

STRATEGY DESCRIPTIONS

A.1.1 - STATEWIDE INTAKE SERVICES

The Statewide Intake call center is the largest operation of its kind in the United States. This strategy includes both the staff and technology resources needed to receive more than 50,000 calls each month of children, elder adults and persons with disabilities suspected to be at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation and assign for investigation those reports that meet the Texas Family Code and Human Resources Code definitions. This strategy also allows the agency to provide professionals and the public 24-hour access to services provided by Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services and Child Care Licensing via the Internet, fax, or email.

This strategy reports costs in several distinct sub-strategies:

- Statewide Intake Direct Delivery Staff
- Statewide Intake Program Support and Training
- Statewide Intake Automation
- Statewide Intake Automation – Capital

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

As the child, elder and disabled populations in Texas grow, the number of calls received annually by statewide intake will grow. DFPS closely monitors service levels and performance measures to improve response time. DFPS continues to use call center technology but has expanded its use of the Internet for professionals and the public to make reports of abuse/neglect and exploitation.

The consistent increase in the number of calls received annually by Statewide Intake needs to be balanced with an adequate number of staff to handle these calls. It is expected that calls received will continue to increase for FY 2006-2007, requiring the need for additional staff to maintain the projected caseload per worker. The funds needed are requested in Exceptional Item 8, Maintain Statewide Intake Current Caseload per Worker.

Some crucial aspects of the technological infrastructure of the Statewide Intake call center are now reaching the end of their lifespan. Funding is being requested for upgrades and improvements in Exceptional Item 11, Statewide Intake Technology.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy are Medicaid, TANF and Title XX. State funds are included as designated by the federal funding source requirements.

A.2.1 - CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

In this strategy, DFPS investigates reports of child abuse and/or neglect. If the need for continuing protective services is identified, service plans are developed and implemented with the goal of preventing future abuse or neglect. If it is determined that children are not safe in their own homes because of abuse or neglect or the risk of abuse/neglect, the children may be placed temporarily in substitute care. When a child cannot safely return

home, and another permanency plan such as adoption is in the best interest of a child, staff work toward placing the child with a permanent family.

This strategy reports staffing in several distinct sub-strategies:

- CPS Direct Delivery Staff
- Contributed CPS Direct Delivery Staff
- Intensive Family Based Services Direct Delivery Staff
- CPS Program Support and Training
- Preparation for Adult Living Staff
- Child Fatality Review Team
- Discretionary Federal Projects

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The FY06-07 request for this strategy does not continue all of the 356 new direct delivery FTEs for FY04-05 because the funding appropriated for those FTEs was based on a phase-in of the new FTEs during the biennium. The funds needed to restore 135 FTEs are requested as Exceptional Item 4, Maintain CPS Phased-In Staff.

The request has also been reduced by 485 FTEs due to an assumed loss of Medicaid associated with Targeted Case Management (TCM). TCM is currently claimed for case management activities that assist the target population in gaining access to medical, social, educational and other services. The feds have issued a disallowance of TCM claims for what they define as child welfare activities. Texas has appealed, and is awaiting federal guidance for the future. Until that time, the assumption is that there will no longer be a CPS targeted case management program starting in FY 06. However, negotiations with the feds may result in some level of targeted case management. Our funding request will be adjusted based on these negotiations. The funds needed to restore these FTEs are requested as Exceptional Item 5, Restore Loss of CPS Targeted Case Management.

Expediting the delivery of services and legal resolution for children in conservatorship are impacted by workload and the number of children in care. It is expected these factors will increase for FY 06-07, requiring the need for additional direct delivery staff to maintain the projected caseload per worker. The funds needed are requested as Exceptional Item 7, Maintain CPS Current Caseload per Worker.

A.2.2 – TWC FOSTER DAY CARE SERVICES

Under this strategy, DFPS purchases day care for foster care children where both or the only foster parent works full-time. Day care for foster children is defined as out-of-home care in licensed or registered day care facilities. This type of day care is needed to help working foster families with the cost associated with caring for children in foster care.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

DFPS contracts with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for childcare services that are provided through the Child Care Management Services (CCMS) network of providers

under contract with TWC. DFPS works with TWC to provide budgets to the CCMS Broker or Brokers within each DFPS region. This results in “slots” for children that are controlled through DFPS authorization of services. TWC makes payments to the CCMS contractors and provides expenditures and client information to DFPS. TWC bills DFPS for reimbursement of day care service cost, plus administrative and operational cost.

DFPS continues to work with TWC staff, CCMS, and local workforce boards to improve the service delivery process.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy are CCDF and Title IV-E. State funds are included in accordance with the federal financial participation requirements for Title IV-E. There are no federal match requirements for CCDF.

