

Disinvesting in Our Children: Most Egregious Cuts -- Approximately (\$54.825m) GFS

The Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition (CWAC) works to ensure that policy reforms are shaped by the voice of the children, youth and families they impact, and views every decision through the lens of addressing racial disproportionality, gender equality and the best interests of children and families.

- **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET** – Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition supports a balanced approach to addressing the current budget deficit. An all cuts budget will have significant and negative impacts on children and families in the state of Washington and must be opposed. New revenues must be obtained in order to mitigate devastating cuts to critical services.
- **RACIAL DISPROPORTIONALITY AND DISPARITIES** – The Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition asks policy makers what tools they are using to help ensure that policies and budgets don’t disproportionately impact children and families of color.
- **BRAAM v. STATE OF WASHINGTON PANEL** – Ensure that the State’s progress on meeting the requirements in the Braam settlement continues.

Fiscal impact based on the remainder of the biennium. Priorities listed in alphabetical order

<u>Program/ Department</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Service Impact</u>
Adoption Recruitment	<i>(\$432k) GFS (\$332k) GFF (\$764k) Total</i>	Recruitment services for special needs children in foster care will be eliminated. This will impact over 300 children each year. These children are the most difficult to place and without the funding for adoptive family recruitment will likely remain in foster care longer. Cutting this funding also means that the State will be out of compliance with Title IV-E, which specifies services that states must offer to special needs children in state custody for whom adoption is the plan.
Behavioral Rehabilitation Services	<i>(\$12.033m) GFS (\$9.315m) GFF (\$21.348m) Total</i>	Funding for BRS is reduced by 20%. About 800 children per month will be served in foster care settings instead of BRS, most, if not all of whom have had multiple failed foster care placements due to behavioral issues.
Caseload Reduction*	<i>(\$8.619m) GFS (\$2.575m) GFF (\$11.194m) Total</i>	Effective Jan, 2012, the client to social worker ratios will increase from 1:17 to 1:20. CPS caseloads will not be affected.
Child Placing Agencies	<i>(\$613k) GFS (\$145k) GFF (\$758k) Total</i>	10% reduction. This cut impacts the per child/per month fee that CPAs receive to serve children and families.
Crisis Family Intervention	<i>Approx. (\$950k) Total</i>	Formerly Family Reconciliation Services Phase II. In-home services to 525 families of at-risk adolescents will be eliminated. CFI is a voluntary service devoted to maintaining the family unit and preventing out of home placement of youth. This service has already been reduced by over 60% in the past decade. Families who cannot access CFI are more likely to have their adolescents enter the foster care or juvenile court system.
Education Advocates*	<i>(\$250k) GFS (\$363k) Other (\$613k) Total</i>	Eliminated. Education advocates work with schools, social workers, foster families and students to resolve difficult issues and remove barriers to foster kids’ school success. 1,000 youth will not receive needed educational advocacy and 14 highly trained professionals will lose their jobs.

** According to the Braam plaintiffs’ attorneys, “reducing or defunding in these areas will likely (or in some cases certainly) result in a direct violation of Braam.” A number of other cuts on this list were also identified as possibly affecting Braam.*

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<u>Program/ Department</u>	<u>Fiscal Impact</u>	<u>Service Impact</u>
Foster Care Assessment Program/ Comprehensive Assessment Program*	<i>(\$2.298m) GFS/Total</i>	Eliminated. FCAP assesses issues and barriers impacting permanency. CAP provides contracted safety assessments of high risk families. FCAP/CAP is CA's only research-based assessment resource for families with complex issues about safety, child well-being and/or permanency. Assessments are done by UW medical, psychological and psychiatric expert consultants. Outcome measures document that this assessment improves functioning and permanency and avoids unnecessary and racially disproportionate placements and services. The current contract can serve approximately 800 families throughout the state. Harborview proposes to increase the flexibility of the services and reach a larger number of families by creating a menu of evidence-based assessments, consultations and comprehensive family evaluations.
Mental Health Treatment – Medicaid	<i>(\$9.764m) GFS; (\$9.764m) GFF ; (\$19.528m) Total</i>	Starting Jan. 1, 2013, the department will improve utilization management to limit mental health services to reduce service to clients. Mental health service costs will be reduced by 10%.
Mental Health – Local RSN Discretion over Federal Block Grant spending	<i>(\$2.1m) GFS/Total</i>	Federal Block Grant dollars to each local RSN fund many core, essential, cost saving services for kids and families touched by the child welfare system. The Governor's budget eliminates State funds for adult clubhouses, adult supported employment, and adult respite care – and mandates funding these adult services from the Federal Block grant dollars.
Mental Health Treatment – Non-Medicaid	<i>(\$4.604m) GFS</i>	Non-Medicaid funding to the RSNs is reduced, beginning Feb. 1, 2012. These dollars fund many core, essential, cost saving services for kids and families touched by the child welfare system.
Office of the Family and Children's Ombudsman (OFCO)	<i>(\$368k) GFS</i>	Funding for staff positions and operating expenses for OFCO is reduced. This may delay investigations related to complaints and affect the OFCO's ability to monitor agency programs serving children and families.
Responsible Living Skills Program	<i>(\$824k) GFS (\$84k) GFF (\$908k) Total</i>	34% reduction. This holds funding to FY 2011 expenditure. Service will continue at current utilization.
Street Youth Programs	<i>(\$956k) GFS</i>	Eliminated. This includes outreach services to street youth. It is estimated that these funds support over 30,000 contacts with youth each year.
Substance Abuse Treatment	<i>(\$5.9m) GFS</i>	Funding is reduced for outpatient and residential chemical dependency treatment, affecting services for 4,979 clients statewide.
TANF (Grant reduction; 48 month limit)	<i>Grant cut= (\$7.2m) GFS 48 month limit= (\$17.5m) GFS Total= (\$24.7m)</i>	The TANF grant will be reduced by 2% effective Feb. 1, 2012. Approx. 55,000 households in WA State will be impacted. The 60 month limit for families to receive a cash TANF grant will be reduced to 48 months on May 1, 2012. Approx. 2,000 current recipients (4,000 children) will no longer be eligible for TANF.
TeamChild	<i>(\$445k) GFS</i>	Eliminated. Team Child provides civil legal representation and advocacy services to 1000 youth per year who are at risk for juvenile justice involvement. Loss of funding would lead to office closures, leaving youth without access to critical advocacy, putting more kids in detention, more kids out of school and on the streets.

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