

The Agency

Department of Children, Youth and Families

Agency Operations

The Department of Children, Youth and Families is charged 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Program				
Central Management	11,597,053	11,931,357	11,173,211	10,367,440
Children's Behavioral Health Services	58,524,782	68,157,923	78,508,098	32,654,362
Juvenile Correctional Services	31,480,889	34,861,085	34,199,048	27,542,614
Child Welfare	161,310,894	170,398,884	181,708,188	144,818,858
Higher Education Incentive Grants	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$263,113,618	\$285,549,249	\$305,788,545	\$215,583,274
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	74,625,263	79,182,490	81,482,271	84,238,705
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,579,249	9,512,735	7,732,262	7,594,954
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	179,601,876	195,945,169	215,981,009	121,680,905
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$262,806,388	284,640,394	\$305,195,542	\$213,514,564
Capital Purchases and Equipment	227,617	908,855	593,003	2,068,710
Debt Service	79,613	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$263,113,618	\$285,549,249	\$305,788,545	\$215,583,274
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	155,364,630	167,965,202	181,378,754	137,351,887
Federal Funds	106,338,985	114,995,327	121,926,350	74,712,446
Restricted Receipts	1,409,503	2,033,285	2,218,781	1,753,941
Other Funds	500	555,435	264,660	1,765,000
Total Expenditures	\$263,113,618	\$285,549,249	\$305,788,545	\$215,583,274

FTE Authorization	849.8	849.8	789.0	810.0
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Agency Measures

Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.2%	13.2%	13.5%	14.2%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	64.2%	64.2%	64.2%	65.1%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	5.0%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Central Management

Program Operations

The Central Management Program consists of a variety of sub-programs including executive functions and legal and administrative services.

The executive functions include 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, and other critical administrative functions.

Legal services includes departmental representation 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 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
	Actual	Actual	Revised	Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Support Services	4,827,802	5,438,300	5,061,029	3,922,879
Office of Budget	1,650,047	1,531,317	1,547,580	1,752,405
Information Systems	4,278,146	3,982,064	3,485,244	3,537,502
Office of the Director	841,058	979,676	1,079,358	1,154,654
Total Expenditures	\$11,597,053	\$11,931,357	\$11,173,211	\$10,367,440
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	9,275,771	9,380,972	9,500,754	9,870,321
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,854,817	2,079,915	1,381,810	1,422,874
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	341,814	213,646	1,147	(1,215,255)
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$11,472,402	\$11,674,533	\$10,883,711	\$10,077,940
Capital Purchases and Equipment	124,803	256,824	289,500	289,500
Debt Service	(152)	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$11,597,053	\$11,931,357	\$11,173,211	\$10,367,440
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	8,238,181	8,447,079	7,125,792	6,018,148
Federal Funds	3,358,872	3,484,278	4,047,419	4,349,292
Total Expenditures	11,597,053	\$11,931,357	\$11,173,211	\$10,367,440
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 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, was a federally funded program until September of 2005. 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, is now 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 for 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Children's Mental Health	31,871,425	55,109,018	64,229,613	27,888,024
Psychiatric Services	22,429,198	8,826,126	9,543,129	-
Local Coordinating Council	2,472,056	2,727,484	3,170,775	3,239,961
CBH Educational Services	1,752,103	1,495,295	1,564,581	1,526,377
Total Expenditures	\$58,524,782	\$68,157,923	\$78,508,098	\$32,654,362
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	3,382,711	3,760,083	3,009,037	3,176,711
Operating Supplies and Expenses	118,488	134,260	174,465	159,965
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	54,988,708	64,227,978	75,207,522	29,303,476
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$58,489,907	\$68,122,321	\$78,391,024	\$32,640,152
Capital Purchases and Equipment	34,875	35,602	117,074	14,210
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$58,524,782	\$68,157,923	\$78,508,098	\$32,654,362
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	27,373,536	33,832,952	39,712,368	19,093,004
Federal Funds	31,150,746	34,324,971	38,716,070	13,561,358
Other Funds	500	-	79,660	-
Total Expenditures	\$58,524,782	\$68,157,923	\$78,508,098	\$32,654,362

