

The Agency

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Agency Operations

The Department of Children, Youth and Families is that agency of the State charged with primary responsibility to mobilize the human, physical and financial resources available to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated statewide program of services designed to ensure the opportunity for children to reach their full potential.

It is the department's philosophy that parents have the primary responsibility for meeting the needs of their children. When parents are unable to do so, all services to the child and family are premised upon the safety and best interest of the child and the promotion of community-based responsibility/involvement in servicing its own children/families. When departmental support is necessary and appropriate, services are provided in the least intrusive, least restrictive manner possible.

The department addresses its responsibilities through its Child Welfare, Children's Behavioral Health and Education, Juvenile Correctional Services, and Higher Education Incentive Grant Programs, which are guided and assisted by a leadership support program identified as Central Management.

The Child Welfare Program consists of child protective investigations, community-based services, and residential services delivered to dependent, neglected or abused children or children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The Children's Behavioral Health and Education Program designs, implements and monitors a continuum of therapeutic services to seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth.

The Juvenile Correctional Services Program provides services to youngsters who have been adjudicated as wayward or delinquent by the Family Court and determined to be in need of placement at the Training School for Youth, placement in a less structured community residential setting, or supervision in the community while residing at home.

The Higher Education Incentive Grant is designed to encourage youth to pursue educational goals beyond high school and to provide added incentive to achieve a high school diploma.

Statutory History

In 1979 the General Assembly enacted Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws. This legislation created the Department for Children and Their Families effective January 1, 1980. The enabling legislation transferred to the department certain functions from the Departments of Human Services, Corrections, Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, and Community Affairs. In 1991 the General Assembly amended Title 42 Chapter 72 to read "Department of Children, Youth and Families."

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Program				
Central Management	12,887,394	11,594,798	12,116,214	12,235,930
Children's Behavioral Health Services	44,153,818	55,570,009	58,584,674	62,420,834
Juvenile Correctional Services	30,250,144	30,007,585	33,087,289	34,993,230
Child Welfare	149,680,116	154,888,717	159,976,198	163,492,708
Higher Education Incentive Grants	208,291	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$237,179,763	\$252,261,109	\$263,964,375	\$273,342,702
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	72,754,287	71,603,027	78,163,982	79,823,832
Other State Operations	9,591,696	8,970,350	8,648,290	8,628,649
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	17,500	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	154,678,712	171,641,249	176,168,822	182,260,061
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$237,024,695	\$252,214,626	\$262,998,594	\$270,712,542
Capital Improvements	155,068	46,483	965,781	2,630,160
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$237,179,763	\$252,261,109	\$263,964,375	\$273,342,702
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	142,506,880	141,177,339	153,572,657	161,640,261
Federal Funds	92,044,324	109,087,001	107,206,478	107,444,380
Restricted Receipts	2,494,922	1,976,012	2,219,959	1,628,401
Other Funds	133,637	20,757	965,281	2,629,660
Total Expenditures	\$237,179,763	\$252,261,109	\$263,964,375	\$273,342,702
FTE Authorization	853.8	849.8	849.8	849.8
Agency Measures				
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	12.6%	13.1%	13.2%	13.2%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	63.2%	64.1%	64.2%	64.2%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	5.5%	5.5%	5.6%	5.6%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Central Management

Program Operations

The Central Management Program within the Department of Children, Youth and Families consists of a variety of sub-programs including executive functions and legal and administrative services.

The executive functions include the provision of administrative and operational direction, planning, management and evaluation of overall departmental operations.

Administrative services include financial management, personnel, staff development and training, management information systems, and licensing and regulation. A centralized on-line database system, the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS), supports all investigatory and case management functions of the department as well as other critical administrative functions.

Legal services includes the representation of the department in all Family Court proceedings relating to child abuse and neglect, commitment trials and termination of parental rights trials, as well as civil litigation in other state and federal courts, and administrative and labor tribunals. This service also provides on-going legal consultation to the Director, administrators and line staff involved in Family Court proceedings.

Program Objectives

Provide leadership and direction in the development and implementation of an efficient and productive system of service delivery to Rhode Island's children and families.

Provide consistent legal representation and consultation to all departmental staff involved in court proceedings.

Provide comprehensive, integrated management services to assure fiscal integrity and accurate data collection and interpretation.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Central Management

	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
	Actual	Actual	Revised	Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Support Services	5,271,105	5,303,255	5,323,732	5,365,015
Office of Budget	1,796,891	1,307,783	1,976,824	2,139,056
Information Systems	4,574,328	4,180,275	3,890,161	3,904,013
Office of the Director	1,245,070	803,485	925,497	827,846
Total Expenditures	\$12,887,394	\$11,594,798	\$12,116,214	\$12,235,930
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	9,814,604	9,441,758	9,870,391	10,167,899
Other State Operations	2,558,242	1,970,422	2,085,290	2,063,840
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	514,548	182,618	160,533	4,191
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$12,887,394	\$11,594,798	\$12,116,214	\$12,235,930
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$12,887,394	\$11,594,798	\$12,116,214	\$12,235,930
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	8,212,771	7,880,408	8,006,742	8,238,151
Federal Funds	4,674,623	3,714,390	4,109,472	3,997,779
Total Expenditures	\$12,887,394	\$11,594,798	\$12,116,214	\$12,235,930
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Children's Behavioral Health Services

Program Operations

The Children's Behavioral Health and Education Services Program is primarily responsible for the design, implementation and monitoring of a continuum of therapeutic services to seriously emotionally disturbed children, youth and families. Children placed in the custody of the department due to abuse, neglect or dependency, as well as children in the custody of their parents or legal guardians are eligible for these services. Most of these services, with the exception of psychiatric hospitalization, are provided by non-profit agencies and delivered in community-based settings. Coordination and local planning is facilitated through the Child and Adolescent Services System (Project/CASSP) which sponsors a Local Coordinating Council (LCC) representing all child/youth and serving agencies within each region of the State. Each LCC supports a number of planning teams which coordinate children's behavioral health services and provides funding for non-traditional services on a case-by-case basis. Children's Intensive Services provide a comprehensive array of community-based mental health services designed to reduce the need for inpatient care and to support severely emotionally disturbed children and their families in community settings.

Project HOPE, an extension of the CASSP/LCC system of care, is a federally funded program until September of 2005. At that point, this statewide initiative that serves youth who have serious emotional disturbances and are transitioning from the Rhode Island Training School for Youth (RITS) back to their own communities will be state funded. A full range of project services including mental health services, case management, vocational training, family service coordinating and wrap-around are available in the four catchment areas of Providence, Pawtucket/Central Falls, Northern Rhode Island and Kent County.

In addition, the division is partnering with Contracts and Program Development and the community mental health centers, in convening Care Management Teams. These teams, composed of DCYF staff, community partners and parents, utilize the continuum of resources from community-based to residential treatment services in planning for the least-restrictive appropriate level of care of children with serious treatment needs.

Program Objectives

Design and implement a comprehensive array of therapeutic services to meet the needs of seriously emotionally disturbed children and youth; expand and enhance the capacity of local communities and regions to meet these needs within their geographic areas; provide services in the least restrictive environment utilizing inpatient psychiatric care and residential treatment only until a child can return to a community-based service.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Law defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 40.1 Chapter 5 describes the provisions relating to mental health laws. The act creating the LCC sub-program was 98-H-8122, Substitute A.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Children's Behavioral Health Services

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Children's Mental Health	25,562,402	29,735,085	35,083,024	38,268,603
Psychiatric Services	17,214,813	24,134,617	21,553,225	22,203,806
CBH Educational Services	1,376,603	1,700,307	1,948,425	1,948,425
Total Expenditures	\$44,153,818	\$55,570,009	\$58,584,674	\$62,420,834
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	2,338,449	2,949,656	4,011,616	3,814,874
Other State Operations	209,528	179,132	212,475	190,001
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	41,524,493	52,431,664	54,295,302	58,336,299
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$44,072,470	\$55,560,452	\$58,519,393	\$62,341,174
Capital Improvements	81,348	9,557	65,281	79,660
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$44,153,818	\$55,570,009	\$58,584,674	\$62,420,834
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	23,204,045	23,807,395	27,098,593	30,777,152
Federal Funds	20,868,425	31,753,057	31,420,800	31,564,022
Other	81,348	9,557	65,281	79,660
Total Expenditures	\$44,153,818	\$55,570,009	\$58,584,674	\$62,420,834

