

OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) was established in 1998 to strengthen services to children and families. The Office is committed to promoting the well-being and safety of children, families and communities.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office of Children and Family Services is headquartered in Rensselaer with regional offices throughout the State. These offices provide operational support and policy direction to local social services districts and youth bureaus. The Office is also responsible for the operation of 48 residential and day placement facilities statewide serving over 2,200 youth. The workforce for fiscal year 2000-2001 is estimated at 4,702 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 39 percent of its \$3.3 billion budget from State tax dollars and 61 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations Budget of \$466.4 million supports oversight of child welfare, child care, adult protection and domestic violence programs, among others. In addition, the State Operations Budget supports the continued operation of juvenile justice facilities.

The Local Assistance Budget of \$2.7 billion provides payments to local governments and not-for-profit providers for programs such as foster care, adoption, child protective services, delinquency prevention and child care.

Capital projects appropriations of \$92.6 million primarily support the maintenance and construction of the State-operated juvenile justice facilities in order to provide a safe living environment and sufficient program space for youth while they are in residential care and at the same time, maintain an appropriate level of security.

Although new appropriations for the Office show a decrease of \$191.3 million, this does not reflect a proposed reduction in overall spending. Rather, the decrease is largely due to a required adjustment for the Child Care Reserve Fund, which was fully appropriated in 1999-00, but which will spend out over three years, and a realignment of appropriations for the Title XX Block Grant to coincide with prior year cuts in Federal funding levels. These, and other lesser decreases, are more than offset by appropriation increases.

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The Executive Budget recommendation continues to provide local governments with substantial funding for child welfare services and maximum flexibility in determining the best use of these monies. The recommendation continues the Family and Children's Services Block Grant (FCSBG) and provides almost \$850 million in State and Federal welfare funding to reimburse local social services districts for foster care, foster care prevention and adoption administration activities. The General Fund recommendation of \$533 million for the FCSBG includes \$6 million in new funding to provide cost-of-living adjustments for foster care and preventive services' voluntary agency staff.

The SFY 2000-2001 recommendation maintains the transfer of Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant funds to the Federal Title XX Social Services Block Grant at \$241 million to support locally provided child welfare services.

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In addition, the Executive Budget provides \$30 million in additional funding through the TANF Block Grant for preventive services to low income families with children at risk of foster care placement.

Within the TANF Block Grant, funds are set aside for children and their families facing emergency situations. This recommendation reflects continued use of TANF funding to reimburse local governments for the Juvenile Delinquent/Persons in Need of Supervision (JD/PINS) Foster Care Program and other local foster care expenditures.

TANF Block Grant funds are used to increase the amounts available for the home visiting program to \$9.6 million, thereby allowing an expansion to an additional three or four locations across the State. Finally, since the reduction of out-of-wedlock births is one of the major goals of Federal welfare reform, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program is funded from the TANF Block Grant and suballocated to the Department of Health where it will be consolidated with several other programs that promote abstinence and maternal and newborn health.

The Executive Budget continues uncapped funding for critical child protective activities that, prior to SFY 1998-1999, were financed through the Family and Children's Services Block Grant. Set at \$70 million, this reimbursement provides local governments with necessary resources to protect abused and neglected children.

The Executive Budget continues to provide local governments with funding to support implementation of the Federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). This legislation provides important safeguards for protecting children placed in foster care and ensuring timely resolution of foster care placements through accelerated permanency planning hearings and other mandated case actions. The recommendation includes \$6.4 million for State and local ASFA implementation activities, including staff training, fingerprinting of foster care and adoptive parents, and administrative hearings. The Executive Budget also includes \$1.2 million to promote timely actions on requests for child welfare and child protective special hearings.

The Executive Budget supports a continued emphasis on prevention and early identification of child abuse and neglect. More than \$8 million is included to support operation of the State Child Abuse Hotline. Using funds provided last year, planned improvements to the Hotline will be completed in 2000-2001. Additional funds are recommended to expand OCFS' capability to investigate reports of institutional abuse in residential care facilities.

The Budget includes \$118 million for the State's share of adoption subsidies provided to families who adopt special needs children. These funds will support approximately 35,000 children in adoptive homes, including 4,750 children adopted last year. It is anticipated that an additional 4,850 children will be adopted in 2000-2001. In addition, the Budget continues \$1 million in new funding to help parents cover the legal costs they incur when they adopt children who have been awaiting final placement for longer than six months.

