



**Gina M. Raimondo,
Governor**

**State of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations
Fiscal Year 2018
Budget**

**Volume II – Health and Human
Services**

Agency

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 annual site visits at residential/group care programs; and to review the Department of Children, Youth and Families' compliance with day-care licensing laws.

Agency Description

The Office of the Child Advocate 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 7.0 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of children under DCYF care and yearly monitoring site visits to monitor their care at group homes and residential programs in the state. The office also provides direct legal representation for a portion of children voluntarily placed in state care.

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 on a weekly basis. 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.G.L. 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.

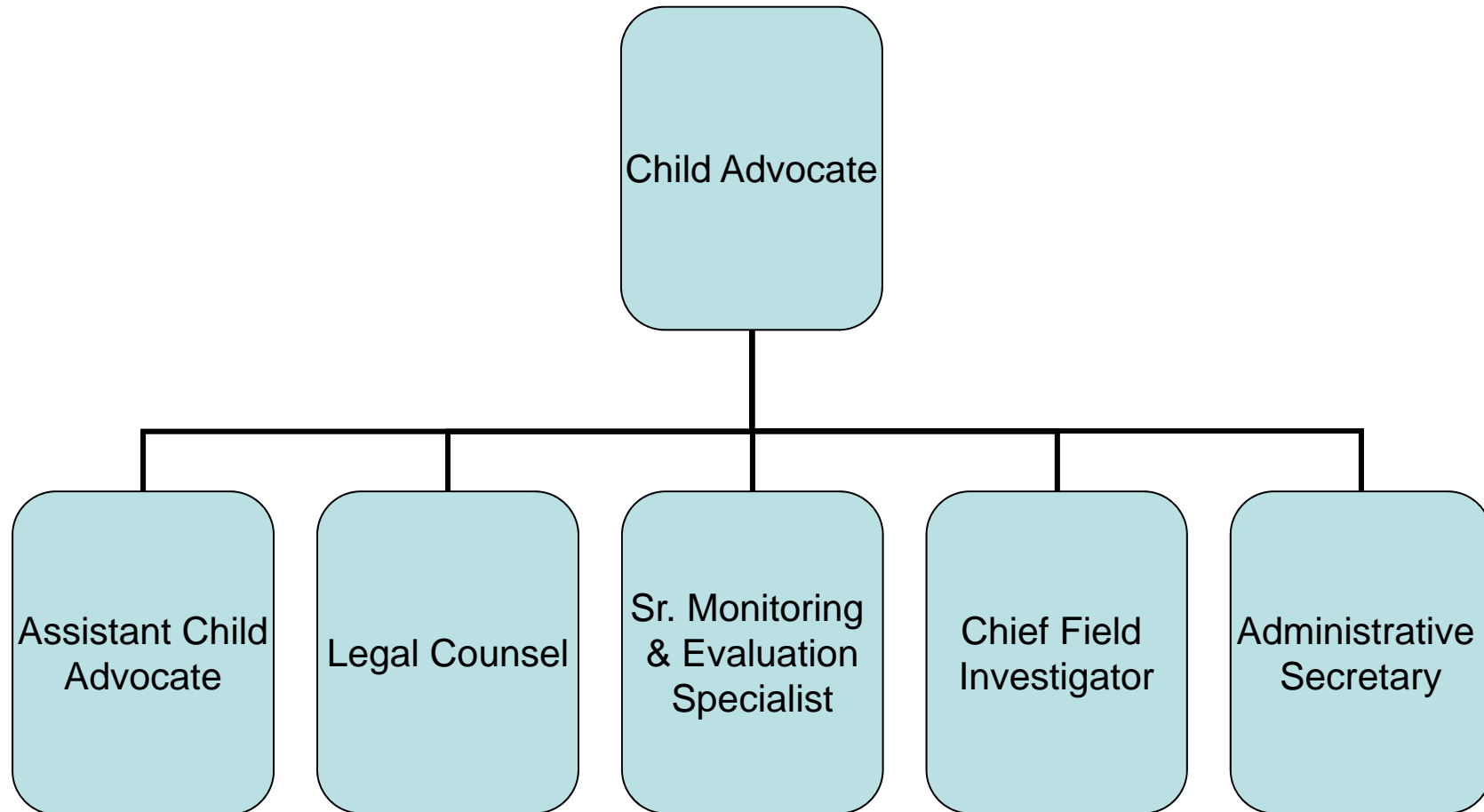
Budget

Office Of The Child Advocate

	FY 2015 Audited	FY 2016 Audited	FY 2017 Enacted	FY 2017 Revised	FY 2018 Recommend
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	660,641	654,839	795,582	780,155	814,329
Total Expenditures	\$660,641	\$654,839	\$795,582	\$780,155	\$814,329
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	643,064	637,930	668,445	687,585	770,724
Operating Supplies and Expenses	17,577	16,909	26,137	24,320	23,820
Assistance and Grants	-	-	100,000	66,250	17,785
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	660,641	654,839	794,582	778,155	812,329
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	1,000	2,000	2,000
Total Expenditures	\$660,641	\$654,839	\$795,582	\$780,155	\$814,329
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	613,552	643,280	650,582	635,541	669,708
Federal Funds	47,089	11,559	145,000	144,614	144,621
Total Expenditures	\$660,641	\$654,839	\$795,582	\$780,155	\$814,329
FTE Authorization	6.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0

The Agency

Office of the Child Advocate



Personnel

Office Of The Child Advocate Central Management

	Grade	FY 2017		FY 2018	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
CHILD ADVOCATE	00862F	1.0	92,870	1.0	92,870
STAFF ATTORNEY III	00832A	1.0	76,921	1.0	78,493
STAFF ATTORNEY IV	00834A	1.0	74,504	1.0	74,504
SENIOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION	00325A	1.0	64,021	1.0	62,120
