



**OFFICE OF CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY ADVOCATE**  
**Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request**

**Matthew Bernstein,**  
**Executive Director**



# *Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*

**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**

*Holly S. Ferrant, AoA Chief Financial Officer*

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*Harmony Wilder, Financial Director II*

*Harley Oliver, Financial Director II*

*Brenda Berry, Financial Manager*

*Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request  
table of contents*

**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**

Governor's FY2026 Recommend, Summary & Highlights	4
Crosswalk	5
Program Performance Measures Budget Reports	10
Budget Rollup Reports	12
Budget Detail Reports	13
Personnel Summary Reports & Organizational Charts	18

Agency of Administration,  
Office of Child, Youth & Family Advocate  
FY 2026 Governor's Recommend Budget

**MISSION:** The Office of Child, Youth & Family Advocate (OCYFA) engages in individual and systemic advocacy on behalf of children, youth, and families served by DCF, with an emphasis on child welfare and juvenile justice, and in a manner that addresses racial and social equity.

Governor's Recommended Budget FY 2026  
(\$ .457 millions)



## FY 2026 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

- FY26 budget request is \$457,363, plus new positions, which is a 5.9% total increase from the FY2025 budget.
- Office has been operating for about two years with broad mandate to provide individual and systemic advocacy related to all 6 Divisions of DCF, travel extensively to visit children, carry significant data/reporting/legislative responsibilities, carry out other duties. Responded to 122 unique complaints in 2024, a 63% increase over 2023.
- Currently just two full-time employees.
- Played key role in passage of Act 173 of 2024, allowing Vermonters formerly in foster care to access their DCF and court records. Recognized by Governor Scott in signing statement.
- Identified over \$2 million in annual federal drawdowns DCF is under leveraging, linked DCF with technical expertise to do so.
- Wrote five-year federal grant (pending) worth \$1.125 million to bring legal support to families and DCF, track data on civil legal services related to child welfare.
- Worked with families and DCF to de-institutionalize children and youth. Played instrumental role in successful return home of 12-year-old languishing in out-of-state residential treatment program.
- Testified to legislature fourteen times in 2024 on issues including juvenile justice, substantiations in child welfare, and child poverty.

## Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Development Form: Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate

General \$\$      Total \$\$

Approp #1 [3340010000]: Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2025	431,786	431,786
<b>Approp</b>		
Other Changes: (Please insert changes to your base appropriation that occurred after the passage of the FY 2025 budget)		0
<b>FY 2025 Other Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Approp. After FY 2025 Other Changes</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>
<b>CURRENT SERVICE LEVEL/CURRENT LAW</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>25,577</b>
<i>Personal Services</i>	<i>43,067</i>	<i>43,067</i>
500000: Salary & Wages: Classified Employees	8,174	8,174
500010: Salary & Wages: Exempt Employees		
501500: Health Insurance: Classified Employees	8,012	8,012
501510: Health Insurances: Exempt Employees		
502000: Retirement: Classified Employees	6,347	6,347
502010: Retirement: Exempt Employees		
All Other Employee Payroll Related Fringe Benefits	544	544
504040: VT Family & Medical Leave Insurance Premium	30	30
504045: Child Care Contribution	245	245
505200: Workers' Compensation Insurance Premium		0
508000: Vacancy Turnover Savings		0
507600-Other Contr and 3rd Pty Serv	34,000	34,000
506000 - Per Diem	(2,700)	(2,700)
507200--Contr & 3rd Party - Legal	(11,585)	(11,585)
		0
<i>Operating Expenses</i>	<i>(17,490)</i>	<i>(17,490)</i>
515010: Fee-for-Space Charge		0
516000: Insurance Other Than Employee Benefits	(1)	(1)
516010: Insurance - General Liability		0
516671: VISION/ISD	303	303
516685: ADS Allocated Charge	231	231
519006: Human Resources Services	48	48
523620: Single Audit Allocation		0
All other Operating Expense Increases	2,914	2,914
514000-Rent Land & Bldgs-Office Space	1,500	1,500
519005-Agency Fee	1,465	1,465
522216-Hardware - Desktop & Laptop Pc	(7,000)	(7,000)
522260-Hardware-Videoconferencing	(750)	(750)
521510-Subscriptions	(300)	(300)
Travel and conferences/meetings	(15,900)	(15,900)
		0
<i>Grants</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
		0
		0
<b>Subtotal of Increases/Decreases</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>25,577</b>
<b>FY 2026 Governor Recommend</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>457,363</b>

