

CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION
Family Reconciliation Services
2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



Reduction Option	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	(29.0)	(29.0)	(29.0)
GF-State	(\$1,680,000)	(\$1,680,000)	(\$3,360,000)
Total	(\$2,210,000)	(\$2,210,000)	(\$4,420,000)

REDUCTION OPTION SUMMARY

As required by 2015-17 Biennial Budget Instructions, the Children's Administration (CA) is submitting the following reduction option that would eliminate Family Reconciliation Services. By implementing this reduction, CA expects to see an increase in the number of homeless youth or youth living in unsafe conditions.

REDUCTION OPTION DETAIL

CA conducts a voluntary program, Family Reconciliation Services (FRS), for runaway adolescents and youth in conflict with their families. This program uses CA social workers to work with adolescents, ages 12 through 17, and their families to evaluate the needs of the family and provide services to stabilize the family and prevent future crisis. Services provided under FRS can include short-term family counseling, referrals for substance abuse treatment or mental health services, and occasionally short-term placement in out of home care. 890 families, on average, were served each month during Fiscal Year 2014.

To eliminate the Family Reconciliation Services program, CA will need to seek legislative changes to RCW 74.13.031(5) as it currently requires the department to offer, on a voluntary basis, family reconciliation services to families in conflict. In addition, RCW 13.32A.100 states that the department "shall make available" FRS to children in out-of-home placements in order to facilitate reunification of the family.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The Washington Association of Youth Advocates has repeatedly requested to not only maintain but increase funding for services to adolescents. Likewise, parties including congressional delegates and current and former judges have interest in maintaining adolescent services, especially for those adolescents engaged in or at risk of being engaged in commercial sex trafficking.



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