Department of Children, Youth and Families

Governor's FY 2025 Revised, FY 2026 & Capital Budgets
Staff Presentation to
House Finance Subcommittee on Human Services
March 13, 2025

DCYF

- Overview
 - EOHHS Agencies
 - Items of Interest
- DCYF
 - Summary
 - Staffing
 - Department of Justice
 - Savings Initiatives
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 - Capital/Other

EOHHS – Overview

- Principal agency to manage the 4 health and human service agencies
 - BHDDH, DHS, DCYF & DOH
- Governor appoints the directors of the 4 agencies under the EOHHS umbrella
 - Retain statutory authority
- Responsible for managing, providing strategic leadership & direction to depts.
 - Medicaid funded programs in each of the agencies

Overview - EOHHS Agencies

All Funds	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Governor	Chg.	FY 2026 Governor	Chg.
EOHHS	\$4,017.8	\$3,967.1	\$(50.6)	\$4,202.1	\$184.3
DHS	814.7	860.5	45.8	829.2	14.4
BHDDH	672.4	706.9	34.5	704.2	31.8
DOH	356.3	387.8	31.6	292.1	(64.1)
DCYF	399.1	412.1	13.1	397.2	(1.9)
Total	\$6,260.2	\$6,334.5	\$74.3	\$6,424.8	\$164.6
% of budget	44.8%	42.4%		45.2%	

Overview - EOHHS Agencies

General Revenues	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Governor	Chg.	FY 2026 Governor	Chg.
EOHHS	\$1,416.4	\$1,390.9	\$(25.5)	\$1,469.7	\$53.3
DHS	142.8	147.3	4.5	135.6	(7.2)
BHDDH	305.7	317.6	11.9	316.3	10.6
DOH	40.1	40.5	0.5	38.1	(2.0)
DCYF	261.4	261.4	-	263.0	1.6
Total	\$2,166.3	\$2,157.8	\$(8.5)	\$2,222.6	\$56.3
% of budget	38.7%	38.5%		38.7%	

Children's Behavioral Health Services

- EOHHS awarded \$10.6 million Children's
 Behavioral Health Services federal grant
 - \$10.6 million 9/30/2022 through 9/26/2026
 - Subsequently reduced to \$9.6 million
 - EOHHS did not complete process to award funding until 10/2023 – could not carry forward funds
 - Funds support:
 - Community-Based Intensive Care Team
 - Mobile Response & Stabilization Services
 - Strategic planning & project management
 - Media campaign & DCYF support staff

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services

- Crisis Intervention Model
 - Mobile, on-site, intervention for youth having a behavioral health crisis
 - Help stabilize & maintain children in the least restrictive setting
 - Prevent placement disruptions
 - Can result in unnecessary hospitalization or other out-of-home placements

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services

- Pilot program w/2 agencies \$4.6 million
 - Tides Family Services \$2.4 million
 - Family Service of Rhode Island \$2.1 million
 - Terms 10/22 10/23
 - Extensions through 2026 if funds are available
 - \$125 daily rate w/annual children/family caps
 - Tides not to exceed 665
 - Family Service of RI not to exceed 570

Mobile Response & Stabilization Services

- HCBS ARPA funds total \$5.3 M over 3 years
- 2nd federal grant totaling \$0.8 million
- Starting Oct.1, 2024 coverage provided thru
 Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics
 - FY 2025 funds for East Bay Area no CCBHC coverage

MRSS	FY 2023 Spent	FY 2024 Spent	FY 2025 Gov. Rev.	FY 2026 Gov. Rec.	Total
HCSB- ARPA	\$1.8	\$3.5	\$0.05	\$-	\$5.3
SAMSHA Grant	0.8	0.1	0.9	0.2	2.0
MRSS Grant	-	0.5	0.4	-	0.8
Total	\$2.6	\$4.1	\$1.3	\$0.2	\$8.1

Audit Findings – FY 2023

Agency	Material Audit Adjustments
EOHHS	Reduce Managed Care expenses by \$23 million for settlements that were understated due to incomplete data available at year-end.
	Reduce drug rebate receivables by \$2.5 million to correct an error in estimation
BHDDH	Record \$10.5 million in Medicaid reimbursements owed for FY 2023 services at ESH and RICLAS that were not recorded
ВПООП	Reduce expenses by \$9.0 million related to an overstated accrual estimate in the private DD system.
DCYF	Record \$8.3 million in Medicaid reimbursements owed to DCYF for Medicaid eligible services provided to children in state custody by not recorded

