- The cost of one week of foster care vs. one week in adoption (see Reference 2)

According to the National Council for Adoption, a child being moved from foster care to adoption saves an average of **\$296** per week nationally.

External Resources Referenced |

Reference 1 — <http://money.usnews.com/careers/best-jobs/child-and-family-social-worker/salary>

Reference 2 — https://www.adoptioncouncil.org/images/stories/NCFA_ADOPTION_ADVOCATE_NO35.pdf

Reference 3 — <http://www.childsworld.ca.gov/res/pdf/PlacementStability.pdf>

Reference 4 — <https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2018/>

CarePortal Request Purpose Statements & Measurements of Economic Value / Outcomes

A crib. A mentor. A foster parent. When local churches step up to meet tangible needs of local children and families in crisis, the story is just beginning. Hundreds of opportunities for churches to serve can be placed somewhere on this grid:

	Prevention	Foster Care	Adoption	Transition
TIER 1 Physical	Provide resources to stabilize the environment of children and their caregivers.			
TIER 2 Relational	Support children and families through time and relationship.			
TIER 3 Family	Open your home to children or families, temporarily or permanently.			

Prevention

Help prevent a child from entering foster care.

A family that comes to the attention of child welfare has a need which may result in the removal of the child(ren) if the need is not met.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

+

Saved: Estimated cost of a week of foster care, per national average — \$494

Explanation: One week of foster care is a very conservative measure of a length of stay in foster care. A long-term study of specific CarePortal cases in which this purpose statement is checked would be a great asset to compute how many children who were provided services in this category stayed out of foster care and for how long.

Help strengthen a bio family.

A family that comes to the attention of child welfare needs assistance but the child(ren) would not be removed if this need is not met.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

Foster Care

Help make a foster care or kinship placement.

To be used only when the state or jurisdiction has legal custody of child(ren) and this would be a new placement for the child(ren).

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

Explanation: In addition to the financial value and relationships that may have developed between the church and the family, helping make this placement may have kept a child closer to home, placed with a family or placed with siblings.

Help preserve a foster care or kinship placement.

To be used only when the state or jurisdiction has legal custody of the child(ren) and this would preserve a child(ren)'s current placement in a foster care or kinship home.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

+

Saved: Estimated cost of changing a child's placement. \$506.25

Explanation: In addition to the financial value and relationships that may have developed between the church and the family, helping preserve this placement likely avoided the trauma of the child of moving placements, schools and relationships.

Help reunify a bio family.

To be used when assistance provided would help a child(ren) in government custody return home.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

+

Saved: Estimated cost of a week of foster care, per national average — \$494

Explanation: A long-term study of specific CarePortal cases in which this purpose statement is checked would be a great asset to compute the length of time to reunification for those families helped through CarePortal compared to a control group. One additional week in foster care is a conservative proxy for the additional length of stay of a child(ren) in foster care without services obtained from the church through CarePortal.

Adoption

Help preserve an adoptive placement:

To be used when assistance provided helps prevent disruption of an adoptive placement.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

+

Saved: Estimated cost of a week of foster care minus cost of adoptive subsidy, per national average — \$296

Explanation: Helping prevent an adoptive disruption and a child re-entering foster care would not only avoid costs associated with foster care, but also prevent the trauma of a failed adoption and return to foster care.

Help make an adoptive placement:

To be used when the assistance provided would help a child who is legally free for adoption be placed in an adoptive home

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or Number of Volunteer hours

+

Saved: Estimated cost of a week of foster care minus cost of adoptive subsidy, per national average — \$296

Explanation: In some states, counties and jurisdictions, the cost of foster care payments is the same as adoptive payments. The cost avoidance, then, is from no longer needing case management services rather than from the difference in foster care per diem and adoption subsidy. The keys values to these services are a child finding a forever home and having a life without child welfare oversight.

Transition

Help support a youth aging out of care:

To be used when a youth is aging out of foster care and needs support.

Donated: Estimated cost of goods and services or number of volunteer hours

Explanation: National studies have shown the negative outcomes of youth aging out of foster care. A long-term study would be valuable to provide an estimate of value and cost avoidance if services provided prevented substance abuse, incarceration or homelessness. Such a study could also look at the potential for increasing spiritual and social capital and strengthening communities (see economist James Heckman).