Department of Children and Families

DCF91000

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Governor Estimated FY 26	Original Appropriation FY 27	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference -Gov FY 27
General Fund	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,974	2,979	5

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Governor Estimated FY 26	Original Appropriation FY 27	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference -Gov FY 27
Personal Services	285,854,291	303,678,947	303,233,500	303,233,500	303,233,500	304,598,000	1,364,500
Other Expenses	30,668,135	29,980,772	31,137,956	31,137,956	30,837,956	34,075,956	3,238,000
Other Current Expenses							
Family Support Services	1,064,018	1,064,018	1,089,080	1,064,233	1,064,233	1,064,233	-
Differential Response System	9,315,522	9,366,857	9,580,159	9,367,256	9,367,256	9,367,256	-
Regional Behavioral Health Consultation	1,835,695	1,767,343	1,881,050	1,838,167	1,838,167	1,838,167	-
Community Care Coordination	8,957,944	7,709,097	9,167,127	8,957,944	8,957,944	8,957,944	-
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Health Assessment and Consultation	1,561,995	1,552,074	1,632,953	1,596,776	1,596,776	1,596,776	-
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	18,098,876	18,075,730	18,237,236	17,880,105	17,880,105	18,748,105	868,000
Day Treatment Centers for Children	8,046,230	8,104,943	8,411,542	8,219,601	8,219,601	8,219,601	-
Child Abuse and Neglect Intervention	9,980,915	9,621,951	10,109,991	9,988,016	9,988,016	9,988,016	-
Community Based Prevention Programs	9,297,639	9,213,301	9,741,072	9,657,655	9,657,655	9,657,655	-
Family Violence Outreach and Counseling	3,898,171	3,913,325	4,036,543	4,009,230	4,009,230	4,009,230	-
Supportive Housing	21,179,806	21,179,806	21,531,785	21,180,221	21,680,221	21,680,221	-
No Nexus Special Education	1,773,850	2,236,974	2,452,640	2,452,640	2,452,640	2,452,640	-
Family Preservation Services	7,239,251	6,960,162	7,361,736	7,242,683	7,242,683	7,242,683	-
Substance Abuse Treatment	9,890,878	9,245,513	10,036,784	10,073,982	11,708,982	11,708,982	-
Child Welfare Support Services	2,530,296	2,530,250	2,850,756	2,854,163	2,854,163	2,854,163	-
Board and Care for Children - Adoption	105,755,102	105,614,175	106,884,511	106,884,511	106,884,511	106,884,511	-
Board and Care for Children - Foster	114,948,001	117,310,702	125,512,536	123,521,818	124,021,818	125,021,818	1,000,000
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	64,660,509	68,544,503	66,353,676	65,628,396	69,628,396	69,628,396	-
Individualized Family Supports	3,783,841	3,853,519	3,918,245	3,871,304	4,021,304	4,021,304	-
Community Kidcare	48,398,654	48,107,468	53,458,368	61,011,129	61,011,129	61,011,129	-
Covenant to Care	183,944	183,944	190,207	185,911	185,911	185,911	-
Various Grants	-	-	-	-	640,000	575,000	(65,000)
Juvenile Review Boards	1,734,888	1,734,886	3,938,471	6,043,187	6,043,187	6,043,187	-
Youth Transition and Success Programs	996,192	996,192	1,039,483	1,016,220	1,016,220	1,266,220	250,000
LOVE146	-	-	500,000	500,000	-	-	-
Grant Payments to Local Governments							
Youth Service Bureaus	2,727,244	2,699,919	2,733,240	2,733,240	2,733,240	2,747,240	14,000

Account	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Governor Estimated FY 26	Original Appropriation FY 27	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference -Gov FY 27
Youth Service Bureau Enhancement	1,111,934	1,112,618	1,115,161	1,115,161	1,115,161	1,115,161	-
Agency Total - General Fund	**775,493,821**	**796,358,989**	**818,135,808**	**823,265,005**	**829,890,005**	**836,559,505**	**6,669,500**

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor

Policy Revisions

Provide Funding for Child Welfare Initiatives

Personal Services	-	270,900	270,900
Other Expenses	-	3,073,000	3,073,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**3,343,900**	**3,343,900**
Positions - General Fund	**-**	**3**	**3**

Background

PA 26-26 establishes several new Department of Children and Families (DCF) initiatives that focus on improving the state child welfare system. The law provides eligible children and caregivers with additional grant opportunities to support: (1) the purchase of child necessities; (2) after school program costs; and (3) post-secondary education costs. Additionally, other initiatives seek to improve the agency's transparency, oversight, and provision of services, as well as their staff training, recruitment, and retention.

