

# **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 2001-02 is estimated at 4,534 positions.

## **FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 40 percent of its \$3.4 billion budget from State tax dollars and 60 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations Budget of \$464.6 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 the agency's network of juvenile justice facilities.

The Local Assistance Budget of \$2.8 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 \$94.7 million primarily support the maintenance and construction of the State-operated juvenile justice facilities in order to provide a safe living environment, provide appropriate education, recreation and vocational program space, and maintain an appropriate level of security for youth while they are in residential care.

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The Executive Budget provides more than \$1.3 billion in State and Federal funding to support a comprehensive reform in the financing of child welfare services designed to encourage local governments to invest in the preventive services necessary to reduce the out-of-home placement of children. Specific elements of this reform initiative include:

- **Open-ended Funding for Prevention and Other Key Services:** Under Governor Pataki's Child Welfare Reform proposal, preventive services provided by counties will be removed from any block grant limitations and reimbursed, without limit, at a 65 percent rate. Child Protective Services, aftercare services, independent living activities, and local adoption services and administration costs related to adoptions will also receive 65 percent State aid. The Budget includes \$267 million for this new funding category in 2001-02 — an amount that is expected to grow steadily as counties increase their investment in services necessary to prevent foster care placement.
- **Investments in Child Welfare Quality Enhancement:** OCFS will distribute \$6 million in additional State and TANF funding to counties and not-for-profit groups in 2001-02 to promote the creation of innovative child welfare service delivery models and expand training programs for local and voluntary agency staff.

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- **A Flexible Foster Care Block Grant:** The Governor's Child Welfare Reform proposal will provide counties with a \$364.5 million Foster Care Block Grant that creates an even greater incentive to reduce the number of children in foster care. Under the new Block Grant, counties will be able to reinvest savings resulting from reduced use of foster care in locally-designed child welfare initiatives that strengthen preventive services or better serve high-needs children.

Within the Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, \$216 million in TANF 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 Juvenile Delinquent/Persons in Need of Supervision (JD/PINS) Foster Care and other local foster care expenditures. In addition, the SFY 2001-02 recommendation maintains the transfer of Federal TANF funds to the Federal Title XX Social Services Block Grant at \$244 million to support locally provided services to children and families.

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 \$2.7 million for State and local ASFA implementation activities, including staff training, fingerprinting of persons applying to be foster care and adoptive parents, and administrative hearings.

The Budget includes \$130 million for the State's share of subsidies provided to families who adopt special needs children. These funds will support approximately 40,000 children in adoptive homes, including 4,700 children adopted last year; it is anticipated that a similar number will be adopted in 2001-02. In addition, the Budget continues to set aside \$1 million 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 \$840 million for the Child Care Block Grant, over three times the amount funded in its first year, SFY 1995-96. 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.

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 \$71 million will be allocated from the Child Care Reserve Fund in 2001-02.

As provided by the Child Care Quality Act signed by Governor Pataki in September 2000, the Executive Budget includes over \$18 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.

During 2001-02 the Office will continue implementation of the new Child Care Facilities Construction Program funds. First authorized in 1999-2000, this \$30 million bond-financed program will make grants available to child care providers to build or rehabilitate child care centers.

The Executive Budget also provides \$30 million to support the Advantage After-School initiative, a program offered from the end of classes to the early evening hours during the school year. This recommended funding level includes a \$10 million increase over 2000-01 and supports the first step in a five year effort to ensure that all school districts have access to after-school services. Advantage after-school funds are 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.

### **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 directed 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 improve the quality of OCFS programs while targeting services to those youth most likely to benefit. Major recommendations will:

- Provide \$73 million in bond financed funding to construct a new secure center to replace the Harlem Valley Secure Center. The proposed center will be a state-of-the-art facility for supervising youth offenders and providing rehabilitative services.
- Provide \$220,000 to expand the treatment program for youth adjudicated as sex offenders.
- Transfer certain Juvenile Offenders, who would otherwise not be released before their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, to the Department of Correctional Services. Correctional Services currently supervises over 3,600 youth under the age of 21 who were sentenced by the Criminal Court, and provides a range of rehabilitative and youth development services. Many of these youth are convicted of crimes identical to those of juveniles sentenced to OCFS through the Criminal Court.
- Strengthen community-based transition programs for youth released from residential care by converting existing community residential homes to evening reporting centers. This action will result in full year savings of \$680,000. The evening reporting centers offer specialized services aimed at reducing recidivism that include intensive supervision, after-school programming and job training.
- Provide OCFS with \$20,000 to support planning costs associated with the creation of two locally-operated Juvenile Justice Centers. This innovative new program model will help prevent recidivism by providing youth who enter the criminal justice system with integrated services at a single local site including detention, juvenile court, placement and aftercare.