FY 2024 Spending

	FY 2024 Final	FY 2024 Prelim.	FY 2024 Draft Audit	Chg. to Final	Chg. to Prelim
General Revenues	\$209.1	\$217.2	\$215.1	\$6.0	\$(2.1)
Federal Funds	136.0	79.9	97.6	(38.4)	17.7
Restricted Receipts	0.7	1.5	1.5	0.8	-
RICAP	15.3	1.5	1.5	(13.7)	_
Total	\$361.1	\$300.1	\$315.7	\$(45.4)	\$15.6

\$ in millions

DCYF

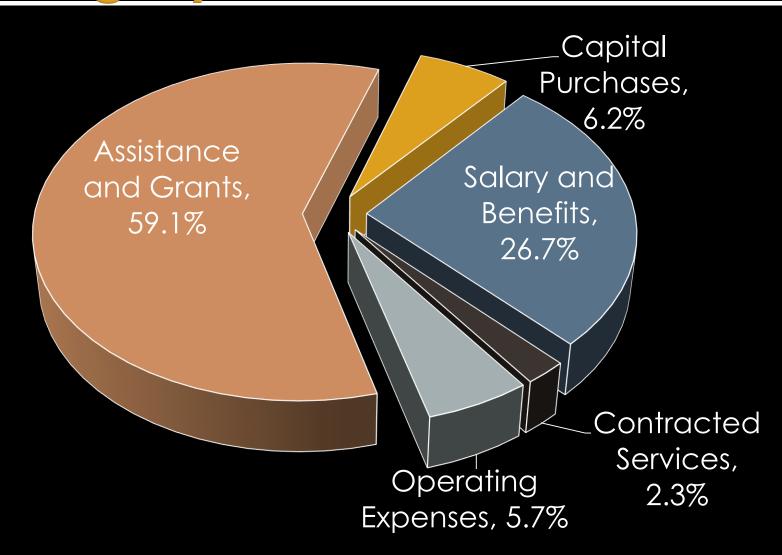
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Summary By Program

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	Chg.	FY 2026 Governor	Chg.
Child Welfare	\$317.4	\$299.5	\$(17.9)	\$306.9	\$(10.5)
Behavioral Health	17.4	21.5	4.1	16.4	(1.0)
Youth Dev. Services	38.5	53.9	15.4	40.3	1.8
Central Management	25.5	37.0	11.6	33.4	7.9
Higher Ed. Grants	0.2	0.2	-	0.2	-
Total	\$399.1	\$412.1	\$13.1	\$397.2	\$(1.9)

\$ in millions

FY 2026 Recommended by Category

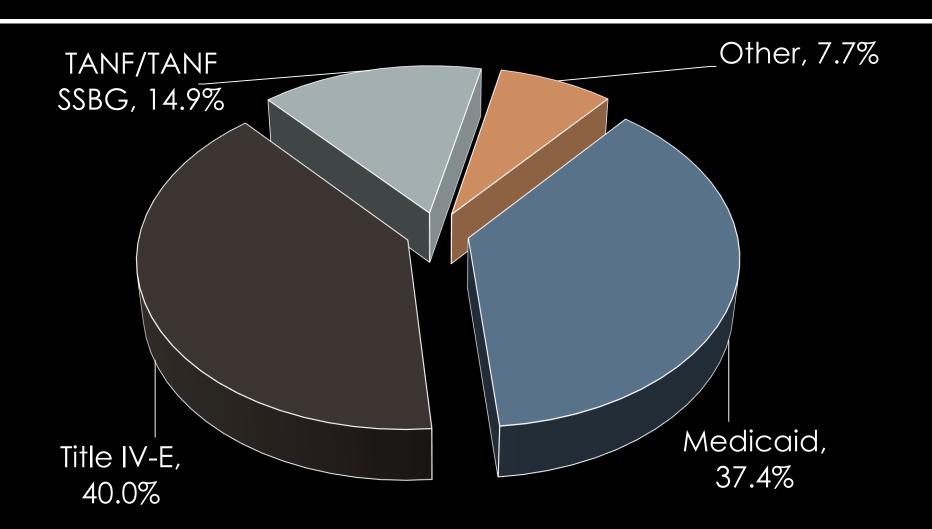


Summary By Source

	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	Chg.	FY 2026 Governor	Chg.
General Revenues	\$261.4	\$261.4	\$(0.0)	\$263.0	\$1.6
Federal Funds	121.7	120.4	(1.4)	117.4	(4.3)
Restricted Receipts	0.7	1.5	0.8	1.5	0.8
RICAP	15.3	29.0	13.7	15.3	-
Total	\$399.1	\$412.1	\$13.1	\$397.2	\$(1.9)
FTE	714.5	714.5	-	713.5	(1.0)

