

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 nearly 2,000 youth through the operation of 37 residential facilities and eight day-placement facilities statewide. The workforce for fiscal year 2006-07 is estimated at 3,822 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 49 percent of its \$3.26 billion budget from State tax dollars and 51 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations budget of \$436.12 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 2006-07 OCFS State Operations General Fund budget reflects the net impact of closing three community residential homes to align capacity with population, additional funding for Evidence-based Community Initiatives (EbCI), negotiated salary and fixed cost increases and the increased use of State staff to provide computer and child abuse hotline services.

The Local Assistance budget of \$2.79 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 \$32.5 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. Capital projects appropriations include an increase of \$8.6 million from 2005-06 primarily for security projects.

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The Executive Budget provides more than \$1.5 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 a 65 percent level is also available for child protective services, aftercare services, independent living activities, and local administration costs related to adoptions. The Budget includes an increase of nearly \$30 million in 2006-07, from \$351.8 million to \$381.7 million, to support this child welfare funding source.
- **Investments in Child Welfare Quality Enhancement:** OCFS will distribute \$1.9 million in State funding to counties and not-for-profit groups in 2006-07 to promote the development of innovative child welfare service delivery models.

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- **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. Executive Budget recommendations include \$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 \$2 million in State 65 percent reimbursements to expand the Office of Mental Health's home and community based waiver by an additional 150 slots, and to fully implement the 245 slots added in 2005-06 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 funding to develop Medicaid waivers associated with enhancing services to children in foster care with multiple needs.
- **Flexible Fund for Family Services:** The Flexible Fund for Family Services, supported by Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars, will be increased to \$1.025 billion. 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 \$193.5 million for the State's share of subsidies provided to families who adopt children with special needs. These funds will support over 50,000 children in adoptive homes and include a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for adoptive parents.
- **Foster Care Block Grant:** The \$378.5 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 \$5 million increase in the Foster Care Block Grant to support a COLA for foster care providers.
- **Enhanced Support for Foster Care Providers:** The Executive Budget includes \$7.8 million in State funding to pay a portion of the costs of reimbursing foster care providers up to the maximum allowable State rate.
- **Increased Support for Home Visiting:** The Executive Budget includes \$18.6 million for the Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Program; an increase of \$1 million over the 2005-06 Enacted Budget. 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 \$7.3 million from \$20.2 million to \$27.5 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 \$2.31 million for new and existing Child Advocacy Centers and Multi-Disciplinary Teams, an increase of \$500,000 over the 2005-06 Enacted Budget. 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 \$1.025 billion TANF-funded Flexible Fund for Family Services to the State Child Care Block Grant. 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.

Consistent with the Governor's dedication to quality child care, in 2006-07 the maximum amount child care providers can be fined for operating without a license or for violating State regulations will be increased from \$500 to \$1,000 per day.

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.

The Executive Budget seeks to better align community residential homes capacity with population by closing three of six homes. Part of the savings from these closures will be reinvested into Evidence-based Community Initiative (EbCI) programs that provide an array of services to youth in their home communities and reduce the length of time youth spend in facilities. EbCI uses local non-profit agencies to provide services ranging from family-based counseling to specialized after-school programs. In 2006-07, OCFS will invest \$7.6 million in EbCI programs.

As part of the Governor's commitment to helping troubled youth become productive citizens, the Budget proposes a pilot project for the operation of a minimum secure facility by a voluntary provider under a performance-based contract. This initiative seeks new and innovative program models to lower recidivism and evaluate alternate systems for serving youth under OCFS jurisdiction.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Executive Budget includes approximately \$76 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of 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

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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 2006-07 Budget continues nearly \$38 million for these programs including more than \$36 million in General Fund support and \$1.5 million in Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) dollars.

The State Central Register Child Abuse Hotline receives more than 337,000 calls each year reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse through a toll-free 800 telephone number. 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.

OCFS and local governments share equally in the cost of local detention facilities that care for youth while their cases are pending in Family Court. Reform legislation enacted in 2005-06 reduces the placement of persons-in-need of supervision (PINS) in detention facilities and requires the Family Courts and local governments to serve PINS youth through comprehensive community-based programs whenever possible. Continuing support of this reform proposal, the Executive Budget provides \$6.6 million for community-based programs to serve PINS, an increase of \$1.4 million from 2005-06.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2005-06	Appropriations Recommended 2006-07	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2006-07
State Operations	419,746,000	436,115,000	16,369,000	281,368,000
Aid To Localities	2,733,881,000	2,794,733,000	60,852,000	2,333,927,000
Capital Projects	23,927,000	32,510,000	8,583,000	93,134,000
Total	3,177,554,000	3,263,358,000	85,804,000	2,708,429,000

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

Program	Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		
	2005-06	2006-07	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/06	Estimated FTEs 03/31/07	
Central Administration			
General Fund	346	348	2
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	6	6	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	79	79	0
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	11	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	408	428	20
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	79	79	0
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	142	192	50
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52	52	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	2,256	2,196	(60)
Total	3,810	3,822	12