<b>Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2025 Appropriation</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>
<b>Reductions and Other Changes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FY 2025 Total After Other Changes</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>
<b>TOTAL INCREASES/DECREASES</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>25,577</b>
<b>Office of the Youth, Child and Family Advocate FY 2026 Governor Recommend</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>457,363</b>

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**In accordance with 33 VSA § 3203(a)(6)**

**Submitted to:**

Governor Phil Scott  
Vermont General Assembly

**Prepared by:**

Matthew Bernstein, Child, Youth, and Family Advocate  
Lauren Higbee, Deputy Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

**Report date:**

December 1, 2024



# LETTER FROM THE ADVOCATE

Last week, a youth in a residential facility in Vermont called me. Our office had been following this young person on paper for quite some time. He had been appearing for many months on the “Missing List,” a weekly email from DCF with information about youth “on run.” We knew some of what he’d experienced during his time in custody, but we had never met him. He had turned up a month or so prior, and I’d spent a few hours talking with him in an emergency department bay before he sank back into the residential treatment system.

When I saw the caller ID, I was worried that something bad had happened. Sure enough, he sounded upset. “They won’t let me go outside,” he said. “They say if it’s below 32 degrees it’s child abuse. I’m bouncing off the walls in here.”

I was caught off guard. “Sorry, what?”

“They say it’s child abuse if I go outside. That’s what they said. You gotta tell them to let me out.”

I said I’d see what we could do. We reached out to the program directly, and he was outside within an hour.

This kind of advocacy is in so many ways common and unremarkable. But the story stands out to me as a symbol of the basic human need for connection held by every child, youth, and family in Vermont.

The notion that a young person without a phone would call a government official simply to ask for what most of us take for granted—that, to me, is profound. It shows that young people will raise their voices when given the chance. It shows that we should listen.

Speaking to children, youth, and families almost every day is the bread and butter of this office. Like the youth above, when parents stuck in large and impersonal systems call our office, they usually ask for the elements of basic dignity—someone to listen and validate, assess and explain their situation honestly, follow up. Of course, what most also need is robust legal representation, high quality mental health supports close to where they live, a roof over their heads, money in their pockets.

In challenging fiscal times, it can be tempting to find cost savings at the expense of those with low political capital. We see this pattern accelerating in child welfare and juvenile justice. But as this report shows, austerity in these fields would be a huge mistake. **Child welfare may be the area with the most potential for revenue enhancement and return on investment of any in government.** This report shows how Vermont could leverage millions of federal dollars to support young people—and, while we’re at it, workers too.

Keeping children safe remains a core function of government. The place where children feel most safe is in their homes and communities. We stand with the many Vermonters already committed to translating these principles into action.



In service,  
Matthew Bernstein

# WHO WE ARE

- We advocate for the dignity, well-being, and interests of Vermont’s children and youth, with a focus on the child protection and juvenile justice systems.
- We translate the vision of children, youth, and families into policy that safely sustains the bonds of families.
- We are a two-person office within Vermont state government that operates independently of the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency of Human Services (AHS).

# WHAT WE DO

- We promote reforms – in individual cases and systemwide – that improve the lives of Vermont’s children, youth, and families, with a focus on racial and social equity.
- We spend time listening to impacted children and youth in the places where they are, centering their experiences, uplifting their voices, and integrating their input into advocacy and policymaking.
- We receive complaints and requests for assistance from Vermonters impacted by DCF. We educate, energize, and empower Vermonters to navigate complex systems. Our goal is swift and sustainable resolutions that support impacted children and youth.
- We promote prevention and advocate for upstream interventions that leverage federal dollars and reduce Vermont’s reliance on our General Fund. We support economic policy that strengthens Vermont’s families and saves the state money.

