

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Sequestration Mitigation



ML Request	FY15	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE				
GF-State	\$3,554,000	\$3,554,000	\$3,554,000	\$7,108,000
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Children’s Administration (CA) requests \$3,554,000 GF-State per year in order to mitigate reduced federal funding from the federal budget sequestration. By funding this request, CA is expected to continue services to children and families including child care, psychological evaluation and treatment, and respite care and maintain appropriate staffing levels.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

CA receives funding from a number of federal funding sources. CA blends and maximizes funding to provide the full breadth of services needed by children and families involved in our system. The final sequestration decisions at the federal level have resulted in a gap in funding for child welfare services currently funded by Title IV-B and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

CA currently uses these funding sources to purchase a variety of services including:

- Child care for children with their parents where additional supervision is needed to keep the child safe
- Child care for children in out of home care when foster parents are working
- Evaluation and Treatment for parents and children
- Respite and short-term foster care
- Efforts to reunite families or prevent placement of children into out of home care
- Social workers and other supportive staff

If CA does not secure state funds to replace these lost federal funds, we will have to pursue reductions in some of these critical areas, reduce other programs including front end services to families, and/or reduce staff which will cause already high caseloads to increase to unacceptable levels.



DSHS VISION
 People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

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CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION Sequestration Mitigation



PROPOSED SOLUTION

CA requests GF-State funding to avert a disruption or elimination of critical services to children and families in child welfare commenced by the 7.2 percent federal budget sequestration. This funding is necessary to maintain the current level of support CA provides to clients, which is vital based on the Caseload Forecast Council's projected growth in CA caseloads. In addition, CA has very few non-mandatory areas in which reductions can be safely achieved.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 3: Protection - Each individual who is vulnerable will be protected. The decision package is essential to implementing the CA's Strategic Objectives- 3.1: Percentage of alleged child victims seen by a social worker within 24 hours of the intake in emergent cases will increase; 3.2: Percentage of children in placement who received a visit to evaluate their health and safety during a calendar month they were in care will increase; 3.4: Percentage of children not re-entering placement within 12 months of reunification will increase; 3.7: Number of full-time Child Protective Services workers with more than 25 cases will decrease; 3.8: Number of Child Protective Services investigations open more than 90 days will decrease; and 3.9: Percentage of children in foster care longer than five years will decrease.

This decision package supports the Results Washington goals to help keep people safe in their homes, on their jobs, and in their communities and decrease the percent of children in out-of-home placement five years or more.

This request will help keep children safely in their own homes, reunify with their families, and help support the permanency and stability all children deserve. The loss of this funding is significant to services that are necessary for the children and families involved with the child welfare system. If not funded, services will be reduced and eliminated which is likely to increase the number of children in out of home care.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Service delivery for children and families is critical to child safety and permanency, which includes services funded by Title IV-B and SSBG, and has consistently been rated a priority for child welfare advocates.

The service areas funded by Title IV-B and SSBG are very popular programs with the advocates and the legislators. Previous attempts to reduce some of these programs have resulted in significant political pressure to reinstate them.



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