

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	10,068,194	7,075,233	7,352,149	6,352,365	6,788,678
Children's Behavioral Health Services	29,791,614	24,510,003	21,574,661	26,431,939	24,751,050
Juvenile Correctional Services	30,526,274	34,472,204	36,157,617	34,581,727	35,749,955
Child Welfare	156,397,148	183,703,959	182,465,228	174,469,963	169,404,961
Higher Education Incentive Grants	200,000	199,628	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$226,983,230	\$249,961,027	\$247,749,655	\$242,035,994	\$236,894,644
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	79,444,641	72,752,362	77,016,594	69,929,722	75,291,151
Operating Supplies and Expenses	8,269,087	8,714,427	9,003,418	8,919,211	8,332,511
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	138,603,967	167,829,307	160,291,569	162,313,262	151,146,002
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$226,317,695	\$249,296,096	\$246,311,581	\$241,162,195	\$234,769,664
Capital Purchases and Equipment	665,535	664,931	1,438,074	873,799	2,124,980
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$226,983,230	\$249,961,027	\$247,749,655	\$242,035,994	\$236,894,644
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	151,491,614	161,307,641	158,822,427	154,127,876	155,086,402
Federal Funds	72,217,463	85,846,952	85,504,945	85,263,506	77,912,449
Restricted Receipts	2,731,750	2,232,511	2,203,059	2,005,793	2,005,793
Other Funds	542,403	573,923	1,219,224	638,819	1,890,000
Total Expenditures	\$226,983,230	\$249,961,027	\$247,749,655	\$242,035,994	\$236,894,644
FTE Authorization	788.5	694.0	700.0	700.0	700.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	14.2%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	65.1%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%	66.0%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	5.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Support Services	5,213,139	3,464,392	3,300,762	2,812,455	3,094,657
Office of Budget	1,259,843	818,921	1,020,188	908,467	976,610
Information Systems	2,513,534	1,999,575	2,132,096	1,752,415	1,806,291
Office of the Director	1,081,678	792,345	899,103	879,028	911,120
Total Expenditures	\$10,068,194	\$7,075,233	\$7,352,149	\$6,352,365	\$6,788,678
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	8,427,364	4,875,673	5,650,274	4,725,211	5,167,451
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,547,838	2,155,143	1,569,371	1,604,907	1,598,980
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	1,147	1,950	1,147	1,147	1,147
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$9,976,349	\$7,032,766	\$7,220,792	\$6,331,265	\$6,767,578
Capital Purchases and Equipment	91,845	42,467	131,357	21,100	21,100
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$10,068,194	\$7,075,233	\$7,352,149	\$6,352,365	\$6,788,678
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	7,200,952	4,809,535	5,077,434	4,538,227	4,827,869
Federal Funds	2,867,242	2,265,698	2,274,715	1,814,138	1,960,809
Total Expenditures	\$10,068,194	\$7,075,233	\$7,352,149	\$6,352,365	\$6,788,678
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.

