

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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	10,244,059	10,068,194	7,127,211	7,609,777	7,352,149
Children's Behavioral Health Services	75,746,249	29,791,614	29,020,077	23,806,353	21,739,661
Juvenile Correctional Services	34,933,561	30,526,274	31,938,705	36,039,130	36,157,617
Child Welfare	190,647,109	156,397,148	141,655,259	182,396,384	182,365,228
Higher Education Incentive Grants	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$311,770,978	\$226,983,230	\$209,941,252	\$250,051,644	\$247,814,655
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	84,619,205	79,444,641	76,560,459	76,059,867	77,016,594
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,453,251	8,269,087	8,022,419	8,771,839	9,003,418
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	218,191,379	138,603,967	123,847,928	163,808,356	160,191,569
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$311,263,835	\$226,317,695	\$208,430,806	\$248,640,062	\$246,211,581
Capital Purchases and Equipment	507,143	665,535	1,510,446	1,411,582	1,603,074
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$311,770,978	\$226,983,230	\$209,941,252	\$250,051,644	\$247,814,655
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	189,391,302	151,491,614	137,133,720	162,050,863	158,722,427
Federal Funds	120,424,524	72,217,463	69,839,591	84,523,990	85,504,945
Restricted Receipts	1,767,022	2,731,750	1,757,941	2,284,059	2,203,059
Other Funds	188,130	542,403	1,210,000	1,192,732	1,384,224
Total Expenditures	\$311,770,978	\$226,983,230	\$209,941,252	\$250,051,644	\$247,814,655
FTE Authorization	789.0	805.0	738.5	694.0	700.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	13.5%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%	14.2%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	64.2%	65.1%	65.1%	65.1%	65.1%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	5.6%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Support Services	4,937,602	5,213,139	2,818,993	3,541,698	3,300,762
Office of Budget	1,696,803	1,259,843	1,074,025	1,061,472	1,020,188
Information Systems	2,584,001	2,513,534	2,018,957	2,120,849	2,132,096
Office of the Director	1,025,653	1,081,678	1,215,236	885,758	899,103
Total Expenditures	\$10,244,059	\$10,068,194	\$7,127,211	\$7,609,777	\$7,352,149
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	8,469,851	8,427,364	5,444,611	5,907,902	5,650,274
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,499,828	1,547,838	1,395,203	1,569,371	1,569,371
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	43,305	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$10,012,984	\$9,976,349	\$6,840,961	\$7,478,420	\$7,220,792
Capital Purchases and Equipment	231,075	91,845	286,250	131,357	131,357
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$10,244,059	\$10,068,194	\$7,127,211	\$7,609,777	\$7,352,149
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	6,906,407	7,200,952	5,162,842	5,277,833	5,077,434
Federal Funds	3,337,652	2,867,242	1,964,369	2,331,944	2,274,715
Total Expenditures	\$10,244,059	\$10,068,194	\$7,127,211	\$7,609,777	\$7,352,149
Program Measures	NA	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 children/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 provides 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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Children's Mental Health	61,666,269	25,640,288	24,253,739	18,903,348	19,000,135
Psychiatric Services	10,001,612	-	-	-	-
Local Coordinating Council	2,507,771	2,465,115	3,239,961	2,093,589	803,028
CBH Educational Services	1,570,597	1,686,211	1,526,377	2,809,416	1,936,498
Total Expenditures	\$75,746,249	\$29,791,614	\$29,020,077	\$23,806,353	\$21,739,661
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	3,013,171	2,807,048	2,233,103	2,187,653	2,615,527
Operating Supplies and Expenses	159,293	140,781	202,356	174,486	174,486
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	72,497,539	26,843,785	25,925,422	20,877,769	18,150,424
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$75,670,003	\$29,791,614	\$28,360,881	\$23,239,908	\$20,940,437
Capital Purchases and Equipment	76,246	-	659,196	566,445	799,224
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$75,746,249	\$29,791,614	\$29,020,077	\$23,806,353	\$21,739,661
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	38,166,680	15,802,960	16,087,176	12,129,519	10,687,390
Federal Funds	37,516,354	13,988,654	12,287,901	11,110,389	10,253,047
Other Funds	63,215	-	645,000	566,445	799,224
Total Expenditures	\$75,746,249	\$29,791,614	\$29,020,077	\$23,806,353	\$21,739,661
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Institutional Services	17,905,381	18,271,865	17,646,847	19,582,320	19,616,007
Juvenile Probation & Parole	12,217,730	7,929,015	9,785,097	12,151,218	12,200,165
RITS - Education Program	4,810,450	4,325,394	4,506,761	4,305,592	4,341,445
Total Expenditures	\$34,933,561	\$30,526,274	\$31,938,705	\$36,039,130	\$36,157,617
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	24,465,038	24,365,092	24,240,333	25,300,465	25,349,574
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,375,801	1,510,693	1,273,342	1,715,524	1,947,103
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	8,960,747	4,630,890	6,425,030	8,997,424	8,835,223
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$34,801,586	\$30,506,675	\$31,938,705	\$36,013,413	\$36,131,900
Capital Purchases and Equipment	131,975	19,599	-	25,717	25,717
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$34,933,561	\$30,526,274	\$31,938,705	\$36,039,130	\$36,157,617
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	31,968,676	30,171,535	31,406,268	34,266,760	34,117,789
Federal Funds	2,663,252	331,680	522,437	1,749,311	2,016,769
Restricted Receipts	201,523	23,059	10,000	23,059	23,059
Other Funds	100,110	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$34,933,561	\$30,526,274	\$31,938,705	\$36,039,130	\$36,157,617
Program Measures					
Percentage of Adjudicated and Detained Training School Youth Passing the General Education Development Exam					
	94.0%	92.0%	90.0%	90.0%	90.0%
Percentage of Adjudicated Training School Youth Admitted During the Fiscal Year After Release within the Prior 12 months					
	42.4%	39.9%	39.4%	39.4%	39.4%

