

OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

MISSION

The Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) was established in 1998 to strengthen services for 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. OCFS operates residential facilities (including secure, limited secure, non secure and community residential home programs) and day placement programs statewide, with the capacity to serve 833 youth, projected, by the end of 2011-12.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Executive Budget recommends **\$3.7 billion** All Funds (\$2 billion General Fund; \$1.7 billion Other Funds) for the Office of Children and Family Services. This is a net decrease of **\$167.6 million (-4.3 percent)** (\$173.2 million General Fund decrease; \$5.5 million Other Funds increase) from the 2010-11 budget. This net change primarily reflects reductions to non-core programs. The Executive Budget reduces each agency's General Fund State Operations budget by 10 percent. These savings are intended to be achieved through administrative efficiencies in non-personal service and negotiated workforce savings that minimize layoffs to the extent possible.

Major budget actions include:

- **Preserve Open-ended Funding for Child Welfare Services:** The centerpiece of the child welfare financing system is the provision of 62 percent State reimbursement for preventive and child protective services. In order to preserve this funding source, the Executive Budget discontinues funding for the child welfare quality program, which supports services related to improving child welfare services. In addition, OCFS will expand the collection and distribution of information to local social services districts outside of New York City. This information will allow local districts to assess performance and make more informed decisions when contracting for preventive and foster care services.
- **Utilize Federal Title XX Funding to Support Child Welfare Services:** Currently, districts are allocated \$102 million annually in Federal Title XX funding, of which the State requires that \$66 million be used to offset the State and local cost of the Adult Protective and Domestic Violence Services program. The 2011-12 Executive Budget would shift the remaining \$36 million in Title XX funds from mainly discretionary services to reduce the 62 percent State and 38 percent local share of child welfare services. In doing this, the State generates \$22 million in savings and reduces by \$14 million the direct cost to districts for providing such services. Districts would lose \$36 million of discretionary Title XX funds.
- **Create the Primary Prevention Incentive Program:** This new \$35 million program (growing to \$42 million in 2012-13) would support Statewide front-end prevention services. Primary Prevention Incentive Program funding would be allocated to local social services districts on a competitive basis, and would

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

support locally administered strategies that improve performance in youth services. This proposal would provide \$35 million in net savings in 2011-12 by partially replacing funding for a number of existing OCFS programs.

➤ **Juvenile Justice Reform:**

- **Right-Size Youth Facility Capacity:** The 2011-12 Executive Budget reflects \$22 million in net savings from the closure and downsizing of OCFS facilities. These actions are consistent with declining population trends in OCFS facilities, which has led to system-wide utilization rates of only 50 percent. These actions will reduce OCFS facility jobs by a net 371 annual salaried positions and youth facility capacity by 376 beds.
- **Improve OCFS Facility Operations:** In 2010-11, OCFS began implementing improved medical, mental health and direct care services and increased staff to youth ratios in four youth facilities. The Executive Budget includes \$13.5 million for improvements in the remaining facilities in 2011-12. This investment will improve services in all OCFS facilities and outcomes for youth as they return to their home communities. This action will increase staff in the youth facility program by 414.
- **Establish the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program:** This program will provide funding (\$31.4 million in 2011-12 growing to \$48.3 million in 2012-13) to local governments to support performance focused, community based alternatives to placing youth in costly State youth facilities and local detention centers.
- **Eliminate the Alternatives to Detention/Residential Placement Program:** The Executive Budget eliminates \$2.2 million in funding for programs that offer community based services to youth as an alternative to institutional placement. Enhanced funding levels will be supported through the new Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program.
- **Establish a Capped Detention Program.** The Executive Budget provides \$15 million to support 50 percent of local detention costs for high-risk youth who pose a risk to public safety. Low risk youth will be served in programs supported with funding from the new Supervision and Treatment Services for Juveniles Program.
- **Eliminate Open Ended Funding for Local Secure and Non Secure Detention:** The Executive Budget eliminates 49 percent state reimbursement for local secure and non secure detention effective July 1, 2011. Local detention costs for high risk youth will be supported through the new capped Detention Program that will provide stronger incentives for local governments to implement effective community-based programs that will generate long-term state and local savings, and better serve youth.

➤ **Maintain the Foster Care Block Grant:** The 2011-12 Executive Budget maintains funding for the Foster Care Block grant at \$436 million. Under the block grant, savings that result 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.