Program Measures

Percentage of Children Admitted into a Psychiatric Hospital and Remain for 21 Days or Less	76.1%	78.0%	78.5%	78.8%
Percentage of Children/Youth Readmitted into a Psychiatric Hospital within 60 Days of Discharge	10.5%	16.0%	15.0%	14.5%

The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Juvenile Correctional Services

Program Operations

The Juvenile Correctional Services Program 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 Rhode Island Training School residents, 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Institutional Services	16,437,547	18,282,835	17,286,379	16,220,863
Juvenile Probation & Parole	10,778,649	12,415,236	12,558,443	7,777,118
RITS - Education Program	4,264,693	4,163,014	4,354,226	3,544,633
Total Expenditures	\$31,480,889	\$34,861,085	\$34,199,048	\$27,542,614
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	22,503,799	23,816,946	23,769,068	22,891,570
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,909,753	2,043,584	1,275,117	1,023,119
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	7,002,596	8,453,866	9,153,434	2,927,925
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$31,416,148	\$34,314,396	\$34,197,619	\$26,842,614
Capital Purchases and Equipment	61,384	546,689	1,429	700,000
Debt Service	3,357	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$31,480,889	\$34,861,085	\$34,199,048	\$27,542,614
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	28,419,693	30,773,296	30,635,773	26,225,777
Federal Funds	3,016,902	3,406,364	3,059,573	610,837
Restricted Receipts	44,294	189,153	503,702	6,000
Other Funds	-	492,272	-	700,000
Total Expenditures	\$31,480,889	\$34,861,085	\$34,199,048	\$27,542,614

Program Measures

Percentage of Adjudicated and Detained

Training School Youth Passing the General
Education Development Exam

82.0%	87.5%	83.0%	83.3%
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Percentage of Adjudicated Training

School Youth Admitted During the Fiscal Year
After Release within the Prior 12 months

29.9%	42.7%	42.2%	39.9%
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The Program

Department of Children, Youth and Families Child Welfare

Program Operations

The Child Welfare Program 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 also supports 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram				
Protective Services	21,681,821	20,567,437	18,323,662	19,994,767
Family Services	13,825,908	14,245,669	16,801,844	17,267,317
Community Services	8,769,112	11,558,779	13,071,085	13,151,197
Prevention Services	2,514,890	2,966,783	697,921	742,921
Board & Care	86,963,092	93,168,966	103,714,012	60,928,085
Foster Care	27,556,071	27,891,250	29,099,664	32,734,571
Total Expenditures	\$161,310,894	\$170,398,884	\$181,708,188	\$144,818,858
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	39,462,982	42,224,489	45,203,412	48,300,103
Operating Supplies and Expenses	4,696,191	5,254,976	4,900,870	4,988,996
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	117,068,758	122,849,679	131,418,906	90,464,759
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$161,227,931	\$170,329,144	\$181,523,188	\$143,753,858
Capital Purchases and Equipment	6,555	69,740	185,000	1,065,000
Debt Service	76,408	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$161,310,894	\$170,398,884	\$181,708,188	\$144,818,858
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	91,133,220	94,711,875	103,704,821	85,814,958
Federal Funds	68,812,465	73,779,714	76,103,288	56,190,959
Restricted Receipts	1,365,209	1,844,132	1,715,079	1,747,941
Other Funds	-	63,163	185,000	1,065,000
Total Expenditures	\$161,310,894	\$170,398,884	\$181,708,188	\$144,818,858
Program Measures				
Percentage of Children in Foster Care for Less than 12 Months Who Have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements	79.0%	86.1%	86.4%	86.7%
Percentage of Children Experiencing a Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect	11.1%	8.9%	8.4%	7.9%
Percentage of Children Reunified with Parents or Caretaker within 12 Months	71.0%	73.7%	74.0%	74.3%
Percentage of Children Re-entering Foster Care within 12 months of a Previous Placement	20.0%	17.3%	16.8%	16.3%
Percentage of Children Adopted within 24 Months of Removal from Home	50.3%	49.3%	49.8%	49.8%

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. 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 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Revised	FY 2008 Recommended
Expenditures By Object				
Personnel	-	-	-	-
Operating Supplies and Expenses	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Expenditures By Funds				
General Revenue	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	200,000	200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA