

2022 LEGISLATIVE & FY '23 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Summary

ADDRESS CURRENT WORKFORCE CRISIS AND ENSURE FUTURE FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Adequate funding is immediately required to protect essential community-based human services for children, youth, and families in our state:

- Programs provide a range of therapeutic, educational, supportive services and material resources to children, youth, and their families, including care outside of their home when necessary.
- Organizations that are embedded in local communities respond nimbly to changing needs and coordinate most effectively with families, schools, state benefits and other providers.
- Services must be high-quality, equitable, and accessible and the current lack of investment threatens program viability and quality.
- Children, youth, and their families must receive assistance in the least restrictive setting and closest to home, preferably by providers they know and trust.

Funding of Community-based organizations must be sustainable and predictable over time:

- Agency services are funded by a combination of state contracts, insurance reimbursement, federal grants, and corporate and individual contributions.
- After years without any rate increases and with a dramatically changing labor market and continued pandemic challenges—current contract rates and insurance payments for services are well below actual costs.
- The current workforce crisis makes immediate state investment and action on a rate review and setting system critical for community-based entities.

Rhode Island must both pass rate setting as a long-term solution AND ensure that the safety net that provides critical services for children remains intact in the interim.

PRIORITY: Rate Review and Rate Setting Legislation

H7180/S2311 AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS RATE REVIEW AND RATE SETTING PROCESS ACT OF 2022

Most programs that support our children, youth and families have not seen an increase in investment in at least 6 years. This legislation will require the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), with assistance from an advisory committee, to provide review and/or recommendations for daily rate setting and an ongoing review of social service programs licensed by state departments and/or agencies as well as a Medicaid Rate Review process for human services funded by Medicaid and other sources. **Rate setting is critical to projecting costs and revenue and necessary to plan for a quality and stable system of community-based human services for all Rhode Island Children and Families.**

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2022 LEGISLATIVE & FY '23 BUDGET PRIORITIES *(cont.)*

PRIORITY: Additional Investment in DCYF Community-Based Rates for FY23

BUDGET ITEM ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT FOR SYSTEM OF CARE BUDGET

In April, the American Academy of Pediatrics, Rhode Island Chapter (RIAAP) the Rhode Island Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (RICCAP), Hasbro Children's Hospital, and Bradley Hospital declared a state of emergency regarding the state of mental health in children and adolescents in Rhode Island. The providers who support our children's mental health are many of the same that contract with DCYF to support families, prevent removal of children from their homes, provide specialized mental health services, and care for children who require out-of-home placement. In FY21, DCYF contracted for nearly \$73M in community-services with 26 members of the RI Coalition for Children and Families. In FY22 the General Assembly approved \$12.5M for workforce relief that ends on June 30th. We are requesting additional investment to both continue salary relief for workers and invest in the organizations who are carrying out the services. Most rates have not been adjusted since FY17 despite a workforce crisis and a 20-25% increase in operational costs per the consumer price index. **Additional Investment is critically needed to sustain services through FY23 and ensure that programs can continue to provide high-quality care and maintain efficient and accessible operations.**

For Additional Legislation and Budget Items of Interest as well as our 2022 Statement of Policy Priorities see www.riccf.org/legislative-policy-priorities. For further information, or with questions, contact Tanja Kubas-Meyer, Executive Director, at tanja.kubas-meyer@riccf.org or 401-263-1126(c).