Program Measures

Percentage of Children Admitted into a Psychiatric Hospital and Remain for 21 Days or Less	81.5%	77.1%	80.0%	80.0%
Percentage of Children/Youth Readmitted into a Psychiatric Hospital within 60 Days of Discharge	12.9%	10.6%	10.5%	10.5%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Juvenile Correctional Services

Program Operations

The Juvenile Correctional Services Program within the department consists of three sub-programs providing varying levels of service to wayward and delinquent youngsters.

Institutional programming is conducted at the Rhode Island Training School for Youth. The facility provides a secure, structured residential program for adjudicated delinquents and those awaiting trial on serious offenses. Residents undergo an assessment at intake into the facility and are programmed accordingly. Services include case management, education, recreation and a selection of contracted or purchased services (e.g. medical, drug and alcohol counseling, violent offender/sex offender therapy).

Community-based programming (Probation and Parole) includes both residential and non-residential services. Non-residential services are provided directly by departmental staff as well as through purchase of services or contracts. Community-based residential services are available for adjudicated youngsters who require residential care but not a setting as secure and structured as the Training School. These services are provided via contractual and purchase of service arrangements.

Educational services are provided to all residents of the Rhode Island Training School, both detained and adjudicated. Residents are grouped by academic levels and/or individual education plan specifications. The services adhere to all Rhode Island Department of Education regulations.

Program Objectives

Provide secure and structured residential programming for adjudicated juvenile offenders and those awaiting trial.

Increase the use of community-based programming thereby limiting the need for long-term placement in the Training School.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 42 Chapter 56 provides for the Training School for Youth; Title 14 Chapter 1 relates to the power of the court to order disposition of a juvenile.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Juvenile Correctional Services

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Institutional Services	16,098,423	15,934,023	18,391,183	19,584,801
Juvenile Probation & Parole	10,390,067	10,215,295	10,301,045	11,050,532
RITS - Education Program	3,761,654	3,858,267	4,395,061	4,357,897
Total Expenditures	\$30,250,144	\$30,007,585	\$33,087,289	\$34,993,230
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	22,013,264	21,589,064	23,661,193	23,907,572
Other State Operations	1,963,332	1,881,435	1,636,296	1,625,068
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	17,500	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	6,199,828	6,500,160	6,871,800	7,410,090
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$30,176,424	\$29,970,659	\$32,186,789	\$32,942,730
Capital Improvements	73,720	36,926	900,500	2,050,500
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$30,250,144	\$30,007,585	\$33,087,289	\$34,993,230
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	26,103,652	26,614,088	28,733,294	30,019,893
Federal Funds	3,095,359	3,149,517	2,842,572	2,918,837
Restricted Receipts	998,844	232,780	611,423	4,500
Other Funds	52,289	11,200	900,000	2,050,000
Total Expenditures	\$30,250,144	\$30,007,585	\$33,087,289	\$34,993,230
Program Measures				
Percentage of Adjudicated and Detained Training School Youth Passing the General Education Development Exam				
	91.0%	82.0%	85.0%	85.0%
Percentage of Adjudicated Training School Youth Admitted During the Fiscal Year After Release within the Prior 12 months				
	39.0%	29.9%	30.0%	30.0%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Child Welfare

Program Operations

The Child Welfare Program within the department consists of several major sub-programs including Child Protective Services, Family Services, Community-Based Services and Residential Services.

Child Protective Services is responsible for receiving and investigating allegations of child abuse/neglect throughout Rhode Island. This division operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week. When allegations of abuse or neglect are substantiated, the investigator must determine what actions are necessary in order to assure the safety and well being of the child. Sometimes it is necessary to remove a child from the home, but much more frequently services are provided to the child and family in order to bring the family to a higher level of functioning. Sometimes these services are provided by department social workers who operate out of one of four regional offices and sometimes by private, non-profit community agencies.

