

## CHILD WELFARE FUNDING

### The Ask:

- Provide a \$30 million annual increase in the Children and Family Aids Allocation to fund out-of-home care costs and additional case workers and supervisors
- Create a legislative oversight mechanism to regularly review CPS resource needs as part of the biennial budget process

### Why Is This Needed?

- Child welfare system is in a state of crisis
- Opioid and meth use is the primary cause
  - 80% of open child welfare cases are either driven by or complicated by drug and alcohol abuse
- 39% increase in out-of-home care placements from 2012 through March 2018
  - 1,539 more children in an out-of-home placement
  - Total of 5,516 children in out-of-home care
- 127% increase in length of time in out-of-home care from 2011 – 2016
  - From 157 days to 356 days
- 18% increase in out-of-home care costs from 2013 to 2017
  - From \$81.4 million to \$95.7 million
  - \$14 million increase funded through property tax levy
- What happens when caseloads are too high?
  - Worker burnout
  - Increased turnover
  - Longer periods in out-of-home placements
  - Child welfare best practice standards go unmet
- 35% increase in county levy for child welfare services from 2011 – 2016
  - From \$87.5 million to \$117.9 million (\$30 million)
  - Counties fund 63% of services