

OFFICE OF CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY ADVOCATE

Matthew Bernstein, Executive Director



Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request

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**O f f i c e o f C h i l d ,
Y o u t h & F a m i l y
A d v o c a t e**

Matthew Bernstein, Executive Director

Budget Development

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*Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request
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Y o u t h & F a m i l y
A d v o c a t e**

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Agency of Administration,
Office of Child, Youth & Family Advocate
FY 2025 Governor's Recommend Budget

MISSION: The Office of Child, Youth & Family Advocate (OCYFA): The fundamental mission of the OCYFA is to witness the strength, passion, humor, and pain of Vermont's most vulnerable children, youth, and families. The OCYFA promotes policy that gives young Vermonters hope, dignity, and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives, while also saving the state money, resources, and time.

Governor's Recommended Budget FY 2025
(\$.431 millions)



FY 2025 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

- FY25 budget request is \$431,786, plus new positions, which is a 4.4% total increase from the FY2024 budget.
- Office has been operating less than one year. Currently just two full-time employees, plus contractors.
- Office is independent, nonpartisan, transparent. Authentic focus on listening to, and improving outcomes for, Vermont's Children, Youth, and Families.
- Wrote a strong [first Annual Report](#) with recommendations that will serve as baseline and scaffold for future work.
- Toured facilities, spoke with impacted people. Formed relationships with top-level DCF policymakers. 2024 referrals up 100+% from 2023.
- Connected to state and national policy experts on law/policy, child development/brain science, state policy and implementation, network of 40+ advocate offices nationally.
- Service-delivery model of small office: low costs, light on feet. Focus on impact. Need critical mass of full-time employees to leverage these benefits.

February 13, 2024

Vermont Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate (“OCYFA”)

Budgetary Testimony, House Committee on Appropriations

Matthew Bernstein, Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Lauren Higbee, Deputy Advocate

Summary of Goals, Purpose, Mission of OCYFA

- Advance the interests and advocate for the welfare of Vermont’s children and youth:
 1. receiving services from DCF, or through funds provided by DCF.
 2. involved in the child protection system.
 3. involved in the juvenile justice system.

Summary of OCYFA Creation, First Year, FY25 Budget Request

- OCYFA created by H.265, Act 129 of 2022, signed by Gov. Scott on May 24, 2022.
- Stood up from scratch what is essentially a new Department. Advocate began work 2.27.23. Deputy Advocate began work 6.20.23. Currently two full-time employees, plus contractors.
- Wrote a strong [first Annual Report](#) that will serve as baseline and scaffold for future work.
- Visited youth in person, where they are. Toured facilities, spoke with impacted people. Formed relationships with top-level DCF policymakers. 2024 referrals up 100+% from 2023.
- Identified, right away, where the work is required. Picked up and elevated extant policy needs in the areas of the DCF data system, Title IV-E federal match money, juvenile justice.
- Report outlines crucial initiatives that will improve lives of VT children **and** save Vermont millions of dollars. Identified that our current system is incredibly expensive—a better one would cost *less*—if we invest now.
- FY25 request includes basic operating and three new positions. Basic operating budget is \$431,786, a 4.4% total increase from the FY24 budget. Three new positions are Lead Investigator, Legal/Policy Director, Data/Communications/Admin, totaling ~\$370k.

Summary of OCYFA Concept

- Independent, nonpartisan, transparent. Authentic focus on listening to, and improving outcomes for, Vermont’s Children, Youth, and Families.
- Not “oversight” of DCF. But rather policy-based, practice-based, fiscally conscious.
- Within VT govt, plugged into state systems (DCF, governor, legislature, courts) to reduce barriers, mitigate siloes. But truly independent and outside chain of command.
- Statute provides OCYFA unique Access to information and facilities (§ 3207), Cooperation of state agencies (§ 3208), Mandatory DCF reports to OCYFA of physical injury, restraint/seclusion, fatalities (§ 3206), Confidentiality (§ 3209).

- OCYFA connected to state and national policy experts on law/policy, child development/brain science, state policy and implementation (see CCWIS example below), network of 40+ advocate offices nationally.
- Assets: Flexible, adaptable, dynamic. Deficit: not as financially efficient.
- Service-delivery model of small office: low costs, light on feet. Basic website, focus on impact rather than glossy appearance.

