

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 2002-03 is estimated at 4,389 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 40 percent of its \$3.5 billion budget from State tax dollars and 60 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations Budget of \$468.1 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 \$2.9 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 \$87.2 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 \$1.5 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 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. This enhanced funding source will be especially valuable in providing an expanded PINS population ages 16 to 18 with community-based services that will help avert out-of-home placements. The Budget includes \$324.4 million for this new funding category in 2002-03 — an amount that is expected to grow as counties increase their investment in services necessary to prevent foster care placement.
- **Investments in Child Welfare Quality Enhancement:** OCFS will distribute \$3 million in additional Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to counties and not-for-profit groups in 2002-03 to promote the creation of innovative child welfare service delivery models.

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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 TANF Block Grant, \$286 million in TANF funds are set-aside for children and their families facing emergency situations. This recommendation reflects an increase of \$70 million in TANF funding to reimburse local governments for these emergency services, including Juvenile Delinquent/Persons in Need of Supervision (JD/PINS) Foster Care and other local foster care expenditures. The Executive Budget also includes a new \$4.6 million in TANF to assist local governments in providing community-based services to an expanded PINS population ages 16 to 18. In addition, the 2002-03 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 supports a continued emphasis on prevention and early identification of child abuse and neglect by including additional funds to expand OCFS' capability to investigate reports of institutional abuse in residential care facilities.

The Budget includes \$144 million for the State's share of subsidies provided to families who adopt special needs children. These funds will support approximately 47,700 children in adoptive homes, including 4,700 children adopted last year; it is anticipated that a similar number will be adopted in 2002-03.

The \$2.1 million appropriation for the Community Facilities Project Guarantee Fund has been discontinued because the Fund's guarantee obligations have been fully met.

CHILD CARE

The Executive Budget increases funding for the State Child Care Block Grant to \$877 million, using a combination of Federal, State and local funding. The Block Grant supports child care subsidies for public assistance and low-income families. Subsidized child care is guaranteed for public assistance recipients with children up to age 13, when such care is required for the parent/guardian to engage in work activities. Families transitioning from welfare to work are guaranteed subsidized child care for up to 12 months after leaving Family Assistance. The State also provides subsidized child care to families at risk of becoming dependent on Family Assistance. 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.

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 \$200 million Child Care Reserve Fund was established in 1999-2000; accessible to local social services districts over a three-year period as their child care demands changed. The Executive Budget anticipates that approximately \$78 million will be allocated from the Reserve Fund in 2002-2003.

As provided by the Governor's Child Care Quality Act, the Executive Budget includes \$18.5 million to fingerprint all regulated child care providers and to expand oversight and monitoring activities. In addition, \$2.5 million is set aside to support child care programs meeting the special needs of migrant workers' children.

The Executive Budget also provides a \$5 million increase for Advantage After-Schools, a program that offers educational and recreational after-school activities for elementary, middle-and high school students. This initiative funds community-based organizations demonstrating the ability to work collaboratively with schools, child care providers and other community providers for after-school programming. Total funding for Advantage schools will be \$25 million in 2002-2003 and will be fully supported through Federal TANF funds.

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 include \$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.

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.

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 most needy and 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 4,000 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.

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ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2001-02	Appropriations Recommended 2002-03	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2002-03
State Operations	445,699,000	468,119,600	22,420,600	241,686,000
Aid To Localities	2,841,127,000	2,950,201,000	109,074,000	2,099,739,300
Capital Projects	17,650,000	87,210,000	69,560,000	90,382,000
Total	3,304,476,000	3,505,530,600	201,054,600	2,431,807,300

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2001-02 Estimated FTEs 03/31/02	2002-03 Estimated FTEs 03/31/03	FTE Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	387	387	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	78	78	0
Child Care			
General Fund	34	34	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	201	201	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	14	14	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	161	161	0
Fiduciary Funds	3	3	0
Employment and Disability Assistance Account			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11	11	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	437	437	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	73	73	0
National and Community Service, Office of			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	9	9	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	171	171	0
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	50	50	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	2,812	2,760	(52)
Total	4,441	4,389	(52)

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

Fund Type	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
General Fund	254,600,000	251,919,600	(2,680,400)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	69,748,000	88,144,000	18,396,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	117,526,000	124,231,000	6,705,000
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	3,225,000	3,225,000	0
Total	445,699,000	468,119,600	22,420,600

Adjustments:

Recommended Deficiency	
Children and Family Services Office of	
General Fund	(5,999,700)
Appropriated 2001-02	439,699,300

