

OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

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

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

The Office 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 also serves approximately 1,800 youth through the operation of 37 residential facilities and eight day-placement facilities statewide. The workforce for fiscal year 2007-08 is estimated at 4,059 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 53 percent of its \$3.5 billion budget from State tax dollars and 47 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations budget of \$505.2 million supports the operation of juvenile justice facilities as well as OCFS oversight of child welfare, child care, adult protection and other related programs. The 2007-08 OCFS State Operations General Fund budget reflects the net impact of adding 200 new staff within OCFS youth facilities, closing three community residential homes and one non-secure facility to align capacity with population, and negotiated salary and fixed cost increases. The Local Assistance budget of \$2.96 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 \$38.5 million support the maintenance of State-operated juvenile justice facilities in order to provide a safe living environment, appropriate education, recreation and vocational program space, and the necessary level of security for youth while they are in residential care.

The Executive Budget reflects funding for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped. Legislation submitted with the budget establishes a new Office for the Blind and authorizes the transfer of Commission funding to the new Office, effective October 1, 2007.

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The Executive Budget provides more than \$1.8 billion in State and Federal funding to support New York's child welfare programs. These programs are structured to encourage local governments to invest in preventive services necessary to reduce out-of-home placement of children. Specific program elements include:

- **Open-ended Funding for Child Welfare Services:** The centerpiece of the child welfare financing system is the provision of 65 percent State reimbursement for community-based preventive services that avert the placement of children in foster care or juvenile justice facilities. State funding at the 65 percent level is also

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- available for child protective services, aftercare services, independent living activities, and local administration costs related to adoptions. The Executive Budget proposes legislation that would make the child welfare financing reform of 2002 permanent, thereby permanently extending this funding stream. The Budget includes an increase of nearly \$84 million in 2007-08, from \$381.7 million to \$465.6 million, to support this child welfare funding source.
- **Investments in Child Welfare Quality Enhancement:** In 2007-08, OCFS will award \$3.9 million in State funding to counties and not-for-profit groups to promote the development of innovative child welfare service delivery models and to support training for caseworkers and public information programs targeting child abuse and neglect awareness.
 - **Enhanced Detection and Treatment of Substance Abuse Issues Among Child Welfare Families:** There has been growing recognition of the relationship between parental substance abuse and entry of a family into the child welfare system. The Executive Budget continues \$5 million in State funding to support demonstration projects that will improve access to substance abuse preventive services and treatment within child welfare offices in order to speed detection and treatment of substance abuse problems for families served by the child welfare system.
 - **Improved Access to Mental Health Services:** The Executive Budget includes an increase of almost \$1.5 million in 65 percent State reimbursement to fully implement 395 slots in 2007-08 in the Office of Mental Health's home and community-based waiver to meet the mental health needs of children in foster care or at risk of institutional placement.
 - **Enhanced Services for Children in Foster Care:** The Executive Budget includes \$4.3 million to implement a new Medicaid waiver designed to enhance services to children in foster care with multiple needs. This waiver is expected to begin in October 2007.
 - **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Support to Local Social Services Districts:** Districts will receive an increase of \$9.2 million in 2007-08, including up to \$35 million for summer youth employment, \$3 million for non-residential services to victims of domestic violence and \$1.008 billion for the Flexible Fund for Family Services. This fund will continue to provide significant local flexibility that can be used to support child welfare and child care services, as well as any other TANF allowable purposes.
 - **Adoption Subsidies:** The Executive Budget includes \$209.6 million, an increase of \$16 million, for the State's share of subsidies provided to families that adopt children with special needs. These funds will support over 47,000 children in adoptive homes and include a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for adoptive parents.
 - **Foster Care Block Grant:** The \$418.8 million Foster Care Block Grant provides counties with a clear incentive to reduce the number of children in foster care. Under the Block Grant, savings resulting from reduced use of foster care can be reinvested in locally-designed child welfare initiatives that strengthen preventive services or better serve high-needs children. The Executive Budget includes a \$36.3 million increase in the Foster Care Block Grant to fully implement the October 2006 COLA for foster care providers and to support an April 2007 COLA.
 - **Enhanced Support for Foster Care Providers:** The Executive Budget includes \$9.4 million in State funding to pay a portion of the costs of reimbursing foster care providers up to the maximum allowable State rate.

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- **Increased Support for Home Visiting:** The Executive Budget increases the Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Program by \$200,000, bringing total funding to \$25.2 million, including \$21.6 million in TANF funding and \$3.6 million in General Fund support. This program provides expectant and new parents with training and support to promote child health and development and to prevent child abuse and maltreatment. The Home Visiting Program, which also provides increased access to health care for children, has resulted in fewer incidences of low birth weight babies and abuse and neglect.
- **Advantage Schools:** The Budget increases TANF funding for Advantage After-School programs by \$700,000, for a total of \$28.2 million. This funding will support program expansion of educational and recreational after-school activities for elementary, middle and high school students.
- **Enhanced Support for Child Advocacy Centers:** The Executive Budget includes \$6.3 million for Child Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams. This program provides a method for coordinating and conducting interviews of children who are victims of abuse in a non-threatening environment. A trained interviewer provides the voice for law enforcement, social workers, mental health professionals, and other personnel who must gather information on these cases. This approach avoids multiple interviews with potentially differing information, leads to higher rates of conviction, and reduces the trauma to the child.

