

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget



Volume II – Health and Human Services

Gina M. Raimondo, Governor

Agency Summary

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Agency Mission

The mission of the Office of the Child Advocate is to protect the legal rights of children in State care and to promote policies and practices which ensure that children are safe, that children have permanent and stable families, and that children in out of home placements have their physical, mental, medical, educational, emotional, and behavioral needs met. The Office of the Child Advocate is responsible for monitoring the Department of Children, Youth and Families to ensure that it offers children in its care adequate protection and quality services, while affording these children respect for their individual rights and dignity. These activities include, but are not limited to, public education, legislative advocacy, investigations and litigation.

Agency Description

The Office of the Child Advocate is charged with fulfilling a statutory mandate to protect the legal, civil and special rights of all children and youth involved in the care of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). In so doing, the Office strives to improve conditions and circumstances through monitoring, compliance, and advocacy.

The office is staffed with 8.0 authorized full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The office is responsible for oversight of children under DCYF care and yearly monitoring site visits of group homes and residential programs in the state. The office also provides direct legal representation for a portion of children voluntarily placed in state care.

The office reviews and monitors systematic and individual issues related to residents at the Rhode Island Training School. It provides direct oversight and on-site visits on a weekly basis. The Office of the Child Advocate also files Victim Compensation claims for children who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted and are in the care of the State.

Statutory History

In 1980, the General Assembly created the Office of the Child Advocate. Its powers and duties are codified in R.I.G.L. 42-73. The Office of the Child Advocate possesses a statutory right of access, including subpoena power, to all providers, the Family Court, Department of Children, Youth and Families, and law enforcement records. There is also a right of physical access to all child-care programs and children in care.

In 1992, the Office of the Child Advocate's responsibilities with respect to children in state care were statutorily expanded to include review of child fatality cases and representation of child victims of crime pursuant to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. This review was at the discretion of the Child Advocate until July 2016, when Governor Raimondo signed a bill into law, which expanded this crucial mandate. The OCA is now required to review every child fatality and near fatality, when the child's family, caretaker or household member has had previous involvement with DCYF.

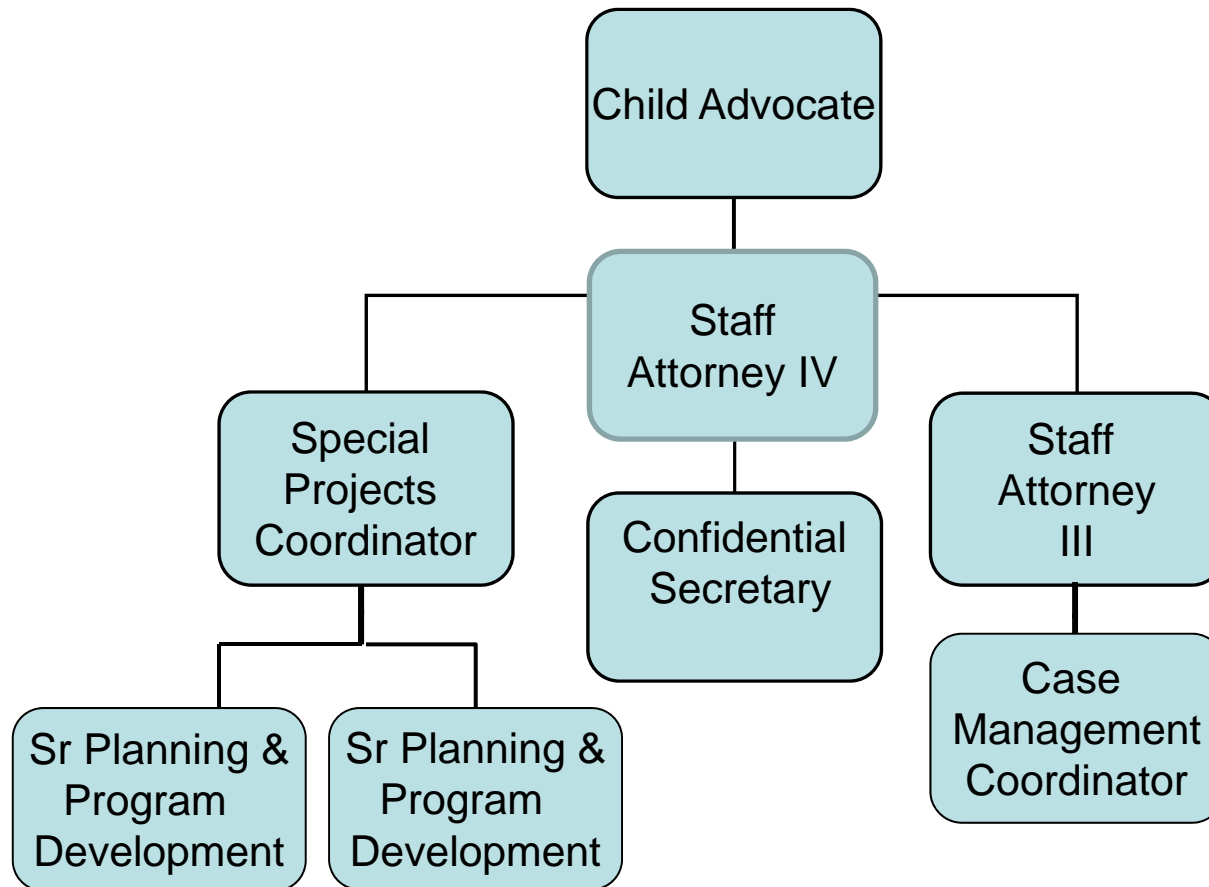
Budget

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Enacted Budget	2018 Revised Budget	2019 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	654,839	612,107	926,120	1,045,722	1,071,346
Total Expenditures	654,839	612,107	926,120	1,045,722	1,071,346
Expenditures by Object					
Salary And Benefits	624,779	499,279	882,015	822,707	912,409
Contract Professional Services	13,151	166	500	30,500	13,151
Operating Supplies And Expenses	16,909	84,617	23,820	133,214	126,001
Assistance And Grants	0	0	17,785	17,785	17,785
Subtotal: Operating	654,839	584,062	924,120	1,004,206	1,069,346
Capital Purchases And Equipment	0	28,045	2,000	41,516	2,000
Subtotal: Other	0	28,045	2,000	41,516	2,000
Total Expenditures	654,839	612,107	926,120	1,045,722	1,071,346
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	643,280	470,981	781,499	787,881	923,704
Federal Funds	11,559	141,126	144,621	257,841	147,642
Total Expenditures	654,839	612,107	926,120	1,045,722	1,071,346
FTE Authorization	6.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.6

The Agency

Office of the Child Advocate



Performance Measures

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Residential Care Facility Site Reviews

Facility reviews ensure the appropriateness of the physical living conditions and suitability of clinical treatment programs provided to the children in a particular placement licensed by the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is seeking to expand its role as monitor of licensed facilities to include foster home placements and day care facilities to address the increasing need for review. In prior years, the target was to complete 95% of residential placement facilities. The figures below now represent the number of in-depth reviews. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	0.00	0.00	65.00	65.00	65.00
Actual	0.00	6.00	17.00	0.00	

Resolved Inquiries

OCA receives a variety of inquiries each day, requiring differing levels of response. Each staff member is a vital part of providing a proper resolution, which includes but is not limited to referrals, relaying information, providing notice to DCYF of an issue and assisting with the process to provide an appropriate resolution, a formal investigation, a site review or legal intervention. The figures below represent the number of inquiries resolved. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: State Fiscal Year</i>				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	0.00	0.00	200.00	225.00	225.00
Actual	0.00	199.00	439.00	0.00	

Victims of Crime Act Assistance

OCA has the important task of researching incidents of abuse reported to DCYF each month to determine whether that individual could potentially be eligible for assistance through this program. Assistance is provided to each victim by providing information about the program, completion of the application process and guidance with victim services. The figures below represent the number of victims assisted. [Note: Missing values appear as zeros in the measure.]

<i>Frequency: Annual</i>	<i>Reporting Period: Federal Fiscal Year</i>				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Target	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Actual	0.00	247.00	356.00	0.00	

Personnel

Agency: OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Central Management

	FY 2018		FY 2019	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified				
CASE MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR	1.0	45,754	1.0	43,870
CHILD ADVOCATE	1.0	92,870	1.0	92,870
LEGAL ASSISTANT	1.0	39,920	1.0	45,477
PLANNING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	0.0	0	0.6	23,614
SENIOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST	1.0	59,120	1.0	62,120
SENIOR PLANNING & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST	2.0	100,973	2.0	105,530
STAFF ATTORNEY III	1.0	70,804	1.0	73,395
STAFF ATTORNEY IV	1.0	84,433	1.0	84,433
Subtotal Unclassified	8.0	493,874	8.6	531,309
Subtotal	8.0	493,874	8.6	531,309
Turnover		(41,444)		0
Total Salaries		452,430		531,309
Benefits				
FICA		42,105		40,644
Health Benefits		131,611		136,673
Payroll Accrual		14,266		2,628
Retiree Health		29,945		31,773
Retirement		130,907		144,941
Subtotal		348,834		356,659
Total Salaries and Benefits	8.0	801,264	8.6	887,968
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temp. and Seasonal)		100,158		103,252
Statewide Benefit Assessment		21,443		24,441
Payroll Costs	8.0	822,707	8.6	912,409
Purchased Services				
Clerical and Temporary Services		30,500		12,465
Other Contracts		0		686
Subtotal		30,500		13,151
Total Personnel	8.0	853,207	8.6	925,560
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue		613,181		795,733
Federal Funds		240,026		129,827
Total All Funds		853,207		925,560