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

Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	34,258,700	34,286,400	27,700
Special Revenue Funds - Other	9,100,000	16,000,000	6,900,000
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	1,825,000	1,825,000	0
Child Care			
General Fund	2,693,600	2,805,900	112,300
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	14,800,000	14,800,000	0
Childrens Services			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,428,000	8,455,000	27,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	24,648,000	25,544,000	896,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	500,000	500,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	1,400,000	1,400,000	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	(30,093,000)	(32,843,000)	(2,750,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	36,593,000	39,343,000	2,750,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	30,970,100	30,453,300	(516,800)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	17,800,000	17,800,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,046,000	1,046,000	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	47,752,000	48,252,000	500,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	12,500,000	30,000,000	17,500,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	10,000,000	9,420,000	(580,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	60,287,000	57,342,000	(2,945,000)
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	150,590,600	151,090,000	499,400
Enterprise Funds	300,000	300,000	0
Total	<u>445,699,000</u>	<u>468,119,600</u>	<u>22,420,600</u>

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2002-03 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	21,423,900	922,900	20,053,900	724,900
Child Care	1,854,300	112,300	1,854,300	112,300
Family and Children Services	21,271,200	1,243,200	20,344,300	1,179,300
Systems Support	7,601,000	589,000	7,491,000	589,000
Youth Facilities	123,939,000	636,000	112,271,000	1,018,000
Total	<u>176,089,400</u>	<u>3,503,400</u>	<u>162,014,500</u>	<u>3,623,500</u>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,026,000	1,000	344,000	197,000
Child Care	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	6,000	0	920,900	63,900
Systems Support	0	0	110,000	0
Youth Facilities	5,763,000	(382,000)	5,905,000	0
Total	<u>6,795,000</u>	<u>(381,000)</u>	<u>7,279,900</u>	<u>260,900</u>

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2002-03 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	12,862,500	(895,200)	214,000	0
Child Care	951,600	0	74,300	(300)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,455,000	27,000	0	0
Family and Children Services	9,182,100	(1,760,000)	589,000	0
Systems Support	40,651,000	(89,000)	347,000	0
Training and Development	9,420,000	(580,000)	0	0
Youth Facilities	27,151,000	(136,600)	11,075,000	0
Total	108,673,200	(3,433,800)	12,299,300	(300)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	917,000	0	9,624,500	(895,200)
Child Care	185,400	2,000	662,100	(2,400)
Family and Children Services	387,000	0	7,837,100	0
Systems Support	104,000	0	9,660,000	(89,000)
Youth Facilities	951,000	0	13,902,000	(136,600)
Total	2,544,400	2,000	41,685,700	(1,123,200)

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	694,000	0	1,413,000	0
Child Care	29,800	700	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	8,455,000	27,000
Family and Children Services	29,000	0	340,000	(1,760,000)
Systems Support	140,000	0	30,400,000	0
Training and Development	0	0	9,420,000	(580,000)
Youth Facilities	1,223,000	0	0	0
Total	2,115,800	700	50,028,000	(2,313,000)

STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2002-03 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	17,925,000	6,900,000	0	0
Child Care	14,800,000	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	27,444,000	896,000	0	0
Family and Children Services	18,846,000	0	0	0
Systems Support	40,000,000	17,500,000	0	0
Training and Development	57,542,000	(2,945,000)	1,662,000	0
Youth Facilities	300,000	0	0	0
Total	176,857,000	22,351,000	1,662,000	0

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,925,000	0	16,000,000	6,900,000
Child Care	0	0	14,800,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	27,444,000	896,000
Family and Children Services	5,000,000	0	13,846,000	0
Systems Support	0	0	40,000,000	17,500,000
Training and Development	2,451,000	(195,000)	53,429,000	(2,750,000)
Youth Facilities	300,000	0	0	0
Total	9,676,000	(195,000)	165,519,000	22,546,000

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

Fund Type	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
General Fund	1,127,859,000	1,164,763,000	36,904,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,694,738,000	1,766,908,000	72,170,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,000,000	15,000,000	0
Fiduciary Funds	3,530,000	3,530,000	0
Total	<u>2,841,127,000</u>	<u>2,950,201,000</u>	<u>109,074,000</u>

Adjustments:

Recommended Deficiency Children and Family Services Office of General Fund	(93,440,000)
Appropriated 2001-02	<u>2,747,687,000</u>

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

Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change
Child Care			
General Fund	96,066,000	96,066,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	624,000,000	624,000,000	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	1,026,793,000	1,063,697,000	36,904,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,042,300,000	1,114,470,000	72,170,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,000,000	15,000,000	0
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
Total	<u>2,841,127,000</u>	<u>2,950,201,000</u>	<u>109,074,000</u>

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2001-02	Recommended 2002-03	Change	Reappropriations 2002-03
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	0	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	22,000,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	1,800,000	1,935,000	135,000	7,852,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	6,650,000	9,475,000	2,825,000	20,768,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	498,000
Misc. Capital Projects	0	0	0	7,000,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	0	0	0	458,000
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	0	0	0	12,011,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	8,317,000
Rehabilitative Services				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	0	0	0	278,000
Total	<u>17,650,000</u>	<u>87,210,000</u>	<u>69,560,000</u>	<u>90,382,000</u>