Legislative

Provide funding of $3,343,900 and three positions in FY 27 to support various child welfare initiatives within DCF under PA 26-26, including:

- $500,000 in Other Expenses and $90,300 in Personal Services to establish new grant programs for certain caregivers to help cover child necessities and after school program costs pursuant to Sections 3 and 4, respectively. The funding supports $250,000 in grant funding for each program, and one new Grants and Contract Specialist to administer the programs.
- $200,000 in Other Expenses and $90,300 in Personal Services to establish paid social worker internship and first-year social worker employee mentorship programs, pursuant to Section 5. The funding supports $200,000 in stipends and one new Training Program Supervisor to train mentors.
- $30,000 in Other Expenses and $90,300 in Personal Services to provide several mandatory employee training programs regarding perinatal mood and anxiety disorders, human trafficking, and cultural sensitivity and implicit bias pursuant to Sections 6 through 8. The funding supports training development and one new Training Program Supervisor to provide the training.
- $500,000 in Other Expenses to establish a new grant program that expands existing DCF post-secondary education assistance pursuant to Section 9.
- $100,000 in Other Expenses to create a new website providing information regarding agency programs and services, including a public online dashboard providing real-time information, pursuant to Section 11.
- $243,000 in Other Expenses to equip certain DCF staff with personal emergency communication devices pursuant to Section 16.
- $1.5 million in Other Expenses to establish an urgent crisis center (UCC) in Stamford for the duration of FY 27 pursuant to Section 17.

Provide Funding to Increase Foster Care Rates

Board and Care for Children - Foster	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**

Legislative

Provide funding of $1 million in FY 27 to increase foster care rates.

Provide Funding for Solnit Staff and Training

Personal Services	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**1,000,000**	**1,000,000**

Background

The Albert J. Solnit Children's Center South Campus is a state-administered psychiatric facility that provides comprehensive care to youth ages 13 to 17 with severe mental illness and related behavioral health problems. Such individuals cannot be safely assessed or treated in a less restrictive setting. The South Campus consists of four coed hospital units and three female adolescent

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor

psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) cottages. The hospital units recently transitioned to the purview of UConn Health Center's John Dempsey Hospital.

Legislative

Provide funding of $1 million in FY 27 to support the Albert J. Solnit Children's Center's South Campus staff and training.

Provide Funding for Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center

Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	-	618,000	618,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**618,000**	**618,000**

Background

The Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center is a nonprofit that serves as a safety net for children and families in the greater Norwalk region who cannot afford or gain access to private mental health care. Outpatient, school and in-home programs provide mental health services to over 2,500 children and family members annually.

Legislative

Provide funding of $618,000 in FY 27 to support the Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center.

Provide Funding for Withdrawn Student Record Checks

Personal Services	-	93,600	93,600
Other Expenses	-	165,000	165,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**258,600**	**258,600**
Positions - General Fund	**-**	**2**	**2**

Background

PA 26-37 requires a records check with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to determine whether a child may be withdrawn for parent-managed learning beginning in the 2027-28 school year (FY 28). Parents are prohibited from withdrawing their child if any adult living with the child is on the state's child abuse and neglect registry or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect.

Legislative

Provide funding of $258,600 and two positions in FY 27 to support certain checks of DCF records when parents submit a form to withdraw their children from public school for parent-managed learning. The funding is provided accordingly:

- $165,000 in FY 27 within the Other Expenses account to expand the capabilities of the existing new hire background check portal accessible to Boards of Education to include a new parent-managed learning search category; and
- $93,600 in FY 27 within the Personal Services account to support two full-time Careline processing technicians to assist with any increase in case search volume.

Provide Funding to Expand TSEA

Youth Transition and Success Programs	-	250,000	250,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**250,000**	**250,000**

Background

Transitional Supports for Emerging Adults (TSEA) is an individualized, evidence-informed program model that supports youth who are aging out of foster care. Services are currently offered by two local providers (Wheeler Health and Community Health Resources) and are available in roughly two-thirds of the state.

Legislative

Provide funding of $250,000 in FY 27 to support service expansion in New Haven and Fairfield Counties.

Provide Funding for Pawcatuck Outpatient Mental Health Clinic

Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children	-	250,000	250,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**250,000**	**250,000**

Legislative

Provide funding of $250,000 in FY 27 to the Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT for Pawcatuck Outpatient Mental Health Clinic.

