

Department of Children and Families

DCF91000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
General Fund	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,945	2,945	2,974	2,974

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	286,017,120	285,854,291	309,141,905	299,712,493	299,712,493	303,233,500	303,233,500
Other Expenses	30,798,917	30,668,135	28,837,956	25,350,159	25,350,159	31,137,956	31,137,956
Other Current Expenses							
Family Support Services	1,035,708	1,064,018	1,037,746	1,064,233	1,064,233	1,064,233	1,064,233
Differential Response System	9,037,860	9,315,522	9,140,302	9,367,256	9,367,256	9,367,256	9,367,256
Regional Behavioral Health Consultation	1,720,116	1,835,695	1,792,453	1,838,167	1,838,167	1,838,167	1,838,167
Community Care Coordination	8,196,582	8,957,944	8,734,955	8,957,944	8,957,944	8,957,944	8,957,944
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Health Assessment and Consultation	1,521,847	1,561,995	1,558,211	1,596,776	1,596,776	1,596,776	1,596,776
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	16,630,598	18,098,876	17,749,403	18,130,105	18,130,105	17,880,105	17,880,105
Day Treatment Centers for Children	7,959,273	8,046,230	8,014,992	8,219,601	8,219,601	8,219,601	8,219,601
Child Abuse and Neglect Intervention	10,505,021	9,980,915	9,751,391	9,988,016	9,988,016	9,988,016	9,988,016
Community Based Prevention Programs	8,943,495	9,297,639	9,212,132	9,407,655	9,407,655	9,657,655	9,657,655
Family Violence Outreach and Counseling	3,959,383	3,898,171	3,926,815	4,009,230	4,009,230	4,009,230	4,009,230
Supportive Housing	20,805,454	21,179,806	20,805,454	21,180,221	21,180,221	21,180,221	21,180,221
No Nexus Special Education	1,732,853	1,773,850	2,396,390	2,452,640	2,452,640	2,452,640	2,452,640
Family Preservation Services	7,165,737	7,239,251	7,062,473	7,242,683	7,242,683	7,242,683	7,242,683
Substance Abuse Treatment	9,002,557	9,890,878	9,738,188	9,929,982	9,929,982	9,929,982	10,073,982
Child Welfare Support Services	2,467,710	2,530,296	2,804,494	2,854,163	2,854,163	2,854,163	2,854,163
Board and Care for Children - Adoption	106,286,349	105,755,102	106,884,511	106,884,511	106,884,511	106,884,511	106,884,511
Board and Care for Children - Foster	110,815,045	114,948,001	121,399,713	123,521,818	123,521,818	123,521,818	123,521,818
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	61,673,425	64,660,509	68,855,247	65,628,396	65,628,396	65,628,396	65,628,396
Individualized Family Supports	3,295,035	3,783,841	3,821,264	3,871,304	3,871,304	3,871,304	3,871,304
Community Kidcare	47,145,414	48,398,654	47,294,772	52,411,129	52,411,129	52,411,129	61,011,129
Covenant to Care	179,370	183,944	181,332	185,911	185,911	185,911	185,911
Juvenile Review Boards	1,691,749	1,734,888	6,000,000	3,897,957	6,043,187	3,897,957	6,043,187
Youth Transition and Success Programs	490,545	996,192	991,421	1,016,220	1,016,220	1,016,220	1,016,220
Love146	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Youth Service Bureaus	2,677,876	2,727,244	2,733,240	2,733,240	2,733,240	2,733,240	2,733,240
Youth Service Bureau Enhancement	1,115,089	1,111,934	1,115,161	1,115,161	1,115,161	1,115,161	1,115,161

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Agency Total - General Fund	762,870,128	775,493,821	810,981,921	802,566,971	804,712,201	812,375,775	823,265,005

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Maintain Information Technology Functions in DCF

Personal Services	(3,521,007)	(3,521,007)	-	-	3,521,007	3,521,007
Other Expenses	(5,487,797)	(5,487,797)	-	-	5,487,797	5,487,797
Total - General Fund	(9,008,804)	(9,008,804)	-	-	9,008,804	9,008,804
Positions - General Fund	(29)	(29)	-	-	29	29

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget consolidates IT positions from five agencies across the General Fund and Special Transportation Fund into the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). In total, 158 positions and \$65 million are transferred in FY 26 and FY 27.

Governor

Transfer 29 positions and \$9,008,804 to DAS in both FY 26 and FY 27.

Legislative

Maintain IT positions and related funding in DCF.

