

OFFICE OF ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MISSION

The Office of Advocate for Persons with Disabilities assists persons with disabilities in seeking opportunities to be productive, active citizens and provides access to emerging technology and current information on the legal rights, services and programs available to them.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

Headed by the State Advocate who is appointed by the Governor, the agency is administered from Albany.

The Advocate will have a workforce of 21 positions for 1999-2000. Approximately 62 percent of these positions are paid by State tax dollars from the General Fund and 38 percent are financed by Federal grants and other funding sources.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The 1999-2000 All Funds Executive Budget recommendation of \$1,687,000 — while maintaining the Advocate's ability to disseminate comprehensive information on services and programs available to persons with disabilities and to collaborate with other agencies to increase the effectiveness of public and private sector services — reflects a \$95,000 reduction from 1998-99 funding levels, due to a 25 percent (\$229,000) reduction in the Federal Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) grant for Federal Fiscal Year 1999. To partially offset this reduction, a General Fund increase of \$115,000 to support the TRAID program is included in the overall recommendations. However, an additional 25 percent Federal reduction is anticipated in FFY 2000. Recent Federal legislation has extended the life of the TRAID grant through September 2003, with Federal funding continued at the FFY 2000 level.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The State Advocate operates a statewide clearinghouse through which individuals can access information and obtain referrals to a variety of disability-related services. Key components of the system are a statewide telephone hotline (800-522-4369, voice/TTY/Spanish) and an electronic bulletin board service (BBS). It is anticipated that more than 25,000 individuals will seek information through the hotline in 1999-2000, and that the BBS will receive more than 10,000 inquiries. A worldwide website, launched by the agency in 1997, is expected to be accessed 10,000 times in 1999-2000. Both the hotline and the BBS are supported by a number of information and technical assistance databases, including SATIRN III, developed by the Advocate's Office, which contains more than 8,500 Federal, State, and local referral resources. Overall, the State Advocate has experienced a 36 percent increase in information and referral activity since 1995-96 and has met this demand without requiring additional resources.

The TRAID Project supports a statewide system to help New Yorkers with disabilities access technology devices and services to strengthen their ability to participate in the mainstream workplace and community. Since 1995-96, the program has been enhanced and coordinated through an Interagency Partnership on Assistive Technology and twelve regional TRAID centers, which are funded collaboratively with the Department of Health.

ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Advocate's programs of comprehensive education, public awareness and technical assistance promote increased voluntary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). During 1999-2000, more than 4,800 individuals are expected to participate in ADA-related activities conducted by the State Advocate, which will include public presentations, conferences, seminars and workshops statewide. During 1999-2000, the Advocate will provide training and technical assistance to community advocates, small businesses and local governments to aid them in improving access for persons with disabilities to public and private sector programs and services.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS

Category	Available 1998-99	Appropriations Recommended 1999-00	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 1999-00
State Operations	\$1,782,000	\$1,687,000	-\$95,000	\$800,000
Aid To Localities . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Capital Projects . . . . .	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	\$1,782,000	\$1,687,000	-\$95,000	\$800,000

ALL FUND TYPES LEVELS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ANNUAL SALARIED POSITIONS

Program	Available 1998-99	1999-00 Recommended Average Fill Level			Change
		Personal Service (Regular)	Maintenance Undistributed	Total Recommended 1999-00	
Advocate for the Disabled					
General Fund	14	13	.....	13	-1
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	5	5	.....	5	.....
Fiduciary Funds	1	1	.....	1	.....
Subtotal, Direct Funded Programs	20	19	.....	19	-1
Suballocations:					
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	1			2	+ 1
Total	21			21	.....

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY FUND TYPE APPROPRIATIONS

Fund Type	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
General Fund	\$890,000	\$1,015,000	+\$125,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	800,000	580,000	-220,000
Enterprise Funds	15,000	15,000	.....
Fiduciary Funds	77,000	77,000	.....
Total	\$1,782,000	\$1,687,000	-\$95,000

ADVOCATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

STATE OPERATIONS ALL FUNDS FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

Program	Available 1998-99	Recommended 1999-00	Change
Advocate for the Disabled			
General Fund	\$890,000	\$1,015,000	+ \$125,000
Special Revenue Funds — Federal	800,000	580,000	-220,000
Enterprise Funds	15,000	15,000	. . . .
Fiduciary Funds	77,000	77,000	. . . .
Total	<u>\$1,782,000</u>	<u>\$1,687,000</u>	<u>-\$95,000</u>

STATE OPERATIONS — GENERAL FUND 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
Advocate for the Disabled	\$895,000	+ \$135,000	\$889,000	+ \$135,000	\$6,000	. . . .
Total	<u>\$895,000</u>	<u>+ \$135,000</u>	<u>\$889,000</u>	<u>+ \$135,000</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>	<u>. . . .</u>

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

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Advocate for the Disabled	\$120,000	-\$10,000	\$18,000	+ \$1,000
Total	<u>\$120,000</u>	<u>-\$10,000</u>	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>+ \$1,000</u>

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Advocate for the Disabled	\$23,000	+ \$1,000	\$76,900	-\$12,100
Total	<u>\$23,000</u>	<u>+ \$1,000</u>	<u>\$76,900</u>	<u>-\$12,100</u>

Program	Equipment	
	Amount	Change
Advocate for the Disabled	\$2,100	+ \$100
Total	<u>\$2,100</u>	<u>+ \$100</u>

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

Program	Total		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Advocate for the Disabled	\$672,000	-\$220,000	\$672,000	-\$220,000
Total	<u>\$672,000</u>	<u>-\$220,000</u>	<u>\$672,000</u>	<u>-\$220,000</u>