CHILD CARE

The Executive Budget continues to allow districts the flexibility to transfer funds from the \$1.008 billion TANF-funded Flexible Fund for Family Services to the State Child Care Block Grant. The Child Care Block Grant, comprised of Federal, State and local funds, totals \$533 million prior to transfers by local districts from the Flexible Fund for Family Services. Included within the Child Care Block Grant is a \$4 million increase in the amount of State funding that will be available to local social services districts to provide child care subsidies. Using the TANF transfer funding and a combination of other Federal, State, and local funding, the Child Care 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 public assistance. The State also provides subsidized child care to families at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance. The State Child Care Block Grant and funds transferred from the TANF-funded Flexible Fund for Family Services will enable districts to tailor expenditures to meet local needs and to comply with mandated work participation requirements for public assistance.

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Youth Facilities Program includes the Office's 37 residential facilities and eight 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 vocational training designed to promote positive youth development and foster a youth's return to the community as a law-abiding, productive citizen.

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Facility operations will be strengthened and the provision of mental health services will be enhanced by an additional 200 direct care and mental health staff that will be deployed at most of the agency's facilities. These staff will provide increased supervision, security and services to ensure the health and safety of youth, staff, and the community.

The Executive Budget proposes to better align facility capacity with population by closing three of six community residential homes in Gloversville, Brooklyn and Mount Vernon, as well as the Great Valley non-secure facility. OCFS will retain vacant capacity to accommodate an unexpected population increase.

In support of OCFS and local government efforts to serve youth in community-based programs that are close to their families, the Executive Budget recommends \$20.8 million, an increase of \$5 million, for such services. This funding includes \$12.8 million for community-based programs that divert youth from an OCFS facility placement. Programs include Evidence-based Community Initiatives (EbCI) that provide family based counseling and specialized after-school services, local probation department programs that address mental health and substance abuse issues, and new initiatives to be developed by local governments based on the specific needs of youth in their communities. The funding also includes \$8 million, an increase of \$1.4 million, for community-based program alternatives to placement in a locally operated detention facility, for youth with cases pending before the Family Court. This effort is consistent with the reform legislation enacted in 2005-06 that reduces placements in local detention facilities by requiring the Family Courts and local governments to serve youth through comprehensive community-based programs whenever possible.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Executive Budget includes approximately \$88 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of agency computer systems, including CONNECTIONS, the State's child welfare information system. The CONNECTIONS project offers enhanced case and fiscal management of child welfare services while providing greater access to preventive and protective services for children and families.

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 funding to counties, municipalities and community-based, not-for-profit agencies for the provision of youth development and delinquency prevention programs. The 2007-08 Budget continues \$39.3 million for these programs including \$37.8 million in General Fund support and \$1.5 million in Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dollars.

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The State Central Register Child Abuse Hotline is expected to receive approximately 374,000 calls reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse through a toll-free telephone number in 2007-08. 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 child abuse.

OCFS also oversees a variety of programs serving the State's most needy and vulnerable adult residents. 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.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2006-07	Appropriations Recommended 2007-08	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2007-08
State Operations	484,662,000	505,173,000	20,511,000	327,093,000
Aid To Localities	2,797,407,500	2,956,955,000	159,547,500	2,603,398,000
Capital Projects	38,460,000	38,460,000	0	112,717,000
Total	<u>3,320,529,500</u>	<u>3,500,588,000</u>	<u>180,058,500</u>	<u>3,043,208,000</u>

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2006-07 Estimated FTEs 03/31/07	2007-08 Estimated FTEs 03/31/08	FTE Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	348	348	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	6	6	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	79	85	6
Capital Projects Funds - Other	7	7	0
Child Care			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	234	234	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	11	11	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	167	167	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1	1	0
Employment and Disability Assistance Account			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	11	0	(11)
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	428	456	28
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	79	62	(17)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2	2	0
National and Community Service, Office of			
General Fund	3	3	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	6	6	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	192	192	0
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52	62	10
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	2,244	2,417	173
Total	<u>3,870</u>	<u>4,059</u>	<u>189</u>

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

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Fund	233,932,000	258,127,000	24,195,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	129,923,000	132,239,000	2,316,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	120,232,000	114,232,000	(6,000,000)
Enterprise Funds	475,000	475,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Total	484,662,000	505,173,000	20,511,000

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) From

Children and Family Services Office of General Fund (Aid To Localities)	(1,717,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal (Aid To Localities)	(48,094,000)