\$ in millions

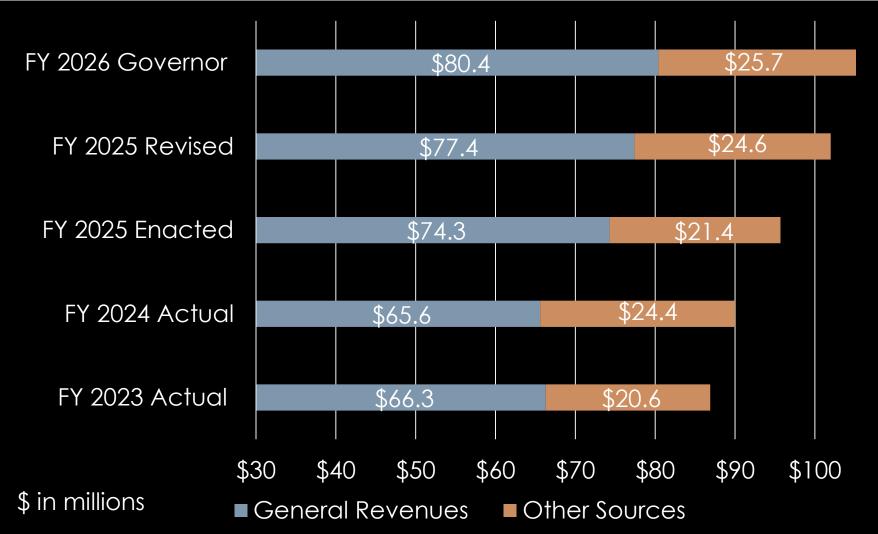
FY 2026 Federal Funds



Staffing – Positions

Division	FY 2024 Final	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Central Mgmt	77.0	76.0	76.0	76.0	-
Children's Behavioral Health	26.0	27.0	33.0	33.0	6.0
Child Welfare	462.5	463.5	465.5	464.5	1.0
Youth Dev. Services	140.0	148.0	140.0	140.0	(8.0)
Total	705.5	714.5	714.5	713.5	(1.0)

Salaries and Benefits



Full time Equivalent Positions

Fiscal Year	Authorized	Avg. Filled	Avg. Vacant	% Vacant
2018	616.5	554.2	62.3	10.1%
2019	629.5	585.0	44.5	7.1%
2020	621.5	584.4	37.1	6.0%
2021	617.5	580.4	37.1	6.0%
2022	702.5	594.0	108.5	15.4%
2023	705.5	629.0	73.5	10.4%
2024	705.5	621.4	84.1	11.9%
2025*	714.5	650.4	64.1	9.0%

^{*}Through February 22

Accreditation

- 91.0 positions provided starting in FY 2022
 - To meet caseload goals to achieve accreditation
- Lengthy process, as anticipated
 - Initially expected completion by summer 2024
- DCYF achieved COA accreditation
 - February 14, 2025
 - Last recommendations were implemented
 - Performance reviews for union workers
 - Maintain updated personnel records
 - Vehicle safety

February 2025 Accreditation Report- Caseloads

Average Cases per Caseworker with 10+ Cases



^{*}Includes full-time/those nearing end of 6-month training period

February 2025 Accreditation Report - DCYF Staff Attrition

	Calendar Year							
Reason for Leaving	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	
Deceased	1	2	0	2	2	0	0	
Failed Probation	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Resignation	31	26	27	62	32	32	2	
Retirement	18	20	24	5	12	12	1	
Termination	5	7	5	10	7	5	0	
Transfer In State	36	21	19	29	27	23	1	
Transfer Out of State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1	3	4	2	1	1	1	
Total	93	80	79	110	83	73	5	

