



WE CANNOT ALLOW RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO FALL OFF THE THE SOCIAL

SERVICES CLIFF

Without funding for all home and community-based providers to cover cost increases and keep staff:

- Mental health needs go unmet and Rhode Islanders continue to have difficulty accessing the services that children and families need.
- More stress on overloaded hospitals and emergency services already strained from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Our state will continue to send children to costly out-of-state programs away from their families or place them in higher levels of in-state care than they actually need.

Need

July 1, 2023: Fiscal Cliff

Increased funding allocated by the General Assembly last session is set to expire.

April 2023-June 2024:

DCYF Contract Re-Procurement

Community service providers that DCYF contracts with require predictable, sustainable funding to ensure consistent and quality care.

September 2023: Rate Review

Rate Review analyses to be published in FY'24 are expected to demonstrate higher provider costs associated with increased wage, programming, and operational expenses.

FY2025 Budget

We urge the General Assembly to begin planning now for expected higher provider costs.

Budget Recommendation

A 10% rate increase (S0782 & H5987) across all providers is needed to help fill the gap left by the end of wage stabilization dollars and until rate review recommendations are complete. DCYF funded agencies alone will lose \$8.2M due to the end of wage stabilization.

A minimum of \$19.5M in additional funding is needed for the DCYF service re-procurement currently underway. These funds are required to cover provider costs associated with increased demand for child and family services and higher operational costs and workforce salary requirements.

We urge the General Assembly to anticipate the projected cost increases or risk cuts to provider programming and staff

Identify reliable, sustainable funding streams for providers rather than relying on one-time fixes for chronic issues.