➤ **Maintain the Bridges to Health Program:** The Bridges to Health Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver Program, designed to enhance services to foster care children with multiple needs and prevent them from entering institutional care, was reauthorized by the Federal government for five years starting in 2011. The State will continue to support 3,305 slots for this program.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

- **Implement Child Care Unionization Agreements:** In October 2009, the State reached agreements with the Civil Service Employees Association and the United Federation of Teachers, the unions that represent home based child care providers. The 2011-12 Executive Budget includes \$5 million in appropriations pursuant to the agreements for quality improvement grants for home-based child care providers.
- **Align Adoption Subsidy Reimbursement Percentage with Preventive Services:** The Adoption Subsidy Program is designed to maintain permanent homes for youth in foster care that cannot return to the care of their biological parents. Monthly subsidies are paid to adoptive parents to support the special needs of handicapped and hard-to-place children in foster care. The current State share, net of available Federal funding, is 73.5 percent. This proposal would reduce the State share to 62 percent, in order to align cost shares with preventive services, which are designed to prevent foster care placements.
- **Better Align Committee on Special Education (CSE) Funding Responsibility:** OCFS oversees the maintenance (room and board) costs of students who are placed in residential schools by a CSE when the child's needs cannot be met in the school district. Educational determinations that result in residential placements are made by a school district's CSE. Currently, the maintenance cost shares are split between the State (36.8 percent), the local social services districts (43.2 percent) and the school districts (20 percent). This proposal would better align costs with the entity that makes determinations of placement for children by shifting the State share of costs to the school district. This would result in State savings of \$69.3 million. This action should also incentivize school districts to find more effective and less costly ways to better serve these children in their schools and community.
- **Eliminate the Human Services COLA:** This action would eliminate the projected 1.2 percent cost of living adjustment scheduled to take effect in 2011-12 for savings of \$13 million. This recommendation would impact the following human services programs: Adoption, Foster Care, Committee on Special Education, Office of Mental Health Home and Community Based Services Waiver, Bridges to Health Medicaid Waiver and New York/New York III.
- **Eliminate Child Welfare Quality Funding:** This action would eliminate supplemental programs and initiatives designed to improve the quality of child welfare services including demonstration projects, training and program evaluations.
- **Require a \$60 Fee for Child Abuse and Maltreatment Background Checks through the Statewide Central Registrar (SCR):** The Executive Budget proposes to increase the fee for child abuse and maltreatment clearance checks from \$5 to \$60 for individuals who currently pay for clearances and impose a \$60 fee on individuals who are currently exempt from the fee. Fees will be applied to those obtaining a clearance check for employment purposes. The proposed fee modifications would generate \$12 million in revenue.
- **Additional Agency Reductions:** The Executive Budget recommends an additional reduction to OCFS State operations of \$21.4 million. The agency will achieve these savings through reductions to personal service and non-personal service costs.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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 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; and prepare teens for independent living.

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.

CHILD CARE

The Office's 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.

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Office operates a Youth Facilities Program which-, includes residential facilities and day placement programs 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, mental health, substance abuse, sex offender and 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.

CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

The Office operates the State Central Register Child Abuse Hotline, which is expected to receive over 370,000 calls reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse in 2011-12. 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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2010-11	Appropriations Recommended 2011-12	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2011-12
State Operations	534,363,700	529,200,000	(5,163,700)	394,358,500
Aid To Localities	3,301,424,700	3,138,976,300	(162,448,400)	3,146,117,624
Capital Projects	37,675,000	37,675,000	0	155,454,000
Total	3,873,463,400	3,705,851,300	(167,612,100)	3,695,930,124

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

Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)

Program	2010-11 Estimated FTEs 03/31/11	2011-12 Estimated FTEs 03/31/12	FTE Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	274	274	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2	8	6
Child Care			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	232	232	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	10	10	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	139	139	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1	1	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	475	475	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	57	57	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2	2	0
Maintenance & Improvement of Youth Facilities			
Capital Projects Funds - Other	7	7	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	137	137	0
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	56	56	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	1,959	2,373	414
Total	3,351	3,771	420

The above table does not reflect layoffs that may be necessary in the absence of negotiated workforce savings.

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

Fund Type	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
General Fund	287,088,000	283,251,000	(3,837,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	142,165,700	140,836,000	(1,329,700)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	104,535,000	104,538,000	3,000
Enterprise Funds	475,000	475,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Total	534,363,700	529,200,000	(5,163,700)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	30,308,000	27,277,000	(3,031,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	6,528,000	528,000	(6,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	3,534,000	3,534,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Child Care			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	49,583,700	51,254,000	1,670,300
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	9,098,000	8,188,000	(910,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	32,503,000	32,503,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,919,000	1,920,000	1,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	(27,990,000)	(27,992,000)	(2,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	34,490,000	34,492,000	2,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	43,884,000	39,497,000	(4,387,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	22,958,000	25,958,000	3,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,343,000	1,343,000	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	56,968,000	57,697,000	729,000
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	5,887,000	5,299,000	(588,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	53,249,000	53,249,000	0
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	168,933,000	173,285,000	4,352,000
Enterprise Funds	275,000	275,000	0
Total	534,363,700	529,200,000	(5,163,700)

