

OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) was established in 1997 to strengthen services to children and families. The Office is committed to helping families achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, providing children with safe, permanent homes and protecting communities from youth violence and crime.

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 1999-2000 is estimated at 4,503 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 61 percent of its \$3.5 billion budget from State tax dollars and 39 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations Budget of \$460.2 million supports oversight of child welfare, child care, adult protection domestic violence programs, among others. In addition, the State Operations Budget supports the continued operation of juvenile justice facilities.

The Local Assistance Budget of \$2.95 billion provides payments to local governments and not-for-profit providers for programs such as foster care, adoption, child protective services, delinquency prevention, pregnancy prevention and child care. Capital projects appropriations support the maintenance and construction of residences to provide a safe living environment and sufficient program space for youth in residential care while maintaining an appropriate level of security.

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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 and provides over \$800 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 \$536 million includes \$15 million in new funding to provide local districts with necessary financial assistance to provide cost-of-living adjustments for voluntary agency staff and to address building safety issues in foster care facilities. The Block Grant recommendation also reflects full integration of the Juvenile Delinquency/Persons in Need of Supervision (JD/PINS) Foster Care Program into the Family and Children's Services Block Grant consistent with the SFY 1998-1999 enacted budget.

The SFY 1999-2000 recommendation increases the transfer of Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant funds to the Federal Title XX Social Services Block Grant to \$244 million to support locally provided children's services. In addition, within the TANF Block Grant, over \$203 million in TANF funds are set aside for children and their families facing emergency situations. This recommendation includes

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an increase of \$103 million, reflecting 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.

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 ensures that local governments have adequate resources to protect abused and neglected children.

The Executive Budget also provides 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 almost \$12.4 million for State and local ASFA implementation activities, including staff training, fingerprinting of foster care and adoptive parents, and administrative hearings.

The Executive Budget ensures a continued emphasis on prevention and early identification of child abuse and neglect. A total of \$10 million will be invested to improve the State Child Abuse Hotline, including replacing the current telecommunications system.

The Budget includes \$115 million for the State's share of adoption subsidies provided to families who adopt special needs children. These funds will support more than 32,000 children in adoptive homes, including 4,700 children adopted last year. It is anticipated that an additional 4,800 children will be adopted in 1999-2000. In addition, the Budget also includes \$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. This new incentive is expected to result in an additional 450 adoptions during 1999-2000, potentially qualifying New York State for additional Federal funds as provided for in the recently enacted Adoption and Safe Families Act.

OCFS also oversees a variety of programs serving the State's neediest adult residents. Many of these programs serve the public assistance population and will 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.

CHILD CARE

The Executive Budget increases funding for the State Child Care Block Grant to \$580 million during SFY 1999-2000, using a combination of State, Federal and local funding. 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 ensure compliance with mandated work participation requirements for Family Assistance recipients.

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 is established to be accessed by local social services districts over a three-year period as their child care demands change. The Child Care Reserve Fund makes child care funding more stable and predictable; helps counties plan for and meet the additional child care needs resulting from welfare reform; and maintains support to low-income families to help them stay employed.

Executive Budget recommendations also include \$10 million for the second year of the Advantage Schools initiative, an after-school program to be offered from the end of

classes to the early evening hours during the school year. Funds will be provided to localities and to non-profit agencies demonstrating ability to work collaboratively with schools, child care providers and/or other community-based organizations for after-school programming. This funding is anticipated to leverage additional Federal, local and philanthropic dollars.

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Youth Facilities program operates the Office's 48 residential facilities and day placement centers serving court-placed Juvenile Offenders (JOs) charged with serious crimes and prosecuted in criminal court as adults, and Juvenile Delinquents (JDs) who commit acts that would be a crime if committed by an adult and who are processed in Family Court. It directs the development and implementation of appropriately designed programs and services, including health, education, counseling services, and aftercare services.

The Executive Budget recommendations address a growing demand for residential capacity. The Budget includes \$75 million for a replacement facility for the Harlem Valley Secure Youth Facility and to increase secure and limited capacity statewide.

SYSTEMS

The Executive Budget invests \$48.5 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of CONNECTIONS, and \$6.5 million to integrate and upgrade OCFS' internal computer system.

Electronically transmitting reports of child abuse from the State's Child Abuse Hotline to local governments via CONNECTIONS enables local caseworkers to intervene quickly with as much information as possible about the family, resulting in better decisions regarding the safety of children in a particular home.

To help track the progress of children and families after initial interventions, the Executive Budget investment in CONNECTIONS development supports the cost of system improvements needed to better monitor children and families receiving foster care or family preservation services. These improvements also enable the State to meet Federal data reporting requirements. Monitoring foster children through CONNECTIONS can help local governments minimize the time needed to find children permanent adoptive homes where a safe return to birth parents is impossible.

To strengthen the State's ability to oversee the various programs serving children and families, the agency's computer technology must be upgraded to support larger data bases and more powerful analytical software. The Executive Budget investment will provide the agency with the means to implement a common computer platform agencywide, improve financial management capabilities and develop comprehensive data collection and reporting tools.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services provides a system of family support and child welfare services to help families support themselves. 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.

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The Office also licenses and monitors child care providers to ensure that they operate homes and centers which are safe and clean and provide a beneficial experience for children. The State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment, also known as the Child Abuse Hotline, receives over 350,000 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 also maintains a master database of those found culpable of child abuse so that employers, such as day care centers, can screen potential employees for a history of familial child abuse.

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 3,300 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. In its residential program, the Office provides nationally recognized rehabilitation services in the areas of substance abuse, independent living and law-related education.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

<u>Category</u>	<u>Available 1998-99</u>	<u>Appropriations Recommended 1999-00</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reappropriations Recommended 1999-00</u>
State Operations	\$373,127,000	\$460,193,000	+ \$87,066,000	\$176,424,000
Aid To Localities	2,563,928,501	2,948,075,900	+ 384,147,399	2,396,077,100
Capital Projects	15,100,000	83,750,000	+ 68,650,000	49,174,000
Total	<u>\$2,952,155,501</u>	<u>\$3,492,018,900</u>	<u>+ \$539,863,399</u>	<u>\$2,621,675,100</u>

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ALL FUND TYPES LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	1999-00 Recommended Average Fill Level				Change
	Available 1998-99	Personal Service (Regular)	Maintenance Undistributed	Total Recommended 1999-00	
Central Administration					
General Fund	503	383	....	383	-120
Special Revenue Funds — Other	98	98	....	98	....
Capital Project Funds	11	....	....	....	-11
Systems Support					
General Fund	157	216	....	216	+ 59
Training and Development					
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	91	91	....	91	....
Child Care					
General Fund	57	57	....	57	....
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	60	....	60	60	....
Family and Children Services					
General Fund	459	380	....	380	-79
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	26	....	26	26	....
Youth Facilities					
General Fund	2,743	2,884	....	2,884	+ 141
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped					
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	196	196	....	196	....
Special Revenue Funds — Other	3	....	3	3	....
Fiduciary Funds	4	....	4	4	....
Subtotal, Direct Funded Programs	4,408	4,305	93	4,398	-10
Suballocations:					
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	94	....	....	105	+ 11
Total	4,502	4,305	93	4,503	+ 1

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
General Fund	\$225,677,000	\$227,379,000	+ \$1,702,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	109,300,000	119,600,000	+ 10,300,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	34,325,000	109,389,000	+ 75,064,000
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	....
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	....
Fiduciary Funds	3,225,000	3,225,000	....
Total	\$373,127,000	\$460,193,000	+ \$87,066,000
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Children and Family Services, Office of			
General Fund (Aid To Localities)	-15,666,000		
Transfer(s) To			
Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office			
of			
General Fund	+ 2,175,000		
Appropriated 1998-99	\$359,636,000		

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STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	\$33,902,000	\$29,469,000	-\$4,433,000
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	.....
Systems Support			
General Fund	23,609,000	43,212,000	+ 19,603,000
Training and Development			
General Fund	6,194,000	10,000,000	+ 3,806,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	57,000,000	64,000,000	+ 7,000,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	10,500,000	61,300,000	+ 50,800,000
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	.....
Child Care			
General Fund	7,077,000	3,778,000	-3,299,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	7,500,000	10,800,000	+ 3,300,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	36,336,000	35,377,000	-959,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	16,800,000	16,800,000	.....
Special Revenue Funds — Other	832,000	956,000	+ 124,000
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	122,836,000	133,834,000	+ 10,998,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	300,000	300,000	.....
Enterprise Funds	300,000	300,000	.....
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,816,000	8,942,000	+ 126,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	28,000,000	28,000,000	.....
Special Revenue Funds — Other	500,000	500,000	.....
Fiduciary Funds	1,400,000	1,400,000	.....
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	-13,093,000	-37,233,000	-24,140,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	13,093,000	37,233,000	+ 24,140,000
Total	\$373,127,000	\$460,193,000	+ \$87,066,000

STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 1999-00 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total Personal Service		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)		Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$19,793,000	-\$3,989,000	\$18,884,000	-\$3,880,755	\$783,000	-\$61,000
Systems Support	9,148,000	+ 103,000	9,123,000	+ 103,000	.....	.....
Child Care	2,836,000	+ 201,000	2,836,000	+ 201,000	.....	.....
Family and Children Services	18,121,000	-6,819,000	17,382,000	-6,850,000	5,000	-16,000
Youth Facilities	110,571,000	+ 7,833,000	101,170,000	+ 7,080,000	4,959,000	+ 830,000
Total	\$160,469,000	-\$2,671,000	\$149,395,000	-\$3,346,755	\$5,747,000	+ \$753,000