Budget Request In More Depth

- Three new positions are full need. We understand that we may not get all of them. We do not plan to grow beyond a manageable size. The whole point is to be nimble and responsive.
 - 1. Lead Investigator. ~\$115k total cost to office, including benefits.
 - 2. Legal/Policy Director; General Counsel. ~\$140k total cost to office.
 - 3. Data / Communications / Admin. ~\$115k total cost to office.
- Goal is to create momentum, build capacity, so that existing systems can improve. E.g. New CCWIS brings in more federal money, creates new service structures, eases budgetary pressure on whole state.
- OCYFA pays for itself long-term by helping bring in federal money, saving Gen Fund dollars.
- Children are the right place to invest. Upstream. Reverse true too: if our policy works against us, then children are immensely costly. Current system almost could not be more expensive.
- Ombuds offices on average return \$22 for every dollar spent (Zinsser 2008).
- Tobacco settlement money: \$5M? unused ([2018 Act 11, Sec. C.105](#), p. 98) set aside to “incorporate innovative approaches to holistic reform and strategies to reduce the need for court intervention,” “relieve systemic resource and budget pressures,” and “lead to lasting changes.” This money could fund a position in our Office for 10+ years.

Annual Report Highlights I: Title IV-E / FFPSA—A New National Era for Child Welfare

- Title IV-E and FFPSA are huge, unleveraged opportunities for Vermont.
- Title IV-E is one of few uncapped sources of federal revenue.
- Legal framework already in place—does not rely on Congress. Bipartisan support.
- Regulatory and rules-based: the last few years have seen a high degree of innovation opportunities.
- Downside: regulatory and rules-based, requires state match, admin overhead. OCYFA is perfectly situated to provide this expertise.
- Q. What Could VT do with Title IV-E / FFPSA? A. Replace millions in General Fund dollars with federal money to:
 - Keep children with kin, elevate youth voice in court, reduce congregate care.
 - Bring high quality, evidence-based prevention programs to Vermont.

- Fund prevention-focused professional development, education, and training for workers in child-related fields, including childcare providers, mental health clinicians, mentors, birth parents, foster/kin caregivers, DCF workers, treatment providers, and school personnel.
- LGBTQ support for youth; Foster parent recruitment and retention strategies particularly for youth who are over-represented in congregate care; Services that are responsive to families who have experienced domestic violence; A continuum of supports and services for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care that are informed by research on optimal development.
- Legal support *for what we are already doing*; Cost of CHINS and delinquency attorneys; Training and other supports for GALs; “multidisciplinary representation,” including social work support, peer navigators, investigators, experts, and interpreters; Related “civil legal services” for families: housing, public benefits, RFAs
- A new CCWIS for Vermont: childadvocate.vermont.gov/datasystem.

Annual Report Highlights II: Restraint & Seclusion

- R/S: One of the most important issues for youth in foster care / juvenile justice.
- Despite statute requiring DCF reports to OCYFA, DCF sent only *one* restraint/seclusion data set for *one* facility in the Office’s first eight months in existence...” (Annual Report p. 56).
- Hospitals, residential treatment programs, and schools all have different rules, definitions, and reporting requirements. Varying definitions of escorts, physical restraint, mechanical restraint, chemical restraint, and seclusion.
- AOE not reporting R/S of children in custody to DCF.
- DCF has no central process for tracking R/S and reporting to OCYFA. For example, providers reporting R/S only to individual workers at DCF.
- Preliminary OCYFA info: Very high numbers of R/S of kids in custody.
- Prone restraints are legal in Vermont. Prone restraints have resulted in numerous deaths.
- OCYFA would like to conduct deeper analyses of R/S on children in Vermont, to include Restraint modality used, training, implementation, practice, debrief with youth, nursing assessment; type of seclusion—locked room, quiet room, sensory room, restricted exiting from communal spaces (RTP def); Individual Programmatic Review (target interventions based on higher utilization trends, individualized de-escalation plan revisions).
- These analyses are highly time-consuming.

Long-Term Goals for OCYFA

- Reduce number of children in foster care / Raise percentage of Vermont children who remain safely in their homes (VT removal rate disproportionately high).
- Reduce number of abuse/neglect court cases (CHINS) and juvenile justice cases (highly time consuming vs. other kinds of court cases, for both judicial officers and court staff).

