

---

## Agency Summary

---

### OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

---

#### Agency Mission

To monitor the Department of Children, Youth and Families to ensure that it offers children in its care adequate protection and quality services, while affording these children respect for their individual rights and dignity. These activities include, but are not limited to, public education, legislative advocacy, investigation, and litigation. To review and make recommendations regarding the Department of Children, Youth and Families procedures; to investigate institutional abuse allegations and child fatalities; to provide information and referral on matters relating to children; participate in voluntary admissions procedures; to monitor child placements; to conduct site visits at all DCYF licensed placements; and to review the Department of Children, Youth and Families' compliance with licensing regulations.

#### Agency Description

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is charged with fulfilling a statutory mandate to protect the legal, civil and special rights of all children and youth involved in the care of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In so doing, the Office strives to improve conditions and circumstances through monitoring, compliance, and advocacy.

The office is staffed with 10.0 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of children under DCYF care and monitoring of DCYF licensed facilities. The office also provides direct legal representation for a portion of children voluntarily placed in state care and youth involved in the Voluntary Extension of Care (VEC) program. The OCA also can intervene legally on the case of any child open to DCYF.

The office reviews and monitors systematic and individual issues related to residents at the Rhode Island Training School. It provides direct oversight and on-site visits. The Office of the Child Advocate also files Victim Compensation claims for children who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted and are in the care of the State.

#### Statutory History

In 1980, the General Assembly created the Office of the Child Advocate. Its powers and duties are codified in R.I. General Laws § 42-73. The Office of the Child Advocate possesses a statutory right of access, including subpoena power, to all providers, the Family Court, Department of Children, Youth and Families, and law enforcement records. There is also a right of physical access to all child-care programs and children in care. In 1992, the Office of the Child Advocate's responsibilities with respect to children in state care were statutorily expanded to include review of child fatality cases and representation of child victims of crime pursuant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. This review was at the discretion of the Child Advocate until July 2016, when Governor Raimondo signed a bill into law, which expanded this crucial mandate. The OCA is now required to review every child fatality and near fatality, when the child's family, caretaker or household member currently has or previously was involved with DCYF.

# Budget

## Office Of The Child Advocate

	2018 Actuals	2019 Actuals	2020 Enacted Budget	2020 Revised Budget	2021 Recommended
<b>Expenditures by Program</b>					
Central Management	947,705	958,016	1,234,057	1,149,476	1,248,036
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>947,705</b>	<b>958,016</b>	<b>1,234,057</b>	<b>1,149,476</b>	<b>1,248,036</b>
<b>Expenditures by Object</b>					
Salary And Benefits	786,803	860,810	1,111,310	1,026,729	1,113,196
Contract Professional Services	1,031	0	0	0	4,000
Operating Supplies And Expenses	155,797	91,771	102,962	102,962	111,055
Assistance And Grants	0	0	17,785	17,785	17,785
<b>Subtotal: Operating</b>	<b>943,631</b>	<b>952,581</b>	<b>1,232,057</b>	<b>1,147,476</b>	<b>1,246,036</b>
Capital Purchases And Equipment	4,074	5,436	2,000	2,000	2,000
<b>Subtotal: Other</b>	<b>4,074</b>	<b>5,436</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>947,705</b>	<b>958,016</b>	<b>1,234,057</b>	<b>1,149,476</b>	<b>1,248,036</b>
<b>Expenditures by Source of Funds</b>					
General Revenue	703,984	815,011	986,701	970,275	1,063,237
Federal Funds	243,721	143,005	247,356	179,201	184,799
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>947,705</b>	<b>958,016</b>	<b>1,234,057</b>	<b>1,149,476</b>	<b>1,248,036</b>
<b>FTE Authorization</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>

---

## Performance Measures

---

### Office Of The Child Advocate

---

#### Visit/Review of DCYF Licensed Facilities

---

The OCA monitors all facilities licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families including but not limited to group homes, foster homes, day cares and the RI Training School. Through thorough site reviews and routine visits by OCA staff the office ensures the appropriateness of the physical living conditions, suitability of clinical treatment programs, compliance with licensing regulations, compliance with contractual obligations and reviews the safety and well-being of children in a particular placement. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Target</b>	65.00	65.00	70.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Actual</b>	17.00	55.00	269.00	0.00	

---

#### Resolved Inquiries

---

OCA receives a variety of inquiries each day, requiring differing levels of response. Each staff member is a vital part of providing a proper resolution, which includes but is not limited to referrals, relaying information, providing notice to DCYF of an issue and assisting with the process to provide an appropriate resolution, a formal investigation, a site review or legal intervention. The figures below represent the number of inquiries resolved. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Target</b>	200.00	225.00	225.00	300.00	0.00
<b>Actual</b>	439.00	692.00	641.00	0.00	

---

#### Victims of Crime Act Assistance

---

OCA has the important task of researching incidents of abuse reported to DCYF each month to determine whether that individual could potentially be eligible for assistance through this program. Assistance is provided to each victim by providing information about the program, completion of the application process and guidance with victim services. The figures below represent the number of victims assisted. [Notes: FY 2019 targets have been updated. Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

	<i>Reporting Period: Federal Fiscal Year</i>				
<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Target</b>	200.00	200.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
<b>Actual</b>	356.00	1,769.00	1,416.00	0.00	

---

# Personnel

## Agency: Office Of The Child Advocate

### Central Management

	FY 2020		FY 2021		
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost	
<b>Unclassified</b>					
CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	00819A	1.0	46,541	1.0	47,913
CHILD ADVOCATE	00862F	1.0	99,532	1.0	100,027
CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY	00818A	1.0	28,618	1.0	45,733
GRANTS MANAGER	00823A	1.0	53,081	1.0	55,034
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COORDINATOR	00824A	1.0	37,065	1.0	60,070
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	00324A	2.0	118,555	2.0	121,190
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR	00329A	1.0	77,485	1.0	77,870
STAFF ATTORNEY III	00832A	1.0	82,448	1.0	84,543
STAFF ATTORNEY IV	00834A	1.0	90,491	1.0	90,941
<b>Subtotal Unclassified</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>633,816</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>683,321</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>633,816</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>683,321</b>
<b>Total Salaries</b>			<b>633,816</b>		<b>683,321</b>
<b>Benefits</b>					
FICA			48,486		52,274
Health Benefits			100,607		112,552
Payroll Accrual			3,689		3,986
Retiree Health			42,150		40,112
Retirement			172,945		193,960
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>367,877</b>		<b>402,884</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,001,693</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,086,205</b>
<b>Cost Per FTE Position</b>			<b>100,169</b>		<b>108,621</b>
Statewide Benefit Assessment			25,036		26,991
<b>Payroll Costs</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,026,729</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,113,196</b>
<b>Purchased Services</b>					
Clerical and Temporary Services			0		2,000
Legal Services			0		2,000
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>0</b>		<b>4,000</b>
<b>Total Personnel</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,026,729</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,117,196</b>
<b>Distribution by Source of Funds</b>					
General Revenue		8.0	868,043	8.0	952,912
Federal Funds		2.0	158,686	2.0	164,284
<b>Total All Funds</b>		<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,026,729</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>1,117,196</b>