Program	Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$126,000	-\$47,245
Systems Support	25,000	.....
Child Care	.....	.....
Family and Children Services	734,000	+ 47,000
Youth Facilities	4,442,000	-77,000
Total	\$5,327,000	-\$77,245

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STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 1999-00 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$9,676,000	-\$444,000	\$208,000	-\$119,258
Systems Support	34,064,000	+ 19,500,000	340,000	.....
Training and Development	10,000,000	+ 3,806,000	.....	.....
Child Care	942,000	-3,500,000	74,000	-70,000
Family and Children Services	17,256,000	+ 5,860,000	577,500	+ 255,800
Youth Facilities	23,263,000	+ 3,165,000	10,514,000	+ 237,900
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,942,000	+ 126,000	.....	.....
Total	\$104,143,000	+ \$28,513,000	\$11,713,500	+ \$304,442

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$755,000	-\$121,935	\$7,314,000	-\$50,000
Systems Support	99,000	.....	2,719,000	-250,000
Training and Development . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Child Care	184,000	-310,000	654,000	-3,075,000
Family and Children Services	356,500	+ 114,500	14,193,000	+ 5,494,000
Youth Facilities	820,000	+ 252,700	10,724,000	+ 4,132,700
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	\$2,214,500	-\$64,735	\$35,604,000	+ \$6,251,700

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$136,000	-\$152,807	\$1,263,000	.....
Systems Support	140,000	.....	30,766,000	+ \$19,750,000
Training and Development . . . . .	.....	.....	10,000,000	+ 3,806,000
Child Care	30,000	-45,000	.....	.....
Family and Children Services	29,000	-4,300	2,100,000	.....
Youth Facilities	1,205,000	+ 166,700	.....	-1,625,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,942,000	+ 126,000
Total	\$1,540,000	-\$35,407	\$53,071,000	+ \$22,057,000

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STATE OPERATIONS — OTHER THAN GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 1999-00 RECOMMENDED

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$11,025,000	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Training and Development	125,500,000	+ \$57,800,000	\$1,434,000	. . . .
Child Care	10,800,000	+ 3,300,000	. . . .	. . . .
Family and Children Services	17,756,000	+ 124,000	. . . .	. . . .
Youth Facilities	600,000	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	29,900,000	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Total	\$195,581,000	+ \$61,224,000	\$1,434,000	. . . .

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	\$1,925,000	. . . .	\$9,100,000	. . . .
Training and Development	2,566,000	. . . .	121,500,000	+ \$57,800,000
Child Care . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	10,800,000	+ 3,300,000
Family and Children Services	5,000,000	. . . .	12,756,000	+ 124,000
Youth Facilities	600,000	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	29,900,000	. . . .
Total	\$10,091,000	. . . .	\$184,056,000	+ \$61,224,000

AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
General Fund	\$1,005,751,501	\$1,052,718,900	+ \$46,967,399
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	1,533,647,000	1,870,827,000	+ 337,180,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	21,000,000	21,000,000	. . . .
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	. . . .
Total	\$2,563,928,501	\$2,948,075,900	+ \$384,147,399
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Temporary and Disability Assistance, Office of Special Revenue Funds — Federal	-295,000,000		
Transfer(s) To			
Children and Family Services, Office of General Fund (State Operations)	+ 15,666,000		
Appropriated 1998-99	\$2,284,594,501		

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AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
Training and Development			
General Fund	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	. . . .
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	23,827,000	23,827,000	. . . .
Child Care			
General Fund	96,066,000	96,066,000	. . . .
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	377,000,000	688,000,000	+ \$311,000,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	894,133,000	951,652,900	+ 57,519,900
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	1,132,820,000	1,159,000,000	+ 26,180,000
Special Revenue Funds — Other	21,000,000	21,000,000	. . . .
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	. . . .
Community Projects			
General Fund	10,552,501	. . . .	-10,552,501
Total	<u>\$2,563,928,501</u>	<u>\$2,948,075,900</u>	<u>+ \$384,147,399</u>

CAPITAL PROJECTS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Comprehensive Construction Programs	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change	Reappropriations 1999-00
Special Day Care Services Program				
Capital Projects Fund . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	\$1,550,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund . . . . .	. . . .	\$1,750,000	+ \$1,750,000	. . . .
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	\$5,500,000	4,000,000	-1,500,000	22,674,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Capital Projects Fund . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	100,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	1,400,000	. . . .	-1,400,000	1,400,000
New Construction				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund . . . . .	. . . .	75,000,000	+ 75,000,000	. . . .
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	7,200,000	3,000,000	-4,200,000	8,200,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	11,880,000
Rehabilitative Services				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund . . . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	2,370,000
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	1,000,000	. . . .	-1,000,000	1,000,000
Total	<u>\$15,100,000</u>	<u>\$83,750,000</u>	<u>+ \$68,650,000</u>	<u>\$49,174,000</u>