- OCYFA analyses of DCF Missing Children List & DCF “Staffings” (w/ Casey Family Programs)
- Bring federal money to VT through robust FFPSA implementation.
- Increase evidence-based community services in Vermont, for children, youth, and families.
- Generate better data for DCF, OCYFA, legislature, courts, governor, public. Public-facing website with Know Your Rights information, court process explainers, data dashboard, resources on best practices.
- Improve outcomes (disproportionality) for protected classes, especially race, gender, disability, language access, New Americans.
- Improve daily working conditions for front-line stakeholders: families, DCF Family Support Workers, foster parents, respondent parents, GALs, older youth, infants, and others.

OCYFA Evidence-Based Data & Accountability Examples

- Number of youth in state custody restrained or secluded.
- DCF social worker caseloads data.
- Number and quality of evidence-based practice entities for children in VT.
- Qualitative assessments of residential care system and providers – boots on ground, ongoing, face-to-face contact with children and youth.
- Collaborate with community partners on outcomes for children post-DCF custody.
- Creation of public-facing informational website, track information requested.

OCYFA Internal Data Categories Examples:

- Complaints: number, age, acuity/urgency, subject matter (i.e. abuse/neglect v. JJ v. mental health, and categories within each), identity of reporter (i.e. youth report, parent, foster parent, DCF worker), outcome—investigation, information, referral.
- Facilities visited (goal for year one: visit every facility in Vermont).
- DCF offices visited (goal for year one: visit every DCF office in Vermont).
- Community organizations visited, presentations, legislative testimonies.
- Media appearance and topic (goal is quality not quantity).

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

IN ACCORDANCE WITH 33 V.S.A. § 3203(A)(6)

Submitted to: Governor Phil Scott
Vermont General Assembly
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
Senate Committee on Judiciary
House Committee on Human Services
House Committee on Judiciary

Prepared by: Matthew Bernstein
Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Lauren Higbee
Deputy Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Report Date: December 1, 2023





Executive Summary

Like all humans, children and youth desire basic autonomy, self-actualization, and the freedom to be themselves. Because children are young, it is often easy to overlook this basic truth. The best way to understand what is best for Vermont’s children, youth, and families is to ask them. Young people succeed when they thrive in their communities of origin, and the first job of policymakers at all levels is to help them stay there.

Children live in a variety of settings, including in their homes of origin, with kin, in foster homes, hotels, residential settings, psychiatric hospitals, and on their own. Their ability to thrive is directly connected to the roof over their head, their family’s economic circumstances, their education, access to accommodations, and safety.

According to the Department for Children and Families (“DCF”), as of October 1, 2023 there were approximately 1600 children and families in Vermont with high-level child welfare or juvenile justice involvement. Vermont continues to remove children from their homes and into foster care at concerning high rates, and DCF removes Black and multiracial children at rates 120% more than their presence in Vermont’s population would suggest. Vermont’s mandatory reporting laws contribute to these problems—the state has the highest rate of reports of suspected abuse or neglect of any state in the nation.

Research indicates that economic supports that go directly to families are more effective than money spent towards foster care. One of the best ways to support parents and families at risk for child welfare involvement is by offering them comprehensive financial supports that include access to quality health care, education, and housing. Each additional \$1,000 that Vermont spends on public benefit programs annually per person living in poverty could bring a reduction in child maltreatment reports, substantiated child maltreatment, foster care placements, and child fatalities due to maltreatment. Vermont should continue the positive steps it has taken in the last few years to enhance economic supports to low-income families. The state’s size and already-integrated economic support systems present real opportunities to innovate.

This Report calls on DCF to expand prevention supports and services to keep children with their families. With help from the Vermont Agency of Human Services (“AHS”), the legislature, and federal funding, DCF could expand services for pregnant and parenting youth, survivors of domestic violence, and parents struggling with substance abuse. It could support peer mentors, social workers, investigators, legal services, and youth voice in court. It could recruit a more diverse pool of foster parents, revise foster parent licensing regulations for kin, and promote high quality evidence-based residential treatment programs. Some of these changes require heavy lifts, but many can be made today, without fiscal appropriations or regulatory changes.



