

Health and Human Services Function Summary

| Expenditures by Agency | 2017 Actuals | 2018 Actuals | 2019 Enacted Budget | 2019 Revised Budget | 2020 Recommended |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Of The Child Advocate | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Expenditures by Object | | | | | |
| Salary and Benefits | 499,281 | 786,803 | 1,037,026 | 967,179 | 1,111,310 |
| Contract Professional Services | 166 | 1,031 | 13,151 | 0 | 0 |
| Operating Supplies and Expenses | 84,615 | 155,797 | 126,001 | 100,096 | 102,962 |
| Assistance And Grants | 0 | 0 | 17,785 | 17,785 | 17,785 |
| Subtotal: Operating | 584,062 | 943,631 | 1,193,963 | 1,085,060 | 1,232,057 |
| Capital Purchases And Equipment | 28,045 | 4,074 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Subtotal: Other | 28,045 | 4,074 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Expenditures by Source of Funds | | | | | |
| General Revenue | 470,981 | 703,984 | 969,922 | 896,811 | 986,701 |
| Federal Funds | 141,126 | 243,721 | 226,041 | 190,249 | 247,356 |
| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| FTE Authorization | 7.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |

Agency Summary

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 10.0 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of children under DCYF care and yearly monitoring site visits of 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. This review was at the discretion of the Child Advocate until July 2016, when Governor Raimondo signed a bill into law, which expanded this crucial mandate. The OCA is now required to review every child fatality and near fatality, when the child's family, caretaker or household member has had previous involvement with DCYF.

Budget

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

| | 2017 Actuals | 2018 Actuals | 2019 Enacted Budget | 2019 Revised Budget | 2020 Recommended |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Expenditures by Program | | | | | |
| Central Management | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Expenditures by Object | | | | | |
| Salary And Benefits | 499,281 | 786,803 | 1,037,026 | 967,179 | 1,111,310 |
| Contract Professional Services | 166 | 1,031 | 13,151 | 0 | 0 |
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| Assistance And Grants | 0 | 0 | 17,785 | 17,785 | 17,785 |
| Subtotal: Operating | 584,062 | 943,631 | 1,193,963 | 1,085,060 | 1,232,057 |
| Capital Purchases And Equipment | 28,045 | 4,074 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Subtotal: Other | 28,045 | 4,074 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| Expenditures by Source of Funds | | | | | |
| General Revenue | 470,981 | 703,984 | 969,922 | 896,811 | 986,701 |
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| Total Expenditures | 612,107 | 947,705 | 1,195,963 | 1,087,060 | 1,234,057 |
| FTE Authorization | 7.0 | 8.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |

Performance Measures

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Visit/Review of DCYF Licensed Facilities

The OCA monitors all facilities licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families including but not limited to group homes, foster homes, day cares and the RI Training School. Through thorough site reviews and routine visits by OCA staff the office ensures the appropriateness of the physical living conditions, suitability of clinical treatment programs, compliance with licensing regulations, compliance with contractual obligations and reviews the safety and well-being of children in a particular placement. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

| | <i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i> | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <i>Frequency: Annual</i> | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Target | 6.00 | 65.00 | 65.00 | 70.00 | 70.00 |
| Actual | 6.00 | 17.00 | 55.00 | 0.00 | |

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. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

| | <i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i> | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>Frequency: Annual</i> | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Target | 199.00 | 200.00 | 225.00 | 225.00 | 225.00 |
| Actual | 199.00 | 439.00 | 692.00 | 0.00 | |

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. [Notes: FY 2019 targets have been updated. Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

| | <i>Reporting Period: Federal Fiscal Year</i> | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| <i>Frequency: Annual</i> | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Target | 247.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Actual | 247.00 | 356.00 | 1,769.00 | 0.00 | |

Personnel

Agency: OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Central Management

| | | FY 2019 | | FY 2020 | |
|--|--------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | FTE | Cost | FTE | Cost |
| Unclassified | | | | | |
| CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR | 00819A | 1.0 | 43,554 | 1.0 | 46,481 |
| CHILD ADVOCATE | 00862F | 1.0 | 92,870 | 1.0 | 92,870 |
| CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY | 00817A | 1.0 | 42,306 | 1.0 | 44,852 |
| GRANTS MANAGER | 00823A | 1.0 | 48,370 | 1.0 | 52,991 |
| SENIOR INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATION SPECIALIST | 00824A | 1.0 | 51,118 | 1.0 | 54,968 |
| SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST | 00324A | 2.0 | 108,938 | 2.0 | 115,893 |
| SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR | 00829A | 1.0 | 68,577 | 1.0 | 75,219 |
| STAFF ATTORNEY III | 00832A | 1.0 | 75,812 | 1.0 | 82,431 |
| STAFF ATTORNEY IV | 00834A | 1.0 | 87,199 | 1.0 | 90,491 |
| Subtotal Unclassified | | 10.0 | 618,744 | 10.0 | 656,196 |
| Subtotal | | 10.0 | 618,744 | 10.0 | 656,196 |
| Turnover | | | (36,867) | | 0 |
| Total Salaries | | | 581,877 | | 656,196 |
| Benefits | | | | | |
| FICA | | | 44,511 | | 50,199 |
| Health Benefits | | | 117,986 | | 151,493 |
| Payroll Accrual | | | 3,364 | | 3,802 |
| Retiree Health | | | 34,797 | | 43,638 |
| Retirement | | | 158,736 | | 179,732 |
| Subtotal | | | 359,394 | | 428,864 |
| Total Salaries and Benefits | | 10.0 | 941,271 | 10.0 | 1,085,060 |
| Cost Per FTE Position | | | 94,127 | | 108,506 |
| Statewide Benefit Assessment | | | 25,908 | | 26,250 |
| Payroll Costs | | 10.0 | 967,179 | 10.0 | 1,111,310 |
| Total Personnel | | 10.0 | 967,179 | 10.0 | 1,111,310 |
| Distribution by Source of Funds | | | | | |
| General Revenue | | | 797,445 | | 884,469 |
| Federal Funds | | | 169,734 | | 226,841 |
| Total All Funds | | | 967,179 | | 1,111,310 |