Adjust Funding to Reflect Delayed Implementation of Prearrest Diversion Plan

Juvenile Review Boards	(2,145,230)	-	(2,145,230)	-	-	-
Total - General Fund	(2,145,230)	-	(2,145,230)	-	-	-

Background

Annual funding of \$4,290,461 was first appropriated in FY 24 to support the implementation of plans for prearrest diversion of low-risk children, and automatic prearrest diversion of children to the community-based diversion system or other community-based service providers, in lieu of arrest for first or second offenses, per Section 1 of PA 23-188 (*An Act Concerning Juvenile Justice*). To date, programming has not been initiated.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$2,145,230 in FY 26 to reflect delayed implementation of prearrest diversion programming for children. Half-year funding for this initiative is maintained in FY 26.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Suspend Private Residential Treatment Center Rate Increases

Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	(592,298)	(592,298)	(592,298)	(592,298)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(592,298)	(592,298)	(592,298)	(592,298)	-	-

Background

Section 24 of PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, suspends residential treatment center room and board rate adjustments pursuant to the Single Cost Accounting System (SCAS) in both FY 26 and FY 27. (See the corresponding adjustment in Current Services.)

Governor

Eliminate funding of \$592,298 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for SCAS room and board rate increases for private residential treatment centers. Funding of \$56,250 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for the No Nexus Special Education account remains to support SCAS rate increases for education services.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Love146

Love146	-	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

Background

Love146 is the primary specialized statewide service provider supporting youth who have been trafficked. The organization works to prevent child trafficking and provide holistic expert support to survivors.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$500,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support Love146.

Provide Funding for Thames River Community Service

Other Expenses	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$250,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support Thames River Community Service.

Provide Funding for Child First

Community Based Prevention Programs	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000

Background

Child First is an intensive in-home therapy to address learning problems and emotional, behavioral, and developmental challenges of young children. It helps families build strong, nurturing relationships with their children to minimize the impact of trauma and stress. Child First offers comprehensive assessment, parent-child treatment, early care and education support, and care coordination and case management.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$250,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to the Community Based Prevention Programs account to support Child First programming.

Eliminate Funding for Pawcatuck Mental Health Services

Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	-	-	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)
Total - General Fund	-	-	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)

Background

Funding was first provided in FY 23 to support a grant to the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT to expand mental health services in Pawcatuck.

Legislative

Eliminate funding of \$250,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for Pawcatuck mental health services.

Provide Funding for Family-Based Recovery Program

Substance Abuse Treatment	-	-	-	144,000	-	144,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	144,000	-	144,000

Background

Family-Based Recovery (FBR) is an intensive, in-home, evidence-based clinical treatment model for families with infants or young children who are at risk for abuse and/or neglect, poor developmental outcomes, or removal from their homes due to parental substance abuse. FBR was added to the DCF service array in 2008. The program was developed in Connecticut by DCF, Johns Hopkins University, and the Yale Child Study Center.

The FBR Model Development and Operations program at the Yale Child Study Center provides initial and ongoing training and clinical consultation to support FBR providers in treating high-needs families and reducing the likelihood of out-of-home placements.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Legislative

Provide funding of \$144,000 in FY 27 to the Substance Abuse Treatment account to support the FBR Model Development and Operations program at the Yale Child Study Center.

Provide Funding for Left Hearts

Other Expenses	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

Legislative

Provide funding of \$50,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support Left Hearts.

Current Services**Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements**

Personal Services	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	(18,000,000)	-	-

Governor

Reduce funding by \$18 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	12,091,595	12,091,595	12,091,595	12,091,595	-	-
Total - General Fund	12,091,595	12,091,595	12,091,595	12,091,595	-	-

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$12,091,595 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding for Mobile Crisis Intervention Response

Community Kidcare	-	-	-	8,600,000	-	8,600,000
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	8,600,000	-	8,600,000

Background

Connecticut is expected to receive more than \$600 million over 18 years as part of nationwide opioid litigation settlement agreements with various pharmaceutical distributors and opioid manufacturers. The Opioid Settlement Fund (OSF) is a separate, nonlapsing fund administered by the Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee with assistance from DMHAS. Expenditures must be approved by the Committee and used in accordance with the controlling judgment, consent decree, or settlement.

Governor

Provide \$8.6 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 from the OSF to maintain statewide 24/7 in-person pediatric mobile crisis intervention response. Prior to the allocation of ARPA funding, the mobile crisis network relied on telephonic interventions for overnight hours and some weekend hours.

Legislative

Provide \$8.6 million in FY 27 from the General Fund to the Community Kidcare account to support statewide 24/7 in-person pediatric mobile crisis intervention response.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Annualize Private Provider COLA Funding