Reforms to Vermont’s juvenile justice systems should start from the perspective of young people themselves, elevating their voices, acknowledging their trauma, and reflecting consensus brain science. We must plan for prevention, high-quality treatment, and authentic trauma-responsive systems, not simply facilities. We should strengthen the child welfare and juvenile justice systems as promised by Act 60 of 2015 by fully funding them rather than by placing their costs onto the backs of the children, youth, and families they are supposed to serve.

Improving our systems starts with DCF. But the biggest issues identified in this Report, whether they are related to racial disproportionality, the high-end system of care, or overhauling data systems, demand collaboration, energy, and accountability from more than just one department. Policymakers at all levels must rise to the occasion to create the changes that will benefit all of us, starting with children, youth, and families.

Below is a summary of this Report’s recommendations. There are thousands of other recommendations that would also be effective. We look forward to our ongoing collaborations with the broad array of Vermonters that make us love this work and this state.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (SECTION 1.2)

1. DCF and Vermont policymakers at every level should prioritize emergency temporary family housing, especially for families with protective services involvement, until they are able to access permanent housing.
2. DCF should continue to reduce administrative barriers within its programs for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness by simplifying forms, procedures, and processes.
3. On a permanent, regular basis, DCF should report to the legislature on children experiencing homelessness in all of its programs and services, and should create a targeted plan that houses children, youth, and families in non-congregate spaces, using housing first principles.¹

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DISABILITY AND CHILD WELFARE (SECTION 1.3)

1. DCF-FSD, with assistance from AHS, should draft a policy on providing neurodiversity-affirming services and accommodations for parents and children with disabilities at all levels of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, with input from appropriate community organizations.
2. DCF-FSD should issue regular reports on accommodations offered to parents and children with disabilities in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, with particular attention to the intersection of race and disability.



3. DCF should engage an outside entity experienced in disability rights and child welfare to improve its neurodiversity-affirming practices and training.

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING HOMES OF ORIGIN, KIN, AND HIDDEN FOSTER CARE (SECTION 1.4)

1. DCF-FSD should keep data on “hidden foster care,” including the frequency and outcomes of safety plans, and demographic data of kin homes.
2. The State of Vermont should financially support peer mentor models such as Families United in Brattleboro and consider broadening these councils to other regions of the state.
3. DCF should develop a policy and trainings on collaboration between birth and foster parents.

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH (SECTION 1.5)

1. The State of Vermont, AHS, and DCF should increase the number of Family Unification Program vouchers so that every youth exiting foster care is awarded one.
2. DCF should support revisions to Vermont statute to enable young people who have aged out of the foster system to access their records.
3. The Vermont legislature should consider expanding the Direct Cash Transfer Program statewide.²
4. DCF should partner with Vermont’s institutions of post-secondary education to ensure free tuition and room and board for every young person who ages out of state custody and is admitted to a post-secondary institution in the state.
5. The State of Vermont should expand extended foster care in Vermont through the use of federal funding (see [Section 2.6](#)).

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MANDATORY REPORTING (SECTION 2.1)

1. The Vermont legislature should consider revisions to its mandatory reporting statutes.
2. DCF and the Vermont Child Welfare Training Partnership should consult with community and policy experts as it revises its mandatory reporting trainings.

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING ECONOMIC SUPPORTS TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES (SECTION 2.2)

1. The State of Vermont should consider creative ways of improving the financing of child welfare, including fully funding Reach Up, bolstering the Vermont child tax credit, and instituting baby bonds in Vermont.³
2. The State of Vermont should analyze its system of economic supports through an equity lens, uplifting the voices of impacted people, prioritizing concrete needs, codesigning supports with people with lived experience of the system, and focusing on strengths.⁴



OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FFPSA AND TITLE IV-E (SECTION 2.3)

