

FY20 State Budget – Children’s League Lens

On Wednesday, July 31st, the Governor officially signed a \$43.321 billion spending plan for FY20, which represents an approximately 3.3% growth rate over estimated spending in FY19. Thank you to the Governor, Chair Rodrigues, Chair Michlewitz and all of our legislative champions for their hard work prioritizing the children of the Commonwealth. The budget makes strong investments in harm reduction initiatives to ensure more resources for more children and families.

DCF Family Support and Stabilization

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$50.50 Million	\$55.97 Million	\$5.47 Million

- The FY20 budget approves **\$55.97M** in spending for Family Support and Stabilization, a funding increase of **\$5.47M** over FY19.
- This increase will allow more families to have access to the services they need to stabilize so that children can remain safe and at home. Services provided to children and families in their homes have been shown to have great outcomes, resulting in higher rates of employment for families, while simultaneously lowering delinquency and teenage pregnancy. All of the services provided through this line item are for non-placement programs and are far less expensive than out of placement services.

Office of the Child Advocate

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$1.2 Million	\$1.76 Million	\$562 Thousand

- The FY20 budget approves **\$1.76M** in spending for the OCA, a funding increase of **\$562K** over FY19.
- This is a major increase for the Child Advocate’s office which has a broad and growing set of responsibilities to oversee the Commonwealth’s services to and protection of its children.
- This also includes \$225,000 for the establishment of the Worcester Trauma and Resilience Collaborative to educate young people in the city of Worcester who have experienced adverse childhood experiences.

Family Resource Centers

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$15.05 Million	\$16.50 Million	\$1.45 Million

- The FY20 budget approves **\$16.05M** in spending for Family Resource Centers, a funding increase of **\$1.45M** over FY19.
- Family Resource Centers provide one of the few means by which families in crisis can voluntarily receive services to prevent neglect of their children before it happens. These community-based service centers connect families to educational programs, activities, referrals, and peer support. They also provide a mechanism for the juvenile court to refer families to community-based services in order to fulfill the requirements of the Children Requiring Assistance law (the “CRA” law) which replaced the former CHINS program with a system of community-based services for families in need.
- This increase will help to carry over into FY20 the FY 19 unused funds that had been allocated but not used to convert “micro,” or limited service family resource centers, into full-service family resource centers. With this carried over funding, there would be a total of 17 full-service Family Resource Centers and 5 micro centers throughout the state.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$112 Thousand	\$114 Thousand	\$2 Thousand

- The FY20 budget approves **\$114K** in spending for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission, a funding increase of **\$2K** over FY19.
- The Commission's primary purpose is to serve as a "resource to the commonwealth on issues affecting grandparents raising grandchildren, and relatives, other than parents, raising kin."

Unaccompanied Youth Housing and Support Services

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$3.3 Million	\$5 Million	\$1.7 Million

- The FY20 budget approves **\$5M** in spending for the Unaccompanied Youth Housing & Support Services, a funding increase of **\$1.7M** over FY19.
- This increase will help provide housing and wraparound services to youth and young adults age 24 and younger who are without homes experiencing homelessness and housing instability through the 10 regional agencies selected in FY'19 to administer the program, in conjunction with numerous partner organizations.
- The lead regional agencies are Barnstable County Department of Human Services, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, Catholic Social Services, City of Springfield, Community Action Pioneer Valley, Community Teamwork, Father Bill's & MainSpring, L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc., Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development, and South Middlesex Opportunity Council.

Special Education Circuit Breaker Account

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$319 Million	\$345 Million	\$25 Million

- The FY20 budget approves **\$345M** in spending for the Special Education Circuit Breaker Account, a funding increase of **\$25M** over FY19.
- This line item is disseminated in the form of local aid to cities and towns. This will enable communities to be reimbursed at the 75% level required by law.

Safe and Successful Youth Initiative

	FY19	FY20	Total Increase
Budget Amount	\$8.15 Million	\$10.2 Million	\$2.05 Million

- This is a funding increase of **\$2.05M** over FY19.