Family Support Services	26,487	26,487	26,487	26,487	-	-
Differential Response System	226,954	226,954	226,954	226,954	-	-
Regional Behavioral Health Consultation	45,714	45,714	45,714	45,714	-	-
Community Care Coordination	222,989	222,989	222,989	222,989	-	-
Health Assessment and Consultation	38,565	38,565	38,565	38,565	-	-
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	380,702	380,702	380,702	380,702	-	-
Day Treatment Centers for Children	204,609	204,609	204,609	204,609	-	-
Child Abuse and Neglect Intervention	236,625	236,625	236,625	236,625	-	-
Community Based Prevention Programs	195,523	195,523	195,523	195,523	-	-
Family Violence Outreach and Counseling	82,415	82,415	82,415	82,415	-	-
Supportive Housing	374,767	374,767	374,767	374,767	-	-
Family Preservation Services	180,210	180,210	180,210	180,210	-	-
Substance Abuse Treatment	220,451	220,451	220,451	220,451	-	-
Child Welfare Support Services	49,669	49,669	49,669	49,669	-	-
Board and Care for Children - Foster	2,122,105	2,122,105	2,122,105	2,122,105	-	-
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	773,149	773,149	773,149	773,149	-	-
Individualized Family Supports	50,040	50,040	50,040	50,040	-	-
Community Kidcare	1,116,357	1,116,357	1,116,357	1,116,357	-	-
Covenant to Care	4,579	4,579	4,579	4,579	-	-
Juvenile Review Boards	43,187	43,187	43,187	43,187	-	-
Youth Transition and Success Programs	24,799	24,799	24,799	24,799	-	-
Total - General Fund	6,619,896	6,619,896	6,619,896	6,619,896	-	-

Background

Private provider organizations contract to provide direct health and human services for clients of various state agencies, including: the Departments of Aging and Disability Services, Children and Families, Correction, Developmental Services, Housing, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Public Health, Social Services, Veterans Affairs, the Office of Early Childhood, and the Judicial Department.

Governor

Provide funding of \$6,619,896 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support annualization of the private provider COLA.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Provide Funding to Support Anticipated Other Expenses Costs

Other Expenses	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-

Background

The FY 24 and FY 25 Budget included an Other Expenses reduction of \$667,856 in FY 25 in anticipation of savings from a proposed consolidation of DCF's Middletown and Meriden area offices. Subsequently, PA 24-81 allocated ARPA funds to support continued operation of both offices.

The sum of \$1,165,000 was added to DCF's original FY 24 Other Expenses appropriation, through deficiency appropriation and transfer of lapsing funds, to support departmental operations.

Governor

Provide \$2 million to the Other Expenses account in both FY 26 and FY 27 to maintain leased space in Middletown and support operational needs.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Provide Funding for Private Residential Treatment Facility Rate Increases

No Nexus Special Education	56,250	56,250	56,250	56,250	-	-
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	592,298	592,298	592,298	592,298	-	-
Total - General Fund	648,548	648,548	648,548	648,548	-	-

Background

Pursuant to regulation, the department reimburses each treatment center for the residential care of children under the commissioner's supervision on a per diem basis for residential care and educational services. The system for determining these per diem payment rates is known as the Single Cost Accounting System (SCAS). Under the SCAS, increases in the allowable cost components over the previous rate year are limited to the increase in the consumer price index plus 2% or the actual increase in allowable costs, whichever is less. (See also the corresponding adjustment in Policy Revisions.)

Governor

Provide funding of \$648,548 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to pay increased per diem reimbursement costs to private residential treatment facilities whose rates are established in accordance with SCAS regulations.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Programming for Multisystemic Therapy

Substance Abuse Treatment	(28,657)	(28,657)	(28,657)	(28,657)	-	-
Total - General Fund	(28,657)	(28,657)	(28,657)	(28,657)	-	-

Background

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is an intensive, in-home, community-based treatment for families of adolescents, 12-17 years of age, at risk of out-of-home placement because of delinquent or antisocial behaviors including substance abuse. DCF procures certain MST services in partnership with the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch. Contractual terms were revised in FY 25 to reflect reduced CSSD financial contributions. These revisions resulted in a savings to DCF.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$28,657 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to the Substance Abuse Treatment account to reflect current agency requirements.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Reallocate Voluntary Care Management Wrap-around Funding

Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	(4,000,000)	-	-
Community Kidcare	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	-
Total - General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-

Background

The Voluntary Care Management (VCM) program serves families having a child under the age of 18 with a primary diagnosis of an emotional, behavioral or substance use problem who experience challenges in accessing the services they need. The program's goals are to help families meet their own needs, increase their access to care, and connect to traditional and non-traditional supports in their community. DCF refers families to Carelon Behavioral Health, which assesses the child's and family's needs, assists in the development of a care plan, and makes referrals to ongoing clinical and supportive services. Carelon acts as a fiduciary for issuing payments of DCF funds to vendors for wrap-around services and/or supports provided to VCM-enrolled children and families.

Governor

Reallocate \$4 million in both FY 26 and FY 27 from the Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential account to the Community Kidcare account to consolidate VCM wrap-around funding.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	810,981,921	810,981,921	810,981,921	810,981,921	-	-
Policy Revisions	(11,746,332)	(9,601,102)	(1,937,528)	351,702	9,808,804	9,952,804
Current Services	3,331,382	3,331,382	3,331,382	11,931,382	-	8,600,000
Total Recommended - GF	802,566,971	804,712,201	812,375,775	823,265,005	9,808,804	18,552,804

Positions	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - GF	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,974	-	-
Policy Revisions	(29)	(29)	-	-	29	29
Total Recommended - GF	2,945	2,945	2,974	2,974	29	29