When a child requires out of home care, every effort is made to place him/her with relatives or others known to him/her. When a child requires a level of care beyond foster care, there is an array of services available from community-based group homes to intensive residential treatment.

The Department of Children, Youth and Families also funds prevention and early intervention programs to address the issues and problems which lead to child abuse/neglect and to provide services so that family functioning does not deteriorate to a point where DCYF intervention becomes necessary.

Program Objectives

Protect children through the timely investigation of child abuse and neglect complaints.

Maintain the family unit when possible through the provision of services, which improve family functioning.

Aggressively pursue permanency through the provision of reunification and adoption services for children who have to be removed from their home.

Statutory History

Title 42 Chapter 72 of the Rhode Island General Laws defines the functions of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Title 40 Chapter 11 relates to abused and neglected children; Title 14 Chapter 1 relates to proceedings in Family Court.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Child Welfare

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Protective Services	16,808,277	16,480,161	17,004,327	17,679,640
Family Services	13,757,130	11,889,686	13,150,901	14,025,358
Community Services	8,310,740	8,377,565	9,355,109	9,309,978
Prevention Services	1,946,943	2,076,429	2,782,213	2,793,273
Board & Care	82,811,025	88,088,072	89,953,065	91,500,786
Foster Care	26,046,001	27,976,804	27,730,583	28,183,673
Total Expenditures	\$149,680,116	\$154,888,717	\$159,976,198	\$163,492,708
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	38,587,970	37,622,549	40,620,782	41,933,487
Other State Operations	4,860,594	4,939,361	4,714,229	4,749,740
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	106,231,552	112,326,807	114,641,187	116,309,481
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$149,680,116	\$154,888,717	\$159,976,198	\$162,992,708
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	500,000
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$149,680,116	\$154,888,717	\$159,976,198	\$163,492,708
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	84,778,121	82,675,448	89,534,028	92,405,065
Federal Funds	63,405,917	70,470,037	68,833,634	68,963,742
Restricted Receipts	1,496,078	1,743,232	1,608,536	1,623,901
Other Funds	-	-	-	500,000
Total Expenditures	\$149,680,116	\$154,888,717	\$159,976,198	\$163,492,708
Program Measures				
Percentage of Children in Foster Care for Less than 12 Months Who Have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements	82.2%	77.7%	79.0%	79.5%
Percentage of Children Experiencing a Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect	10.2%	11.1%	10.5%	10.0%
Percentage of Children Reunified with Parents or Caretaker within 12 Months	66.1%	66.0%	66.5%	67.0%
Percentage of Children Re-entering Foster Care within 12 months of a Previous Placement	19.2%	20.0%	19.5%	19.0%
Percentage of Children Adopted within 24 Months of Removal from Home	45.0%	50.3%	51.0%	51.5%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Higher Education Incentive Grants

Program Operations

The Department of Children, Youth and Families is responsible for assisting older youth under its care and custody to become self-sufficient and be prepared for transition to independence.

One important means of assisting youth in becoming independent is to encourage education to the highest degree possible. These Higher Education Incentive Grants have as their purpose to provide added incentive to achieve a high school diploma and to encourage youth to pursue educational goals beyond high school.

Program Objectives

The main objective is to encourage and assist more youngsters in departmental care to consider and perceive higher education as a viable option, and to allow them the same opportunities that are afforded youth from other families.

Statutory History

Chapter 511, PL 99-S 282, Substitute A amended Section 1, Title 42 provides funds to supplement financial aid to youth who are in the department's custody and who have been accepted at the University of Rhode Island, Community College of Rhode Island or Rhode Island College, to allow these students to pay essential educational costs without loans.

The Budget

Department of Children, Youth and Families Higher Education Incentive Grants

	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Revised	FY 2006 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Other State Operations	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	208,291	200,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$208,291	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Capital Improvements	-	-	-	-
Capital Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$208,291	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	208,291	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$208,291	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA