

# Budget Briefing FY 2005



Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor  
Bryan Samuels, Director

# **Department of Children and Family Services FY05 Budget Request Briefing Book**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Letter from the Director</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Tables and Charts:</b>	
Fund Summary – Program Funding	5
FY03 Expenditures, FY04 Funding, FY05 Request	6
Fiscal Summary by Program	7
Substitute Care Caseload Table	8
<b>Ensuring Child Well-Being</b>	<b>9-18</b>
<b>Promoting Permanency</b>	<b>19-22</b>
<b>Enforcing Accountability</b>	<b>23-28</b>
<b>Securing Safety</b>	<b>29-36</b>

**Rod R. Blagojevich**  
Governor



**Bryan Samuels**  
Director

---

**Illinois Department of Children & Family Services**

February 18, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

As Fiscal Year 2004 comes to a close, we are once again required to face the realities of a state budget deficit when evaluating our financial priorities for the coming year. The proposed FY05 budget for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) largely reflects the needs of the population of youth currently in care. All FY05 budget decisions were also made against the backdrop of a steady 62 percent decline in substitute care caseloads since 1997, which presents the Department with different issues than were faced a decade ago. Because many of the children we serve are older and essentially growing up in our care, DCFS needs to purchase services that meet their basic needs and prepares them for a successful transition to adulthood.

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget includes the following spending priorities:

- Statewide implementation of the Integrated Assessment Program (IAP)
- Department restructuring to add a unit dedicated to addressing the mental health needs of children in care
- Enhanced services to older children in the child welfare system
- Strengthen partnerships with residential providers by creating a unit to improve monitoring, reporting and management of programs
- Assume responsibility for Orphanage Act funding, which will enable the Department to work in partnership with the school districts to ensure improved outcomes for DCFS wards

DCFS is committed to providing the highest quality services to the children and families we work with. We believe that this can be accomplished, even in a tough fiscal climate, by strategically allocating resources to programs and services that support our core mission.

I ask for your continued support as we work together to improve the lives of the children and families who rely on our dedication and professional service.

Bryan Samuels

**406 E. Monroe Street · Springfield, Illinois 62701**  
**217-785-2509 · 217-524-3715 / TTY**



ACCREDITED • COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

# Department of Children & Family Services

## Fund Summary

(\$ .000)

	FY03 Expenditures*	FY04 Funding	FY05 Request	FY04-05 \$ Change	FY04-05 % Change
<b>All Funds - Total</b>	1,300,633.5	1,357,901.0	1,406,207.8	48,306.8	3.6%
State Funds - sub-total	1,286,942.0	1,340,018.4	1,387,840.2	47,821.8	3.6%
General Revenue	823,663.9	819,432.8	907,241.1	87,808.3	10.7%
DCFS Children's Services	452,031.1	501,775.8	463,587.1	(38,188.7)	-7.6%
Child Abuse Prevention	423.9	600.0	600.0	0.0	0.0%
DCFS Training Fund	10,762.0	18,052.0	16,052.0	(2,000.0)	-11.1%
Special Purposes Trust	61.1	157.8	360.0	202.2	128.1%
Federal Funds - sub-total	13,691.5	17,882.6	18,367.6	485.0	2.7%
DCFS Federal Projects	13,691.5	17,867.6	18,367.6	500.0	2.8%
DCFS Refugee Ass't.	0.0	15.0	0.0	(15.0)	-100.0%

\* includes non-appropriated funds

## Program Funding

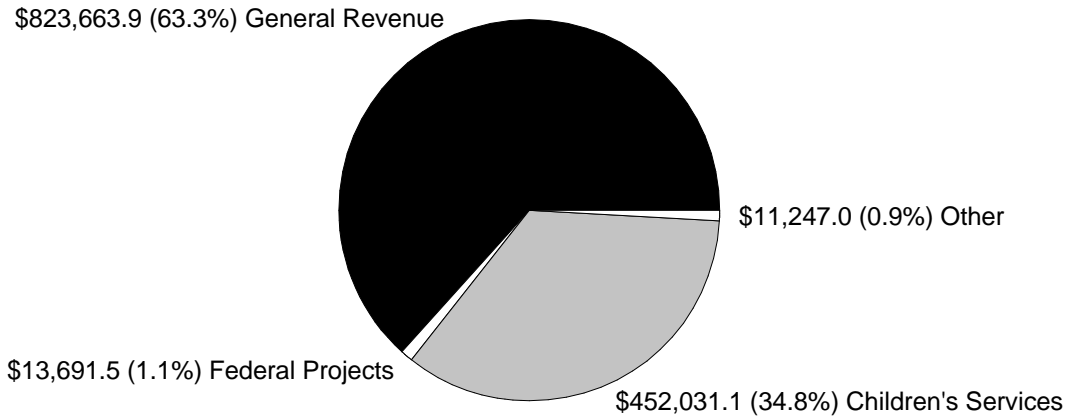
(\$ .000)

	FY03 Expenditures*	FY04 Funding	FY05 Request	FY04-05 \$ Change	FY04-05 % Change
<b>DCFS Program</b>	1,300,633.5	1,357,901.0	1,406,207.8	48,306.8	3.6%
Protective Services	117,502.1	126,773.3	116,712.4	(10,060.9)	-7.9%
Adoption & Guardianship	284,075.7	312,429.5	313,769.8	1,340.2	0.4%
Family Maintenance	81,678.5	89,656.4	83,361.2	(6,295.2)	-7.0%
Family Reunification & Sub. Care	768,053.3	778,251.1	843,326.0	65,074.9	8.4%
Support Services	49,323.9	50,790.6	49,038.5	(1,752.1)	-3.4%

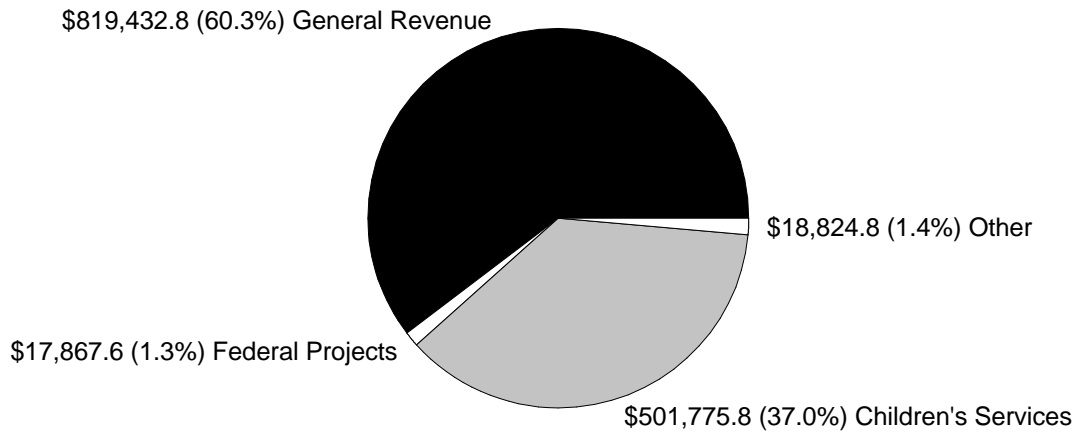
\* includes non-appropriated funds

# Illinois Department of Children & Family Services ( \$ .000 )

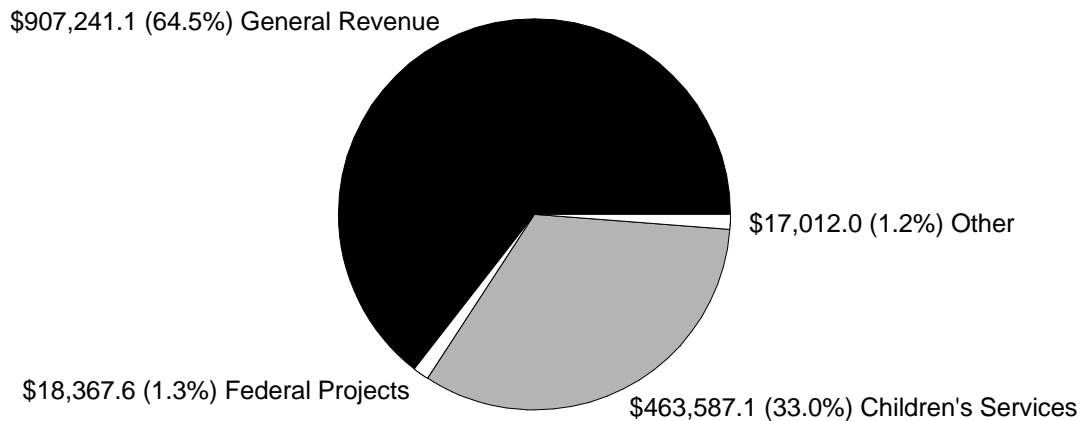
## FY03 Expenditures - \$ 1,300,633.6



## FY04 Funding - \$ 1,357,901.0



## FY05 Request - \$ 1,406,207.8



# Department of Children & Family Services FY05 Budget Request

## Fiscal Summary by Program (\$ .000)

<b>Program</b>	FY03 Exp.	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	\$ Change 04App.-05Req	% Change
<b>Agency Total -</b>	1,300,633.6	1,357,901.0	1,406,207.8	48,306.8	3.6%
<b>Safety</b>	140,693.8	154,864.4	143,486.1	(11,378.3)	-7.3%
Child Protection	104,944.1	112,230.9	104,852.6	(7,378.3)	-6.6%
Family Centered Services	35,749.6	42,633.5	38,633.5	(4,000.0)	-9.4%
<b>Permanency</b>	972,794.1	989,491.9	1,071,872.2	82,380.3	8.3%
Adoption & Guardianship	268,052.7	294,925.6	297,499.6	2,574.0	0.9%
Substitute Care Services *	573,049.1	552,811.3	514,212.7	(38,598.6)	-7.0%
Operations & Community Services	131,692.2	141,755.0	136,659.7	(5,095.3)	-3.6%
Special & Regular Reimb. to Schools	0.0	0.0	123,500.2	123,500.2	new
<b>Well-Being</b>	60,563.2	67,253.1	64,243.9	(3,009.2)	-4.5%
Counseling & Auxiliary Services	43,634.2	48,708.1	45,452.5	(3,255.6)	-6.7%
Clinical Services	16,929.0	18,545.0	18,791.4	246.4	1.3%
<b>Dept. Accountability &amp; Service Quality</b>	126,582.6	146,291.6	126,605.6	(19,686.0)	-13.5%
Administrative Case Review	7,601.4	6,550.4	6,341.0	(209.4)	-3.2%
Office of Quality Assurance	2,421.5	2,773.6	2,521.5	(252.1)	-9.1%
Office of the Guardian	3,928.6	4,362.7	4,256.8	(105.9)	-2.4%
Inspector General	2,140.6	2,374.3	2,370.6	(3.7)	-0.2%
Central Administration **	21,032.6	21,384.7	13,932.5	(7,452.2)	-34.8%
Purchase of Service Monitoring	21,583.5	20,656.7	20,684.4	27.7	0.1%
Support Services ***	56,163.2	55,537.2	58,846.8	3,309.6	6.0%
Training ****	11,711.3	32,652.0	17,652.0	(15,000.0)	-45.9%

\* new line for Federal Compliance/Program Improvement Plan Implementation - \$20.0 million

\*\* removal of retirement pick-up - \$7.1 million

\*\*\* SACWIS increase - \$3.6 million

\*\*\*\* reduce F.C. & Adopt. Training \$2.0 mil., remove separate approp. for Training Prog. for POS Staff & Care Providers \$13.0mil.

# SUBSTITUTE CARE CASELOAD HISTORY

Fiscal Year	Home of Relative	Specialized Foster Care	Regular Foster Care	Residential Placements	Independent Living	Total Substitute Care
-------------	------------------	-------------------------	---------------------	------------------------	--------------------	-----------------------

## Caseloads

FY05 proj.	6,269	3,113	6,658	1,125	900	18,065
FY 04 est.	6,611	3,348	6,810	1,475	925	19,169
FY 03	6,988	3,929	7,098	1,662	967	20,644
FY 02	8,534	4,137	7,665	1,998	899	23,233
FY 01	10,174	4,324	8,896	2,293	933	26,620
FY 00	12,454	5,907	8,868	2,470	968	30,667
FY 99	17,714	6,118	10,332	2,724	1,057	37,945
FY 98	24,066	6,804	11,295	2,914	1,046	46,125
FY 97	27,652	7,345	11,492	3,265	980	50,734

## Caseload Change

FY05 proj.	(342)	-5.2%	(235)	-7.0%	(152)	-2.2%	(350)	-23.7%	(25)	-2.7%	(1,104)	-5.8%
FY 04 est.	(377)	-5.4%	(581)	-14.8%	(288)	-4.1%	(187)	-11.3%	(42)	-4.3%	(1,475)	-7.1%
FY 03	(1,546)	-18.1%	(208)	-5.0%	(567)	-7.4%	(336)	-16.8%	68	7.6%	(2,589)	-11.1%
FY 02	(1,640)	-16.1%	(187)	-4.3%	(1,231)	-13.8%	(295)	-12.9%	(34)	-3.6%	(3,387)	-12.7%
FY 01	(2,280)	-18.3%	(1,583)	-26.8%	28	0.3%	(177)	-7.2%	(35)	-3.6%	(4,047)	-13.2%
FY 00	(5,260)	-29.7%	(211)	-3.4%	(1,464)	-14.2%	(254)	-9.3%	(89)	-8.4%	(7,278)	-19.2%
FY 99	(6,352)	-26.4%	(686)	-10.1%	(963)	-8.5%	(190)	-6.5%	11	1.1%	(8,180)	-17.7%
FY 98	(3,586)	-13.0%	(541)	-7.4%	(197)	-1.7%	(351)	-10.8%	66	6.7%	(4,609)	-9.1%
FY 97	(221)	-0.8%	21	0.3%	1,343	13.2%	(581)	-15.1%	128	15.0%	690	1.4%

# Ensuring Child Well-Being

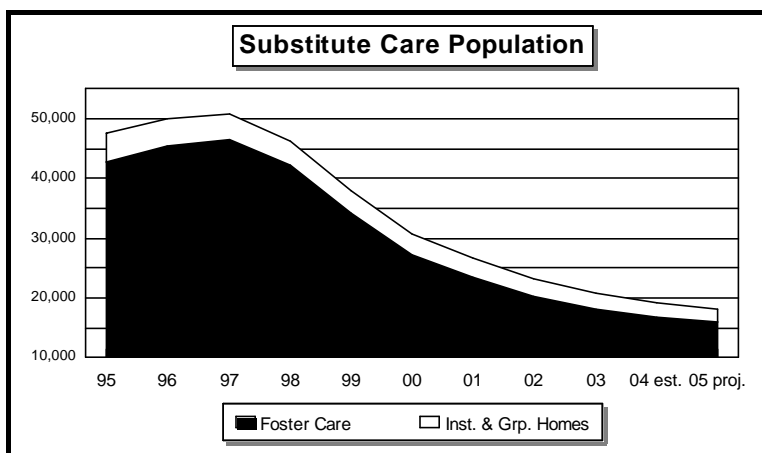
The Illinois child welfare system is recognized nationally as not only one of the strongest in the country, but also the largest accredited child welfare system. Improvements in the investigation of child abuse and neglect have resulted in fewer children being taken into state custody. Advances in safety assessment and family support, have resulted in fewer children being removed from kinship care. Innovations such as performance contracting and subsidized guardianship have resulted in more children being discharged from foster care to the permanent custody of adoptive parents and legal guardians. More children are being maintained safely in their own homes, while the number of children retained in long-term foster care is declining. The improvements in the system in the last decade have contributed to the number of children in foster care dropping from 51,600 to just over 18,000. The per-capita rate of foster care has been cut in half from 11.5 per 1000 children in FY97 to 5.5 per 1000 children in FY03.

The system, however, still faces challenges. The Department now faces a different mix of children remaining in care. The group of older wards is much larger and they are less likely to be adopted or discharged to private guardianship than their younger peers. Ensuring a child's well-being has the greatest relevance for this group and therefore, the Department has prioritized spending in FY05 to make sure the needs of these youth are met.

The Department is also faced with addressing the concerns of the recent federal review, which identified that despite all systemic improvements, the remaining foster care caseload faces greater challenges and the Department needs to enhance its processes in certain areas to meet these challenges. Through the Performance Improvement Plan and resulting new direction, the Department intends to concentrate efforts on the weaknesses identified in order to make the child welfare system even stronger.

## The Department's Record – Progress in Substitute Care

While the number of children in foster care nationally remains level, Illinois reduced the number of children in substitute care for the sixth consecutive year, from a peak of 51,600 children in mid-FY97 to an estimated 18,065 children by the end of FY05. (The table below shows end of fiscal year numbers.)