CHILD CARE

The Executive Budget includes Federal, State and local funding of \$711 million for the State Child Care Block Grant, an increase of \$85 million over the 1999-2000 level. The Block Grant supports child care subsidies for low-income families and families in transition from welfare to employment. Those transitioning from welfare are guaranteed subsidized child care for 12 months after leaving Family Assistance. The State also guarantees child care to public assistance recipients with children up to age 13 when such care is required for the parent/guardian to go to work. Each social services district receives a single grant that enables it to tailor its expenditures to meet local needs and to comply with mandated work participation requirements for Family Assistance recipients.

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Under the Child Care Block Grant, districts' ability to plan for and meet district-specific child care needs has increased. To foster even greater local flexibility, a new \$200 million Child Care Reserve Fund was established in 1999-2000. This Fund may be accessed by local social services districts over a three-year period as their child care demands change. The Executive Budget anticipates that approximately \$51 million will be allocated from the Child Care Reserve Fund in 2000-2001.

The Executive Budget includes \$18.5 million to fingerprint all regulated child care providers, expand oversight and monitoring activities, and increase the percentage of inspections for registered programs from 20 percent to 50 percent over 3 years. In addition, \$2.5 million is set aside to support child care programs meeting the special needs of migrant workers' children.

During 2000-2001 the Office will initiate the new Child Care Facilities Construction Program. Authorized in 1999-2000, this \$15 million bond-financed program will make grants available to child care providers to build or rehabilitate child care centers.

The Executive Budget also provides \$10 million for the third year of the Advantage After-School initiative, a program offered from the end of classes to the early evening hours during the school year. Funds will be provided to community-based organizations demonstrating the ability to work collaboratively with schools, child care providers and/or other organizations or businesses for after-school programming. This funding is anticipated to leverage additional Federal, local and philanthropic dollars.

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Youth Facilities Program includes the Office's 48 residential facilities and day placement centers serving youth placed by the Family Courts or committed by the Criminal Courts. Through a broad array of programs, the Office provides rehabilitative services that include counseling, education and training designed to promote positive youth development and foster a youth's return to the community as a law-abiding and productive citizen.

The Executive Budget recommendations address a growing demand for residential capacity by including \$75 million in capital funds to construct a new secure center to replace the Harlem Valley facility, which is being sold, and to increase limited secure capacity for boys. In addition, operating funds are provided to add 13 limited secure beds for girls at the Lansing Residential Center.

SYSTEMS

The Executive Budget includes approximately \$66 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of CONNECTIONS, the State's child welfare information system.

CONNECTIONS provides for electronic transmission of reports of child abuse or neglect from the State's Child Abuse Hotline to local governments. This enables local caseworkers to intervene quickly with as much information as possible, affording greater protections for children and enhanced case management. In addition, CONNECTIONS enables local governments to track and approve foster and adoptive homes.

During 1999-2000, a State review involving local governments and other stakeholders identified the need for a third party technical expert to guide improvements to the CONNECTIONS software application and hardware infrastructure. Accordingly, OCFS retained a quality assurance contractor to assist CONNECTIONS project leadership in managing this project. This new project management structure will enable the State to plan critical work for the future full implementation of the system while undertaking improvements to existing functions.

To further strengthen the State's ability to oversee programs serving children and families, the Office has identified the need to upgrade its computer technology to support larger data bases and more powerful analytical software. Accordingly, the Executive Budget continues \$6.5 million to implement a common computer platform agencywide, improve financial management capabilities and develop comprehensive data collection and reporting tools.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services supervises the State's system of family support and child welfare services to help families live independently. County departments of social services and, in many cases, community-based local organizations administer most programs that identify and protect abused and neglected children; provide counseling and other services to strengthen families and avoid foster care; place children in foster care as needed; reunite children and families; find permanent adoptive parents for children who cannot be reunited with birth families; prepare teens for independent living and protect vulnerable adults from family violence.

The State Child Abuse Hotline receives over 300,000 calls each year over a toll-free 800 telephone number reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse. County protective services staff and/or local law enforcement agencies conduct those resulting investigations which have been initiated by the State. The Register maintains a master database of those found culpable of child abuse so that employers, such as day care centers, can screen out potential employees with a history of familial child abuse.