### **SYSTEMS**

The Executive Budget includes approximately \$60 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of CONNECTIONS, the State's child welfare information system.

CONNECTIONS provides for the 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. Under CONNECTIONS, overdue child protective investigations in New York City have been virtually eliminated - declining from a peak of 30,000 prior to CONNECTIONS implementation to approximately 100 in August 2000.

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The Executive Budget also provides funding through the Office for Technology for the OCFS' Day Care Licensing and the Service Provider Procurement E-Government initiatives. The Day Care Licensing initiative will be a cooperative effort with the Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform and will allow applicants for day care licenses to complete initial application information on the Internet. The Service Provider Procurement initiative is a multi-agency project that will allow OCFS to electronically issue procurements, receive and respond to bidders questions, review proposals, and announce awards.

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

The State Child Abuse Hotline receives more than 315,000 calls each year reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse through a toll-free 800 telephone number. As a result, the State initiates investigations of these allegations, which are conducted by county protective services staff and/or local law enforcement agencies. 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 3,900 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.

#### **ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Available 2000-01</b>	<b>Appropriations Recommended 2001-02</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reappropriations Recommended 2001-02</b>
State Operations	483,119,100	464,571,000	(18,548,100)	270,927,000
Aid To Localities	2,873,733,769	2,830,032,000	(43,701,769)	2,044,290,400
Capital Projects	44,800,000	94,700,000	49,900,000	100,992,000
Total	<u>3,401,652,869</u>	<u>3,389,303,000</u>	<u>(12,349,869)</u>	<u>2,416,209,400</u>

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

### ALL FUND TYPES PROJECTED LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM FILLED ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)			
Program	2000-01 Estimated FTEs 03/31/01	2001-02 Estimated FTEs 03/31/02	FTE Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	374	374	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	74	74	0
Child Care			
General Fund	34	34	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	175	255	80
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	14	14	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	162	162	0
Expendable Trust Funds	3	3	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	434	440	6
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	84	84	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	175	193	18
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	60	60	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	2,888	2,841	(47)
Total	4,477	4,534	57

### STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2000-01	Recommended 2001-02	Change
General Fund	255,488,100	260,572,000	5,083,900
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	113,364,000	82,248,000	(31,116,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	110,425,000	117,926,000	7,501,000
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	3,242,000	3,225,000	(17,000)
Total	483,119,100	464,571,000	(18,548,100)
Adjustments:			
Transfer(s) From			
Special Pay Bill			
General Fund	(14,378,000)		
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	(1,607,000)		
Special Revenue Funds - Other	(752,000)		
Expendable Trust Funds	(17,000)		
Transfer(s) To			
National and Community Service			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	53,000		
Appropriated 2000-01	466,418,100		

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2000-01</u>	<u>Recommended 2001-02</u>	<u>Change</u>
Central Administration			
General Fund	33,909,100	34,601,000	691,900
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,544,000	16,000,000	6,456,000
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	1,825,000	1,825,000	0
Child Care			
General Fund	2,609,800	2,725,000	115,200
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11,272,000	14,800,000	3,528,000
Children's Services			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,427,664	8,428,000	336
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	22,971,000	24,648,000	1,677,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	500,000	500,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	1,417,000	1,400,000	(17,000)
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	(32,093,000)	(30,093,000)	2,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	38,593,000	30,093,000	(8,500,000)
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	30,790,342	31,013,000	222,658
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	18,121,000	17,800,000	(321,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,046,000	1,046,000	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	55,014,194	52,893,000	(2,121,194)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,000,000	25,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	10,000,000	11,000,000	1,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	36,000,000	0	(36,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	50,442,000	60,287,000	9,845,000
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	146,830,000	150,005,000	3,175,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	300,000	0	(300,000)
Enterprise Funds	300,000	300,000	0
Total	<u>483,119,100</u>	<u>464,571,000</u>	<u>(18,548,100)</u>

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2001-02 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Personal Service</b>		<b>Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Central Administration	20,501,000	(528,900)	19,329,000	(762,700)
Child Care	1,742,000	82,500	1,742,000	82,500
Family and Children Services	20,028,000	14,658	19,165,000	(85,742)
Systems Support	7,012,000	(3,404,194)	6,902,000	(3,489,194)
Youth Facilities	123,303,000	809,000	111,253,000	(1,453,600)
<b>Total</b>	<b>172,586,000</b>	<b>(3,026,936)</b>	<b>158,391,000</b>	<b>(5,708,736)</b>

  

