

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES

2960, 4046, 4059, 6071, 6110,
6119, 6120, 6129, 7310

MISSION

Albany County Department for Children, Youth and Families is committed to excellence, professionalism, and integrity, and is uniquely structured to deliver an integrated, diverse, holistic set of services in collaboration with families and communities to empower families to create a safe, nurturing environment in which children can grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

DCYF administers comprehensive programs and services through the following divisions:

The **Division of Children's Mental Health Services** houses both the Crisis Intake Unit and the Case Management Unit. Children's Mental Health works to stabilize children in crisis and avert disruptive out of home placements and hospitalizations by providing a range of services and linking children and families to community based resources.

The *Crisis Intake Unit* conducts risk assessments and makes referrals for children and adolescents who exhibit signs of emotional disturbance and are deemed to be a risk to themselves or others.

The *Mental Health Case Management Unit* serves families with children who have serious emotional disturbances and are at risk for out of home placement. The Unit provides intensive and supportive case management, including crisis management and linkages to community resources, as well as advocacy and support to help maintain children in their homes and communities.

The **Youth Bureau** plans, develops and manages a variety of programs and initiatives for youth under the age of 21. Programs include youth development, recreation and leisure, delinquency prevention, services to runaway and homeless youth and substance abuse prevention.

The **Division of Children with Special Needs** provides comprehensive evaluation services and administers the Early Intervention Program, the Preschool Special Education Program and the Physically Handicapped Children's Program to evaluate and serve children who have chronic illnesses, developmental delays or disabilities. The Healthy Families Home Visiting Program, a comprehensive prevention program that builds on families' strengths with the goal of creating safe homes for children, will continue to offer services, contingent on continuation of state grant funding.

The **Children and Family Services Division** protects the health and safety of children through intervention, prevention and child protective services. The Division strives to ensure that all children live in safe and nurturing environments by providing state mandated Child Protective Services and adolescent, foster care and adoption services. The Division also includes the Community Based Preventive Services Unit, which provides rehabilitative and supportive services to families with children at risk of foster care placement to avoid placements and to shorten placements for those in foster care.

The **Legal Services Division** provides representation in Family Court and other judicial proceedings that require the involvement of the County. The staff of attorneys and other professionals provides legal advice and consultation to caseworkers and staff on a case by case basis and provides staff training on legal issues and regulatory changes.

The **Division of Staff Development and Community Programs** is responsible for training and education programs for departmental staff to build and maintain the skills needed to successfully deliver high quality programs and services. The Division establishes linkages with community providers and resources to facilitate staff networking and informational exchanges.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The **Administrative Services Division** manages the Department's financial and administrative resources. It is responsible for the development and management of the Department's budget, performance reporting system, payroll system, accounting, and reimbursement and personnel functions.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Across all of its divisions, DCYF will reduce the total position count by 13, through 8 vacancy elimination and 5 staffing reductions.
- The DCYF budget for 2010 includes an increase of \$417,356, almost 20 percent, for payments to state training schools. The State Office of Children and Family Services recently revised the methodology used to determine the rates that counties must pay for children placed in state operated facilities and billed counties for increased rates retroactive to 2002. Rates have been significantly increased for 2009 and 2010, with all of the cost borne by counties and no reimbursement available.
- Funding for prevention programming was reduced overall by 18 percent. The Department anticipates awarding new contracts to community providers in 2010 that will allocate available program dollars to achieve the greatest impact for the available dollars, as determined by providers' proposals to the County.
- To better reflect funding for targeted programming such as Prevention programs and Foster Care related expenses, the distribution of funds was shifted between accounts. Funding for Prevention programs is consolidated in account 6071, with a concomitant reduction in appropriation in account 6110, and foster care funding consolidated in account 6119.
- Savings of \$500,000 was achieved in transportation services for preschool children with special needs through the rebidding of contracts after gas prices had fallen significantly from the high levels of 2008.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2010

In 2009, the Children and Family Services Division make great strides towards obtaining permanency for children within their own families, both biological and kinship support. When this type of permanency could not be obtained, foster care and adoption occurred. Over the last five years, the number of children and youth in foster care, detention and/or residential care has steadily decreased to the lowest number of children and youth in foster care overseen by the Department. Between January 2008 and August 2009, the number of children and youth in placement decreased from 302 to 245. At the same time, the number of adoptions is the highest number achieved by the Department.