# WHAT WE VALUE

- We advocate for common sense solutions and press for transparency, equity, and accountability on behalf of children and youth.
- Our guiding questions are: Are the child welfare and juvenile justice systems supporting the youth they serve? Are children and youth in the state’s care safe and supported?
- We collaborate with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) whenever possible. We believe that improving conditions for young people also improves conditions for DCF workers.



# OUR WORK IN 2024



L to R: OCYFA Advisory Council Member Mercedes King, Lauren Higbee, Matthew Bernstein, Rep. Dan Noyes of Wolcott in the Vermont House Chamber.

We played a key role in the passage of Act 173, which **for the first time allows Vermonters who were in foster care to access their DCF and court records**, and were recognized in Governor Scott's signing statement.

“Everyone should have the right to see their records.”

—Former Foster Youth

- We responded to 122 unique complaints in 2024, a **63% increase over 2023**.
- **We spoke with children and youth**, family members and friends, foster parents, medical professionals, attorneys, guardians ad litem, DCF workers, hotel residents, other states' child advocate offices, legislators, judges, community providers, and others.
- We analyzed Vermont's child welfare and juvenile justice systems, brought in national experts, and **developed new initiatives that improved the lives of children, youth, and families**.
- **We worked with families to de-institutionalize children and youth**. In one instance, we played an instrumental role in helping a 12-year-old who had been languishing in an out-of-state residential treatment program successfully return to his home community.
- **We encouraged DCF** to honor family voice in its daily operations and policy development.

- **We centered racial justice in our work**, partnering with Black-led community organizations, prioritizing advocacy for the most impacted parents, and pushing for improved racial data collection and policy.
- We heard dozens of stories from youth about **the restraints used against them and the trauma of those experiences** and advocated against their use.
- We successfully persuaded one of Vermont's most influential newspapers to **stop publishing the names and pictures of youth accused of committing serious crimes**.
- **We testified in the legislature fourteen times** on issues including juvenile justice, child welfare, and child poverty and facilitated the legislative testimony of a former foster youth about his experiences in residential care—the only person with direct experience who testified about juvenile justice in the 2024 session.

Programs

Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Program Name	Appropriation Dept ID	Program Purpose and Context	Program Services Provided	Program Website	Number of Measures Reported
Individual Advocacy	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.	<a href="https://childadvocate.vermont.gov/make-complaint">https://childadvocate.vermont.gov/make-complaint</a>	3
Systems Advocacy	3340010000	Promote reforms that support children, youth, and families in Vermont who receive services directly from, or through funds provided by, DCF. 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.	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. 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.	<a href="https://childadvocate.vermont.gov/systemic-change">https://childadvocate.vermont.gov/systemic-change</a>	2

Measures

Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Program Name	Measure	Measure Type	Unit Type	Polarity	Reporting Period	2023	2024	Target	Notes
Individual Advocacy	Number of complaints responded to	Quantity	Number	Higher is Better	FFY	78	85	100	OCYFA began operations in February 2023. Target numbers assume the addition of at least one new employee in FY26, as requested in our FY26 budget.
Individual Advocacy	Number of direct client meetings	Quantity	Number	Higher is Better	FFY	178	213	220	OCYFA began operations in February 2023. Target numbers assume the addition of at least one new employee in FY26, as requested in our FY26 budget.
Individual Advocacy	Number of placement and facility visits	Quantity	Number	Higher is Better	FFY	9	31	55	OCYFA began operations in February 2023. Target numbers assume the addition of at least one new employee in FY26, as requested in our FY26 budget.
Systems Advocacy	Number of public documents produced, including reports, letters, testimony, presentations, media appearances, and related information	Quantity	Number	Higher is Better	FFY	5	74	100	OCYFA began operations in February 2023. These numbers assume the addition of at least one new employee in FY26, as requested in our FY26 budget.
Systems Advocacy	Number of state and national interagency meetings and consultations	Quantity	Number	Higher is Better	FFY	45	135	175	OCYFA began operations in February 2023. Target numbers assume the addition of at least one new employee in FY26, as requested in our FY26 budget.

**State of Vermont  
Budget Rollup Report**

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

**Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES**

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
Salaries and Wages	189,899	190,175	190,175	198,349	8,174	4.3%
Fringe Benefits	117,140	126,006	126,006	141,184	15,178	12.0%
Contracted and 3rd Party Service	2,823	22,585	22,585	45,000	22,415	99.2%
PerDiem and Other Personal Services	650	4,200	4,200	1,500	(2,700)	-64.3%
<b>Budget Object Group Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>310,512</b>	<b>342,966</b>	<b>342,966</b>	<b>386,033</b>	<b>43,067</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

**Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING**

Budget Object Rollup Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
Equipment	0	1,200	1,200	1,400	200	16.7%
IT/Telecom Services and Equipment	12,049	31,946	31,946	24,180	(7,766)	-24.3%
Other Operating Expenses	675	0	0	1,100	1,100	100.0%
Other Rental	156	0	0	350	350	100.0%
Other Purchased Services	5,830	35,074	35,074	17,200	(17,874)	-51.0%
Property Rental	8,079	11,000	11,000	12,500	1,500	13.6%
Supplies	1,343	2,600	2,600	5,000	2,400	92.3%
Travel	3,369	7,000	7,000	9,600	2,600	37.1%
<b>Budget Object Group Total: 2. OPERATING</b>	<b>31,502</b>	<b>88,820</b>	<b>88,820</b>	<b>71,330</b>	<b>(17,490)</b>	<b>-19.7%</b>

<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>342,013</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
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Fund Name	FY2024 Actuals	FY2025 Original As Passed Budget	FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget	FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget	Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed	Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed
General Funds	342,013	431,786	431,786	457,363	25,577	5.9%
<b>Funds Total</b>	<b>342,013</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

Position Count	2
FTE Total	2

**State of Vermont  
Budget Detail Report**

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

**Budget Object Group: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES**

<b>Salaries and Wages</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Classified Employees	500000	189,899	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Exempt	500010	0	190,175	190,175	198,349	8,174	4.3%
<b>Total: Salaries and Wages</b>		<b>189,899</b>	<b>190,175</b>	<b>190,175</b>	<b>198,349</b>	<b>8,174</b>	<b>4.3%</b>

<b>Fringe Benefits</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
FICA - Classified Employees	501000	12,832	0	0	0	0	0.0%
FICA - Exempt	501010	0	14,549	14,549	15,174	625	4.3%
Health Ins - Classified Empl	501500	50,106	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Health Ins - Exempt	501510	0	56,299	56,299	64,311	8,012	14.2%
Retirement - Classified Empl	502000	50,515	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Retirement - Exempt	502010	0	50,777	50,777	57,124	6,347	12.5%
Dental - Classified Employees	502500	2,484	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Dental - Exempt	502510	0	1,706	1,706	1,706	0	0.0%
Life Ins - Classified Empl	503000	948	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Life Ins - Exempt	503010	0	953	953	853	(100)	-10.5%
LTD - Classified Employees	503500	187	0	0	0	0	0.0%
LTD - Exempt	503510	0	320	320	333	13	4.1%
EAP - Classified Empl	504000	67	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EAP - Exempt	504010	0	68	68	74	6	8.8%
FMLI	504040	0	706	706	736	30	4.2%
Child Care Contribution Exp	504045	0	628	628	873	245	39.0%
Workers Comp - Ins Premium	505200	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total: Fringe Benefits</b>		<b>117,140</b>	<b>126,006</b>	<b>126,006</b>	<b>141,184</b>	<b>15,178</b>	<b>12.0%</b>