1. DCF should revise kin licensing rules to lower barriers to kin foster home licensing, consistent with new federal regulations.
2. DCF should track and publish demographic data on foster homes, including data aggregated by race, sexual identity, and disability status.
3. DCF should maximize Title IV-E funding for prevention-focused professional development, education, and training, to include childcare providers, mental health clinicians, mentors, birth parents, foster/kin caregivers, DCF workers, treatment providers, and school personnel.⁵
4. AHS should adopt system-wide recommendations from the 2020 “Analysis of Children’s Residential System of Care” report.⁶
5. DCF should fully implement the Family First Prevention Services Act (“FFPSA”) and regularly report to the legislature on the number of in-state Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (“QRTPs”), the hiring status of a QRTP Judicial Master, and the status of the required independent assessor.
6. AHS should assess and report on the impacts on residential program quality and viability of the Private Nonmedical Institutions (“PNMI”) rule change from July 2023.⁷
7. DCF, the Vermont Judiciary, and the Vermont Office of the Defender General should engage Vermont Legal Aid’s new leadership to expand civil legal services in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, using federal money.
8. The State of Vermont should leverage Title IV-E funds to support high-quality legal representation through specialized training and multidisciplinary models, including peer mentors, social workers, interpreters, and other best practices.

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CHILD AND PARENT VOICE IN COURT (SECTION 2.4)

1. The Vermont Judiciary and other stakeholders should develop clear policies supporting the rights of children to attend hearings based on their age and development and promote the use of plain language that all parties can understand across the court system.⁸
2. DCF and the Vermont Judiciary should collaborate on a written explanation of the supports available to children in court, including scheduling hearings that do not conflict with important educational or other events, instituting transportation plans so that youth can attend hearings, the use of therapy animals, and other trauma-informed techniques to promote comfort and due process for children and youth in court.⁹
3. The State of Vermont, Vermont Law and Graduate School, the University of Vermont, the Vermont private bar, and other stakeholders should work together to create a children’s law center that provides independent information, training, and expertise to improve the child welfare and juvenile justice legal systems in Vermont.



OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VERMONT'S SYSTEMS OF CARE (SECTION 2.5)

1. DCF should re-engage the Columbia Justice Lab to strengthen Raise the Age implementation.
2. DCF should engage Casey Family Programs in targeted case reviews of 5 to 20 youth in the high-end system of care to assess the need for treatment, programs, and services.
3. DCF should study and track data on the long-term outcomes of young people after they leave residential treatment to assess system successes and areas for improvement.
4. The Vermont legislature should enact Senate Bill 6 of 2023 to limit the use of deception in the interrogation of children and young people.¹⁰

OCYFA RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DCF'S DATA SYSTEMS (SECTION 2.6)

1. The State of Vermont should fully fund and onboard a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System ("CCWIS") using the 50% federal match and exploring financing mechanisms that do not demand cuts in DCF's programs or services.
2. In implementing CCWIS, DCF should solicit input and leverage expertise from young people, foster parents, kinship providers, and the Division of Racial Justice Statistics within the Vermont Office of Racial Equity.

Read the full report at

www.childadvocate.vermont.gov/2023

¹ For Housing First principles, see (National Alliance to End Homelessness) and (Pathways Vermont).

² See (Spectrum Youth & Family Services).

³ For baby bonds, see (Markoff, Ain and Chelwa).

⁴ See (Child Welfare Information Gateway 8-9).

⁵ See (University of Vermont Department of Education and Social Services 7), recommending "upstream" strategies, such college tuition for birth parents and foster parents to enter Title IV-E training degree programs, certificates and training opportunities for paraprofessionals and teachers in trauma-informed instruction, and foster parent/birth parent mentoring programs.

⁶ (Public Consulting Group).

⁷ (State of Vermont Agency of Human Services Division of Rate Setting).

⁸ For language suggestions, see (National Center for State Courts 32). Generally, see (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges) and (National Association of Counsel for Children).

⁹ See (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges 39) and (National Association of Counsel for Children).

¹⁰ (Vermont General Assembly).

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Development Form: Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate

	General \$\$	Transp \$\$	Educat \$\$	Clean Water \$\$	Special \$\$	Glob Commit \$\$	Federal \$\$	Int. Service \$\$	Interdept'l Transfer \$\$	All other \$\$	Total \$\$
Approp #1 [3340010000]: Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2024 Approp	413,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413,000
Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY24 budget)											0
FY 2024 Other Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Approp. After FY 2024 Other Changes	413,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413,000
CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW	18,786	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,786
<i>Personal Services</i>	32,602	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32,602
500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees	15,175										15,175
500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees											
501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees	6,299										6,299
501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees											
502000: Retirement: Classified Employees	4,052										4,052
502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees											
All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits	2,907										2,907
504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium	706										706
504045: Child Care Contribution	628										628
505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium	(165)										(165)
508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings											0
506000 Per Diem	(8,000)										(8,000)
507600 - Other Contract and 3rd Party Serv	11,000										11,000
											0
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	(13,816)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(13,816)
515010: Fee-for-Space Charge	(22,189)										(22,189)
516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits	(2)										(2)
516010: Insurance - General Liability	(150)										(150)
516671: VISION/ISD	40										40
516685: ADS Allocated Charge	140										140
519006: Human Resources Services	146										146
523620: Single Audit Allocation	0										0
507200 Contract & 3rd Party - Legal	9,585										9,585
514000 - Rent Land & Bldgs-Office Space	11,000										11,000
516805 ADS VOIP Exp	264										264
516823 Telecom-Wireless Data	1,500										1,500
516859 Telecom-Wireless Phone Service	120										120
516860 ADS Service Level Agreement	1,000										1,000
519005 Agency Fee	225										225
516820 Advertising - Job Vacancies	800										800
517205 Postage-BGS Postal Svcs Only	285										285
517500 Outside Conf., Meetings, etc.	20,000										20,000
520000 Office Supplies	300										300
520700 Food	1,000										1,000
521510 Subscriptions	800										800
522216 Hardware - Desktop & Laptop PC	3,500										3,500
516551 Software-License-ApplicaSupprt	(35,000)										(35,000)
516813 Advertising-Print	(500)										(500)
518010 Travel-Inst-Other Transp-Emp	(2,000)										(2,000)
522201 HW-Computer Peripherals	(350)										(350)
522217 Hardware-Printers, Copiers, Scan	(530)										(530)
522700 Furniture & Fixtures	(3,800)										(3,800)
											0
<i>Grants</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
											0
Subtotal of Increases/Decreases	18,786	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,786
FY 2025 Governor Recommend	431,786	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	431,786
Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2024 Appropriation	413,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413,000
Reductions and Other Changes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY 2024 Total After Other Changes	413,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	413,000
TOTAL INCREASES/DECREASES	18,786	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,786
Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2025 Governor Recommend	431,786	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	431,786

Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

<i>Please provide a descriptive program name</i>	<i>Must be an appropriation level dept ID</i>	<i>Please provide a narrative description of the purpose of this program and the context in which it operates. State the goal of this program and answer the questions: What is the role this program play in contributing to the agency's mission? Is there a particular segment of the population served by this program?</i>	<i>Please provide a narrative description of the services provided by this program. Answer the questions: What do you do within this program to achieve the stated goals stated left? What specific services are provided?</i>	<i>Link to program's externally facing website</i>	<i>Calculated by formula</i>
Program Name	Appropriation Dept ID	Program Purpose and Context	Program Services Provided	Program Website	Number of
Public Policy	3340010000	Promote reforms that support children, youth, and families in Vermont who receive services directly from, or through funds provided by, DCF.	Advance the interests and welfare of Vermont's children and youth; work in collaboration with relevant parties to strengthen services for children, youths, and families; analyze and monitor the development and implementation of federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to child, youth, and family welfare and recommend changes when appropriate; promote reforms necessary to better serve Vermont's children, youths, and families in a manner that addresses racial and social equity.	Expected December 2023	3
Direct Service and Constituency Support	3340010000	Directly serve and support children, youth, and families in Vermont who receive services directly from, or through funds provided by, DCF.	Advocate for the welfare of children and youths receiving services from the Department directly, or through funds provided by the Department, and those involved in the child protection and juvenile justice systems; review complaints concerning the actions of the Department and of any entity that provides services to children, youths, and families through funds provided by the Department, make appropriate referrals, and respond to those complaints where the Advocate determines that a child, youth, or family may be in need of assistance from the Office; access information and facilities as permitted by law; maintain confidentiality of records as required by law.	Expected December 2023	3
Provision of Systemic Information	3340010000	Provide information regarding our constituency to the public, the Governor, State agencies, legislators, and others that is germane, transparent, and supportive of Vermont's children, youth, and families.	Provide systemic information concerning child, youth, and family welfare to the public, the Governor, State agencies, legislators, and others, as necessary; support children, youths, and families by providing information about service recipients' rights and responsibilities; submit to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before December 1 of each year a report addressing services provided by the Department; gather and present DCF data regarding child injury, restraint and seclusion, and fatalities of children in DCF custody; collaborate with our Advisory Council and Oversight Commission.	Expected December 2023	1

Office of Child, Youth & Family Advocate

When selecting programs in this column, please choose an option from the in-cell drop down (not the table header)

Include the specific measure...measures typically start with number, percentage, etc.