Transfer(s) To

Executive Chamber General Fund	108,000
Appropriated 2006-07	434,959,000

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

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>
Central Administration			
General Fund	33,510,000	33,430,000	(80,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	528,000	528,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	18,126,000	12,126,000	(6,000,000)
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Child Care			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	48,094,000	48,094,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,259,000	8,463,000	204,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	30,354,000	30,670,000	316,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,905,000	1,905,000	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	(29,043,000)	(29,043,000)	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	35,543,000	35,543,000	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	33,906,000	35,296,000	1,390,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	20,354,000	22,354,000	2,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,207,000	2,207,000	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	35,173,000	47,167,000	11,994,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	30,593,000	30,593,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	7,383,000	7,092,000	(291,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52,451,000	52,451,000	0
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	144,744,000	155,722,000	10,978,000
Enterprise Funds	275,000	275,000	0
Total	484,662,000	505,173,000	20,511,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2007-08 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	22,891,000	(345,000)	21,437,000	(345,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	1,661,000	22,000	1,647,000	20,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	(29,043,000)	0	(29,043,000)	0
Family and Children Services	23,698,000	(183,000)	22,697,000	(183,000)
Systems Support	14,362,000	613,200	14,179,000	604,600
Youth Facilities	121,562,000	9,947,000	109,677,000	8,963,000
Total	<u>155,131,000</u>	<u>10,054,200</u>	<u>140,594,000</u>	<u>9,059,600</u>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,201,000	0	253,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	14,000	2,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	0	0	1,001,000	0
Systems Support	0	0	183,000	8,600
Youth Facilities	5,879,000	487,000	6,006,000	497,000
Total	<u>7,080,000</u>	<u>487,000</u>	<u>7,457,000</u>	<u>507,600</u>

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2007-08 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	10,539,000	265,000	185,000	20,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	6,802,000	182,000	8,000	2,000
Family and Children Services	11,598,000	1,573,000	568,000	0
Systems Support	32,805,000	11,380,800	331,000	48,000
Training and Development	7,092,000	(291,000)	0	0
Youth Facilities	34,160,000	1,031,000	10,830,000	570,000
Total	<u>102,996,000</u>	<u>14,140,800</u>	<u>11,922,000</u>	<u>640,000</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	833,000	36,000	8,529,000	190,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	6,794,000	180,000
Family and Children Services	360,000	0	7,096,000	(394,000)
Systems Support	142,000	40,000	31,311,000	10,946,800
Training and Development	0	0	7,092,000	(291,000)
Youth Facilities	1,215,000	273,000	13,825,000	605,000
Total	<u>2,550,000</u>	<u>349,000</u>	<u>74,647,000</u>	<u>11,236,800</u>

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	992,000	19,000	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	30,000	0	3,544,000	1,967,000
Systems Support	1,021,000	346,000	0	0
Training and Development	0	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	1,304,000	105,000	6,986,000	(522,000)
Total	<u>3,347,000</u>	<u>470,000</u>	<u>10,530,000</u>	<u>1,445,000</u>

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2007-08 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	12,754,000	(6,000,000)	5,030,000	5,000,000
Child Care	48,094,000	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	32,575,000	316,000	38,000	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	35,543,000	0	29,043,000	0
Family and Children Services	24,561,000	2,000,000	495,000	0
Systems Support	40,593,000	0	0	0
Training and Development	52,651,000	0	4,500,000	0
Youth Facilities	275,000	0	0	0
Total	247,046,000	(3,684,000)	39,106,000	5,000,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	7,196,000	5,000,000	528,000	(16,000,000)
Child Care	0	0	48,094,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	1,867,000	0	30,670,000	316,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	6,500,000	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	10,765,000	2,000,000	13,301,000	0
Systems Support	0	0	40,593,000	0
Training and Development	47,951,000	0	200,000	0
Youth Facilities	275,000	0	0	0
Total	74,554,000	7,000,000	133,386,000	(15,684,000)

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

Fund Type	Available 2006-07	Recommended 2007-08	Change
General Fund	1,431,602,500	1,588,050,000	156,447,500
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,350,025,000	1,350,025,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,780,000	18,880,000	3,100,000
Total	2,797,407,500	2,956,955,000	159,547,500

Adjustments:

Transfer(s) To

Children and Family Services Office of General Fund (State Operations)	1,717,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal (State Operations)	48,094,000
Appropriated 2006-07	2,847,218,500

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

<u>Program</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>
Child Care			
General Fund	140,066,000	140,166,000	100,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	311,906,000	311,906,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	350,000	350,000	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	1,286,536,500	1,442,884,000	156,347,500
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,018,900,000	1,018,900,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,430,000	18,530,000	3,100,000
Training and Development			
General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	19,219,000	19,219,000	0
Total	<u>2,797,407,500</u>	<u>2,956,955,000</u>	<u>159,547,500</u>

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

<u>Comprehensive Construction Program</u>	<u>Available 2006-07</u>	<u>Recommended 2007-08</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Reappropriations 2007-08</u>
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	9,155,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	0	0	0	5,432,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	1,825,000	1,825,000	0	6,700,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	15,685,000	15,795,000	110,000	63,160,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Misc. Capital Projects	0	0	0	2,720,000
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	13,950,000	13,840,000	(110,000)	20,212,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	5,338,000
Total	<u>38,460,000</u>	<u>38,460,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>112,717,000</u>