

February 2001

Children in Long-Term Foster Care in Washington: Preliminary Findings

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2000 Legislature directed the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (Institute) to compare placement decisions and funding methodologies for residential care services for children in long-term foster care and to examine the best practices in other states (EHB 2487). This report addresses the state's funding methodologies. A separate report covers innovative practices and a literature review.¹

The reported data are preliminary as they are based on half the anticipated sample. In order to provide necessary protection to both children in foster care and their caregivers, researchers followed informed consent procedures that extended the study's time frame. A final report will be produced by the end of March 2001.

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¹ Lee Doran and Lucy Berliner, *Placement Decisions for Children in Long-Term Foster Care: Innovative Practices and Literature Review* (Olympia, WA: Washington State Institute for Public Policy, January 2001), Document Number 01-02-3902.