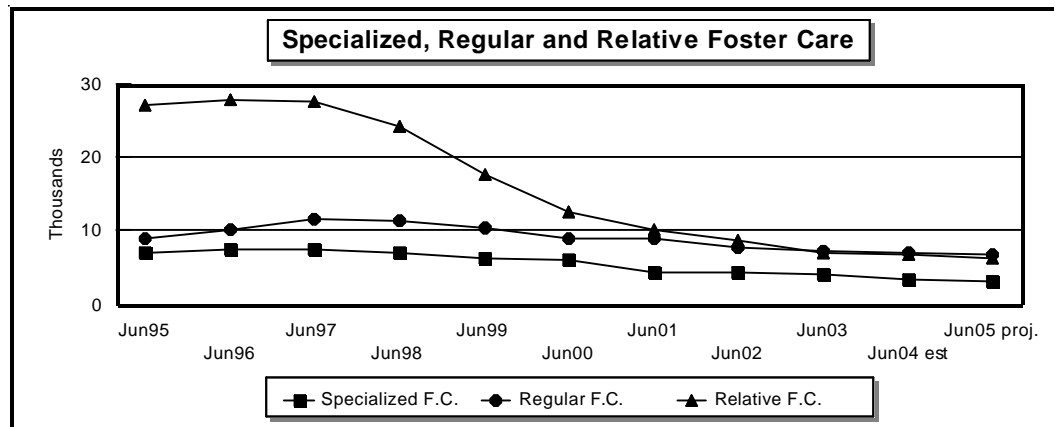


Fiscal Year	Foster Care	Inst/Grp Home	Total Csl.
95	42,815	4,882	47,697
96	45,346	4,698	50,044
97	46,489	4,245	50,734
98	42,165	3,947	46,112
99	34,164	3,781	37,945
00	27,229	3,438	30,667
01	23,394	3,226	26,620
02	20,336	2,897	23,233
03	18,015	2,629	20,644
04 est.	16,769	2,400	19,169
05 proj.	16,040	2,025	18,065

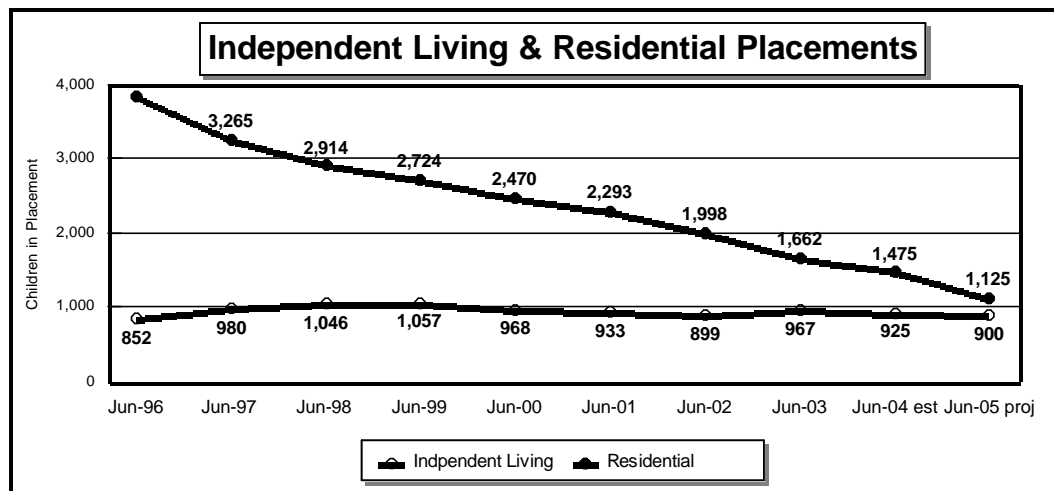
## Key Substitute Care Indicators

The data indicates:

- The number of children served in regular foster care, relative care and specialized foster care have all declined. During FY03, all three foster care populations combined decreased from 20,336 children to 18,015 children. Although the rate of decline has slowed, the combined foster care caseload is projected to drop to nearly 16,000 children by the end of FY05.



- The Department continues to make progress in reducing the number of placements. It is estimated that residential and group care placements will fall to 1,400 by the end of FY04, and Independent Living placements will increase to 925 placements during the same period, a total decline of approximately 10.3 percent. This decline in residential placements is projected to continue through FY05.



## **Substitute Care Levels – Illinois in Context**

The reduction in the number of out-of-home placements reflects the combined impact of investments in front-end service delivery and new resources provided designed to support permanency activities at the back end. Over the past 6 years, the rate of substitute care out-of-home placements in Illinois has declined from 16.0 per 1,000 children in FY97 to 6.4 per 1,000 children in state FY03.

### **Child Well-Being - Program Highlights:**

The Department continues to pursue programmatic and policy changes that will support increasing the stability of children while in substitute care. As the Department continues to reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care, the services necessary for those children remaining in the substitute care system intensifies. Increasing the Department's capacity to assess and treat serious mental health problems is vital for managing a child welfare system that is less intrusive, more responsive and better directed on securing clear outcomes for children.

While the typical child entering care today will spend less than three years in care, a growing proportion of the children in substitute care are adolescents. The Department's programmatic shift reflects this change through the growth in transition services, the emphasis on education attainment and utilization of the Independent Living program. Reflecting this emphasis on older children, the Department has proposed resources for educational activities related to the residential schools and homes that serve the Department's and other children.

The following program details outline the Department's investment in child well being across divisions and with specific services made available to children and families served by the Department.

#### **Integrated Assessment System**

In FY04, the Department will begin the statewide implementation of the Integrated Assessment System. Integrated Assessment is a new clinically based process of collecting important family information after a child enters the Department's care. The resultant recommendations will better identify how to best meet the children's and family's needs. The process ensures the prompt identification of safety and risk factors, improves service planning and makes certain that appropriate services are put into place for the family.

#### **Counseling and Other Supportive Service**

The Department's Counseling and Auxiliary Services appropriations provide:

- General counseling services to youth in care, as well as their families. This counseling is designed to support children during their stay in substitute care and to support families indicated for, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Specific, targeted counseling for children in care experiencing trauma associated with abuse or necessary to stabilize children with mental health diagnoses. This includes sexual abuse counseling, sexual abuse victim treatment and therapy for sexually aggressive children and youth.

The Department and its two partner agencies, Public Aid and Human Services have developed a common system of Pre-Admission/Post-Discharge Screening and Assessment Services for its clients (referred to as SASS). A major emphasis this year will be consolidating the system so that the needs of all children with significant mental health issues are better served. Prior to admission to a psychiatric hospital, every Department client is assessed to determine if the admission is necessary or if other services can meet the child's needs. Services are available 365 days per year, 24 hours per day. This system serves all eligible children, and has been strengthened to provide more intensive hospitalization monitoring and follow-up services.

### **Children's Personal and Physical Maintenance**

Children's Personal and Physical Maintenance is used to purchase necessary supplies and services for children in foster care. Expenditures include, but are not limited to, transportation services, first-time placement clothing, replacement clothing when original clothing is damaged and medical devices and equipment not covered by Medicaid.

### **Improving Education Outcomes**

The Department considers the education of its children as to be of utmost importance. The Early Childhood programs are dedicated to helping the Department better understand and meet the developmental and mental health needs of very young children in child welfare. The work is focused on preparing children for kindergarten, promoting placement stabilization, and representing the needs of young children to each division across the Department. Primarily, the unit provides and monitors developmental screens for children under age five in foster care statewide. From their screen, each child receives a referral that is tracked to enrollment by the early childhood staff.

Several other developments are making a difference in the educational well being of children. The DCFS educational access project with Northern Illinois University offers technical assistance related to children's issues. A system of educational advisers provides ongoing support for staff and foster parents. Caseworkers are required to visit the schools of their children and actively participate in educational planning. There has been an on-going effort to decrease truancy among wards enrolled in the Chicago Public Schools. Funding has been provided for alternative education options that help youth obtain their high school diploma or GED when regular public school options are not effective for a particular child.

Despite these focused efforts, the Department faces several challenges:

*Academic Performance:* Of children in placement, almost half of all 3rd through 8th graders in care are scoring in the bottom quartile in reading on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. Moreover, 20% are older than their classroom peers. Only 40% of all students in care are scoring above the bottom quartile on reading and are in the appropriate grade for their age.

*Enrollment in Special Education Programs:* Nearly 7% of students in care are enrolled in special education schools; over one third of 3rd through 8th graders in care receive special education services; more than one in ten students in care are classified as having an emotional behavior disorder.

