

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 of Children and Family Services 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 is also responsible for the operation of 37 residential and 8 day placement facilities statewide serving nearly 2,000 youth. The workforce for fiscal year 2004-05 is estimated at 3,853 positions.

FISCAL BACKGROUND AND BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The Office of Children and Family Services receives 40 percent of its \$3.6 billion budget from State tax dollars and 60 percent from Federal and other funds. The State Operations budget of \$409 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 2004-05 Executive Budget reduces State Operations General Fund support for OCFS by \$11.28 million through cost savings measures that range from maximization of Federal funding to full implementation of a juvenile justice program restructuring initiated in 2003-04.

The Local Assistance budget of \$3.19 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 \$20 million support the maintenance of the State-operated juvenile justice facilities in order to provide a safe living environment, appropriate education, recreation and vocational program space; and an appropriate level of security for youth while they are in residential care.

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The Executive Budget provides more than \$1.8 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 \$2.4 million in 2004-05, from \$344.9 million to \$347.3 million, to support this child welfare funding source.
- **Investments in Child Welfare Quality Enhancement:** OCFS will distribute \$1.9 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to counties and not-for-profit groups in 2004-05 to promote the development of innovative child welfare service delivery models.
- **A Flexible Foster Care Block Grant:** The Executive Budget continues funding for a \$364.5 million Foster Care Block Grant that provides counties with a clear incentive to reduce the number of children in foster care. Under the Block Grant, savings

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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. OCFS will again distribute \$9 million in General Fund support outside the Foster Care Block Grant to fund the cost of a COLA for direct care workers in foster care agencies that took effect December 1, 2002.

As part of an overall effort to target limited TANF resources to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other direct assistance for needy families, the 2004-05 Executive Budget reduces the transfer of Federal TANF funds to the Title XX Block Grant from the maximum of 10 percent to 5 percent. In order to mitigate much of this reduction, State funding at the 65 percent level will continue to be available on an open-ended basis.

Within the TANF Block Grant, \$286 million is again set aside for children and their families facing emergency situations. The Executive Budget also provides \$5.95 million in TANF funding to support the full cost of locally-developed services necessary to prevent placement of persons-in need of supervision (PINS) in costly institutional settings such as non-secure detention.

The Executive Budget includes \$172 million for the State's share of subsidies provided to families who adopt children with special needs. These funds will support approximately 47,000 children in adoptive homes. SFY 2003-04 funds will remain available through 2004-05 for the \$1 million Adoption Now initiative intended to expedite the adoption of foster children in targeted areas.

The 2004-05 recommendation will decrease TANF funding for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services (APPS) by \$1.7 million, from \$7.67 million to \$5.95 million. OCFS will act in 2004-05 to ensure that remaining APPS resources are targeted to the most effective programs.

CHILD CARE

The Executive Budget maintains funding for the State Child Care Block Grant at \$929 million. Using a combination of Federal, State, local and available prior year funding, the 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 Family Assistance. The State also provides subsidized child care to families at risk of becoming dependent on Family Assistance. Each social services district receives a single grant that enables it to tailor its expenditures to meet local needs and to comply with mandated work participation requirements for Family Assistance.

The Budget increases funding for Advantage After-School programs to \$20.2 million, thereby restoring a \$10 million reduction included in the final 2003-04 State budget. This program offers educational and recreational after-school activities for elementary, middle and high school students and funds community-based organizations demonstrating the ability to work collaboratively with schools, child care providers and other community providers for after-school programming. As in 2003-04, Advantage Schools will be fully supported in 2004-05 with Federal TANF funds.

YOUTH FACILITIES

The Youth Facilities Program includes the Office's 37 residential facilities and 8 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 training designed to promote positive youth development and foster a youth's return to the community as a law-abiding and productive citizen.

The 2004-05 Executive Budget fully implements an OCFS juvenile justice program reform that reduces overall State spending through a targeted expansion of community-based services and a reduction in the number of State-operated youth facility beds. In 2004-05, OCFS will invest \$6 million in Evidence-based Community Initiative (EbCI) programs

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designed to reduce the rate of recidivism among non-violent youths through the use of local non-profit agencies providing services ranging from family-based counseling to specialized after-school programs. Combined with a declining facility population, EbCI has allowed OCFS to reduce its facility capacity by approximately 290 beds.

SYSTEMS

The Executive Budget continues approximately \$50 million in State and Federal funding to operate and continue development of CONNECTIONS, the State's child welfare information system. Once completed, CONNECTIONS will electronically transmit reports of child abuse or neglect from the State's Child Abuse Hotline to local governments to enhance case management and afford children and families greater protections.

