



Agency Recommendation Summary

The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) requests \$23,521,000 (\$15,211,000 GF-State) and 4.8 full-time equivalent (FTE)s in the 2022 Supplemental Budget to increase rates for placements and services to support foster youth with significant needs. This increased funding will address youth experiencing placement instability including stays in hotels, offices, and night to night placement. Funding will provide staff working with youth a living and competitive wage. Funding is also requested to create a new placement type and staffing to support quality practice related to working with youth around placement options.

Program Recommendation Summary

010 - Children and Families Services

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090 - Program Support

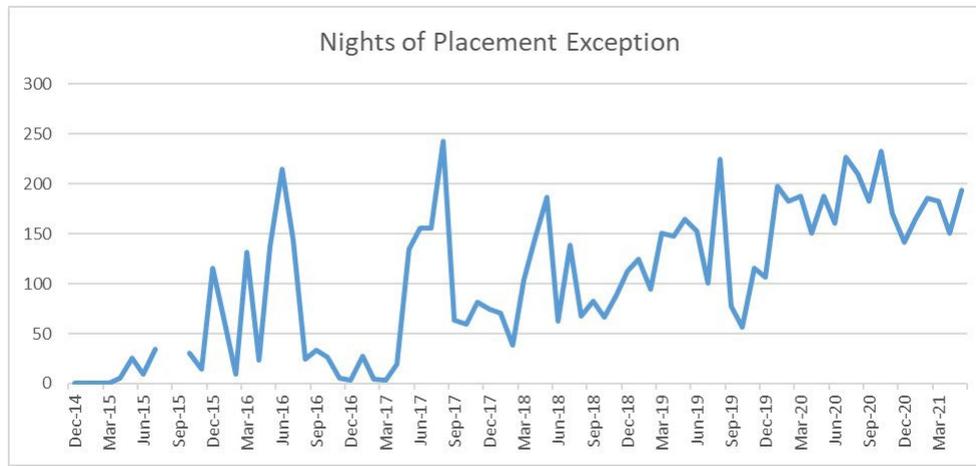
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Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Staffing						
FTEs	1.5	8.0	4.75	8.0	8.0	8.0
Operating Expenditures						
Fund 001 - 1	\$993	\$12,831	\$13,824	\$12,795	\$12,795	\$25,590
Fund 001 - A	\$3,428	\$4,858	\$8,286	\$4,861	\$4,861	\$9,722
Fund 001 - A	\$24	\$0	\$24	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund 001 - 1	\$96	\$1,292	\$1,388	\$1,248	\$1,248	\$2,496
Total Expenditures	\$4,541	\$18,981	\$23,522	\$18,904	\$18,904	\$37,808
Revenue						
001 - 0393	\$3,428	\$4,858	\$8,286	\$4,861	\$4,861	\$9,722
001 - 0393	\$24	\$0	\$24	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue	\$3,452	\$4,858	\$8,310	\$4,861	\$4,861	\$9,722