A.2.3 – TWC PROTECTIVE DAY CARE SERVICES

Under this strategy, DFPS purchases protective day care to control and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect for children remaining at home. These services help keep a child safe and provide some stability while a family is working on changes to reduce risk. As part of the CPS service plan, the use of protective day care is often an alternative to removing a child from the home. If not available, children are sometimes placed in foster care that otherwise could have remained with their families.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

DFPS contracts with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for childcare services that are provided through the Child Care System (CCS) network of providers under contract with TWC. DFPS pays the actual day care service cost plus administrative and operational costs. DFPS works with TWC to provide budgets to the CCS brokers within each DFPS region. This results in “slots” for children that are accessed through DFPS authorization of services. TWC makes payments to the CCS contractors and provides expenditure and client information to DFPS. TWC bills DFPS for reimbursement.

DFPS continues to work with TWC staff, CCS, and local workforce boards to improve the service delivery process.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy is CCDF. There are no federal match requirements for this federal funding source.

A.2.4 – ADOPTION PURCHASED SERVICES

To increase permanency placement options for children awaiting adoption, DFPS contracts with private child-placing agencies (CPAs) through an open-enrollment procurement process, which is open to any licensed agency that meets all requirements. These contracts require the CPAs to recruit, train and verify adoptive homes; handle adoptive placements of the children; provide post-placement supervision; and facilitate the consummation of the adoption. To provide these adoption placement purchased services, the CPAs receive payment based on the needs of the child and the number of children in the sibling group. This collaboration has resulted in more children achieving permanency, and in a shorter period of time.

Texas Family Code §264.207 (b) (6) requires the department to seek private licensed child-placing agencies to place a child, who is in the department's managing conservatorship, and has been available for permanent placement for more than 90 days.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

Beginning in September 2003 (FY 2004), changes to the rate structure of the Adoption Placement Purchased Services were necessary in order to maximize funding and assist the private agencies in facilitating the adoption of the "harder-to-place" children such as those with more needs and those in sibling groups. Currently, the majority of children awaiting adoption are in sibling groups and over 6 years old. The changes implemented in the rate structure have allowed more children to achieve permanency and in a shorter period of time.

DFPS is requesting a 15% increase in the current budget to ensure continued recruitment and placement of the growing number of children awaiting adoption. This request is included in Exceptional Item 17, Enhance Permanency for Children.

Title IV-B, Part 2 funds are currently being utilized in this strategy which requires a 25% State match. Another source of federal funds used in this strategy, as they are available, is the Adoption Incentive Bonus grant award. The Adoption Incentive Bonus funding does not require a State match.

A.2.5 – POST-ADOPTION PURCHASED SERVICES

Under this strategy, DFPS purchases post-adoption services. Services available include casework, support groups, parent training, therapeutic counseling services, alternative intermittent care, and residential therapeutic care. Post-adoption services are available to families who adopted children in the care of the department. The purpose of this program is to help the child and family adjust to adoption and the newly created family, to provide services that will assist the child and adoptive family cope with the effects of abuse and neglect in the child's background, and to prevent abuse and neglect.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The program is delivered through competitively procured contracts with other child-placing and social service agencies/organizations. The contractors are responsible for development and delivery of the required services throughout the DFPS administrative/geographic region served.

The federal funds participation in this strategy is Title IV-B, Part 2. ASFA amended Title IV-B, Part 2 to require states to indicate the specific percentage of funds that will be expended on direct delivery of family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support services, with a rationale for the decision. The state must have a strong rationale if the percentage provided is below 20% for any of the service categories. Of the four service categories mentioned above, this sub-strategy provides adoption promotion and support services. Funding is expected to remain stable through the upcoming biennium.

DFPS is requesting an increase for post-adoption purchased services to address anticipated need as part of Exceptional Item 17, Enhance Permanency for Children.

A.2.6 – PAL PURCHASED SERVICES

Under this strategy, DFPS purchases Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) services to help youth in CPS substitute care prepare for their eventual departure from DFPS care and support. Purchased services include training sessions such as money management and planning for the future, life skills assessments, and educational and vocational support services. Transitional living allowances and household supply stipends are also available, as well as aftercare services such as case management and room and board assistance for youth ages 18 to 21. PAL purchased services also include a PAL experiential camp, a Texas teen conference, and a PAL college conference.

This strategy also includes the Education and Training Voucher program to assist eligible youth to begin, continue or complete postsecondary education and one year training programs and move towards gainful employment and self-sufficiency.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

PAL purchased services are funded through federal Chafee Foster Care Independence Program funds requiring a non-federal match of 20 percent. It is estimated that this program will remain relatively stable throughout the next biennium. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 provided an increase in federal funds that enhanced the program and expanded aftercare services for young adults ages 18 to 21 who have emancipated from foster care.

The provision of PAL services contributes to the statewide effort of improving transition services for young adults and overcoming service delivery fragmentation. Without these purchased services, youth leaving the DFPS system of substitute care are at a much greater risk of homelessness, incarceration, being on welfare, or being perpetrators of abuse or neglect in the future.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy are Title IV-E, Independent Living and Education Training Voucher funding. State funds are included in accordance with the federal financial participation requirements. In addition, local contractors provide a portion of the State match requirement.