When selecting a measure type in this column, please choose an option from the in-cell drop down (not the table header)

When selecting a unit type in this column, please choose an option from the in-cell drop down (not the table header)

Over which kind of period is the measure calculated?

You will want to confirm/adjust the data points currently listed in the prior year columns which came from last years A-2

Program Name	Measure	Measure Type	Unit Type	Reporting Period	2023
Direct Service and Constituency Support	# of complaints received	How Much?	Number	CY	78
Direct Service and Constituency Support	# of direct client meetings	How Much?	Number	CY	178
Direct Service and Constituency Support	# of placement visits	How Much?	Number	CY	9
Provision of Systemic Information	# of public documents produced, including reports, letters, testimony, presentations and related information	How Much?	Number	CY	5
Public Policy	# of interagency meetings	How Much?	Number	CY	45
Public Policy	# of national group policy and law consultations	How Much?	Number	CY	41
Public Policy	# of State of Vermont policy and law consultations	How Much?	Number	CY	56

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Rollup Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES

Budget Object Rollup Name		FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0	190,175	190,175	100.0%
Fringe Benefits	0	0	0	126,006	126,006	100.0%
Contracted and 3rd Party Service	0	0	0	22,585	22,585	100.0%
PerDiem and Other Personal Services	0	387,000	387,000	4,200	(382,800)	-98.9%
Budget Object Group Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES	0	387,000	387,000	342,966	(44,034)	-11.4%

Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING

Budget Object Rollup Name		FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
Equipment	0	0	0	1,200	1,200	100.0%
IT/Telecom Services and Equipment	0	0	0	31,946	31,946	100.0%
Other Operating Expenses	0	26,000	26,000	0	(26,000)	-100.0%
Other Purchased Services	0	0	0	35,074	35,074	100.0%
Property Rental	0	0	0	11,000	11,000	100.0%
Supplies	0	0	0	2,600	2,600	100.0%
Travel	0	0	0	7,000	7,000	100.0%
Budget Object Group Total: 2. OPERATING	0	26,000	26,000	88,820	62,820	241.6%

Total Expenditures	0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%
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State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Rollup Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Fund Name		FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
General Funds	0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%
Funds Total	0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%

Position Count	2
FTE Total	2

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Salaries and Wages							
Description	Code						
Exempt	500010	0	0	0	190,175	190,175	100.0%
Total: Salaries and Wages		0	0	0	190,175	190,175	100.0%

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Fringe Benefits							
Description	Code						
FICA - Exempt	501010	0	0	0	14,549	14,549	100.0%
Health Ins - Exempt	501510	0	0	0	56,299	56,299	100.0%
Retirement - Exempt	502010	0	0	0	50,777	50,777	100.0%
Dental - Exempt	502510	0	0	0	1,706	1,706	100.0%
Life Ins - Exempt	503010	0	0	0	953	953	100.0%
LTD - Exempt	503510	0	0	0	320	320	100.0%
EAP - Exempt	504010	0	0	0	68	68	100.0%
FMLI	504040	0	0	0	706	706	100.0%
Child Care Contribution Exp	504045	0	0	0	628	628	100.0%
Workers Comp - Ins Premium	505200	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total: Fringe Benefits		0	0	0	126,006	126,006	100.0%

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Contracted and 3rd Party Service							
Description	Code						
Contr & 3Rd Party - Legal	507200	0	0	0	11,585	11,585	100.0%
Other Contr and 3Rd Pty Serv	507600	0	0	0	11,000	11,000	100.0%
Total: Contracted and 3rd Party Service		0	0	0	22,585	22,585	100.0%

					FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
PerDiem and Other Personal Services									
Description	Code								
Per Diem	506000	0	12,200	12,200	4,200	(8,000)	-65.6%		
Other Pers Serv	506200	0	374,800	374,800	0	(374,800)	-100.0%		
Total: PerDiem and Other Personal Services		0	387,000	387,000	4,200	(382,800)	-98.9%		
Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES		0	387,000	387,000	342,966	(44,034)	-11.4%		

Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Equipment							
Description	Code						
Furniture & Fixtures	522700	0	0	0	1,200	1,200	100.0%
Total: Equipment		0	0	0	1,200	1,200	100.0%

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
IT/Telecom Services and Equipment							
Description	Code						
Software-License-ApplicaSupprt	516551	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	100.0%
ADS VOIP Expense	516605	0	0	0	264	264	100.0%
Telecom-Mobile Wireless Data	516623	0	0	0	1,500	1,500	100.0%
Telecom-Telephone Services	516652	0	0	0	600	600	100.0%
Telecom-Wireless Phone Service	516659	0	0	0	1,200	1,200	100.0%
ADS Enterp App Supp SOV Emp Exp	516660	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	100.0%
It Intsvccost-Vision/Isdassess	516671	0	0	0	2,071	2,071	100.0%
ADS Allocation Exp.	516685	0	0	0	2,561	2,561	100.0%
Hardware - Desktop & Laptop Pc	522216	0	0	0	7,000	7,000	100.0%
Hw-Video Conferencing	522260	0	0	0	750	750	100.0%
Total: IT/Telecom Services and Equipment		0	0	0	31,946	31,946	100.0%

					FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
Other Operating Expenses									
Description	Code								
Other Operating Expense	523199	0	26,000	26,000	0	(26,000)	-100.0%		
Total: Other Operating Expenses		0	26,000	26,000	0	(26,000)	-100.0%		

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Other Purchased Services							
Description	Code						

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

						FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Other Purchased Services								
Description	Code							
Insurance Other Than Empl Bene	516000	0	0	0	18	18	100.0%	
Insurance - General Liability	516010	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Dues	516500	0	0	0	1,500	1,500	100.0%	
Advertising - Job Vacancies	516820	0	0	0	800	800	100.0%	
Postage - Bgs Postal Svcs Only	517205	0	0	0	285	285	100.0%	
Outside Conf, Meetings, Etc	517500	0	0	0	23,000	23,000	100.0%	
Agency Fee	519005	0	0	0	7,725	7,725	100.0%	
Human Resources Services	519006	0	0	0	1,746	1,746	100.0%	
Total: Other Purchased Services		0	0	0	35,074	35,074	100.0%	

						FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Property Rental								
Description	Code							
Rent Land & Bldgs-Office Space	514000	0	0	0	11,000	11,000	100.0%	
Total: Property Rental		0	0	0	11,000	11,000	100.0%	

						FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Supplies								
Description	Code							
Office Supplies	520000	0	0	0	800	800	100.0%	
Food	520700	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	100.0%	

State of Vermont
FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget: Detail Report

Organization: 3340010000 - Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Supplies							
Description	Code						
Subscriptions	521510	0	0	0	800	800	100.0%
Total: Supplies		0	0	0	2,600	2,600	100.0%

					FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and As Passed
Travel							
Description	Code						
Travel-Inst-Auto Mileage-Emp	518000	0	0	0	7,000	7,000	100.0%
Total: Travel		0	0	0	7,000	7,000	100.0%

Total: 2. OPERATING		0	26,000	26,000	88,820	62,820	241.6%
Total Expenditures		0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%

Fund Name	Fund Code		FY2024 Original As Passed Budget	FY2024 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed	Percent Change FY2025 Governor's Recommend and FY2024 As Passed
General Fund	10000	0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%
Funds Total		0	413,000	413,000	431,786	18,786	4.5%

Position Count						2
FTE Total						2.00

**State of Vermont
 FY2025 Governor's Recommended Budget
 Position Summary Report**

3340010000-Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Position Number	Classification	FTE	Count	Gross Salary	State Benefits	Federally Mandated	Total
907001	95017E - Child Youth & Family Advocate	1.00	1	103,917	53,763	7,950	165,630
907002	95018E - Dep Child Youth & Family Advct	1.00	1	86,258	57,694	6,599	150,551
Total		2.00	2	190,175	111,457	14,549	316,181

Fund Code	Fund Name	FTE	Count	Gross Salary	State Benefits	Federally Mandated	Total
10000	General Fund	2.00	2	190,175	111,457	14,549	316,181
Total		2.00	2	190,175	111,457	14,549	316,181

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.