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 improves 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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Protective Services	19,040,927	18,767,153	21,093,470	20,859,098	23,604,524
Family Services	18,716,151	16,883,407	16,743,777	17,337,976	17,169,374
Community Services	11,646,435	8,877,540	11,611,792	12,672,471	5,662,599
Prevention Services	2,501,499	15,112,919	13,371,949	12,906,229	12,113,076
Board & Care	109,099,273	67,602,278	48,970,053	84,656,583	108,552,713
Foster Care	29,642,824	29,153,851	29,864,218	33,964,027	15,262,942
Total Expenditures	\$190,647,109	\$156,397,148	\$141,655,259	\$182,396,384	\$182,365,228
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	48,671,145	43,845,137	44,642,412	42,663,847	43,401,219
Operating Supplies and Expenses	5,418,329	5,069,775	5,151,518	5,312,458	5,312,458
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	136,489,788	106,928,145	91,296,329	133,732,016	133,004,775
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$190,579,262	\$155,843,057	\$141,090,259	\$181,708,321	\$181,718,452
Capital Purchases and Equipment	67,847	554,091	565,000	688,063	646,776
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$190,647,109	\$156,397,148	\$141,655,259	\$182,396,384	\$182,365,228
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	112,149,539	98,116,167	84,277,434	110,984,829	108,639,814
Federal Funds	76,907,266	55,029,887	55,064,884	68,524,268	70,960,414
Restricted Receipts	1,565,499	2,708,691	1,747,941	2,261,000	2,180,000
Other Funds	24,805	542,403	565,000	626,287	585,000
Total Expenditures	\$190,647,109	\$156,397,148	\$141,655,259	\$182,396,384	\$182,365,228
Program Measures					
Percentage of Children in Foster Care for Less than 12 Months Who Have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements	84.3%	84.8%	85.8%	85.8%	85.8%
Percentage of Children Experiencing a Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect	13.3%	12.8%	12.3%	12.3%	11.8%
Percentage of Children Reunified with Parents or Caretaker within 12 Months	73.1%	73.6%	74.1%	74.1%	74.6%
Percentage of Children Re-entering Foster Care within 12 months of a Previous Placement	18.2%	17.7%	17.2%	17.2%	16.7%
Percentage of Children Adopted within 24 Months of Removal from Home	31.3%	31.8%	32.3%	32.3%	32.8%

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 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Enacted	FY 2009 Revised	FY 2010 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	200,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$200,000	\$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	\$200,000
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA