



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests \$7,883,000 (\$7,013,000 GF-State) in the 2025-27 biennium for legal services related to implementation of HB 1219 Youth Dependency Council, SB 6006 Human Trafficking, and to pay for increases in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) litigation.

Program Recommendation Summary

090 - Program Support

The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) requests \$7,883,000 (\$7,013,000 GF-State) in the 2025-27 biennium for legal services related to implementation of HB 1219 Youth Dependency Council, SB 6006 Human Trafficking, and to pay for increases in Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) litigation.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$3,172	\$3,841	\$7,013	\$4,211	\$4,211	\$8,422
Fund 001 - A	\$380	\$490	\$870	\$550	\$550	\$1,100
Total Expenditures	\$3,552	\$4,331	\$7,883	\$4,761	\$4,761	\$9,522
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$380	\$490	\$870	\$550	\$550	\$1,100
Total Revenue	\$380	\$490	\$870	\$550	\$550	\$1,100

Decision Package Description

HB 1219 Youth Dependency

This request funds DCYF's Central Services budget to pay upcoming billings from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) related to dependency proceedings statewide. HB 1219, as enacted in 2019, created a phased-in implementation under which children in dependency and permanency matters be appointed counsel by the court, following the implementation schedule described in RCW 13.34.212. In 2024, SB 5805 amended this statute to extend the time for the children's representation program to develop and phase in a schedule for court appointed attorneys for children in dependency proceedings from a six to seven-year period. This bill also added language specifying the schedule must not add more than 1,250 cases each fiscal year, specified that the schedule requires representation in at least 36 counties beginning January 1, 2027, and changed the full statewide implementation deadline from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2028.

SB 6006 Human Trafficking

SB 6006 was passed during the 2024 legislative session and will be effective on January 1, 2025. This request funds the anticipated increase in legal service billings from the AGO.

This bill added "victim(s) of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking in persons under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S.C. Section 7101 et seq." to the definition of "dependent child" in RCW 13.34.030(6). It also added sex trafficking to the definition of child abuse or neglect in RCW 26.44.020. Further, it added a requirement that DCYF assess for and offer services to children who are victims of sex trafficking and provided that DCYF may file a petition for a sexual assault protection order on behalf of a minor. DCYF assumed it will seek 26 such orders per year, and that 25 percent will be in King County. DCYF will require advice and representation in obtaining these protection orders. The AGO anticipates no new dependency filings, however, because any child who may be dependent under the modified definition would already be dependent under the currently effective definition of a dependent child. RCW 13.34.030(6)(b) (the child is abused or neglected) or (c) (the child has no parent capable of providing adequate care such that the child is in circumstances that constitute a danger of substantial damage to the child's psychological or physical development).

JR Legal Services

Significant changes to the legal landscape for DCYF’s JR program have both increased the population of youth in custody and the seriousness of the crimes and offenses for which the resident population were adjudicated. JR experienced a sharp increase in litigation by Green Hill School residents, which now includes young people up to age 25 who are both juvenile and adult convicted. This request would pay for the assumed DCYF billing from the AGO related to increased JR legal services.

Assumptions and Calculations

Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:

DCYF is not reducing, eliminating, or altering any current programs. This request is only to fund anticipated increases in legal service billings.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

DCYF assumes increased billing from the AGO related to legal services for HB 1219 Youth Dependency Council, SB 6006 Human Trafficking, and increased JR litigations.

DCYF assumes an increase in total legal service billings of \$3,552,000 (\$3,172,000 GF-State) for FY26, an increase in legal service billings of \$4,331,000 (\$3,841,000 GF-State) in FY27, an increase of \$4,761,000 (\$4,211,000 GF-State) in FY28 and an increase of \$4,761,000 (\$4,211,000) in FY29.

Below is a summarized view of assumptions:

Legal Services Type	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29
Youth Dependency Council	2,627,000	3,406,000	3,836,000	3,836,000
Human Trafficking	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
JR Rehab	850,000	850,000	850,000	850,000
	3,552,000	4,331,000	4,761,000	4,761,000

Workforce Assumptions:

Not applicable.

Historical Funding:

This is a new request. There is no base funding available to support the increased litigation billing. This is a new request. There is no base funding available to support the increased litigation billing.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

Results Washington:

These additional resources will support DCYF in achieving the Results Washington goal related to healthy and safe communities by safely reducing the number of children in and out of home care, by supporting DCYF’s effort to create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in the department’s care, and by having proper legal services aiding the department in protecting victims of sex trafficking.

DCYF Strategic Plan:

This funding request also supports DCYF strategic priorities to 1) reducing child abuse and neglect intakes and 2) reducing homelessness when exiting a JR program.

Performance Outcomes:

Not Applicable.

Equity Impacts

Community Outreach and Engagement:

Not Applicable.

Disproportional Impact Considerations:

Not Applicable.

Target Communities and Populations:

Not Applicable.

Community Inputs and Incorporation:

Not Applicable.

Other Collateral Connections

HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions

Not Applicable.

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not Applicable.

State Workforce Impacts:

Not Applicable.

Intergovernmental:

Not Applicable.

Stakeholder Impacts:

Not Applicable.

State Facilities Impacts:

Not Applicable.

Changes from Current Law:

Not Applicable.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

Not Applicable.

Governor's Salmon Strategy:

Not Applicable.

IT Addendum

Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2026	2027	2025-27	2028	2029	2027-29
Obj. E	\$3,552	\$4,331	\$7,883	\$4,761	\$4,761	\$9,522

Agency Contact Information

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