<b>Program</b>	<b>Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)</b>		<b>Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Central Administration	1,025,000	216,900	147,000	16,900
Child Care	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	6,000	800	857,000	99,600
Systems Support	0	0	110,000	85,000
Youth Facilities	6,145,000	946,300	5,905,000	1,316,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,176,000</b>	<b>1,164,000</b>	<b>7,019,000</b>	<b>1,517,800</b>

## STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2001-02 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

<b>Program</b>	<b>Total Nonpersonal Service</b>		<b>Supplies and Materials</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Central Administration	14,100,000	1,220,800	214,000	6,000
Child Care	983,000	32,700	76,000	2,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,428,000	336	0	0
Family and Children Services	10,985,000	208,000	589,000	11,500
Systems Support	45,881,000	1,283,000	347,000	7,000
Training and Development	11,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
Youth Facilities	26,702,000	2,366,000	11,075,000	509,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,079,000</b>	<b>6,110,836</b>	<b>12,301,000</b>	<b>536,200</b>

  

<b>Program</b>	<b>Travel</b>		<b>Contractual Services</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Central Administration	917,000	162,000	10,842,000	1,524,800
Child Care	197,000	13,000	680,000	17,700
Family and Children Services	387,000	30,500	7,880,000	266,000
Systems Support	104,000	5,000	9,690,000	6,971,000
Youth Facilities	951,000	127,000	13,224,000	1,488,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,556,000</b>	<b>337,500</b>	<b>42,316,000</b>	<b>10,267,700</b>

  

<b>Program</b>	<b>Equipment</b>		<b>Maintenance Undistributed</b>	
	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Change</b>
Central Administration	694,000	558,000	1,433,000	(1,030,000)
Child Care	30,000	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	8,428,000	336
Family and Children Services	29,000	0	2,100,000	(100,000)
Systems Support	140,000	0	35,600,000	(5,700,000)
Training and Development	0	0	11,000,000	1,000,000
Youth Facilities	1,223,000	12,100	229,000	229,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,116,000</b>	<b>570,100</b>	<b>58,790,000</b>	<b>(5,600,664)</b>

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

## STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2001-02 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	17,925,000	6,456,000	0	0
Child Care	14,800,000	3,528,000	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	26,548,000	1,660,000	0	0
Family and Children Services	18,846,000	(321,000)	0	0
Systems Support	35,000,000	0	0	0
Training and Development	60,487,000	(26,155,000)	1,662,000	0
Youth Facilities	300,000	(300,000)	0	0
Total	173,906,000	(15,132,000)	1,662,000	0

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,925,000	0	16,000,000	6,456,000
Child Care	0	0	14,800,000	3,528,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	26,548,000	1,660,000
Family and Children Services	5,000,000	(263,000)	13,846,000	(58,000)
Systems Support	0	0	35,000,000	0
Training and Development	2,646,000	0	56,179,000	(26,155,000)
Youth Facilities	300,000	(300,000)	0	0
Total	9,871,000	(563,000)	162,373,000	(14,569,000)

## AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Fund Type	Available 2000-01	Recommended 2001-02	Change
General Fund	1,071,313,769	1,107,594,000	36,280,231
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,777,890,000	1,703,908,000	(73,982,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,000,000	15,000,000	(6,000,000)
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	0
Total	2,873,733,769	2,830,032,000	(43,701,769)

## AID TO LOCALITIES ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Program	Available 2000-01	Recommended 2001-02	Change
Child Care			
General Fund	96,066,000	96,066,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	644,000,000	624,000,000	(20,000,000)
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	946,000,900	1,006,528,000	60,527,100
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,105,452,000	1,051,470,000	(53,982,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	21,000,000	15,000,000	(6,000,000)
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28,438,000	28,438,000	0
Community Projects			
General Fund	24,246,869	0	(24,246,869)
Total	2,873,733,769	2,830,032,000	(43,701,769)



## **CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)**

<b>Comprehensive Construction Program</b>	<b>Available 2000-01</b>	<b>Recommended 2001-02</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Reappropriations 2001-02</b>
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	1,000,000	0	(1,000,000)	2,000,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund	15,000,000	0	(15,000,000)	30,000,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	1,900,000	3,300,000	1,400,000	6,150,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	7,700,000	11,900,000	4,200,000	22,739,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	700,000
Misc. Capital Projects	7,000,000	0	(7,000,000)	7,000,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	0	0	0	539,000
New Construction				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	9,200,000	72,800,000	63,600,000	9,200,000
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	3,000,000	6,700,000	3,700,000	13,776,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	8,466,000
Rehabilitative Services				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	0	0	0	422,000
Total	<u>44,800,000</u>	<u>94,700,000</u>	<u>49,900,000</u>	<u>100,992,000</u>