

Public Financing in Times of Uncertainty



April 24, 2025 | 2 P.M. EST

childrensfundingproject.org/events

CHILDREN' 
FUNDING PROJECT



VISION

We envision a nation where all children and youth thrive because all communities maintain equitable, coordinated, and sustainable funding for comprehensive programs and services.



MISSION

Children's Funding Project helps communities and states expand equitable opportunities for children and youth through strategic public financing.





What is Strategic Public Financing?

Strategic public financing picks up where strategic plans often leave off by...



Putting a price tag on goals and policy priorities



Identifying ways to cover costs with existing and new revenue

Building a strategic public financing movement with states, localities, and Native nations

- How much funding supports our goals right now?  **Fiscal mapping**
- How much will it cost to fund our goals in full?  **Cost analysis and modeling**
- How do we fill the gap between current funding and fully funding our goals?  **Sources of additional funding**

What's at stake for children and youth in each state with federal funding cuts?



Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom

Vice President,
Learning and Innovation

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When will we have an updated record of state spending on children and youth and how can this data be used?



Amelia Vaughn

Senior Director,
Fiscal Data Infrastructure

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How can we get real about the true cost of funding kids' programs or services in tight budget times?



Julie Nicholson

Vice President of
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What are Children's Funding Project's cost services?

1

What we offer

- Cost modeling
- Cost estimation
- Funding formula development
- Scalability analysis
- Turning cost insights into action

2

Why communities invest

- Compare true cost to market cost
- Set an effective subsidy or contract rate
- Cost out the impact of policy change(s)
- Cost out desired system for fiscal planning
- Advocate for new revenue or increased investments

3

Flexible Support Options

- We perform cost analysis and modeling work to provide immediate tools, insights, and recommendations
- We build your organization's internal capacity through our online courses and expert coaching

Cost Modeling 101: Getting Real About the True Costs of Programs for Children and Youth – 12/2

START COURSE

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW TO COST MODELING

- 1.0 Introduction and Overview of Cost Modeling
- 1.1 Background Motivation for the Cost Modeling 101 Course
- 1.2 What is a Cost Model?
- 1.3 Overview of Input Data in Cost Modeling
- 1.4 Who Develops a Cost Model?
- 1.5 Overview of Cost Modeling as a Component of Strategic Public Financing
- 1.6 Why Should States and Communities Invest in Cost Models?
- 1.7 Strengths and Limitations of Cost Modeling
- 1.8 Roadmap to Cost Modeling

Welcome

Welcome to Cost Modeling 101: Getting Real About the True Costs for Programs for Children and Youth!

Children's Funding Project has combined our deep knowledge of cost modeling and our passion for building capacity to create this course. It's designed to support your learning, regardless of your technical expertise. Cost Modeling 101 will help you learn how to engage key groups in cost modeling, develop a data-driven model, and align your cost model with strategic public financing efforts.

The course contains 10 lessons that teach our comprehensive approach to cost modeling—from

5.1 Determining Parameters for Your Cost Model

Parameters are specific and fixed values or characteristics that define a particular aspect of a system or model. In cost modeling, parameters are typically predetermined values that provide the framework and constraints that guide the cost modeling process.



Let's look at several examples of parameters that might be used in different cost models:

Scenario: A Cost Model to Fund an Infant-Toddler Specialist Network for Child Care Providers



How can we generate revenue at the state or local level?



Olivia Allen

Co-Founder and
Vice President of
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How can we manage this strategic public financing work in our communities?



Kenny Francis

Director of
Coaching and Capacity

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What are Children's Funding Coordinators ?

Key Responsibilities

- Become an expert on Children's Funding Project's field-tested methodologies for strategic public financing
- Facilitate collaboration between community partners and local budget holders
- Deliver localized fiscal mapping, cost modeling, and sourcing additional funding analyses
- Educate others in the community to expand capacity and grow local strategic public financing expertise

Where are there CFCs?

- Austin, TX
- Cleveland, OH
- Montgomery County, MD
- Louisville, KY
- Ohio (state level)
- Chattanooga, TN
- Poughkeepsie, NY
- Muscatine, IA
- Tucson, AZ
- Clark County, WA
- Marin, CA

What trust and treaty obligations does the federal government have to Indian Country and what does that mean for children's funding?



Joshua Franks

Director, Native Children
and Youth Funding

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Native Children & Youth Funding Team

The Native Children and Youth Funding team collaborates with Native communities to harness the power of strategic public financing tools, including fiscal mapping, cost modeling, and emerging funding strategies for culturally responsive and sustainable cradle-to-career programs and services.

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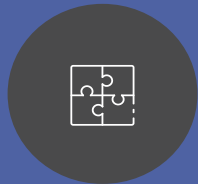
What trust and treaty obligations does the federal government have to Indian Country and what does that mean for children's funding?



Federal Indian Trust Responsibility



Maximize Federal Funding



Exploring the Data



Quyanaqpak

Chin'an

Wado

Gunalchéesh

Enaa baasee'

Thank you Shonabish

Miigwetch Qe'ciyew'yew

Quyana

Qaâgaasakuq" Pilámayaye

lemImts

Ahéhee

N'doyukshn

Thanks!

Learn more at

childrensfundingproject.org

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