*School Mobility:* Students are extremely mobile during the year they enter the Department's care. On average, approximately 46% change schools once during the school year while more than 10% change schools two or more times.

The Department's enhanced education services are being developed to emphasize early identification of problems that will impact a child's future success in school. Studies have shown that an early investment of resources will improve future outcomes. From early childhood through the high school years, the attention of caseworkers and caregivers to educational progress of children is critical. More efforts will be made to help children do well in school, stay in school and find the best schools available for their emerging skills. In FY04, the Department will also be exploring the development of a center of academic enrichment that would become a model for assuring the educational and vocational potential of children in substitute care.

### **Supporting the Transition of Youth from Substitute Care**

Children in foster care that are at age 15 or older are far less likely to be adopted or discharged to private guardianship than their younger peers. As a result, the Department is increasingly dealing with an older ward population that needs to be prepared for independent living. There are currently approximately 4,000 children ages 15-18 in substitute care.

One of the Department's goals is to significantly improve the number and quality of services available to adolescents. The goal is to ensure that every youth under the Department's care receives appropriate life skills assessment(s), transition planning and supportive services until self-sufficiency has been achieved. This is done by:

- Emphasizing and supporting educational success
- Planning effectively for adolescents, and
- Addressing the challenges of special populations.

Transition planning begins when a child reaches age 14 and includes formal assessment and transition planning. The standard tool, a Life Skills Assessment, is completed for all youth in DCFS care at ages 14 and 16, and again six months prior to discharge. Life skills are taught within the substitute care environment. Community support is being identified for the child early in the process. Volunteer or vocational experience is to be arranged for youth every year upon entering high school. Efforts are made to provide drug counseling and treatment immediately to youth who need these services.

The Department receives Federal resources through the Chafee Foster Care Independence program. Unlike the Foster Care program the resources are grant based and limited by Congressional appropriation. The purposes of the program are:

- Helping youth make the transition to self-sufficiency;
- Helping youth receive the education, training and services necessary to obtain employment;
- Helping Youth prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions;
- Providing personal and emotional support to youth through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults; and
- Providing financial, housing, counseling, employment, education and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age

## Substitute Care Services

Units of Service*	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Projected	04-05 Change	04-05 % Change
Children in Regular Foster Care	7,098	6,810	6,658	-150	-2.2%
Children in Specialized Foster Care	3,929	3,348	3,113	-235	-7.0%
Children in Relative Care	6,988	6,611	6,269	-342	-5.2%
Children in Institutions or Group Homes	1,662	1,484	1,423	-61	-4.1%
Children in Independent Living	967	925	900	-25	-2.7%
Children Reunified with Families	2,456	2,241	2,017	-224	-10.0%
Child Cases Closed	10,933	7,300	7,150	-150	-2.1%
Percentage of Children Reunified	12.1%	12.2%	12.0%	-.2%	-1.6%
Department Foster Homes	3,721	3,480	3,350	-130	-3.7%

\* Units of service measured on last day of indicated State Fiscal Year

**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Approp.</b>	<b>FY05 Request</b>	<b>04-05 \$ Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Total Foster Care (All Funds)	337,423.9	326,582.6	309,152.4	-17,430.2	-5.3%
Total Institutions/Group Homes (All Funds)	235,264.1	225,820.4	184,714.0	-41,106.4	-18.2%
Foster Care (GRF)	188,509.5	165,639.6	163,689.6	-1,950.0	-1.2%
Foster Care (CSF)	139,701.8	150,845.9	136,015.7	-14,830.2	-9.8%
Institutions & Group Homes (GRF)	124,334.6	110,389.5	93,689.5	-16,700.0	-15.1%
Institutions & Group Homes (CSF)	110,929.5	107,808.0	91,024.5	-16,783.5	-15.6%
Program Develop for Most Troubled Kids (CSF)		7,622.9	0.0	-7,622.9	-100.0%
Foster Care Initiative (GRF)	7,660.2	8,139.1	7,789.1	-350.0	-4.3%
Foster Care Initiative (CSF)	1,552.4	1,958.0	1,658.0	-300.0	-15.3%
Youth Service Initiative (GPF)	14.8	50.0	0.0	-50.0	-100.0%
Reimbursing Counties (GRF)	346.3	346.3	346.3	0.0	0.0%
Federal Compliance/Program Improvement Plan Implementation			20,000.0	20,000.0	new
Refugee Assistance (RAF)	0.0	12.0	0.0	-12.0	-100.0%
<b>Total Substitute Care</b>	<b>573,049.1</b>	<b>552,811.3.0</b>	<b>514,224.7</b>	<b>-38,598.6</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>

<b>Reimbursements to Schools</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Estimated</b>	<b>FY05 Projected</b>	<b>04-05 Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Special Education Reimbursement to Schools			106,100.0	106,100.0	new
Regular Education Reimbursement to Schools			17,400.2	17,400.2	new
<b>Total</b>			<b>123,500.2</b>	<b>123,500.2</b>	<b>new</b>

**Counseling and Other Supportive Services**

<b>Clients Served</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Estimated</b>	<b>FY05 Projected</b>	<b>04-05 Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Counseling Services	8,452	8,450	7,920	-530	-6.3%
Pre-Admission/Post-Discharge Screenings	3,447	3,450	3,450	0	0.0%
Pre-Adm./Post-Discharge Hospital Deflections	1,360	1,360	1,360	0	0.0%
Days of Care Beyond Medical Necessity	1,176	1,120	1,070	-50	-4.5%
Children receiving Personal & Physical Maint. System of Care	8,340	8,340	7,760	-580	-7.0%
	3,086	3,090	3,090	0	0.0%

**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Counseling & Auxiliary Services (GRF)	9,959.3	10,140.9	8,285.3	-1,855.6	-18.3%
Counseling & Auxiliary Services (CSF)	15,316.6	19,263.6	19,263.6	0.0	0.0%
Psychological Assessments (GRF)	3,994.3	4,211.9	3,211.9	-1,000.0	-23.7%
Pre Admiss/Post Disch. Psych. Screening (GRF)	8,232.3	8,257.6	8,257.6	0.0	0.0%
Children's Personal & Physical Maint. (GRF)	4,430.4	5,132.3	4,732.3	-400.0	-7.8%
MCO Tech. Asst. & Prog. Development (GRF)	1,701.2	1,701.8	1,701.8	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,634.1</b>	<b>48,708.1</b>	<b>45,452.5</b>	<b>-3,255.6</b>	<b>-6.7%</b>

The divisions within the Department that have primary responsibility for promoting the well-being of children are as follows:

**Field Operations**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Operations & Community Services (GRF)	3,921.2	3,560.3	3,523.9	-36.4	-1.0%
Operations & Comm. Services (Refugee Assist.)	0.0	3.0	0.0	-3.0	-100.0%
Targeted Case Management (GRF)	7,932.1	8,569.5	8,569.5	0.0	0.0%
Federal Child Welfare Projects (FPF)	1,697.0	2,775.0	2,775.0	0.0	0.0%
Child Welfare – Downstate (GRF)	65,321.4	68,173.7	65,271.4	-2,902.3	-4.3%
Child Welfare – Cook (GRF)	52,820.4	58,673.5	56,519.9	-2,153.6	-1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,692.1</b>	<b>141,755.0</b>	<b>136,659.7</b>	<b>-5,095.3</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>

Field Operations is responsible for administering the delivery of child welfare and permanency services to children and families assigned to Department caseworkers. The goal of all services provided by the Division is the safety, permanency and well being of the children served. In Cook County, the division provides child welfare and permanency services to children who are placed in substitute care and their families. Outside of Cook County, the division also serves children who are part of intact family cases as well as children who are placed in substitute care and their families.

**Clinical Practice and Professional Development**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Clinical Services (GRF)	3,230.9	3,340.1	3,236.5	-103.6	-3.1%

The Division of Clinical Practice and Professional Development promotes optimum standards of professional social work practice and service delivery. Through both professional training and work with all regional clinical staff, the Division supports management and direct service staff to advance the state of clinical practice at each local office. Specifically, the Division supports a variety of specialized services, including:

- Comprehensive assessment of children in care
- Parental Assessment Teams, which assesses the mental health of parents and their ability to appropriately care for children
- Services for sexually aggressive children and youth (SACY)
- Early childhood services
- Case management for children with AIDS

The Division is the lead unit for the Integrated Assessment Initiative and in addition oversees Child & Family Policy, Employee Licensure, Foster Parent Support, and the HELP Unit

**Training**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Approp.</b>	<b>FY05 Request</b>	<b>04-05 \$ Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Train Department Staff (CSF)	949.3	1,600.0	1,600.0	0.0	0.0%
Training Program for Private Agency Staff (CSF)		13,000.0	0.0	-13,000.0	-100.0%
Foster Care & Adoptive Care Training (FCTF)	10,762.0	18,052.0	16,052.0	-2,000.0	-11.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,711.3</b>	<b>32,652.0</b>	<b>17,652.0</b>	<b>-15,000</b>	<b>-45.9%</b>

The Division of Training and Development Services provides training and staff development services throughout the Department as follows:

- It strives to design and carry out education, training, field support and professional development strategies that enhance the quality performance of Illinois child welfare staff.
- DTDS enables comprehensive and competent services to children and families and helps to bring about the safety, well-being and permanency for all children served.

**Best Practice**

Best Practice is a multi-year, intensive effort to develop a practice model emphasizing child safety, permanency and well-being from the moment of intake through case closure. This work promotes one consistent investigative and casework practice model statewide, with a constant focus on child risk and safety, rapid permanency and child well-being. Best Practice incorporates requirements which cross the spectrum of child welfare service delivery, including:

- Requirements of the federally legislated Adoption and Safe Families Act
- Illinois' Permanency Initiative
- Recommendations from the Office of the Inspector General
- Appropriate business standards
- Accreditation requirements

The Best Practice effort has provided the Department with a means in which to analyze and reform DCFS policy, protocols and practice in a manner that is supported by research as effective and designed to meet the specific needs of children and families.

**Service Intervention**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Approp.</b>	<b>FY05 Request</b>	<b>04-05 \$ Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Health Care Network (GRF)	4,655.1	4,577.9	4,427.9	-150.0	-3.3%
Youth in Transition (GRF)	826.5	827.0	827.0	0.0	0.0%
Independent Living Initiative (FPF)*	8,216.5	9,800.	10,300.0	500.0	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,698.1</b>	<b>15,204.9</b>	<b>15,554.9</b>	<b>350.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

The Division of Service Intervention is made up of four main areas:

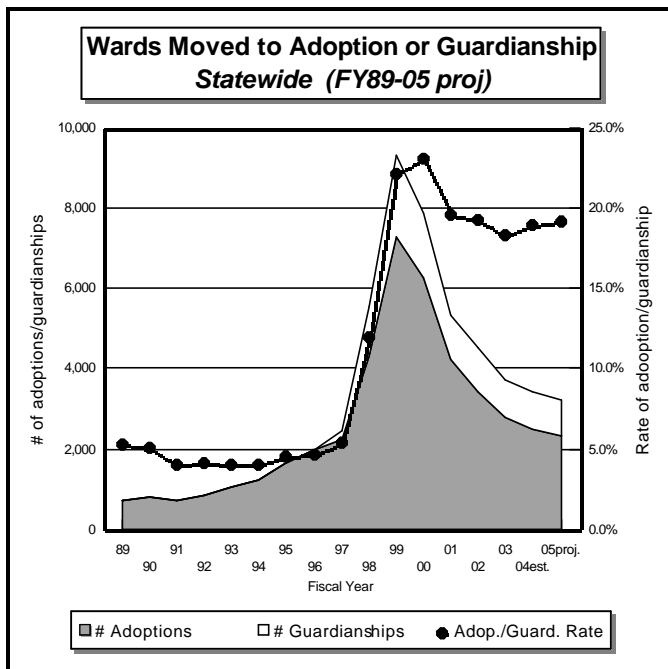
- Education and Transition services, which ensures that children in care are maximizing their education potential and that adolescents in foster care are being properly prepared for independent living. Programs operated in this area include:
  - Independent living program
  - Services to pregnant and parenting teens
  - Youth in Employment
  - Youth in College
- Health Policy, which is primarily responsible for the oversight of the provision of health care services provided through HealthWorks of Illinois, a statewide, comprehensive health care delivery system for children in foster care. Health care services are designed to ensure that all wards have access to quality health care and that they receive health services whenever necessary.
- Mental Health Services, which will be responsible for making sure the mental health needs of children in care are being met in a timely manner.
- Substance abuse treatment services, which oversees the provision of all services offered under the alcohol and other drug abuse waiver and those offered jointly by DCFS and the DHS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

# Promoting Permanency

In FY00, the percent of children moved to adoptive settings reached an all-time high of 18.4% of the foster care population. This dramatic improvement in the movement of children to adoption was recognized by the state's receipt of the National Excellence in Adoptions award two years in a row. The move to greater numbers of foster children in permanent settings reflects a combination of strategies that include state and federal permanency legislation passed in 1997, performance contracting, subsidized guardianship and court reforms—particularly in Cook County. Not surprisingly, with the increase in adoptions and guardianships, the Department has also faced a substantial increase of requests from adoptive families for support services. Addressing these issues along with the growing number of troubled children in foster care has become a challenge for the Department's permanency planning process. Nevertheless, the Department intends to provide permanency for approximately 31% of the foster care population in each of the next two years.

## The Department's Record – Securing Permanency for Children

During FY99 through FY04, an estimated 34,173 children will move to permanent placements via adoption and guardianship. This represents twice as many children that moved through these same means during the preceding decade (FY89 - FY98).



Fiscal Year	Rate	Adop.	Guard.	Total
90	5.0%	788		788
91	4.0%	708		708
92	4.1%	835		835
93	4.0%	1,034		1,034
94	4.0%	1,200		1,200
95	4.5%	1,640		1,640
96	4.6%	1,961		1,961
97	5.4%	2,229	201	2,430
98	12.0%	4,308	1,251	5,559
99	22.1%	7,295	2,022	9,317
00	23.1%	6,281	1,611	7,892
01	19.6%	4,208	1,125	5,333
02	19.2%	3,427	1,076	4,503
03	18.3%	2,795	919	3,714
04est.	19.0%	2,484	930	3,414
05 Proj.	19.1%	2,338	870	3,208

("rate" is defined as the percentage of foster care population moved to adoption or subsidized guardianship settings)

## Key Permanency Indicators

The following indicators identify the most important trends representing the Department's performance in promoting permanency:

- The number of new adoptions and guardianships being completed continues to decline due to the decline in the substitute care caseload and the changing composition of the remaining caseload. During FY04, the number is expected to decline by 8.1%, from 3,714 children in FY03 to 3,414 children in FY04, and an additional estimated 6% to 3,208 in FY05.
- As with the number of adoptions and guardianships, the number of reunifications continues to decline with the declining and more complex substitute care caseload. During FY04, the number of reunifications is expected to decline by 8.1% with 2,241 children served in FY04 to 2,256 children in FY03. Despite this decline in numbers, the rate at which children are returned home out of substitute care will increase from 12.0% in FY03 to 12.2% in FY04.

## Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services

Adoption and Guardianship Preservation Services represent intensive, clinically oriented support offered to children and legal families whose child is experiencing behavioral and emotional difficulties. Services provided consist of, but are not limited to, casework, planning, counseling and therapeutic interventions resulting from mental health problems. Although the group of children needing these services constitutes a relatively small number of the total adoptive and family guardianship population, as the population of adoptees and children served by subsidized guardianship grows, so will the growth in the need for these services. The Department is therefore faced with the challenge of restructuring existing post-placement services into a more coherent and comprehensive continuum of care for adoptive families in a bleak fiscal environment. Adoption and Guardianship Preservation services are the most intensive in home services offered by the Department to preserve families at risk of dissolution.

## Permanency Program Details:

### Service Measures for Permanency

Units of Service	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Projected	04-05 Change	04-05% Change
Reunifications	2,456	2,241	2,017	-224	-10.0%
New Adoption Cases	2,795	2,484	2,338	-146	-5.9%
Total Subsidized Adoptions	33,947	35,118	36,043	925	2.6%
Families receiving Adopt/Guard. Pres. Services	1,002	1,300	1,400	100	7.7%
New Private Family Guardianship Cases	919	930	870	-60	-6.5%
Total Subsidized Guardianships	6,618	6,889	7,111	222	3.2%

**Adoption and Guardianship**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	<b>FY03 Actual</b>	<b>FY04 Approp.</b>	<b>FY05 Request</b>	<b>04-05 \$ Change</b>	<b>04-05 % Change</b>
Adoption & Guardianship (GRF)	151,497.5	168,566.2	177,873.8	9,307.6	5.5%
Adoption & Guardianship (CSF)	115,049.6	124,853.8	119,625.8	-5,228.0	-4.2%
Adoption Listing Service	1,505.6	1,505.6	0.0	-1,505.6	-100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,052.7</b>	<b>294,925.6</b>	<b>297,499.6</b>	<b>2,574.0</b>	<b>0.9%</b>

# **Enforcing Accountability**

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is committed to ensuring that Illinois children are safe, have loving and permanent homes and that their emotional, physical, and medical needs are met through quality services. Meeting the needs of children and families in a rapidly changing child welfare environment has required a number of organizational changes that ensure that Department services are both responsive and effective. The commitment to quality services takes multiple forms.

