



First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Monthly Update

October 2018

You can find our previous updates that include our initial findings [here](#).

IFSD is pleased to provide this sixth monthly update to its stakeholders on the progress of the First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) project.

During the month of October, IFSD has continued its work to develop a costing model.

Costing update

- IFSD has continued its analysis to determine the variables that drive expenditures for agencies.
- Based on initial correlations of variables (these are not final), agency expenditures are most closely connected to the number of children in care, the size of the child population served, with variations for agencies with communities with limited road access and large agencies.
- Thanks to your contributions, IFSD is able to define the baseline scenario of agency expenditures for its principal program activities.
- IFSD is convening a small group of experts in child and family services, addictions, psychology and governance to help to refine the future state defined by agencies during the workshops.
- IFSD looks forward to providing an overview of its interim findings in the November update.

Costing (refresher)

- A costing is an **estimate** of the financial resources required for an activity over time.
- A costing **does not produce a single number**, but rather a **range of estimates** based on a variety of outcome-based scenarios.
- When estimating a cost, we have to make some assumptions about independent variables (e.g. population growth, remoteness) that influence expenditures. Each variable will be a part of the final costing model.
- Thanks to yours and your agencies' efforts, we have a significant amount of data with which we can understand spending needs and trends in each of the expenditure categories.
- Based on a first pass of analysis (this is not final), agency budgets are influenced most significantly by:
 - Children in care;
 - Total population of children served;
 - Remoteness (average distance to city centre);
 - Accessibility (the number of communities served that do not have year-round road access)
- Funding models are not only about money, but about governance, performance and desired outcomes.
- To produce cost estimates of alternative program structures, outcome-based scenarios (that focus on the holistic well-being of children and expect to reduce the number of children in care) will be developed, to estimate costs of desired future states.

Next steps

In the next month, IFSD will work to:

- 1) Finalize a baseline expenditure model for all FNCFS agencies;
- 2) Develop a range of forecast scenarios associated with benchmarks, population projections and various desired outcomes.

IFSD will continue to engage with agencies throughout the project and keep agencies up to date on progress with monthly updates. IFSD is pleased to respond to requests for further information or to provide individual briefings on the project and its progress.

We are always happy to hear from you. Thank you to everyone who has emailed and called us with feedback and suggestions. We could not do this work without your support and insight.

Contact information

For questions about the project or to participate, please contact:

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