

# Office of the Child Advocate

Staff Presentation to the House Finance Committee  
FY 2021 Revised & FY 2022 Budgets  
April 28, 2021

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# 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

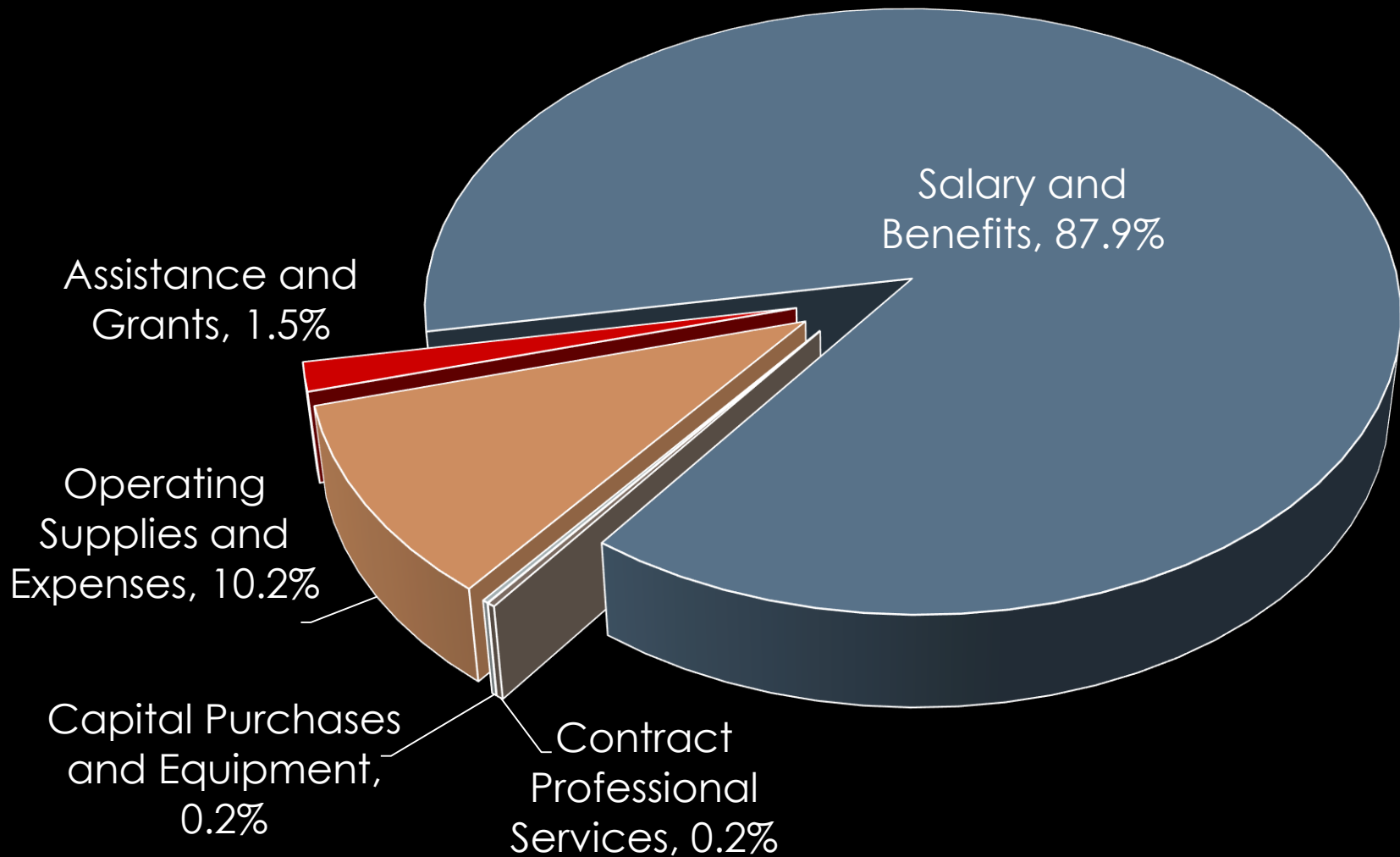
# Responsibilities- Child Fatality Reviews

- 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
  - Child fatality review panel assesses and analyzes the cases and makes recommendations
  - Report is to be made public within 30 days of completion

# Children's Rights Settlement

- Settlement with Children's Rights announced in January 2018
  - Approved in May 2018
- Child Advocate and data validator appointed as monitoring team
  - Position added in FY 2019 final budget
  - Independent evaluator and final arbiter of the information submitted by DCYF

# FY 2022 Recommended by Category

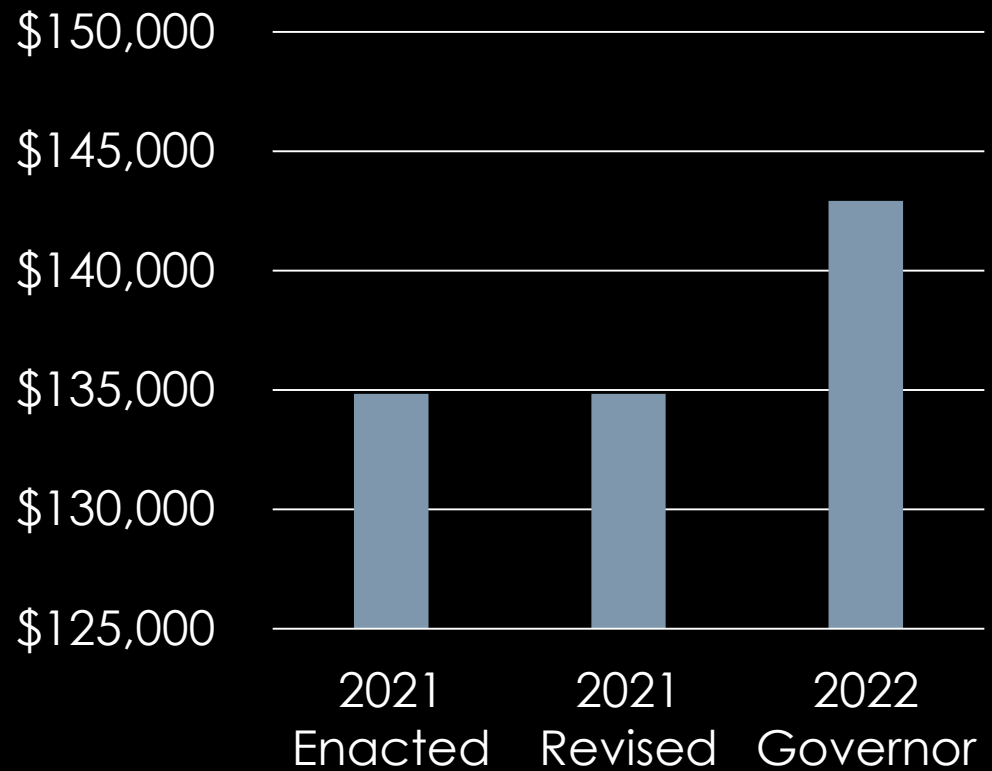


# Staffing

- Gov. FY 2022 - \$1.0 million
  - \$61,799 less than enacted
    - Requires the Office to hold one position vacant for FY 2022
    - Currently has 8.0 positions filled of 10.0 recommended positions
  - Gov. FY 2021 Revised - \$1.1 million
  - \$3,837 more than enacted
    - Increased assessed fringe benefit rate from voluntary retirement incentive program

# Other

- Other Expenses
  - Office supplies
  - Mileage
  - Staff Training
  - Centralized Services



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