## **Accreditation**

In June of 2000, the Department secured an important accomplishment by becoming the second and the largest public child welfare system to be accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. The Department also sent this message of quality to its private partners, requiring all providers with foster care contracts to secure the same accreditation by 2002. The Department's accomplishment sparked interest nationally, and prompted over a dozen other public child welfare systems to pursue accreditation. Work to maintain the Department's accreditation status continues during FY05.

## **FY05 Spending Priorities**

Funding for residential and group home programs represents a significant portion of the Department's budget. The children in care that are placed in these types of programs typically have the greatest emotional and mental health needs. The Department believes that resources need to be dedicated to the monitoring of these programs to ensure the high quality of service delivery. Accordingly, the FY05 budget request includes this initiative as a spending priority.

## **Quality Assurance Program**

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – The Department has embarked on a program of continuous quality improvement as part of the accreditation process. It starts with a Quality Assurance Program that evaluates and assures quality that services are being delivered in a manner prescribed in rule and procedure and is delivered in a manner that is a verified best practice. This work is ongoing in local field offices and within each of the Department's six regions and has recently incorporated representation from central administration.

Several divisions are charged with ensuring that services are delivered in accordance with Department rules and procedures. These divisions also support work across Illinois' child welfare system, and provide the basic infrastructure of the state's child welfare service delivery system.

**Quality Assurance**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Quality Assurance (GRF)	2,421.5	2,773.6	2,521.5	-252.1	-9.1%

Quality Assurance programs were created to ensure that quality child welfare services are delivered in a timely manner. Staff conducts comprehensive reviews of DCFS direct service operations and produces and evaluates outcome information. In addition, Quality Assurance staff recommends ways to shape overall process to achieve desired outcomes.

**Purchase of Service Monitoring Division**

<b>Licensed Entities as of 6/30/03</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Projected	04-05 Change	04-05 % Change
Private Agency Foster Homes	14,376	13,600	13,300	-300	-2.2%
Child Welfare Agencies.	210	216	222	6	2.8%
Institutions, Group Homes, Youth Shelters, Maternity Centers, Others	233	234	235	1	0.4%
Day Care Centers, Day Care Agencies	2,823	2,820	2,850	30	0.1%
Day Care Homes	10,608	10,620	10,670	50	0.5%
Group Day Care Homes	300	350	390	40	11.4%

**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Div. of Purchase of Service Monitoring (GRF)	21,583.5	20,656.7	20,684.4	27.7	0.1%

Over the last several years, the Department has moved increasingly from operating as a provider of services to operating principally as a purchaser of services. Over 80% of child welfare services are provided through purchase of service agencies. This unit is responsible for providing oversight, information gathering, continuous quality improvement and resource development to private agencies.

In FY04, the Department initiated the development of a new private agency-monitoring unit focused on residential placement programs within the Monitoring/Quality Assurance Division.

**Central Administration**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Central Administration Operations (GRF)	19,614.9	19,723.0	12,110.0	-7,613.0	-38.6%
Attorney General Rep. On Litigation (GRF)	469.9	600.6	600.6	0.0	0.0%
Department Scholarship (GRF)	860.7	861.9	861.9	0.0	0.0%
Marriage & Dissolution of Marriage Grant(CSF)	26.0	41.4	0.0	-41.4	-100.0%
Private Grants for Child Welfare Improvements	61.1	157.8	360.0	202.2	128.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,032.6</b>	<b>21,384.7</b>	<b>13,932.5</b>	<b>-7,452.2</b>	<b>-34.8%</b>

Central Administration consists of the Offices of the Director, Legal Services, External Affairs, Legislative Liaison, Communications and Affirmative Action.

**Support Services**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Support Services (Ops. & Refunds) (GRF)	25,142.3	24,912.3	24,855.0	-63.2	-0.3%
Support Services Grants (GRF)	120.7	242.0	239.2	-2.8	-1.2%
Support Services Lump Sums (GRF)	379.3	494.6	252.9	-241.7	-48.9%
AFCARS / SACWIS (CSF)	24,794.8	23,536.3	27,153.6	3,617.3	15.4%
Title IV-E (CSF)	4,092.2	4,541.8	4,541.8	0.0	0.0%
SSI Reimbursement (CSF)	1,629.5	1,804.3	1,804.3	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,163.1</b>	<b>55,537.2</b>	<b>58,846.8</b>	<b>3,309.6</b>	<b>6.0%</b>

The Support Services Division comprises the majority of financial management and fiscal functions of the Department. They include: financial planning, fiscal management and monitoring, budget development and monitoring, rate setting, contract development and processing, centralized voucher verification and processing (payments), payroll services, information services maintenance operations and development (EDP), and administrative support (building and equipment leasing, printing, mail and property control).

The Office of Employee Services is also included in this Division.

The primary goal of Support Services is to ensure internal and external accountability to laws, rules, procedures and good practice.

**Administrative Case Review**  
**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Administrative Case Review (GRF)	7,601.4	6,550.4	6,341.0	-209.4	-3.2%

Administrative Case Review, located in the Planning and Performance Management Division, is the independent review process required by federal and state law. The purpose of the reviews is to assure that foster care plans are family focused. The Administrative Case Review processes incorporate both clinical and monitoring perspectives. Services being provided to the child or family are compared to those identified in the assessment completed by the caseworker of record and the service plan presented during an Administrative Case Review. The reviewer makes recommendations to responsible staff to ensure the facilitation of sound planning towards safety, well-being and permanency for children.

**Office of the Guardian and Advocacy Office**

<b>Performance Measures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Projected	04-05 Change	04-05 % Change
Interventions Initiated	2,993	3,071	3,100	29	0.9%
Information & Referral Requests Received	3,629	2,977	3,100	23	0.8%
Avg. # Days to Complete an Intervention	22	22	22	0	0.0%

**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Office of the Guardian & Advocacy (GRF)	3,928.6	4,362.7	4,256.8	-105.9	-2.4%

The DCFS Guardian is appointed by the Director of the Department to serve as legal guardian and/or custodian of all children accepted by the Department pursuant to the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. The duties and responsibilities of the guardian of a minor are specified in that same legislation. A guardian is accountable to the court of jurisdiction and may be cited in court and required to make a full report on his or her actions on behalf of his or her ward at any time. Unless terminated earlier by court order, or by the ward's legal adoption, marriage or death, the guardian's responsibilities and relationship to the ward continue until the ward reaches age 19, or until age 21 if he/she has special needs.

The Advocacy Office is charged with responding to complaints, concerns, inquiries and suggestions which are related to the child welfare system. The Office becomes aware of concerns through a variety of avenues such as letters to the Director, the toll free help line and

walk-in visitors. The Office responds to issues and concerns from foster, biological and adoptive parents, subsidized guardians, caseworkers, service providers and the general public. The Office also operates the Department's Youth Hotline. Youth with issues may contact the Office for consultation and direction. It is the function of the Office to help ensure that recurring complaints, systemic issues or agency structural concerns are brought to the attention of appropriate Department leadership.

### **Inspector General**

<b>Performance Measure</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Projected	04-05 Change	04-05 % Change
Complaints Registered & Investigated	2,119	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%

### **FY05 Request** (\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Inspector General (GRF)	2,140.6	2,374.3	2,370.6	-3.7	-0.2%

The role of the Office of the Inspector General is to assure accountability for services to children and families. In accordance with state law, the Office of the Inspector General fulfills a number of mandated responsibilities, including investigation and LEADS inquiries for the purpose of investigating allegations of misconduct, misfeasance, malfeasance and violations of rules, procedures or laws by any employee, foster parent or contractor of the Department. The office responds to and investigates complaints filed by the state and local judiciary, foster parents, biological parents and the general public. At the Director's request, or when the office has noticed a high level of complaints in a specific area, the Inspector General's staff will conduct a systematic review of the issue or practice involved. Investigations result in recommendations regarding the particular subject of an investigation and recommendations for systemic changes. The office then monitors compliance with all recommendations. It also investigates the deaths of Illinois children that appear to have been the result of abuse or neglect and in which there was an open DCFS case or prior Department involvement within the previous twelve months.

# Securing Safety

Protecting children from abuse or neglect is the Department's primary concern. The Department, along with the private child welfare agencies, has organized its staff and resources to provide an array of services that ensure a strong system of safety exists for Illinois' children. Cooperative activities to improve child abuse/neglect investigations, front-end interventions and follow-up service for the purpose of increasing children's safety continue. The implementation and use of a standardized tool for assessing risk has resulted in more precise determinations being made regarding children's safety. Although substantial success in improving child safety has been achieved, there is more work to be done. In late FY04, the Department will initiate the statewide implementation of the Integrated Assessment (IA) process. This process will provide children in the Department's care with intensive clinical assessments, which will increase the Department's ability to better meet the mental health needs of each child and, as a result, reduce risk of harm to children and ensure safety.

## **Protecting Children from Abuse and Neglect - The Department Record:**

Illinois abuse and neglect rates continue to decline. The statewide rate of substantiated abuse and neglect reports has declined 16.2 percent from 35.8 per 1,000 in FY97 to 30.0 per 1,000 children in FY03.

Repeat abuse and neglect while in substitute care has also declined. The statewide percentage of all children in care with no indicated/substantiated maltreatment from a foster parent or facility staff member remained relatively unchanged at 99.3% in FY03.

## **Key Child Protection Indicators**

The following five indicators identify important trends in promoting the safety of children:

- In FY03, Child Abuse Hotline staff responded to 293,292 calls involving possible abuse or neglect, a decrease of 3.8% from the 304,804 calls in FY02.
- Hotline calls resulted in 59,422 family reports, a slight increase from the previous year total of 59,242.
- Family reports resulted in 97,453 child reports investigated during FY03 a decrease of 735 children at risk from the 98,188 reports in FY02.
- There were 16,555 indicated family reports during FY03, an increase of 4.7 percent from the 15,819 indicated family reports during FY02.
- There were 27,578 indicated child victims during FY03 compared to the 27,402 indicated child victims in FY02. The percentages of child abuse or neglect reports that are indicated have increased very slightly from 27.9 percent in FY02 to 28.4 percent in FY03.

## **Serving Children Safely – Program Highlights**

Child safety permeates every aspect of service delivery within the Department of Children and Family Services. Recent improvements have targeted better decision-making during investigations, addressed staffing concerns for investigators and workers serving families in the home and provided a rich mix of services to support families encountering difficulties. Specifically, these improvements meant crafting, testing and implementing new service models for investigating abuse and neglect cases and the assessment of future risk. The Department has displayed its commitment to supporting at-risk families by targeting funding for family preservation and intact family programs that are designed to permit children to remain safely in the home. Work with at-risk families is also supported through the federally funded Title IV-B, Part 2 program, along with other federal grants, which are part of the protective service and family maintenance systems. In recent years, the Department has also responded to a growing child safety concern by programmatically addressing the complex needs of substance abusing parents.

## **Treatment of Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse**

### **Program Innovation: Title IV-E Waiver Supporting Services**

The Department received approval in 2000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to conduct a Title IV-E waiver project in Illinois. This waiver allows the Department to test whether providing enhanced alcohol and other drug abuse services to the Department involved substance affected families will improve child welfare and treatment performance, particularly increased safe, successful reunifications for families served by DCFS and partner agencies. The demonstration period will last for five years and is limited to Cook County. The waiver incorporates two important programmatic components outlined below.

#### **Juvenile Court Assessment Program (JCAP)**

JCAP provides on site assessment and referral services at Cook County Juvenile Court. Juvenile Court personnel or child welfare staff can refer involved parents to JCAP for an assessment. Results of the assessment are shared with the parent and worker immediately at the conclusion of the assessment.

#### **Treatment Support Services for Parents (Recovery Coaches)**

The Treatment Support Services is administered by Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (Illinois TASC). Because of the research-based nature of the IV-E waiver project, eligibility for this program is determined on a random assignment basis through the JCAP program. The program provides a “Recovery Coach” for involved DCFS parents to engage and support them throughout the treatment and recovery process. The overarching priority for the Recovery Coach is to connect with the substance-abusing parent early in the life of the case and stay engaged with the parent’s case throughout the treatment and recovery process.

The Department provides the services that have the ability to address the problems that lead to child maltreatment. In a typical case, the most damaging of these are alcohol and other drug abuse. Surveys indicate that at least one of the parents involved with DCFS have a presenting substance abuse problem in over 70 percent of the Department's child welfare cases.

In order to be successful in quickly moving the children of substance abusing adults to permanency, substance abuse issues must be responsibly addressed with intensive and effective treatment. The Department must either help parents to make substantial progress through treatment in time to be reunified with their children, or, make every reasonable effort to offer such services so that parental rights may be terminated and the child made available for an adoptive home.

Specific program efforts designed to meet the needs of substance abusing biological parents are as follows:

### **OASA/DCFS Initiative**

The DCFS/DHS-OASA (Department of Human Services – Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse) Initiative is a collaborative program between the two departments that began in 1995. The initiative provides identification of alcohol & substance abuse issues by DCFS and private child welfare staff, timely access to assessment and treatment for DCFS involved families, enhanced outreach and case management for families receiving treatment and removal of barriers to treatment for families (e.g. childcare). The initiative includes 33 providers across the state.

### **Project SAFE**

Project SAFE is an intensive outpatient treatment service that provides a highly intensive outreach component, parent training, women's support groups and aftercare. The Department of Human Services funds the treatment components of the project and the department pays for the outreach, childcare and parent training. Services are provided at twenty-three sites across the state.

### **Intact Family Recovery Project**

The IFR model is designed to deliver comprehensive casework services, including treatment and child welfare services to families who have a drug exposed infant, to cases opened to the Department, but remaining intact. The families selected to participate in this program will come to the attention of the Department following the birth of a substance exposed infant. This program is intended to assure the safety of children for whom no placement decision has been made by assisting the families to meet minimum parenting standards.

This program reflects a partnership between child welfare providers and providers of substance abuse services. The expectation is that shared case responsibility and improved communication around all aspects of a client's life will support child safety, as well as recovery from drug addiction.

## **FACT Program**

The Female Addicts & their Children in Treatment (FACT) Program is similar to the Intact Family/Recovery program, but is located in suburban Cook County. Family Support Teams provide comprehensive child welfare and AOD services to intact families. The FACT model addresses barriers to services and is responsive by meeting the clients need, following her through detox, treatment and two years of support programming, education and aftercare.

## **Emergency Cash Assistance and Housing Locator Service**

Families facing environmental issues (i.e. inadequate food, inadequate shelter or clothing, or environmental neglect) can access Emergency Cash Assistance and Housing Locator Services to ensure a child is not unnecessarily placed in care or prevented from returning home. The final decision to provide these services is made by a supervisor or regional manager using standard criteria. Any cash payments are coordinated with other cash programs to eliminate duplication.

Housing advocacy includes the housing locator service, which is provided through 16 private agencies. Providers locate housing, develop relationships with landlords, train parents to locate housing and negotiate with landlords, and advocate for entitlements and other assistance. As a valuable adjunct to this program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made available Section 8 Housing Vouchers to permit payment for environmentally safe housing.

## **Children's Advocacy Centers**

During FY03, 10.4 percent of all indicated child abuse/neglect reports involved sexual abuse. Children's Advocacy Centers were created to meet the special needs of this population. These Centers are county-based programs established to coordinate the activities of various agencies (particularly DCFS, law enforcement, and States Attorneys) involved in the investigation, prosecution and treatment referral of child sexual abuse cases.

Since 1987, 35 Children's Advocacy Centers have been developed in Illinois. Five of the 35 centers are in Cook County. The others, some of which serve multiple counties, are located throughout the state. It is estimated that 79 out of Illinois' 102 counties are served by a Children's Advocacy Center. Most centers (70%) receive locally-based funding through appropriations of the county or townships. The Department, other state agencies, and national organizations supplement the local funding.