OCFS also oversees a variety of programs serving the State's neediest and most vulnerable adult residents. Many of these programs serve the public assistance population and play an important role as the State and its localities implement welfare reform. Programs include oversight of locally-administered adult protective services and programs providing services to victims of domestic violence, including emergency shelters and community-based crisis intervention.

Through the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, the Office provides, directly or through contract, services to help visually handicapped people live independently and achieve self-sufficiency through employment. The Commission also assists over 3,800 children and elderly individuals with services such as orientation and mobility, social casework, adaptive equipment, interpreter services, low-vision examinations, diagnostic examinations and intensive adaptive skills training.

The Office provides significant funding to counties and municipalities, and community-based not-for-profit agencies for the provision of youth development and delinquency prevention programs.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

Category	Available 1999-00	Appropriations Recommended 2000-01	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2000-01
State Operations	\$456,693,000	\$466,418,100	+\$9,725,100	\$284,000,000
Aid To Localities	3,008,569,796	2,741,931,900	-266,637,896	2,054,466,300
Capital Projects	26,950,000	92,600,000	+65,650,000	61,261,000
Total	<u>\$3,492,212,796</u>	<u>\$3,300,950,000</u>	<u>-\$191,262,796</u>	<u>\$2,399,727,300</u>

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ALL FUND TYPES LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	2000-01 Recommended Average Fill Level				Change
	Available 1999-00	Personal Service (Regular)	Maintenance Undistributed	Total Recommended 2000-01	
Central Administration					
General Fund	383	383	....	383	....
Special Revenue Funds - Other	98	98	....	98	....
Child Care					
General Fund	57	32	....	32	-25
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	60	170	85	255	+195
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped					
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	196	196	....	196	....
Special Revenue Funds - Other	3	....	3	3	....
Expendable Trust Funds	4	....	4	4	....
Family and Children Services					
General Fund	404	404	....	404	....
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	26	....	26	26	....
Systems Support					
General Fund	216	221	....	221	+5
Training and Development					
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	91	91	....	91	....
Youth Facilities					
General Fund	2,884	2,884	....	2,884	....
Subtotal, Direct Funded Programs	4,422	4,479	118	4,597	+175
Suballocations:					
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	105	....	....	105	....
Total	4,527	....	....	4,702	+175

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change
General Fund	\$223,879,000	\$241,110,100	+\$17,231,100
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	119,600,000	111,810,000	-7,790,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	109,389,000	109,673,000	+284,000
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	....
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000
Fiduciary Funds	3,225,000	3,225,000
Total	\$456,693,000	\$466,418,100	+\$9,725,100

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STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	\$28,924,600	\$32,154,900	+\$3,230,300
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,100,000	9,100,000	.....
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	.....
Fiduciary Funds	1,825,000	1,825,000	.....
Child Care			
General Fund	3,778,000	2,477,100	-1,300,900
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	10,800,000	10,800,000	.....
Children's Services			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	.....	.....	.....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,378,700	8,379,000	+300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28,000,000	22,210,000	-5,790,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	500,000	500,000	.....
Fiduciary Funds	1,400,000	1,400,000	.....
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	-37,233,000	-32,093,000	+5,140,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	37,233,000	38,593,000	+1,360,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	32,984,700	29,173,800	-3,810,900
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	16,800,000	17,800,000	+1,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	956,000	1,046,000	+90,000
Systems Support			
General Fund	43,212,000	53,986,300	+10,774,300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	.....	25,000,000	+25,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	.....	10,000,000	+10,000,000
Training and Development			
General Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000	.....
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	64,000,000	36,000,000	-28,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	61,300,000	50,134,000	-11,166,000
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	.....
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	133,834,000	137,032,000	+3,198,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	300,000	300,000	.....
Enterprise Funds	300,000	300,000	.....
Total	\$456,693,000	\$466,418,100	+\$9,725,100

STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total Personal Service		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)		Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$19,275,700	-\$517,300	\$18,337,500	-\$546,500	\$808,100	+\$25,100
Child Care	1,526,800	-1,309,200	1,526,800	-1,309,200	.....	.....
Family and Children Services	18,396,800	+275,800	17,634,200	+252,200	5,200	+200
Systems Support	9,388,300	+240,300	9,363,300	+240,300	.....	.....
Youth Facilities	112,564,000	+1,993,000	102,796,500	+1,626,500	5,194,500	+235,500
Total	\$161,151,600	+\$682,600	\$149,658,300	+\$263,300	\$6,007,800	+\$260,800

Program	Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$130,100	+\$4,100
Family and Children Services	757,400	+23,400
Systems Support	25,000
Youth Facilities	4,573,000	+131,000
Total	\$5,485,500	+\$158,500

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STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$12,879,200	+\$3,747,600	\$208,000	....
Child Care	950,300	+8,300	74,000	....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,379,000	+300	....	....
Family and Children Services	10,777,000	-4,086,700	577,500	....
Systems Support	44,598,000	+10,534,000	340,000	....
Training and Development	10,000,000	....	....	....
Youth Facilities	24,468,000	+1,205,000	10,514,000	....
Total	\$112,051,500	+\$11,408,500	\$11,713,500	....