**State of Vermont  
Budget Detail Report**

<b>Contracted and 3rd Party Service</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Contr & 3Rd Party - Legal	507200	1,260	11,585	11,585	0	(11,585)	-100.0%
Contr&3Rd Pty-Educ & Training	507350	100	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Other Contr and 3Rd Pty Serv	507600	1,463	11,000	11,000	45,000	34,000	309.1%
<b>Total: Contracted and 3rd Party Service</b>		<b>2,823</b>	<b>22,585</b>	<b>22,585</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>22,415</b>	<b>99.2%</b>

<b>PerDiem and Other Personal Services</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Per Diem	506000	650	4,200	4,200	1,500	(2,700)	-64.3%
Other Pers Serv	506200	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total: PerDiem and Other Personal Services</b>		<b>650</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>(2,700)</b>	<b>-64.3%</b>
<b>Total: 1. PERSONAL SERVICES</b>		<b>310,512</b>	<b>342,966</b>	<b>342,966</b>	<b>386,033</b>	<b>43,067</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

**Budget Object Group: 2. OPERATING**

<b>Equipment</b>		<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Furniture & Fixtures	522700	0	1,200	1,200	1,400	200	16.7%
<b>Total: Equipment</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>16.7%</b>

**State of Vermont  
Budget Detail Report**

<b>IT/Telecom Services and Equipment</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Software-License-ApplicaSupprt	516551	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
ADS VOIP Expense	516605	98	264	264	264	0	0.0%
Internet	516620	400	0	0	1,500	1,500	100.0%
Telecom-Mobile Wireless Data	516623	399	1,500	1,500	0	(1,500)	-100.0%
Tele-Internet-Dsl-Cable Modem	516626	200	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Telecom-Telephone Services	516652	0	600	600	0	(600)	-100.0%
Telecom-Conf Calling Services	516658	0	0	0	250	250	100.0%
Telecom-Wireless Phone Service	516659	553	1,200	1,200	1,000	(200)	-16.7%
ADS Enterp App Supp SOV Emp Exp	516660	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
It Intsvccost-Vision/Isdassess	516671	2,031	2,071	2,071	2,374	303	14.6%
ADS Allocation Exp.	516685	0	2,561	2,561	2,792	231	9.0%
Software as a Service	519085	240	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Hw - Computer Peripherals	522201	1,151	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Hardware - Desktop & Laptop Pc	522216	3,128	7,000	7,000	0	(7,000)	-100.0%
Hw - Printers,Copiers,Scanners	522217	631	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Hw-Video Conferencing	522260	3,109	750	750	0	(750)	-100.0%
Hardware - Data Network	522273	110	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total: IT/Telecom Services and Equipment</b>		<b>12,049</b>	<b>31,946</b>	<b>31,946</b>	<b>24,180</b>	<b>(7,766)</b>	<b>-24.3%</b>

<b>Other Operating Expenses</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Other Operating Expense	523199	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Single Audit Allocation	523620	18	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fleet	524544	650	0	0	1,100	1,100	100.0%
Cost of Postage	525330	7	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total: Other Operating Expenses</b>		<b>675</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Other Rental</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>			<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Rental - Auto	514550	156	0	0	350	350	100.0%
<b>Total: Other Rental</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**State of Vermont  
Budget Detail Report**

<b>Other Purchased Services</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Insurance Other Than Empl Bene	516000	20	18	18	18	0	0.0%
Insurance - General Liability	516010	150	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Dues	516500	425	1,500	1,500	1,000	(500)	-33.3%
Advertising-Print	516813	0	0	0	300	300	100.0%
Advertising - Job Vacancies	516820	0	800	800	0	(800)	-100.0%
Printing & Binding-Bgs Copy Ct	517005	88	0	0	298	298	100.0%
Registration For Meetings&Conf	517100	3,393	0	0	4,500	4,500	100.0%
Postage	517200	33	0	0	100	100	100.0%
Postage - Bgs Postal Svcs Only	517205	0	285	285	0	(285)	-100.0%
Outside Conf, Meetings, Etc	517500	0	23,000	23,000	0	(23,000)	-100.0%
Agency Fee	519005	121	7,725	7,725	9,190	1,465	19.0%
Human Resources Services	519006	1,600	1,746	1,746	1,794	48	2.7%
<b>Total: Other Purchased Services</b>		<b>5,830</b>	<b>35,074</b>	<b>35,074</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>(17,874)</b>	<b>-51.0%</b>