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 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 and municipalities, and community-based not-for-profit agencies for the provision of youth development and delinquency prevention programs. The 2004-05 Budget continues nearly \$38 million in General Fund support for these programs.

The State Child Abuse Hotline receives more than 330,000 calls each year reporting alleged child maltreatment or abuse through a toll-free 800 telephone number. As a result, 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 familial child abuse.

OCFS also oversees a variety of programs serving the State's most needy and vulnerable adult residents. Many of these programs serve the public assistance population and play an important role as the State and its localities implement welfare reform. 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.

Legislation accompanying the 2004-05 Executive Budget creates a new \$56 million Detention Block Grant designed to discourage excessive lengths of stay in detention while promoting the creation of new preventive program models. Counties will be able to access State 65 percent open-ended reimbursement as well as TANF funding dedicated to support new community-based services that allow youth to remain with their families in the community as an alternative to detention.

ALL FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS (dollars)

Category	Available 2003-04	Appropriations Recommended 2004-05	Change	Reappropriations Recommended 2004-05
State Operations	420,185,000	409,158,500	(11,026,500)	271,733,000
Aid To Localities	3,258,505,100	3,191,231,000	(67,274,100)	3,240,567,400
Capital Projects	20,030,000	20,025,000	(5,000)	75,116,000
Total	<u>3,698,720,100</u>	<u>3,620,414,500</u>	<u>(78,305,600)</u>	<u>3,587,416,400</u>

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

Program	Full-Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)		
	2003-04	2004-05	FTE Change
	Estimated FTEs 03/31/04	Estimated FTEs 03/31/05	
Central Administration			
General Fund	357	338	(19)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	6	6	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	79	79	0
Child Care			
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	235	235	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	14	14	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	163	163	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	410	405	(5)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	79	79	0
National and Community Service, Office of			
General Fund	4	4	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	5	5	0
Systems Support			
General Fund	142	138	(4)
Training and Development			
Special Revenue Funds - Other	52	52	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	2,323	2,323	0
Total	<u>3,881</u>	<u>3,853</u>	<u>(28)</u>

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

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2003-04	2004-05	
General Fund	210,448,500	199,167,500	(11,281,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	75,330,000	76,760,000	1,430,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	133,806,500	132,631,000	(1,175,500)
Enterprise Funds	500,000	500,000	0
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Total	<u>420,185,000</u>	<u>409,158,500</u>	<u>(11,026,500)</u>

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

Program	Available 2003-04	Recommended 2004-05	Change
Central Administration			
General Fund	32,873,400	30,965,500	(1,907,900)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,986,000	500,000	(1,486,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	18,200,500	18,125,000	(75,500)
Internal Service Funds	100,000	100,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped			
General Fund	8,456,000	8,456,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	25,544,000	26,260,000	716,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,902,000	1,902,000	0
Departmental Administrative Reimbursement			
General Fund	(42,643,000)	(41,043,000)	1,600,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	49,143,000	47,543,000	(1,600,000)
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	30,003,100	29,686,000	(317,100)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	17,800,000	20,000,000	2,200,000
Special Revenue Funds - Other	1,046,000	1,546,000	500,000
Systems Support			
General Fund	27,151,000	27,389,000	238,000
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	30,000,000	30,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	10,000,000	10,000,000	0
Training and Development			
General Fund	7,514,000	7,514,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Other	53,515,000	53,515,000	0
Enterprise Funds	200,000	200,000	0
Youth Facilities			
General Fund	147,094,000	136,200,000	(10,894,000)
Enterprise Funds	300,000	300,000	0
Total	<u>420,185,000</u>	<u>409,158,500</u>	<u>(11,026,500)</u>

STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF PERSONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2004-05 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service Regular (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	19,554,000	(1,157,000)	18,140,000	(1,202,000)
Family and Children Services	20,607,000	(590,000)	19,663,000	(607,100)
Systems Support	5,881,000	156,000	5,760,000	156,000
Youth Facilities	108,000,000	(11,558,000)	96,354,000	(11,954,000)
Total	<u>154,042,000</u>	<u>(13,149,000)</u>	<u>139,917,000</u>	<u>(13,607,100)</u>

Program	Temporary Service (Nonannual Salaried)		Holiday/Overtime Pay (Annual Salaried)	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,167,000	37,000	247,000	8,000
Family and Children Services	0	(6,000)	944,000	23,100
Systems Support	0	0	121,000	0
Youth Facilities	5,739,000	180,000	5,907,000	216,000
Total	<u>6,906,000</u>	<u>211,000</u>	<u>7,219,000</u>	<u>247,100</u>