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	21,217,000	(2,357,000)	20,832,000	(2,314,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	1,673,000	(186,000)	1,661,000	(185,000)
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	(27,992,000)	(2,000)	(27,992,000)	(2,000)
Family and Children Services	27,883,000	(3,097,000)	25,543,000	(2,837,000)
Systems Support	9,855,000	(1,095,000)	9,701,000	(1,079,000)
Youth Facilities	102,887,000	(18,915,000)	91,563,000	(16,897,000)
Total	135,523,000	(25,652,000)	121,308,000	(23,314,000)

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	311,000	(35,000)	74,000	(8,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	12,000	(1,000)
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	0	0	2,340,000	(260,000)
Systems Support	0	0	154,000	(16,000)
Youth Facilities	3,051,000	(491,000)	8,273,000	(1,527,000)
Total	3,362,000	(526,000)	10,853,000	(1,812,000)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	6,060,000	(674,000)	468,000	(52,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	6,515,000	(724,000)	8,000	(1,000)
Family and Children Services	11,614,000	(1,290,000)	323,000	(36,000)
Systems Support	47,842,000	1,824,000	336,000	(37,000)
Training and Development	5,299,000	(588,000)	0	0
Youth Facilities	70,398,000	23,267,000	9,439,000	(1,030,000)
Total	147,728,000	21,815,000	10,574,000	(1,156,000)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	185,000	(21,000)	4,577,000	(509,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	6,507,000	(723,000)
Family and Children Services	304,000	(34,000)	10,928,000	(1,214,000)
Systems Support	177,000	(19,000)	45,971,000	2,031,000
Training and Development	0	0	5,299,000	(588,000)
Youth Facilities	408,000	(45,000)	15,808,000	(1,725,000)
Total	1,074,000	(119,000)	89,090,000	(2,728,000)

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	830,000	(92,000)	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	59,000	(6,000)	0	0
Systems Support	1,358,000	(151,000)	0	0
Training and Development	0	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	435,000	(47,000)	44,308,000	26,114,000
Total	2,682,000	(296,000)	44,308,000	26,114,000

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2011-12 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	4,162,000	(6,000,000)	251,000	215,000
Child Care	51,254,000	1,670,300	16,780,000	16,780,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	34,423,000	1,000	8,849,000	8,799,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	34,492,000	2,000	27,992,000	2,000
Family and Children Services	27,301,000	3,000,000	8,167,000	8,056,000
Systems Support	40,593,000	0	0	0
Training and Development	53,449,000	0	5,557,000	0
Youth Facilities	275,000	0	0	0
Total	245,949,000	(1,326,700)	67,596,000	33,852,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	3,911,000	313,000	0	(6,528,000)
Child Care	34,474,000	34,474,000	0	(49,583,700)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	25,574,000	23,705,000	0	(32,503,000)
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	6,500,000	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	19,134,000	8,491,000	0	(13,547,000)
Systems Support	10,000,000	10,000,000	30,593,000	(10,000,000)
Training and Development	47,692,000	0	200,000	0
Youth Facilities	275,000	0	0	0
Total	147,560,000	76,983,000	30,793,000	(112,161,700)

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

Fund Type	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
General Fund	1,886,087,400	1,716,768,300	(169,319,100)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,396,535,300	1,406,865,000	10,329,700
Special Revenue Funds - Other	18,802,000	15,343,000	(3,459,000)
Total	3,301,424,700	3,138,976,300	(162,448,400)

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

Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change
Child Care			
General Fund	142,351,700	144,351,700	2,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	310,416,300	308,746,000	(1,670,300)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	343,000	343,000	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	1,738,919,900	1,567,600,800	(171,319,100)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,066,900,000	1,078,900,000	12,000,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	18,459,000	15,000,000	(3,459,000)
Training and Development			
General Fund	4,815,800	4,815,800	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	19,219,000	19,219,000	0
Total	3,301,424,700	3,138,976,300	(162,448,400)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2010-11	Recommended 2011-12	Change	Reappropriations 2011-12
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	7,000,000	7,000,000	0	15,139,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	1,825,000	1,825,000	0	9,930,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	18,850,000	18,850,000	0	81,331,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Misc. Capital Projects	0	0	0	2,120,000
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000	0	41,621,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	5,313,000
Total	<u>37,675,000</u>	<u>37,675,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>155,454,000</u>