In 2010, Children and Family Services will be examining ways to enhance permanency for children by instituting "Teaming" and "Family Team Decision Making." This strategy includes parents, family members, relatives, community agencies and other significant family supports to work side by side with Children and Family Services staff to develop family plans to ensure safety and permanency for children.

DCYF is continuing to work towards developing Quality Assurance processes and achieving division specific performance standards. Staff will focus on specific objectives and expectations to meet mandates, increase performance and build supervisory oversight of contracted providers to improve overall services to families. The Department is working collectively with community partners and providers to develop performance expectations. Staff will implement these Quality Assurance processes to ensure fiscal accountability and, more importantly, that service and performance expectations are met by all community partners, providers and contracted agencies.

In addition to establishing Quality Assurance processes, DCYF is examining the best ways to collaborate between divisions and with other County departments and community, state and federal partners through blended funding, collective

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reviews, joint committees and initiatives. For example, the Department is examining ways to streamline prevention services to all children 0-5 years old with the collaboration of other County departments, community and private providers.

DCYF is developing specific services to assist the highest need children and youth within the County. In 2010, Respite Services will be available for children and youth involved with mental health, probation, prevention services and children's services. Targeting children and youth remaining in the Department's care and custody for three or more years, youth who are placed out of New York State, youth who are 14 years of age working towards independent living skill development and children and youth who are considered "hard to place" due to mental health, substance abuse, developmental disabilities and other associated concerns will be a priority. DCYF will work diligently with community providers to configure service delivery to these children and youth with the goal of decreasing placement days and placement disruptions. Through combining funding and integrating services, these youth will be better placed when necessary without disconnecting them from their parents, extended family members and natural support systems.

As a System of Care Community, we will continue the commitment to the Child and Adolescent Services System Program (CASSP) core principles of child-centered, family-focused, community based, culturally competent, least restrictive, youth guided services for children and their families. Youth and their families will be involved meaningfully at the service delivery, management and policy levels.

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Account	Description	2008 Expended	2009 Adjusted	2010 Proposed	2009-10 Change	2009-10 Percent Change
Appropriations						
Service Physically Handicapped -(2960)						
	Contractual Expenses	\$14,164,848	\$13,129,607	\$14,501,700	\$1,372,093	10.5%
	Service Physically Handicapped Total	\$14,164,848	\$13,129,607	\$14,501,700	\$1,372,093	10.5%
Care Physically Handicapped -(4046)						
	Contractual Expenses	\$1,909	\$20,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	-25.0%
	Care Physically Handicapped Total	\$1,909	\$20,000	\$15,000	(\$5,000)	-25.0%
Care of Handicapped Children -(4059)						
	Personnel Services	\$1,395,269	\$1,463,467	\$1,360,368	(\$103,099)	-7.0%
	Contractual Expenses	\$2,597,220	\$3,215,923	\$2,714,675	(\$501,248)	-15.6%
	Fringe Benefits	\$473,335	\$518,459	\$520,450	\$1,991	0.4%
	Care of Handicapped Children Total	\$4,465,824	\$5,197,849	\$4,595,493	(\$602,356)	-11.6%
Preventative Assistance Prog. -(6071)						
	Contractual Expenses	\$5,463,009	\$6,360,083	\$6,996,461	\$636,378	10.0%
	Preventative Assistance Prog. Total	\$5,463,009	\$6,360,083	\$6,996,461	\$636,378	10.0%
Emergency Aid to Families -(6110)						
	Contractual Expenses	\$12,203,919	\$15,900,000	\$10,000,000	(\$5,900,000)	-37.1%
	Emergency Aid to Families Total	\$12,203,919	\$15,900,000	\$10,000,000	(\$5,900,000)	-37.1%
Children, Youth and Families -(6119)						
	Personnel Services	\$8,469,584	\$9,131,924	\$8,605,454	(\$526,470)	-5.8%
	Equipment	\$3,727	\$62,526	\$0	(\$62,526)	-100.0%
	Contractual Expenses	\$20,919,788	\$21,667,758	\$20,574,228	(\$1,093,530)	-5.0%
	Fringe Benefits	\$2,874,001	\$3,033,299	\$3,587,270	\$553,971	18.3%
	Children, Youth and Families Total	\$32,267,099	\$33,895,507	\$32,766,952	(\$1,128,555)	-3.3%
Service Physically Handicapped -(6120)						
	Contractual Expenses	\$231,340	\$2,090,396	\$1,050,000	(\$1,040,396)	-49.8%
	Service Physically Handicapped Total	\$231,340	\$2,090,396	\$1,050,000	(\$1,040,396)	-49.8%
State Training School Payments -(6129)						
	Contractual Expenses	(\$292,644)	\$2,182,644	\$2,600,000	\$417,356	19.1%
	State Training School Payments Total	(\$292,644)	\$2,182,644	\$2,600,000	\$417,356	19.1%
Youth Bureau -(7310)						
	Personnel Services	\$254,885	\$262,748	\$212,518	(\$50,230)	-19.1%
	Contractual Expenses	\$445,556	\$421,058	\$375,071	(\$45,987)	-10.9%
	Fringe Benefits	\$82,173	\$89,788	\$81,418	(\$8,370)	-9.3%
	Youth Bureau Total	\$782,614	\$773,594	\$669,007	(\$104,587)	-13.5%
	Total Appropriations	\$69,287,918	\$79,549,680	\$73,194,613	(\$6,355,067)	-8.0%
Revenue						

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Account	Description	2008 Expended	2009 Adjusted	2010 Proposed	2009-10 Change	2009-10 Percent Change
Revenue						
	Service Physically Handicapped -(2960)					
	Service Physically Handicapped Total	(\$7,488,633)	(\$8,367,661)	(\$9,330,012)	(\$962,351)	11.5%
	Care Physically Handicapped -(4046)					
	Care Physically Handicapped Total	(\$3,443)	(\$11,500)	(\$8,500)	\$3,000	-26.1%
	Care of Handicapped Children -(4059)					
	Care of Handicapped Children Total	(\$3,798,369)	(\$4,024,319)	(\$4,028,338)	(\$4,019)	0.1%
	Preventative Assistance Prog. -(6071)					
	Preventative Assistance Prog. Total	(\$2,062,828)	(\$4,549,661)	(\$5,326,641)	(\$776,980)	17.1%
	Emergency Aid to Familie -(6110)					
	Emergency Aid to Families Total	(\$14,379,932)	(\$11,257,281)	(\$7,146,281)	\$4,111,000	-36.5%
	Children, Youth and Families -(6119)					
	Children, Youth and Families Total	(\$32,857,808)	(\$28,523,529)	(\$30,809,771)	(\$2,286,242)	8.0%
	Service Physically Handicapped -(6120)					
	Service Physically Handicapped Total	(\$419,955)	(\$703,058)	(\$646,367)	\$56,691	-8.1%
	Youth Bureau -(7310)					
	Youth Bureau Total	(\$494,268)	(\$497,107)	(\$592,579)	(\$95,472)	19.2%
	Total Revenue	(\$61,505,236)	(\$57,934,116)	(\$57,888,489)	\$45,627	-0.1%
	County Share	\$7,782,682	\$21,615,564	\$15,306,124	(\$6,309,440)	-29.2%