February 2025 Accreditation Report - DCYF Staff Attrition

De man fau la main au	Calendar Year						
Reason for Leaving	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Total	93	80	79	110	83	73	5
Minus Retirement	18	20	24	5	12	12	1
Non-Retirements	75	60	55	105	71	62	4
Resignation	31	26	27	62	32	32	2
Resignation $\%$	41.3	43.3	49.1	59.0	45.1	51.6	50.0
Transfer In State	36	21	19	29	27	23	1
Transfer %	48.0	35.0	34.5	27.6	38.0	37.1	25.0
Total	93	80	79	110	83	73	5

^{*}Through February 21, 2025

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DOJ Consent Decree

May 2024 – DOJ letter issued findings

State failed to provide services to youth w/ behavioral health disabilities in integrated settings

Children were segregated in acute-care psychiatric hospital

State could reasonably modify service systems to provide care in integrated settings

Related 2024 Assembly actions

DCYF provider contract options had changes responsive to DOJ findings – not funded in Gov 2025

\$29.4M added to Gov for options adoption & foster care, congregate care, home-based services

\$1.5M for rate-setting consultant & \$0.3M for comprehensive needs study

Provider Contract Status

- Enacted budget provided over \$50 million for potential rate increases
 - Was ongoing before consent decree
 - Re-procurement of contracts across different service types
 - Process took much longer than original plan
- Department reports all outstanding contracts with providers have been settled

Provider Contract Status

- Most agreements are 4-year contracts
 - DCYF intends to amend some after uniform rate setting completed

Placements & Services	2023 DCYF Plan	2024 Update	Contracts Began
Congregate Care	12/31/2023	5/1/2024	6/1/2024
Foster Care			3/1/2025
Therapeutic Foster Care		7/31/2024	7/1/000/
Adoption Supports	Prior to FY		7/1/2024
HCBS	2025		8/1/2024
LGBTQI Services		7/1/2024	No RFP

DOJ Consent Decree

January 2025 – Consent decree approved



DCYF to conduct review of service array – behavioral health, community services, therapeutic foster care



Address shortages in capacity, improve monitoring & timeliness

Governor FY 2026 recommendation



\$0.5M in FY 2025 & **\$0.8M** in FY 2026 for consultant to support DCYF in meeting requirements



\$0.6M total funding for comprehensive needs study



\$175,000 for court monitor – EOHHS budget

Uniform Rate Setting

- \$1.5 million in FY 2025 to establish uniform rates and direct billing
 - Medicaid & non-Medicaid funded programs
 - Home- and community-based and congregate care

Fall 2024

Stakeholder input Winter 2025

Rate development

Spring 2025

Rates Finalized July 2026

 Transition to new rates

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Savings Initiatives – HFC 2/15

- Savings fall into two general types
 - Placement shifts partially related to consent decree implementation
 - Improvements to current billing efforts and practices

DCYF	GR	All
Placement Shifts – Congregate Care	\$(9.1)	\$(10.4)
Placement Shifts – Foster Care	2.1	2.7
Emergency Housing*	(1.8)	3.1
LEA Reimbursement Efforts	(3.0)	(3.0)
Total	\$(11.8)	\$(7.6)

\$ in millions/*revised recommendation adds \$3.8 million from all funds

Savings Initiatives

- Congregate Care and Out-of-state Placement Reduction
 - Proposed by Dept. as constrained initiative
 - Similar initiatives proposed in prior years
- Assumes youth will be transitioned to foster care with supportive services
 - 25 youth in congregate care
 - 16 in out-of-state
- \$7.7 million all funds savings
 - \$7.0 million general revenues

Savings Initiatives – Emergency Housing

- Emergency Housing
 - Family Court can require DCYF to provide housing, often in hotels
 - When housing is a barrier to reunification
- Practice has increased in recent years
 - Averaged \$0.1 million before FY 2022
 - FY 2022 \$0.9 million
 - FY 2023 \$3.1 million
- Governor's budget assumes
 - 123 families in FY 2025 and 111 in FY 2026

Savings Initiatives – Emergency Housing

- Governor recommends funding solely from federal TANF and Social Service block grants
 - Department has struggled to charge expenses to TANF in the past
 - FY 2024 \$0.9M of assumed \$3.2M spent

	FY 2024 Final	FY 2024 Spent	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Gov	FY 2026 Req.	FY 2026 Gov	Chg. to Enacted
GR	\$3.2	\$6.4	\$1.8	\$ -	\$8.7	\$ -	\$(1.8)
FF	3.2	0.9	1.2	6.7	-	6.1	4.9
Total	\$6.3	\$7.3	\$3.0	\$6.7	\$8.7	\$6.1	\$3.1