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STATE OPERATIONS - GENERAL AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF NONPERSONAL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE UNDISTRIBUTED APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2004-05 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Supplies and Materials	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	11,411,500	(750,900)	208,000	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,456,000	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	9,079,000	272,900	595,000	6,000
Systems Support	21,508,000	82,000	233,000	8,000
Training and Development	7,514,000	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	28,200,000	664,000	9,869,000	(720,000)
Total	86,168,500	268,000	10,905,000	(706,000)

Program	Travel		Contractual Services	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	534,000	0	8,870,800	(245,100)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	372,000	12,000	8,082,000	253,900
Systems Support	52,000	2,000	10,590,000	64,000
Training and Development	0	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	849,000	(63,000)	12,444,000	(936,000)
Total	1,807,000	(49,000)	39,986,800	(863,200)

Program	Equipment		General State Charges	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	385,200	0	0	(5,800)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	0	0
Family and Children Services	30,000	1,000	0	0
Systems Support	233,000	8,000	0	0
Training and Development	0	0	0	0
Youth Facilities	1,088,000	(80,000)	0	0
Total	1,736,200	(71,000)	0	(5,800)

Program	Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,413,500	(500,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	8,456,000	0
Family and Children Services	0	0
Systems Support	10,400,000	0
Training and Development	7,514,000	0
Youth Facilities	3,950,000	2,463,000
Total	31,733,500	1,963,000

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STATE OPERATIONS - OTHER THAN GENERAL FUND AND OFFSET FUNDS SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGES 2004-05 RECOMMENDED (dollars)

Program	Total		Personal Service	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	18,725,000	(1,561,500)	0	0
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	28,162,000	716,000	0	0
Family and Children Services	21,546,000	2,700,000	0	0
Systems Support	40,000,000	0	0	0
Training and Development	53,715,000	0	1,662,000	0
Youth Facilities	300,000	0	0	0
Total	162,448,000	1,854,500	1,662,000	0

Program	Nonpersonal Service		Maintenance Undistributed	
	Amount	Change	Amount	Change
Central Administration	1,925,000	(500)	16,800,000	(1,561,000)
Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped	0	0	28,162,000	716,000
Family and Children Services	7,700,000	2,700,000	13,846,000	0
Systems Support	0	0	40,000,000	0
Training and Development	3,224,000	0	48,829,000	0
Youth Facilities	300,000	0	0	0
Total	13,149,000	2,699,500	147,637,000	(845,000)

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

Fund Type	Available	Recommended	Change
	2003-04	2004-05	
General Fund	1,230,617,100	1,228,959,000	(1,658,100)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	2,012,108,000	1,946,492,000	(65,616,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,780,000	15,780,000	0
Total	3,258,505,100	3,191,231,000	(67,274,100)

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

Program	Available	Recommended	Change
	2003-04	2004-05	
Child Care			
General Fund	96,066,000	96,066,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	768,000,000	735,000,000	(33,000,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	250,000	350,000	100,000
Family and Children Services			
General Fund	1,129,551,100	1,127,893,000	(1,658,100)
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	1,215,670,000	1,183,054,000	(32,616,000)
Special Revenue Funds - Other	15,530,000	15,430,000	(100,000)
Training and Development			
General Fund	5,000,000	5,000,000	0
Special Revenue Funds - Federal	28,438,000	28,438,000	0
Total	3,258,505,100	3,191,231,000	(67,274,100)

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

Comprehensive Construction Program	Available 2003-04	Recommended 2004-05	Change	Reappropriations 2004-05
Design and Construction Supervision				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	4,000,000	5,000,000	1,000,000	6,034,000
Child Care Facilities Development Program				
Capital Projects Fund - Authority Bonds	0	0	0	8,724,000
Maintenance and Improvement of Facilities				
Capital Projects Fund	2,930,000	1,325,000	(1,605,000)	7,861,000
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	11,000,000	13,700,000	2,700,000	32,387,000
Executive Direction and Administrative Services				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	270,000
Misc. Capital Projects	0	0	0	3,625,000
Program Improvement or Program Change				
Youth Facilities Improvement Fund	2,100,000	0	(2,100,000)	10,416,000
Youth Center				
Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0	5,799,000
Total	<u>20,030,000</u>	<u>20,025,000</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>75,116,000</u>