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Children's Mental Health	25,640,288	21,518,107	18,835,135	22,672,515	22,167,070
Local Coordinating Council	2,465,115	1,589,925	803,028	854,157	704,157
CBH Educational Services	1,686,211	1,401,971	1,936,498	2,905,267	1,879,823
Total Expenditures	\$29,791,614	\$24,510,003	\$21,574,661	\$26,431,939	\$24,751,050
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	2,807,048	2,012,324	2,615,527	1,812,043	2,522,379
Operating Supplies and Expenses	140,781	106,540	174,486	290,314	291,511
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	26,843,785	22,391,139	18,150,424	24,263,127	21,112,160
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$29,791,614	\$24,510,003	\$20,940,437	\$26,365,484	\$23,926,050
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	634,224	66,455	825,000
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$29,791,614	\$24,510,003	\$21,574,661	\$26,431,939	\$24,751,050
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	15,802,960	12,145,214	10,687,390	11,494,754	11,753,857
Federal Funds	13,988,654	12,364,789	10,253,047	14,870,730	12,172,193
Other Funds	-	-	634,224	66,455	825,000
Total Expenditures	\$29,791,614	\$24,510,003	\$21,574,661	\$26,431,939	\$24,751,050
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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Institutional Services	18,271,865	18,990,127	19,616,007	18,526,949	18,883,343
Juvenile Probation & Parole	7,929,015	11,269,818	12,200,165	11,850,533	12,432,556
RITS - Education Program	4,325,394	4,212,259	4,341,445	4,204,245	4,434,056
Total Expenditures	\$30,526,274	\$34,472,204	\$36,157,617	\$34,581,727	\$35,749,955
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	24,365,092	23,694,598	25,349,574	23,785,347	24,774,124
Operating Supplies and Expenses	1,510,693	2,098,147	1,947,103	1,858,279	1,783,917
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	4,630,890	8,433,866	8,835,223	8,928,990	9,182,803
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$30,506,675	\$34,226,611	\$36,131,900	\$34,572,616	\$35,740,844
Capital Purchases and Equipment	19,599	245,593	25,717	9,111	9,111
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$30,526,274	\$34,472,204	\$36,157,617	\$34,581,727	\$35,749,955
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	30,171,535	31,882,918	34,117,789	31,714,051	32,778,330
Federal Funds	331,680	2,393,972	2,016,769	2,867,676	2,971,625
Restricted Receipts	23,059	195,314	23,059	-	-
Other Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$30,526,274	\$34,472,204	\$36,157,617	\$34,581,727	\$35,749,955
Program Measures					
Percentage of Adjudicated and Detained Training School Youth Passing the General Education Development Exam					
	86.0%	88.0%	89.0%	89.0%	89.0%
Percentage of Adjudicated Training School Youth Admitted During the Fiscal Year After Release within the Prior 12 months					
	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Subprogram					
Protective Services	18,767,153	20,485,267	23,604,524	22,374,220	23,261,535
Family Services	16,883,407	14,903,029	17,169,374	13,859,325	15,812,424
Community Services	8,877,540	10,402,089	5,662,599	6,579,978	5,688,716
Prevention Services	15,112,919	8,860,071	8,613,076	9,705,529	9,247,961
Board & Care	67,602,278	99,267,928	112,152,713	102,790,211	96,147,070
Foster Care	29,153,851	29,785,575	15,262,942	19,160,700	19,247,255
Total Expenditures	\$156,397,148	\$183,703,959	\$182,465,228	\$174,469,963	\$169,404,961
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	43,845,137	42,169,767	43,401,219	39,607,121	42,827,197
Operating Supplies and Expenses	5,069,775	4,354,597	5,312,458	5,165,711	4,658,103
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	106,928,145	136,802,724	133,104,775	128,919,998	120,649,892
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$155,843,057	\$183,327,088	\$181,818,452	\$173,692,830	\$168,135,192
Capital Purchases and Equipment	554,091	376,871	646,776	777,133	1,269,769
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$156,397,148	\$183,703,959	\$182,465,228	\$174,469,963	\$169,404,961
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	98,116,167	112,270,346	108,739,814	106,180,844	105,526,346
Federal Funds	55,029,887	68,822,493	70,960,414	65,710,962	60,807,822
Restricted Receipts	2,708,691	2,037,197	2,180,000	2,005,793	2,005,793
Other Funds	542,403	573,923	585,000	572,364	1,065,000
Total Expenditures	\$156,397,148	\$183,703,959	\$182,465,228	\$174,469,963	\$169,404,961
Program Measures					
Percentage of Children in Foster Care for Less than 12 Months Who Have Experienced Two or Fewer Placements	83.0%	86.0%	86.5%	86.5%	86.5%
Percentage of Children Experiencing a Recurrence of Abuse and/or Neglect	9.7%	9.5%	9.0%	9.0%	9.0%
Percentage of Children Reunified with Parents or Caretaker within 12 Months	65.3%	66.0%	66.8%	66.8%	66.8%
Percentage of Children Re-entering Foster Care within 12 months of a Previous Placement	24.5%	25.0%	25.5%	25.5%	25.5%
Percentage of Children Adopted within 24 Months of Removal from Home	38.0%	38.5%	40.0%	40.0%	40.0%

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 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Supplies and Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	200,000	199,628	200,000	200,000	200,000
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$200,000	\$199,628	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$199,628	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	200,000	199,628	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Expenditures	\$200,000	\$199,628	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Program Measures	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA