

Office of the Child Advocate

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee
FY 2018 Revised & FY 2019 Budgets
April 10, 2018

Background/History

- 1978 Assembly created the Children's Code Commission
 - Study and revise all laws affecting the health and welfare of minors
- Became the Office of the Child Advocate
 - Protects a child's right to appropriate placement, healthcare and education & assures they are treated with dignity and respect

Undistributed Savings

- FY 2018 enacted budget includes \$25.0 million of statewide savings
 - Undistributed in DOA's budget
- Governor's revised budget has proposals that total \$25.0 million
 - Not all repeat in FY 2019
- None of these savings have been attributed to the Office of the Child Advocate

Centralized Services

- 2017 Assembly authorized establishment of internal service funds for centralized services
 - Information technology, capital asset management & maintenance, & HR
- Costs previously budgeted in DOA
 - Methodology on distribution needs review
 - Long term impacts and transparency concerns

Centralized Services

- Governor's budget allocates costs to user agencies

General Revenues	FY 2018	FY 2019
Information Technology	\$25,715	\$25,913
Facilities	67,732	70,209
Total	\$93,447	\$96,122

Staffing

FY 2019 Governor Recommendation		
	OCA	Statewide
Gross Salaries (in millions)	\$0.9	\$1,117.1
Turnover (in millions)	-	(42.9)
Turnover %	-	3.8%
Turnover FTE	-	592.2
FY 2019 FTE recommended	8.6	15,426.5
Funded FTE	8.6	14,834.3
Filled as of March 31	8.0	13,849.4
Funded but not filled	(0.6)	984.9

Staffing

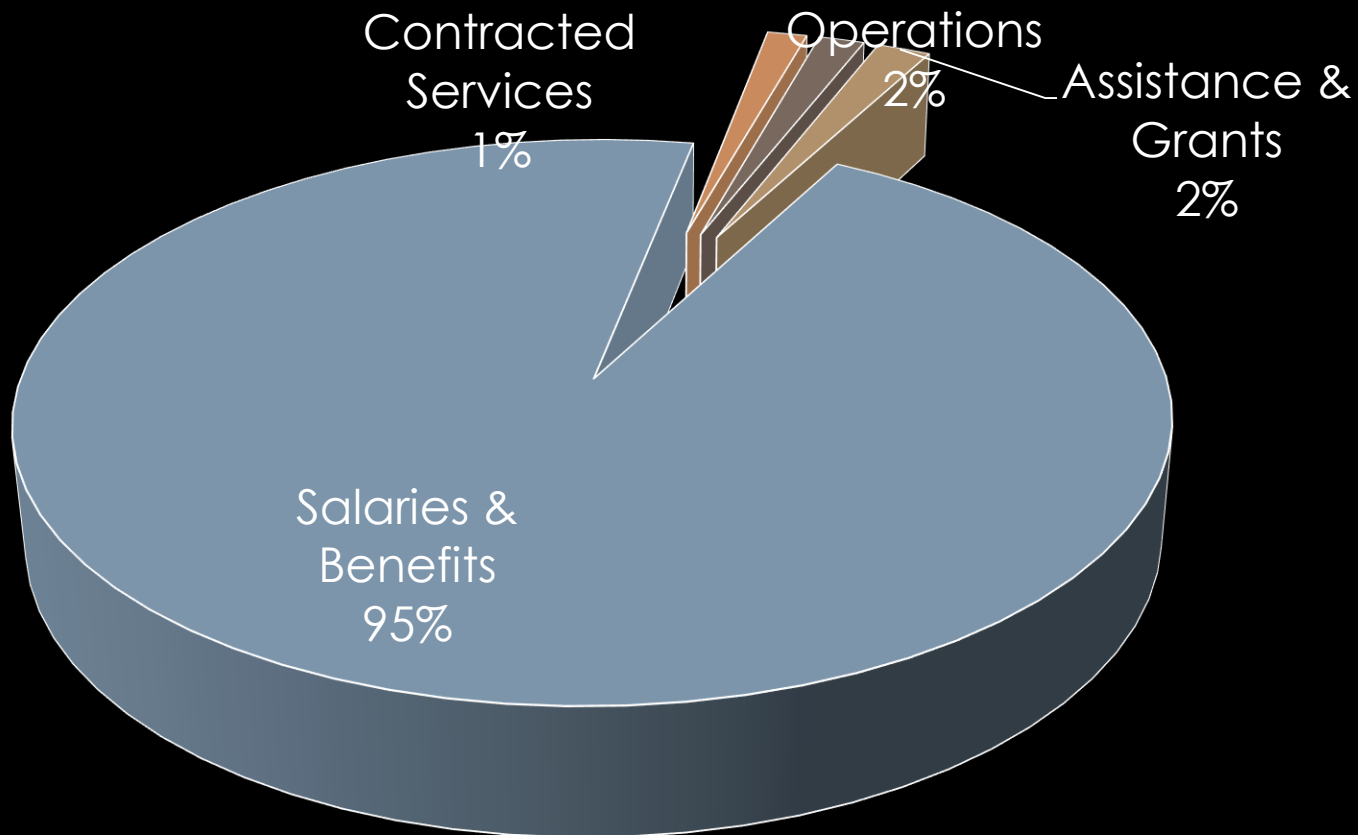
Full-Time Equivalent Positions

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Chg. To Enacted
Enacted Authorized	8.0	-
FY 2018 Gov. Rev.	8.0	-
FY 2019 Request	13.0	5.0
FY 2019 Governor	8.6	0.6
FY 2019 Funded FTE	8.6	0.6
Filled as of March 17	8.0	-
FY 2017 Average Filled	4.9	(3.1)