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$755,000	....	\$9,317,200	+\$2,547,600
Child Care	184,000	....	662,300	+8,300
Family and Children Services	356,500	....	7,614,000	-4,186,700
Systems Support	99,000	....	2,719,000	....
Youth Facilities	820,000	....	11,679,000	+955,000
Total	\$2,214,500	....	\$31,991,500	-\$675,800

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$136,000	....	\$2,463,000	+\$1,200,000
Child Care	30,000	....	....	....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped .....	....	....	8,379,000	+300
Family and Children Services	29,000	....	2,200,000	+100,000
Systems Support	140,000	....	41,300,000	+10,534,000
Training and Development .....	....	....	10,000,000	....
Youth Facilities	1,205,000	250,000	+250,000
Total	\$1,540,000	\$64,592,000	+\$12,084,300

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STATE OPERATIONS — OTHER THAN GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2000-01 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$11,025,000	....	....	....
Child Care	10,800,000	....	....	....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	24,110,000	-\$5,790,000	....	....
Family and Children Services	18,846,000	+1,090,000	....	....
Systems Support	35,000,000	+35,000,000	....	....
Training and Development	86,334,000	-39,166,000	\$1,434,000	....
Youth Facilities	600,000	....	....	....
Total	\$186,715,000	-\$8,866,000	\$1,434,000	....

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$1,925,000	....	\$9,100,000	....
Child Care .....	....	....	10,800,000	....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped .....	....	....	24,110,000	-\$5,790,000
Family and Children Services	5,000,000	....	13,846,000	+1,090,000
Systems Support .....	....	....	35,000,000	+35,000,000
Training and Development	2,566,000	....	82,334,000	-39,166,000
Youth Facilities	600,000	....	....	....
Total	\$10,091,000	....	\$175,190,000	-\$8,866,000

AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	1999-00	2000-01	
General Fund	\$1,058,942,796	\$1,039,311,900	-\$19,630,896
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,925,097,000	1,678,090,000	-247,007,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,000,000	21,000,000	....
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	....
Total	\$3,008,569,796	\$2,741,931,900	-\$266,637,896
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Children and Family Services, Office of General Fund	-12,270,000		
Transfer(s) To			
Children and Family Services, Office of Special Revenue Funds - Federal	+12,270,000		
Appropriated 1999-00	<u>\$3,008,569,796</u>		

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AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change
Child Care			
General Fund	\$96,066,000	\$96,066,000	.....
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	730,000,000	551,000,000	-\$179,000,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	934,415,900	938,245,900	+3,830,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,171,270,000	1,098,652,000	-72,618,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,000,000	21,000,000	.....
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	.....
Training and Development			
General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	.....
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	23,827,000	28,438,000	+4,611,000
Community Projects			
General Fund	23,460,896	.....	-23,460,896
Total	\$3,008,569,796	\$2,741,931,900	-\$266,637,896

CAPITAL PROJECTS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 1999-00	Recommended 2000-01	Change	Reappropriations 2000-01
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund .....	.....	\$1,000,000	+\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund	\$15,000,000	.....	-15,000,000	15,000,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	4,250,000	1,900,000	-2,350,000	4,250,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	4,000,000	7,700,000	+3,700,000	18,300,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Capital Projects Fund	700,000	.....	-700,000	769,000
Misc. Capital Projects .....	.....	4,000,000	+4,000,000	.....
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund .....	.....	.....	.....	1,178,000
New Construction				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund .....	.....	75,000,000	+75,000,000	.....
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	3,000,000	3,000,000	.....	10,200,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund .....	.....	.....	.....	9,838,000
Rehabilitative Services				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund .....	.....	.....	.....	726,000
Total	\$26,950,000	\$92,600,000	+\$65,650,000	\$61,261,000