Savings - LEA Education Cost Reimbursement

- Districts responsible for education costs in residential facilities
 - DCYF must cover any cost not paid by LEA
 - RIGL 16-64-1.1 requires LEAs to pay their average special education cost to facility
 - Rates and residency often disputed by LEAs
 - Issues with timely reimbursements ongoing
- Gov assumes \$3.0 million in savings from improving collection rates
 - DCYF/RIDE collaboration, plan not yet known

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Placements & Services-Overview

Division	Populations	Services	Funding
Child Welfare	Children under DCYF direct	 Foster Care 	State &
Children's Behavioral Health	supervision Families in need of services	ResidentialVECAdoption/Guardianship	Federal, incl. Medicaid & Title IV-E
Juvenile Corrections	Youth adjudicated through Family Court	Training School	State & Federal

Placements & Services

Service Type	Program
Foster Care – Kinship	With relatives and close family friend
Foster Care – Non-Kinship	With DCYF licensed family
Foster Care – Private Agency/ Specialized	Family placements recruited through private agency, community partners
Adoption Assistance/Guardianship	Subsidies through age 18 or 21, depending on eligibility

Placements & Services

Definitions	Program
Residential Group Care Services	 Group Homes Residential treatment w/campus education (incl. special populations) Semi-independent living
Day Care	 Provided to foster care parents & eligible adoption assistance/guardianship families
Independent Living Programs	 Supported apartment setting - youth living on own or with another youth

Placements & Services

Definitions	Program
Assessment & Stabilization Centers	 Short term programs to immediately engage with youth and provide clinical care and assessment
Home & Community Based Care	 Family Stabilization Programs Supervised Visitation Parent Training Programs Foster & Kinship Care supportive services Disruptive behavioral mgt. Mental heath treatment srv.

Placement & Services

Division	FY 2024 Spent	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Child Welfare	\$173.5	\$242.5	\$217.6	\$221.3	\$(21.2)
Behavioral Health Services	11.5	12.4	12.6	13.1	0.7
Total	\$185.0	\$254.8	\$230.2	\$234.4	\$(20.4)
General Revenues	\$126.1	\$165.2	\$158.1	\$158.2	\$(7.0)

\$ in millions

DCYF - Recent Census

FY 2025 Census	Q1	Q2	Q3*	FY 2025 Avg.	FY 2024 Reported
Foster Care	939	888	864	901	962
Congregate Care	402	385	378	389	354
Semi-Independent Living	38	36	35	37	33
Independent Living	52	54	60	56	53
Group Home	104	122	120	115	95
Assessment & Stabilization Centers	14	13	13	13	17
Psychiatric Hospital	34	23	27	28	30
In State Residential Treat.	75	57	52	62	55
Out-of-State	79	80	72	78	72
Total Placements	1,341	1,273	1,242	1,290	1,316

^{*2} months only, March data not yet available

Placements

- Foster Care home based placements
- Congregate Care residential group homes, residential treatment facilities, semi-independent living
 - Overall, FY 2025 revised up by \$2.2M; FY 2026 up \$5.4M

		2025 cted		2025 vernor		2026 ernor		nge to cted
	GR	AF	GR	AF	GR	AF	GR	AF
Foster Care	\$20.9	\$23.8	\$21.4	\$25.7	\$25.1	\$30.5	\$3.2	\$6.7
Congregate Care	\$76.9	\$101.0	\$79.5	\$101.3	\$76.5	\$99.7	\$(0.4)	\$(1.3)

Female Youth Capacity

- State lacks capacity to treat adolescent girls and young women who face severe and complex behavioral health challenges
 - Various plans over the years to address what has been a growing gap in services

- 2022 Assembly provided \$12M from ARPA funds to expand existing in-state housing and design a new facility
 - Added \$45M in RICAP to construct female facility
 - \$11.0 million for St. Mary's to expand PRTF

Exeter – Female Youth Facility

- Governor maintains approved funding for the Female Residential Facility
 - \$45M from RICAP
 - Project broke ground in August 2024
 - Funding programmed through FY 2026
 - Budget assumes occupancy by April 2026
 - Includes operating funding for 3 months
 - 16 beds to be compliant with Medicaid rules