Summary by Fund Source

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2018 Gov. Rev.	Chg.	FY 2019 Gov. Rec.	Chg.
General Rev.	\$781,499	\$787,881	\$6,382	\$923,704	\$142,205
Federal Funds	144,621	257,841	113,220	147,642	3,021
Total	\$926,120	\$1,045,722	\$119,602	\$1,071,346	\$145,226

FY 2019 Summary by Category



Target Budget

- Budget Office provided a target of \$710,732
- Current service adjustments of \$8,203
 - For statewide adjustments
- 10.0% reduction of \$78,970
- Constrained request did not meet the target
- Recommendation is \$0.1 million above the target

Staffing – FY 2019

- The Office requested 5 new positions
 - Planning and program specialist – 3.0
 - Public info & education coordinator – 1.0
 - Policy analyst – 1.0
- Governor adds 0.6 part time position to assist with responsibilities for the Children's Rights Settlement in FY 2019

Children's Rights Settlement

- 2007 – Office of the Child Advocate & Children's Rights filed a lawsuit against DCYF alleging abuse and neglect in the foster care system
- Several years of litigation followed
 - Including appeals in 2010 and 2014
- Parties agreed to mediation in 2015

Children's Rights Settlement

- RI reached settlement with Children's Rights in January 2018
 - A \$3.5 million payable was booked in FY 2017 final audit anticipation of settlement
 - Part of the settlement provides for an independent monitoring team
 - Office of the Child Advocate as the monitor
 - Independent evaluator to verify data and serve as final arbiter for information submitted by DCYF to meet its obligation under the agreement

Children's Rights Settlement

- Settlement addresses:
 - Assessments
 - Placements
 - Shelters and assessment and stabilization centers
 - Congregate care
 - Sibling placement
 - Case management
 - Caseworker-child, sibling and parent-child visitation

Children's Rights Settlement

- Settlement addresses:
 - Licensing
 - Child Protective Services
 - Case Plans
 - Maltreatment in Care
 - Foster Home Array
- Governor adds 0.6 FTE in FY 2019
 - To assist with responsibilities
 - Adds \$30,000 in FY 2018 for contracted services

Child Fatality Reviews

- DCYF is required to notify the Child Advocate's office w/in 48 hours of a confirmed fatality or near fatality of a child who is subject to a DCYF case
- Also required to provide the Office with any written material about the case

Child Fatality Reviews

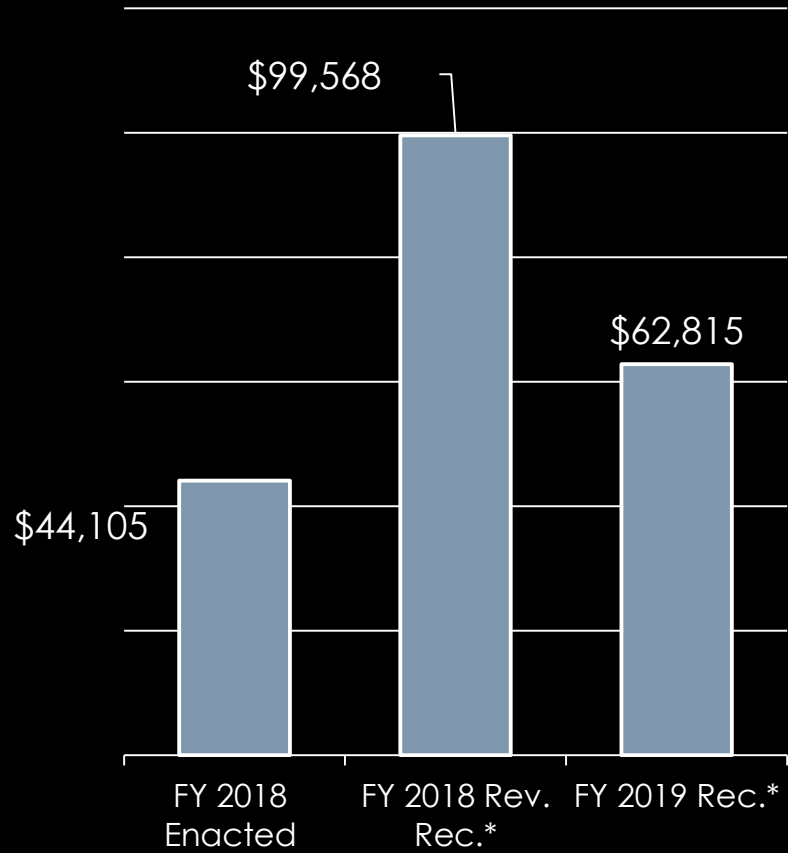
- The child fatality review panel assesses and analyzes the cases and makes recommendations
- Report is to be made public within 30 days of completion
- Approximately 20 cases awaiting review

Victim Compensation Fund

- State statute allows the Office to pursue a claim through the Victim Compensation Fund on behalf of youth under DCYF care
- Expanded to children who have witnessed domestic violence
 - Office reviews claims of institutional abuse
 - In a foster home, group home, Training school or hospital
- Victims of sex trafficking

Other Operating

- Revised includes \$39,516 for one-time furniture expenses
- Other operating expenses
 - Office supplies
 - Mileage



*Excludes Centralized Services

Annual Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly required OMB to prepare, review & inventory all reports filed w/Assembly
 - Report to be presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Office is in compliance with requirement to submit reports on child fatality reviews

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