



LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
LIVINGSTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JUVENILE DIVISION

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Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Deborah Shaw, Juvenile & Probate Court Administrator
Ahmad Sabbagh, Director, Livingston County Dept. of Health and Human Services

Date: July 18, 2022

Re: Resolution Authorizing the Submission of the FY 2023 Child Care Fund Annual Budget

The attached resolution authorizes submission of the FY 2023 Child Care Fund (CCF) Budget to the State of Michigan.

The proposed CCF budget requests a combined gross expenditure of \$3,006,058 which is comprised of the following components:

	MDHHS	Court	Combined
Out of Home Care	\$900,000	\$526,990	\$1,426,990
In-Home Care	\$240,000	\$1,339,068	\$1,579,068
Subtotal	\$1,140,000	\$1,866,058	\$3,006,058
Revenue	0	(\$145,000)	(\$145,000)
Net Expenditure	\$1,140,000	\$1,721,058	\$2,861,058

State Ward Board & Care
Child Care Fund

Out-Of-Home Care covers the shared cost of foster care, detention and residential placement for both Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare families. With the implementation of “State Pays First” in FY 2019, costs incurred for out of home care for a child who is under the care and control of the State are first paid by the State. When a child is supervised by the Court, the County/Court “pays first” for out of home costs incurred. Financial reports are exchanged each month for reimbursement (the “chargeback”) and are reconciled at the end of the fiscal year.

It should be noted that the Child Care Fund Annual Budget forms no longer includes a place to record the estimated amount of the County's obligation (\$900,000) for DHHS supervised Out-Of-Home placements.

In-Home Care includes intensive interventions and services for Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare families designed to prevent removal from home, to effectuate an early return home from placement and to achieve permanency for children in a safe and timely manner. All costs for in-home services are first paid by the County/Court and included in the monthly financial reports and reconciliation with the State.

CCF Cost-Sharing

- Child Welfare In-Home and Out-of-Home Services: 50% State and 50% County/Court
- Juvenile Justice In-Home and Out-of-Home Services for juveniles age 16 and younger on date of offense: 50% State and 50% County/Court
- Juvenile Justice In-Home and Out-of-Home Services RTA Age Youth (age 17 at time of offense): 100% State and 0% County/Court

Court In-Home Care - Service Components:

1. The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, provided in partnership with LACASA Center, recruits, trains and supports volunteers who are appointed by the Court to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in child protective proceedings. As an independent voice for children, CASAs investigate, facilitate, and advocate on behalf of the children until they are in a safe, permanent home.
2. The Intensive Treatment Services component provides intensive community-based assessment, treatment, and supervision to ameliorate criminogenic risk factors, enhance protective factors and hold juveniles accountable for harm done. Individualized case plans protect community safety by providing services to support the success of youth and their families in avoiding future system involvement.
3. Multi-Systemic Treatment (MST) is provided in partnership with Highfields, Inc. Through intensive intervention, MST works to eliminate or significantly reduce the frequency and severity of the youth's problematic behavior(s), empower parents with the skills and resources needed to independently address the inevitable difficulties that arise in raising children and adolescents and empower youth to cope with stressors such as family, peers, school and neighborhood problems.
4. Wraparound – Court Component services are provided by the Livingston County Community Mental Health Authority, supported through blended funding and a community that embraces collaboration and shared responsibility. Wraparound is a family-centered, strength based, holistic and team-oriented process used to work with high risk, multi-system children and families to address children's complex needs, reduce Out-of-Home placement (including psychiatric hospitalization) and support their community success.

MDHHS In-Home Care –Service Components:

1. Family Supportive Services are targeted at specific but various family issues and provides goods and services that are not available or eligible from other family assistance programs. Examples of services are: life-skills education, financial counseling, mentoring, tutoring, summer camp tuition, court-ordered transportation, drug/urine screening, program attendance incentives, child-parent assessments, counseling, and various expenditures that are Court ordered.
2. Supervised Visitation Coaches develops a plan with the family for visitation sessions. The Parent Coach will work with the family to advocate and encourage routine and structure, provide support and understanding regarding separation and reunion within the family, cultivate a nurturing environment to encourage the family plan, provide instruction and information that involves behavior modeling, and offer demonstrations and supervision of areas such as: child care, non-abusive child management skills, and child care techniques.
3. Wraparound – MDHHS Component – see description above.

CCF Budget Changes for FY 2023:

The Child Care Fund budget has remained stable over the past five years, with the exception of an increase in FY 2020, as some general fund salary and program costs were moved from the General Fund into the Child Care Fund to maximize reimbursement from the State. In recognition of the increased non-intensive caseload, supervision of non-CCF eligible staff, mastery of the Child Care Fund budget and reporting and corresponding reduction in administrative time necessary to manage, and RTA funding, FY 2023 is reduced by \$94,531 from the FY 2022 CCF budget of \$3,100,589 incorporating the following:

- Eliminate 1.0 FTE Juvenile Probation Officer positions (currently unfilled).
- Shift portions of the Juvenile Court Administrator, Juvenile Services Supervisor and Court Financial Officer positions from the Child Care Fund to the Juvenile Court General Fund and Raise the Age Grant. The impact on the General Fund of \$20,416 (salary and fringe benefits) is offset by the county portion of the eliminated CCF Juvenile Probation Officer position ($\$84,949 \times 50\%$ county funds = \$42,474.50), netting an overall savings of \$22,058.50.

Additional savings are anticipated in FY 2023 by a new partnership with Community Mental Health Services of Livingston County. By October 1, 2022, Highfields' MST program will be credentialed by CMH, enabling the utilization of Medicaid dollars instead of the Child Care Fund for the cost of MST for eligible Juvenile Court families. As this is a pilot program, anticipated decreases have not been included in the FY 2023 budget.

In the best of times, out-of-home costs are highly unpredictable and volatile and are dependent on the number of youth, type of offenses and needs of both the Juvenile Justice

and Child Welfare population. In 2022, the lack of available detention, residential treatment and psychiatric hospitalization beds for juvenile justice youth has become a community safety and juvenile justice treatment crisis in Michigan. Efforts to recruit and retain professional staff in public and non-profit facilities is leading to skyrocketing rate increases, including a doubling of the per diem for the state-run detention facility (to \$250 per day) and a 12% rate increase in the MDHHS budget for private juvenile justice residential facilities.

With this volatility, paired with a thus far unfruitful and unpredictable state-wide resolution to the crisis, the proposed budget for out-of-home costs remains neutral for FY 2023. It is anticipated that opportunities to increase our placement capacity will be brought to the Board as they develop.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of the Juvenile Division of the Circuit Court.