

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Child Protective Services Workload



2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	93.4	93.4	93.4
GF-State	\$6,458,000	\$5,922,000	\$12,380,000
Total	\$8,387,000	\$7,691,000	\$16,078,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Children's Administration requests additional staff in order to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect within 90 days. By funding this request, CA is expected to ensure that families with suspected abuse or neglect are seen within 24 or 72 hours and that investigations are completed within 90 days

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Since 2012 CA experienced an increase in the number of calls reporting child abuse and neglect. In 2012 CA received close to 94,000 calls; by Fiscal Year 2014 it was up to 104,000 calls. This has translated into an increase in the number of allegations requiring a 24 hour or 72 hour response. In general, approximately 35 percent of calls are screened-in for a response by Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS cases must all be closed within 90 days per state statute. In the summer of 2013, CA was able to apply new staff and overtime to reduce the number of cases open longer than 90 days. However, as screened-in cases have increased and with no increase in staffs, the numbers of cases open longer than 90 days also has increased.

During this same time period, CA received 20 additional CPS positions but based upon 2014 workload analysis, CA estimates it would need approximately 80 new CPS positions statewide to ensure that investigations are happening in a timely manner.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

CA proposes hiring 80.8 CPS positions, 5.4 supervisors, and 7.2 clerical support staffs per year. Workload recommendations for the CPS workers are they do not receive more than eight new cases each month. Additional supervisors and clerical staffs are required to support the social workers.

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; 3.7: Number of full-time Child Protective Services workers with more than 25 cases will decrease; and 3.8: Number of Child Protective Services investigations opened more than 90 days will decrease.



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

DSHS MISSION
 To transform lives

DSHS VALUES
 Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION Child Protective Services Workload



2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

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 rate of children with founded allegations of child abuse and/or neglect.
- Increase the percent of child victims in Child Protective Service intakes seen by a social worker within 24 hours of the intake.

The CA staff will respond with a face to face contact within 24 hours or 72 hours of screening in an allegation. In addition, CA will be able to eliminate the number of cases open longer than 90 days without an acceptable exception (such as law enforcement involvement). Children will be safer and the department will have less liability if it is able to visit children in a timely manner and quickly resolve cases.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Stakeholders will generally support additional resources being placed into CPS as it is the front door to the child welfare system and therefore critical to the health of the entire system.



DSHS VISION

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

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service