<b>Property Rental</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Rent Land & Bldgs-Office Space	514000	8,079	11,000	11,000	12,500	1,500	13.6%
Fee-For-Space Charge	515010	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>Total: Property Rental</b>		<b>8,079</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>13.6%</b>

<b>Supplies</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Office Supplies	520000	1,053	800	800	3,000	2,200	275.0%
Food	520700	46	1,000	1,000	1,500	500	50.0%
Subscriptions	521510	244	800	800	500	(300)	-37.5%
<b>Total: Supplies</b>		<b>1,343</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>92.3%</b>



**State of Vermont  
Budget Detail Report**

<b>Travel</b>		<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>						
Travel-Inst-Auto Mileage-Emp	518000	2,089	7,000	7,000	3,500	(3,500)	-50.0%
Travel-Inst-Other Transp-Emp	518010	68	0	0	200	200	100.0%
Travel-Inst-Incidentals-Emp	518040	17	0	0	100	100	100.0%
Travel-Outst-Auto Mileage-Emp	518500	41	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Travel-Outst-Other Transp-Emp	518510	115	0	0	1,800	1,800	100.0%
Travel-Outst-Meals-Emp	518520	280	0	0	800	800	100.0%
Travel-Outst-Lodging-Emp	518530	750	0	0	3,000	3,000	100.0%
Travel-Outst-Incidentals-Emp	518540	10	0	0	200	200	100.0%
<b>Total: Travel</b>		<b>3,369</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>37.1%</b>
<b>Total: 2. OPERATING</b>		<b>31,502</b>	<b>88,820</b>	<b>88,820</b>	<b>71,330</b>	<b>(17,490)</b>	<b>-19.7%</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>342,013</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

  

<b>Fund Name</b>	<b>Fund Code</b>	<b>FY2024 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2025 Original As Passed Budget</b>	<b>FY2025 Governor's BAA Recommended Budget</b>	<b>FY2026 Governor's Recommended Budget</b>	<b>Difference Between FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>	<b>Percent Change FY2026 Governor's Recommend and FY2025 As Passed</b>
General Fund	10000	342,013	431,786	431,786	457,363	25,577	5.9%
<b>Funds Total</b>		<b>342,013</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>431,786</b>	<b>457,363</b>	<b>25,577</b>	<b>5.9%</b>

  

Position Count	2
FTE Total	2.00

Report ID: VTPB-14-POSITION\_SUMMARY  
 Run Date: 01/26/2025  
 Run Time: 10:04 AM

**State of Vermont**  
**FY2026 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	108,389	60,711	8,292	177,392
907002	95018E - Dep Child Youth & Family Advct	1.00	1	89,960	65,299	6,882	162,141
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>198,349</b>	<b>126,010</b>	<b>15,174</b>	<b>339,533</b>

Fund Code	Fund Name	FTE	Count	Gross Salary	State Benefits	Federally Mandated	Total
10000	General Fund	2.00	2	198,349	126,010	15,174	339,533
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.00</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>198,349</b>	<b>126,010</b>	<b>15,174</b>	<b>339,533</b>

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

Oversight Commission on Children, Youths, and Families recommends applicants for Advocate, governor appoints Advocate, subject to confirmation by Vermont Senate. Four-year term, subject to removal only for cause. Office is independent, nonpartisan. 33 VSA § 3201 et seq.



Child, Youth, and Family Advocate

Matthew Bernstein



Deputy Advocate

Lauren Higbee



# OCYFA Organizational Chart

## January 2025