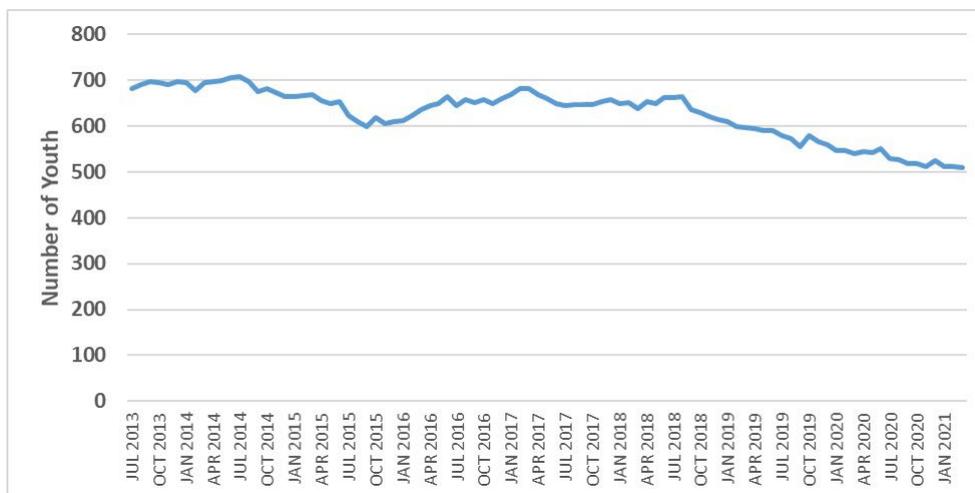
Decision Package Description

Beginning in 2014, DCYF had increasing difficulty finding stable placements for youth. The Department saw rising use of emergency placements such hotels, offices, and night to night foster homes. Use of these placements results in trauma for both youth and staff.

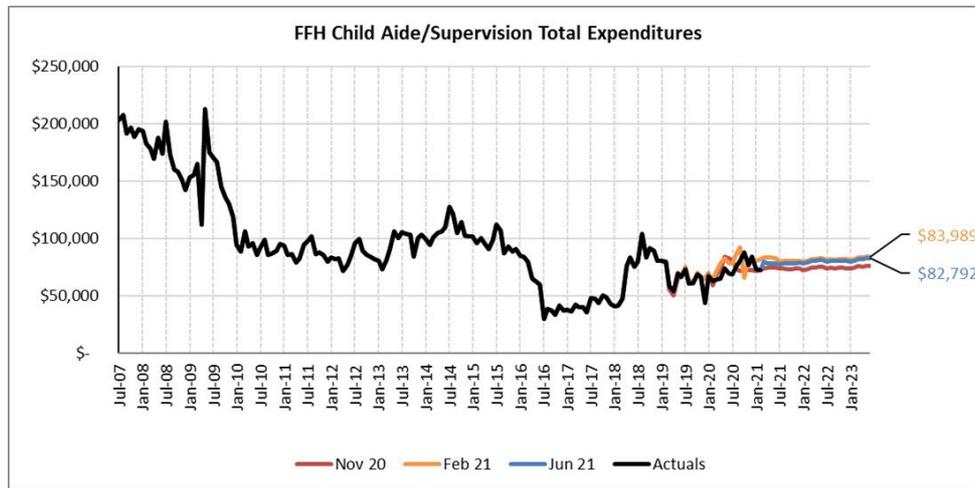


DCYF is currently being sued in federal court by Disability Rights Washington over the use of out of state placements, hotels, offices and night to night foster placements. DCYF is currently expected under a temporary court order to end the use of hotels by November 1, 2021.

DCYF believes several things have contributed to the increase in unstable placements including declining availability of critical placements and placement supports. At the same time as use of hotels and offices increased, intensive foster placements used for youth with high needs, called Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) have declined. This decline continued even after a rate increase was funded in the 2018 session. That rate increase was based upon cost study conducted in 2017, which found forty percent turnover in the direct care staff. Youth in BRS require stability and the opportunity to develop quality relationship with adults. This is impossible with almost half of the staff leaving every year. In addition, DCYF has received notice from several providers stating that they were unable to fill their beds or were closing group homes due to an inability to find adequate staffing.



Additionally, foster homes taking youth with high behavioral or personal care needs would benefit from being able to have help in the home. DCYF accomplishes through the use of positions called case aides. Use of this service has also declined as the rate of pay has not kept pace with increases to minimum wage and compensation for jobs that compete for the same employees. DCYF increased the rate for case aides once already to \$26 an hour (which is an all-inclusive rate for supervision, insurance, fringe benefits, etc.). This was not sufficient to see a significant increase in availability of the service.



Currently DCYF is losing capacity in BRS and child aides. This capacity is critical to being able to meet the placement needs of foster youth with more support needs. DCYF is proposing increasing the rates for both services so that individuals working directly with youth make a competitive wage. DCYF is also proposing to increase the funding provided for specialized foster homes (treatment foster care) which can be used to provide reimbursement to foster families or other necessary services.

DCYF is also proposing to add 6 additional FTE's to conduct shared planning meetings (SPMs) and Family Team Decision Making (FTDM). These meetings are required under the current district court temporary order and are a critical component of quality case practice. These meetings are already used throughout the department and rely on staff specialized in organizing and facilitating the meetings.

DCYF also requests funding for AGO litigation expenses in SFY22.

Lastly, DCYF has identified a missing part of the placement continuum that will assist it in serving older adolescents. Many youth ages 16 and up would prefer to be placed in a program that affords them more autonomy. Currently the only options for placement involve a family foster home or a treatment group home. DCYF will be piloting this fall and winter a program for adolescents that provides a heavily supported housing option that will allow youth to gain skills for ultimate independence.

This funding is expected to preserve and hopefully increase existing BRS slots and buy more hours of case aide time to support foster family placements. Currently BRS serves roughly 500 youth in any given month. DCYF anticipates that the new placement option could serve approximately 15-20 youth in three sites across the state in SFY 2023.

Assumptions and Calculations

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

Total funding requested for SFY22: \$4,541,000; SFY23: \$18,980,000.

Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:

\$17,500. The total cost increase for facilities per year is \$12.4 million, a portion of which would be eligible for federal reimbursement.

DCYF is also assuming that the increased funding for treatment foster care homes would increase rates from \$8,226.48 to \$10,516.80, resulting in an increased annual expenditure of \$4.3 million.

The case aide rate would change from \$26 an hour to \$30 resulting in \$175,285 in increased expenditures.

DCYF requests \$120,000 in SFY22 for AGO litigation expenses for D.S. v. DCYF, a federal case related to DCYF's practice of placing children in congregate care, in out-of-state group care facilities, and holding foster children in hotels and offices.

Lastly, DCYF is requesting \$1 million to pilot the emergency adolescent housing program in 3 sites.

Workforce Assumptions:

DCYF is requesting 6 SSS 3 positions to conduct shared planning meetings and Family Team Decision Making meetings. In addition, 2 WMS positions are requested to support the housing program.

How is your proposal impacting equity in the state?

DCYF knows from analysis of youth in hotel stays that youth are disproportionately impacted. Black, indigenous, and people of color are more likely to experience a hotel stay and youth located in King and Clark County. Finding stable placement for youth of all races and locations is a critical first step in addressing disproportionality.

Strategic and Performance Outcomes

Strategic Framework:

This package relates to efforts that have health and safe communities by youth getting the supports they need to be successful.

Performance Outcomes:

Funding this request will result in stabilization and expansion of the foster care continuum resulting in fewer to no youth experiencing placement instability.

Other Collateral Connections

Puget Sound Recovery:

Not Applicable

State Workforce Impacts:

Not Applicable

Intergovernmental:

DCYF is partnering closely with Health Care Authority and Department of Social and Health Services to ensure that youth in dependency and at risk of dependency are being appropriately served by each system.

Legal or Administrative Mandates:

This proposal is related to ongoing litigation with Disability Rights Washington

Stakeholder Response:

Stakeholders are supportive of DCYF addressing these issues. DCYF works extensively with providers to address existing work force issues and they support these rate proposals.

Changes from Current Law:

Not Applicable

State Facilities Impacts:

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
	2022	2023	2021-23	2024	2025	2023-25
Obj. A	\$106	\$426	\$532	\$426	\$426	\$852
Obj. B	\$39	\$168	\$207	\$168	\$168	\$336
Obj. E	\$3	\$11	\$14	\$11	\$11	\$22
Obj. G	\$4	\$14	\$18	\$14	\$14	\$28
Obj. J	\$10	\$33	\$43	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$4,234	\$16,936	\$21,170	\$16,936	\$16,936	\$33,872
Obj. T	\$25	\$101	\$126	\$101	\$101	\$202
Obj. A	\$0	\$177	\$177	\$177	\$177	\$354
Obj. B	\$0	\$63	\$63	\$63	\$63	\$126
Obj. C	\$120	\$0	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. E	\$0	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$4	\$8
Obj. G	\$0	\$5	\$5	\$4	\$4	\$8
Obj. J	\$0	\$43	\$43	\$0	\$0	\$0
Obj. N	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000

Agency Contact Information

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