## **Working to Assure Child Safety**

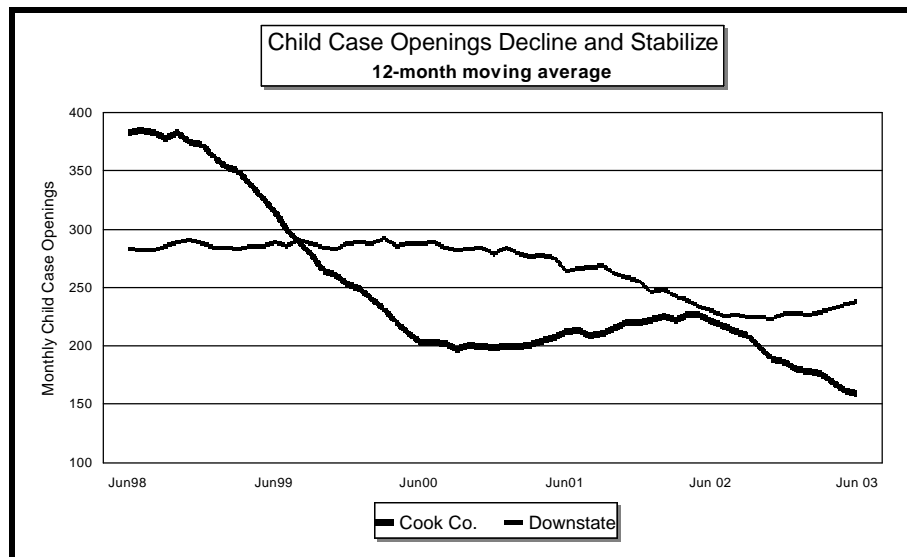
The success of an investigative and child protection system in Illinois depends on a strong system of screening reports, effective use of investigative tools, and a properly assessed "front end" service delivery. The constant departmental strive for change has resulted in an improved

safety record for the Illinois child welfare system. Face-to-face contact with the child victim within 92% of all cases has been determined to be positive and work is underway to improve that percentage.

The Department has invested significant time and resources in developing the best approaches in child protection practice to ensure child safety. As part of these efforts, child protection managers have established policy and practice that redefines each allegation of child abuse/neglect. The new definitions provide detail as to what constitutes a comprehensive investigation for each particular allegation, specifically, what medical input needed; the role, if any, of law enforcement; the collateral contacts that must be interviewed; and the documentation necessary to “indicate” the investigation.

The Department has refined the Child Endangerment Risk Assessment Protocol (CERAP) system, whose use has resulted in more precise determinations regarding the safety of children, which has been followed by declines in foster care placements. While the use of CERAP supported greater use of intact family services, incidents of repeat abuse and neglect declined, demonstrating that more precise and accurate screening of child risk, coupled with targeted interventions, reduce recidivism.

Finally, the Department continues to build on this record by investing resources in the “front end” of the service delivery system. Intact family efforts have had a significant impact in the number of new child cases placed into substitute care. As the chart below illustrates, Illinois has dramatically reduced the number of children removed from the home. This rate of decline has stabilized downstate but continues to decline in Cook County. Most notably, as demonstrated earlier, these remarkable gains were secured while, at the same time, ensuring children were more safely served in the home.



### Service Measures for Protective Services

Units of Service	FY03 Actual	FY04 Estimated	FY05 Proposed	04-05 Change	04-05 % Change
Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline Calls	293,292	278,560	278,560	0	0.0%
Family Reports of Abuse or Neglect	59,422	57,640	57,640	0	0.0%
Child Reports of Abuse or Neglect	97,452	94,530	94,530	0	0.0%
Indicated Family Reports	16,564	16,070	16,070	0	0.0%
Indicated Child Victims	27,558	26,730	26,730	0	0.0%
Intact Family Caseload	7,648	7,420	7,420	0	0.0%
Family Cases Closed	10,592	10,270	10,270	0	0.0%
Families receiving Emergency Cash Assist.	3,880	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
Families receiving Housing Locator Services	1,434	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%

### FY05 Request

(\$ .000)

Type of Expenditures	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Child Protection – Admin. (GRF)	7,509.5	8,247.4	8,397.3	149.9	1.8%
Child Protection Downstate (GRF)	29,186.5	31,903.1	30,236.7	-666.4	-2.2%
Child Protection Cook (GRF)	30,463.2	32,299.2	30,996.5	-2,302.7	-6.9%
Children’s Advocacy Centers (GRF)	1,881.8	1,881.8	2,117.1	235.3	12.5%
Children’s Advocacy Centers (CSF)	1,540.0	1,540.0	1,540.0	0.0	0.0%
Purchase of Children’s Services (CSF)	699.7	726.3	726.3	0.0	0.0%
Treatment & Research of Child Abuse (GRF)	793.7	794.4	0.0	-794.4	-100.0%
Child Death Review Committee (GRF)	104.3	125.0	125.0	0.0	0.0%
Cash Asst. & Housing Locator Service (GRF)	3,650.2	3,715.6	3,715.6	0.0	0.0%
Federal Child Protection Projects (FPF)	3,777.9	5,292.6	5,292.6	0.0	0.0%
Child Abuse Prevention (CAP)	423.9	600.0	600.0	0.0	0.0%
Protective/Family Maint. Day Care (GRF)	23,651.3	23,825.4	19,825.4	-4,000.0	-16.8%
Day Care Infant Mortality (GRF)	1,262.3	1,280.1	1,280.1	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104,944.3</b>	<b>112,230.9</b>	<b>104,852.6</b>	<b>-7,378.3</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>

## **Family Centered Service Initiative**

The Family Centered Services are offered to a family when risk to the permanency and well being of the family unit first becomes apparent. Their purpose is to provide support and intervention to the family unit before placement of the children becomes imminent. Through this initiative, the state is able to continue its successful efforts to transform the child welfare system (public as well as private components) into a child-centered, family-focused, community-based system that is integrated with local resources and is responsive to community needs. Child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment services are being developed and supported with federal funding of almost \$18 million in FY05. Funding is included for family preservation, family support, adoption promotion and support, and time-limited reunification. It is important to note that families referred by the Department and families not yet known to the Department, but believed to be at risk of eventual abuse or neglect, are served in the same community programs. These programs support families regardless of their legal relationship to the Department, and thereby strengthen both the families and the social fabric of the communities in which they reside. The focus of state funding is on serving children who have been abused or neglected and their families, and serving families with child welfare needs.

## **Family Preservation Services**

Family Preservation Services include services provided to intact families, families being reunified, and adoptive and subsidized guardianship families. They include crisis intervention, counseling, home-based services, family and individual risk assessment/risk monitoring, family and individual service assessment, service/treatment planning, casework and case management services, parenting training, day care services, partnered service linkage with public agencies (including the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Aid, school districts, public health and medical services), referral and linkage to continuing community services, and limited emergency cash assistance. These services are offered only when the child's safety can be assured in the home. If the child's safety is in question, the child is placed into a foster home or the home of a relative who can assure the child's safety. Services are directed toward ensuring the child's development, safety and well being in his/her home; preventing placement or reducing the time a child is away from the family.

## **Extended Family Support Services**

Extended Family Support services are provided for relatives caring for children whose biological parents are unable to care for them, but who exhibit no signs of abuse or neglect. These services stabilize families and deflect them from long-term involvement with the Department. They are funded from the Foster Care and Family Centered Services appropriations. If no abuse or neglect is detected during provision of these services, the Department does not remain involved with the family. The Department of Human Services reimburses the families for the costs associated with the relative children for whom they are caring at payment levels determined by the standards of the Temporary Aid for Need Families (TANF) program. The program is

successful at enabling families to be stabilized without a long-term casework and monitoring relationship with the state. These services have been very successful at enabling children to remain together safely with caring relatives. Nearly 2,000 families will receive these services in FY05.

**FY05 Request**  
(\$ .000)

<b>Type of Expenditures</b>	FY03 Actual	FY04 Approp.	FY05 Request	04-05 \$ Change	04-05 % Change
Family Centered Services Initiative (CSF)*	14,509.3	18,200.0	17,700.0	-500.0	-2.7%
Family Preservation (CSF)	21,240.3	24,433.5	20,933.5	-3,500.0	-14.3%
<b>Total</b>	35,749.6	42,633.5	38,633.5	-4,000.0	-9.4%

\*This combines two appropriations that were separate in FY03.

**Continuing Challenges for the Department to Improve Children’s Safety**

The Department faces constant challenges in the need to ensure that it is providing appropriate services to families to protect children in the home and prevent their removal. The continued improvement of the implementation of a comprehensive risk and safety assessment will result in the delivery of services that are appropriate to ensure the child’s safety and reduce risk of harm. As part of the priorities of the agency, an extension of these services will provide for the improved monitoring of children’s safety while they are in residential and group care facilities.