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

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2005-06	2006-07	
General Fund	218,647,000	233,479,000	14,832,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	81,478,000	81,829,000	351,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	119,021,000	120,232,000	1,211,000
Enterprise Funds	500,000	475,000	(25,000)
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Total	419,746,000	436,115,000	16,369,000

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

Program	Available 2005-06	Recommended 2006-07	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	32,123,000	35,466,000	3,343,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	528,000	528,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	18,126,000	18,126,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,114,000	8,259,000	145,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	30,003,000	30,354,000	351,000
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	30,366,000	32,329,000	1,963,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	20,354,000	20,354,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	2,207,000	2,207,000	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	29,707,000	35,173,000	5,466,000
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	7,514,000	7,383,000	(131,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	51,240,000	52,451,000	1,211,000
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	139,866,000	143,912,000	4,046,000
Enterprise Funds	300,000	275,000	(25,000)
Total	<u>419,746,000</u>	<u>436,115,000</u>	<u>16,369,000</u>

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2006-07 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	22,565,000	1,452,000	21,111,000	1,368,000
Family and Children Services	23,881,000	1,967,000	22,880,000	1,903,700
Systems Support	10,948,000	3,373,000	10,818,000	3,373,000
Youth Facilities	111,484,000	1,616,000	100,583,000	1,458,000
Total	<u>168,878,000</u>	<u>8,408,000</u>	<u>155,392,000</u>	<u>8,102,700</u>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,201,000	70,000	253,000	14,000
Family and Children Services	0	0	1,001,000	63,300
Systems Support	0	0	130,000	0
Youth Facilities	5,392,000	78,000	5,509,000	80,000
Total	<u>6,593,000</u>	<u>148,000</u>	<u>6,893,000</u>	<u>157,300</u>

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**STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS
SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED
APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES
2006-07 RECOMMENDED
(dollars)**

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	12,901,000	1,891,000	200,000	(9,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,259,000	145,000	0	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	12,000,000	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	8,448,000	(4,000)	568,000	(270,600)
Systems Support	24,225,000	2,093,000	233,000	0
Training and Development	7,383,000	(131,000)	0	0
Youth Facilities	32,428,000	2,430,000	10,256,000	692,000
Total	105,644,000	6,424,000	11,257,000	412,400

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	944,000	137,000	9,194,000	765,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	0	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	360,000	(29,800)	7,490,000	297,700
Systems Support	52,000	0	9,452,000	(465,000)
Training and Development	0	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	942,000	64,000	13,215,000	892,000
Total	2,298,000	171,200	39,351,000	1,489,700

Program	Equipment		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,093,000	955,000	1,470,000	43,000
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	8,259,000	145,000
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement	0	0	12,000,000	0
Family and Children Services	30,000	(1,300)	0	0
Systems Support	233,000	0	14,255,000	2,558,000
Training and Development	0	0	7,383,000	(131,000)
Youth Facilities	1,199,000	81,000	6,816,000	701,000
Total	2,555,000	1,034,700	50,183,000	3,316,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2006-07 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	18,754,000	0	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	32,259,000	351,000	0	0
Family and Children Services	22,561,000	0	0	0
Systems Support	40,593,000	0	0	0
Training and Development	52,651,000	1,211,000	3,224,000	1,270,000
Youth Facilities	275,000	(25,000)	0	0
Total	167,093,000	1,537,000	3,224,000	1,270,000

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,925,000	0	16,829,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	32,259,000	351,000
Family and Children Services	7,753,000	0	14,808,000	0
Systems Support	0	0	40,593,000	0
Training and Development	3,298,000	(59,000)	46,129,000	0
Youth Facilities	275,000	(25,000)	0	0
Total	13,251,000	(84,000)	150,618,000	351,000

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

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2005-06	2006-07	
General Fund	1,319,982,000	1,380,834,000	60,852,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,398,119,000	1,398,119,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,780,000	15,780,000	0
Total	2,733,881,000	2,794,733,000	60,852,000

Adjustments:

Prior Year Deficiency	
Children and Family Services Office of General Fund	1,830,000
Appropriated 2005-06	<u>2,735,711,000</u>

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

Program	Available	Recommended	Change
	2005-06	2006-07	
Child Care			
General Fund	140,066,000	136,066,000	(4,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	360,000,000	360,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	350,000	350,000	0
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	1,174,916,000	1,239,768,000	64,852,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,018,900,000	1,018,900,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,430,000	15,430,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	19,219,000	19,219,000	0
Total	2,733,881,000	2,794,733,000	60,852,000

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2005-06	Recommended 2006-07	Change	Reappropriations 2006-07
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	5,000,000	7,000,000	2,000,000	9,064,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	0	0	0	7,923,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	1,325,000	1,825,000	500,000	7,618,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	15,602,000	15,685,000	83,000	52,961,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Misc. Capital Projects	0	0	0	2,780,000
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	2,000,000	8,000,000	6,000,000	7,295,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	5,493,000
Total	<u>23,927,000</u>	<u>32,510,000</u>	<u>8,583,000</u>	<u>93,134,000</u>