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor

Transfer Funding for Thames River Community Service from DCF to DOH

Various Grants	-	(250,000)	(250,000)
Total - General Fund	**-**	**(250,000)**	**(250,000)**

Background

Thames River Community Service provides housing and support services in southeastern Connecticut to youth ages 18-24 at risk of homelessness.

Legislative

Transfer funding of $250,000 in FY 27 from DCF to the Department of Housing (DOH) for Thames River Community Service. (See also the related carry forward under DOH.)

Transfer Legislative Grants to a Separate Account

Other Expenses	(300,000)	(300,000)	-
Various Grants	800,000	800,000	-
LOVE146	(500,000)	(500,000)	-
Total - General Fund	**-**	**-**	**-**

Governor

Transfer funding of $800,000 from the Other Expenses and LOVE146 accounts to the Various Grants account in FY 27.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Maintain Legislative Grants

Various Grants	(160,000)	-	160,000
Total - General Fund	**(160,000)**	**-**	**160,000**

Governor

Reduce the Various Grants account by $160,000 in FY 27 to reflect a reduction to legislative grants.

Legislative

Maintain funding for legislative grants.

Provide Funding for Left Hearts

Various Grants	-	25,000	25,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**25,000**	**25,000**

Background

Left Hearts is a Bridgeport nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to supporting families and children impacted by gun violence, trauma, and loss. They provide specialized support for DCF children who lost their parents due to gun violence or who have experienced associated trauma.

Legislative

Provide funding of $25,000 in FY 27 to support Left Hearts.

Provide Funding for Main Youth Service Bureau Sherman

Youth Service Bureaus	-	14,000	14,000
Total - General Fund	**-**	**14,000**	**14,000**

Background

Youth Service Bureaus (YSBs) are community-based, municipally supported agencies designed to provide comprehensive prevention, diversion, and treatment services for youth and their families. They act as local hubs for supporting young people, aiming to reduce juvenile justice involvement and promote positive development.

The DCF YSB Grant Program assists municipalities and private youth-serving organizations designated to act as agents for municipalities in establishing, maintaining, or expanding YSBs. Under the program, DCF provides cost-sharing grants to eligible YSBs, grant management services, program monitoring, program evaluation and technical assistance. Each YSB is eligible for a minimum grant of $14,000.

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor

Legislative

Provide funding of $14,000 in FY 27 to establish a main youth service bureau in Sherman.

Current Services

Adjust Funding to Reflect Current Requirements

Supportive Housing	500,000	500,000	-
Board and Care for Children - Foster	500,000	500,000	-
Board and Care for Children - Short-term and Residential	4,000,000	4,000,000	-
Individualized Family Supports	150,000	150,000	-
Total - General Fund	**5,150,000**	**5,150,000**	**-**

Governor

Provide funding of $5,150,000 in FY 27 to reflect current agency requirements.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Transfer Funding Related to the Substance Use Disorder Waiver

Substance Abuse Treatment	1,635,000	1,635,000	-
Total - General Fund	**1,635,000**	**1,635,000**	**-**

Background

Funding of $15,025,000 is transferred from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to the Departments of Children and Families and Mental Health and Addiction Services and to the Judicial Department to reflect program supports in the appropriate agency. FY 26 funding is transferred from DSS to meet program requirements via interagency agreements.

Governor

Transfer funding of $1,635,000 from DSS to DCF in FY 27 to support program services for youth struggling with substance use and mental health conditions.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
Original Appropriation - GF	823,265,005	823,265,005	-
Policy Revisions	(160,000)	6,509,500	6,669,500
Current Services	6,785,000	6,785,000	-
Total Recommended - GF	**829,890,005**	**836,559,505**	**6,669,500**

Positions	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
Original Appropriation - GF	2,974	2,974	-
Policy Revisions	-	5	5
Total Recommended - GF	**2,974**	**2,979**	**5**

FY 27 Revisions to Legislatively Directed Funds

Grantee by Account	Purpose	FY 27 Original	FY 27 Revised	FY 27 Total
GENERAL FUND				
Grants for Psychiatric Clinics for Children				
Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT	Operational support for Pawcatuck Outpatient Mental Health Clinic	-	250,000	250,000
Mid-Fairfield Community Care Center	Operational support	-	618,000	618,000
Various Grants				
Left Hearts	Operational support	50,000	25,000	75,000
Youth Service Bureaus				
Sherman	To establish a main youth service bureau in Sherman	-	14,000	14,000