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT	00324A	1.0	49,233	1.0	51,064
CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	00819A	1.0	41,995	1.0	43,228
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	00819A ¹	1.0	41,995	1.0	43,228
Subtotal		7.0	\$441,539	7.0	\$445,507
Turnover		-	(53,623)	-	-
Subtotal		-	(\$53,623)	-	-
Total Salaries		7.0	\$387,916	7.0	\$445,507
Benefits					
Payroll Accrual			2,414		2,557
FICA			33,555		37,105
Retiree Health			24,898		26,453
Health Benefits			109,660		124,324
Retirement			109,789		115,314
Subtotal			\$280,316		\$305,753
Total Salaries and Benefits		7.0	\$668,232	7.0	\$751,260
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temporary and Seasonal)			\$95,462		\$107,323
Statewide Benefit Assessment			\$18,853		\$18,964
Payroll Costs		7.0	\$687,085	7.0	\$770,224
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services			500		500
Subtotal			\$500		\$500
Total Personnel		7.0	\$687,585	7.0	\$770,724
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		6.0	\$609,251	6.0	\$643,918
Federal Funds		1.0	\$78,334	1.0	\$126,806
Total All Funds		7.0	\$687,585	7.0	\$770,724

¹ Position will begin in FY 2017

Performance Measures

Office Of The Child Advocate

Residential Care Facility Site Reviews

Facility reviews ensure the appropriateness of the physical living conditions and suitability of clinical treatment programs provided to the children in a particular placement licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is seeking to expand its role as monitor of licensed facilities to include foster home placements and day care facilities to address the increasing need for review. In prior years, the target was to complete 95% of residential placement facilities. The figures below now represent the number of in-depth reviews.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Target	--	--	--	65	65
Actual	--	--	6	--	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year.

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.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Target	--	--	--	200	225
Actual	--	--	199	--	--

Performance for this measure is reported by state fiscal year.

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.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Target	--	--	--	200	200
Actual	--	--	247	--	--

Performance for this measure is reported by federal fiscal year.