ARPA – Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility

Initial plan: \$11M for St. Mary's Home for Children

12 new beds for PRTF capacity

Expected to open by Spring 2025

December 2023 – Office of the Child Advocate letter

Concerns about safety and quality of care

DCYF ceased referrals

May 2024 – DCYF engaged new provider

Major cost concerns for facility

Aug. 2024 - closure announced

Governor Recommendation

\$5.8 million - add PRT beds at Bradley

Timeline in development

Adoption and Guardianship

- Subsidies for adoption assistance, and relative
 & non-relative guardianships
 - Department seeks to maximize permanency
 - Expects an increase in placements in FY 2026
 - FY 2025 revised consistent with enacted

	FY 2025 Enacted		FY 2026 Governor		Change	
	GR	AF	GR	AF	GR	AF
Adoption	\$14.1	\$23.8	\$14.1	\$25.3	\$0.0	\$1.5
Guardianship	\$8.6	\$9.9	\$7.6	\$11.1	\$(1.0)	\$1.1

Home- and Community-Based Services

- Services include
 - Counseling, education, family support services,
 & family-centered treatment
- Budget based on updated estimates and contracts
 - Adjusts for overstated federal fund availability
 - Approx. \$20M

	GR	AF
FY 2024 Reported	\$29.6	\$45.8
FY 2025 Enacted	\$38.7	\$82.3
FY 2025 Revised	\$33.0	\$54.3
FY 2026 Governor	\$33.5	\$55.3
Change	\$(5.2)	\$(27.0)

\$ in millions

Provider Workforce Stabilization

- \$24.1M ARPA funds provided through FY 2025
 - Assist with staff retention and hiring issues
 - Intended to relieve associated capped capacity, closed facilities, waiting lists for congregate care programs
 - Serve as funding bridge to new contracts
 - Governor adds \$0.4 million
 - Last provider contracts settled in FY 2025

FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Total
Spent	Spent	Spent	Gov	
\$6.8M	\$7.8M	\$7.8M	\$2.0M	\$24.5M

Child Care

- DCYF provides child care subsidies for children in foster care/adopted
 - Governor recommends \$6.9 million for FY 2026
 - Reflects updated rates and population estimates
 - Shifts some funding from GR to TANF block grants

	General Revenues	All Funds
FY 2025 Enacted	\$2.1	\$7.2
FY 2025 Revised	\$2.1	\$6.5
FY 2026 Governor	\$1.9	\$6.9
Change	\$ (0.2)	\$(0.3)

\$ in millions

Children's Rights Settlement

2007

- Children's Rights & Office of Child Advocate filed lawsuit
- Alleging abuse & neglect in foster care system

2008-2018

- Several years of litigation & appeals
- Mediation began 2015
- Settlement approved 2018

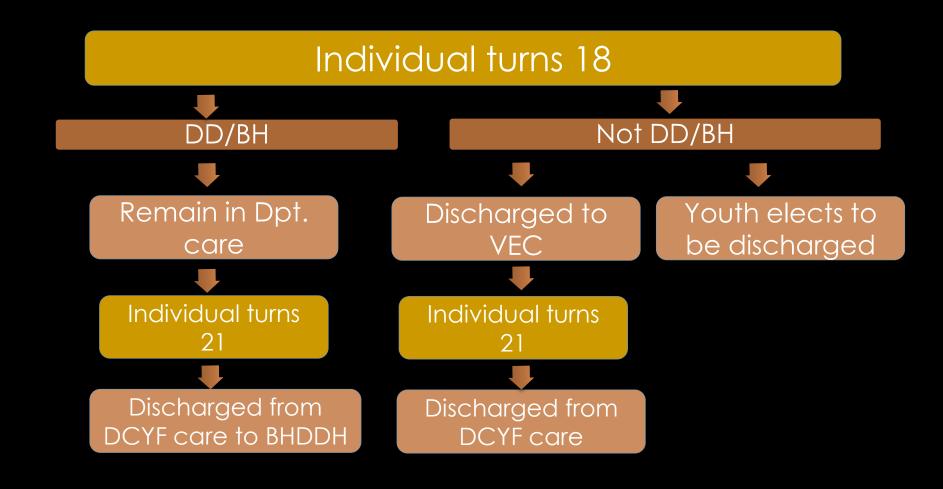
2018-Present

- 12 reporting periods on 20+ commitments
- Independent data validator and OCA monitor
- As of June 2024, DCYF met all commitments
- Determining next steps to exit agreement completely

18-21 Year Olds

- Youth remain under full DCYF care until age 18
 - Anyone not behaviorally or developmentally disabled not authorized to remain in congregate care after their 18th birthday
 - May receive transitional services
 - These youth are supposed to exit into the Voluntary Extension of Care

18-21 Process



Voluntary Extension of Care

- February 1, 2025 92
 program participants
 - Similar to prior years
- Governor recommends \$0.1 million more than enacted
- VEC services are not for those 18 and older who stay on caseload under statutory exception

Voluntary Extension of Care				
FY 2024 Reported	\$1.3			
FY 2025 Enacted	\$1.4			
FY 2025 Revised	\$1.4			
FY 2026 Governor	\$1.5			

\$ in millions

Higher Education Funds

- Annual higher education support provided to foster youth
 - \$0.2 million from GR, \$0.4 million from FF
 - FY 2025 enacted budget made program changes to expand eligibility & outreach
 - Also included \$1.0 million ARPA for limited
 Foster Care Youth Scholarship at RIC in OPC

	Enacted	Governor FY 2026
General Revenues	\$0.2	\$0.2
Federal Funds	0.2	0.4
Total	\$0.4	\$0.6

- Rhode Island Training School for Youth
 - Highly structured, secure facility for youth placed by order of Family Court on a finding of waywardness or delinquency
 - 24 hour/365 day residential school providing housing, food services, clothing, medical care, education and assessments

Fiscal Year	Population Average
2020	40
2021	23
2022	36
2023	47
2024	40
2025*	37

^{*} Through February

	FY 2024 Final	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Gov	Chg.
Institutional Support	\$14.2	\$14.8	\$16.4	\$15.8	\$1.1
Educational Services	3.1	3.1	3.7	3.9	0.8
Probation	5.4	5.4	4.8	5.4	(0.0)
Total	\$22.7	\$23.3	\$24.9	\$25.1	\$1.8
FTE	140.0	148.0	140.0	140.0	(8.0)

^{\$} in millions, excludes RTF RICAP funding

- FY 2025 enacted budget added 8.0 FTEs
 - Funded primarily from overtime savings
- Governor's budget moves FTEs to children's behavioral health
 - Department indicates this was unintentional
 - However, there have been lower training school population & hiring difficulties
 - Also includes COLA and assumes \$0.5 million savings by further reducing overtime

- FY 2024 overtime spending \$0.6M more than budgeted
- FY 2025 overtime reflects FY 2024 spending
 - "Savings" of \$0.5M still \$0.8M more than enacted

YDS Overtime			
FY 2023 Spent	\$2.4M		
FY 2024 Final	\$2.4M		
FY 2024 Spent	\$3.0M		
FY 2025 Enacted	\$1.7M		
FY 2025 Revised	\$3.0M		
FY 2026 Governor	\$2.5M		

- Juvenile Probation
 - Supervises
 adolescents placed
 on probation by the
 Family Court
 - February 1, 2025 –197 youth on Probation

Fiscal Year	Population Average
2020	322
2021	208
2022	165
2023	256
2024	212
2025*	217

^{*}Through January

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DCYF Other Capital

Project	Status	Cost	Financing	End Date
RICHIST System Replacement	Revised	\$56.9	GR/FF/LSIF	FY 2027
Training School Asset Protection	Ongoing	\$3.1	RICAP	Annual

^{\$} in millions

Child Welfare System Replacement - RICHIST

- Approved plan includes \$56.7 million to replace case management system
- Governor's budget
 - \$56.9 million total, assumes 50% federal split
 - \$3.8 million GR, \$28.5 million FF, \$24.7 million
 Large Systems Initiative Fund
 - Completion still assumed for FY 2027 in capital plan

HFC 3/4 – Article 9 – State Leases

- 101 Friendship St., Providence
 - Currently houses DCYF's main office
 - 99,500 square feet
 - Current lease expires on Nov. 30, 2025
 - 10-year lease began on Dec. 1, 2015
 - Approval is for 10-year renewal
- FY 2026 budget includes \$2.3 million from general revenues

Other Expenses

- Placement monitoring \$2.1M
 - Expenses to oversee youth and facilities
 - \$0.9 million more than enacted
- Temporary Staff \$2.6M
 - \$3.3M FY 2025 revised
 - Includes outside consultant to support finance staff
 - Retaining former CFO as contractor to support transition
- Technology \$5.4M
 - \$0.5 million more than enacted
 - Keeps up with prior spending

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