A.2.7 – SUBSTANCE ABUSE PURCHASED SERVICES

Due to the co-occurrence of substance abuse and child maltreatment, it is critical that substance abuse treatment services be available in order for DFPS to carry out its mandate to protect children from abuse and neglect. DSHS, through their substance abuse funding, offers invaluable resources for clients who meet eligibility requirements. However, many CPS clients don't meet the eligibility requirements of dependence/addiction even though substance abuse impairs their parenting. Under this strategy, CPS purchases services to meet the needs of substance abusing families not served by DSHS providers. This strategy also funds drug testing services that cannot be obtained through DSHS providers. Delivery of services earlier in the abuse/dependency/addiction cycle may prevent some children from entering out-of-home care and allow others to be reunited more quickly.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

DSHS substance abuse resources are insufficient to address the broad range of substance abuse issues seen by CPS. This strategy augments DSHS services by providing treatment for clients with substance abuse issues and by providing drug testing services. The provision of these services are frequently court-ordered as judges attempt to assure that all efforts have been made to keep the child with their family of origin.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy are TANF and Title IV-B,

Part 1. Listed below are the match requirements.

TANF - The State is required to provide a minimum of funding referred to as a “Maintenance of Effort” (MOE) in order to receive TANF federal block grant funding. Specific agencies are designated by the Legislature to provide the MOE for the State. (This strategy also reflects State TANF MOE dollars designated by the Legislature.)

Title IV-B, Part 1 – As approved by the federal government, the State match requirement for Title IV-B, Part 1 is reflected in the Foster Care strategy.

A.2.8 – OTHER CPS PURCHASED SERVICES

Under this strategy, DFPS purchases services for families and children who need assistance to facilitate the achievement of the service plan. Services are provided to children who are in substitute care as well as children who remain in their homes, as well as to their families.

The following types of purchased services are included as sub-strategies:

- Foster/Adoption Child Welfare Services
- In-Home Child Welfare Services
- Intensive Family Based Child Welfare Services
- Temporary Substitute Care
- All Other CPS Purchased Services

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

As reports of child abuse and neglect increase, so does the need for services. Adequate funding needs to be available to prevent removal and/or further abuse/neglect. For children in substitute care, the state risks losing significant federal funds if services provided do not meet established standards.

This strategy is supported by the Information Management Protecting Adults and Children System (IMPACT), which is designed to provide complete casework management for reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in the state of Texas.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy are TANF and Title IV-B, Part 1 and Part 2. Listed below are the match requirements.

TANF - The State is required to provide a minimum of funding referred to as a "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE) in order to receive TANF federal block grant funding. Specific agencies are designated by the Legislature to provide the MOE for the State. This strategy reflects State TANF MOE dollars designated by the Legislature.

Title IV-B, Part 1 – As approved by the federal government, the 25% State match requirement for Title IV-B, Part 1 is reflected in the Foster Care strategy.

Title IV-B, Part 2 - State match requirement is 25%.

A.2.9 – FOSTER CARE PAYMENTS

Under this strategy, DFPS provides reimbursement for the care, maintenance, and treatment of children who have been removed from their homes and placed with childcare providers, including DFPS foster homes and contracted childcare facilities. DFPS reimburses a foster care provider for a child's care while DFPS provides social services to the child and the parents to achieve reunification, if possible. If not, the agency seeks to place the child with a relative, to terminate parental rights to free the child for adoption, or to raise the child to adulthood in long-term foster care. This strategy also includes Title IV-E reimbursement to counties for allowable expenses for foster care maintenance and administration and an interagency contract with TYC and TJPC to allow Title IV-E claiming for eligible children in their custody and for administrative costs for reasonable candidates.

This strategy reports costs in the following sub-strategies:

- Foster Care Payments
- County Foster Care Payments and Administration
- Interagency Foster Care Payments and Administration
- Kinship Care Pilot Project

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

In Sept. 2003, DFPS implemented the first major revision to the level of care system since 1989 by converting six levels of care to four service levels. The incorporation of the new service levels into the residential childcare contracts effective September 1, 2003 brought DFPS into compliance with DFPS Rider 21, 78th Legislature. This rider required DFPS to consolidate levels of care by October 1, 2003 in order to attain greater efficiencies in classifying of foster care children and to reduce costs.

The addition of foster home rates at the "Intense" service level was made in response to the Health and Human Service Commission's Promoting Independence Initiative. The establishment of these rates promotes the delivery of intense services in a home-based setting.

The monthly average number of children removed from their homes and entering foster care continues to increase despite efforts to prevent placement of children in foster care and to decrease the amount of time children spend in foster care. This strategy request represents the projected cost of foster care based on forecasted increases through FY 2007.

The cost for this strategy is impacted by provider rate funding decisions. The agency is requesting two exceptional items related to provider rates – Exceptional Item 15, Restore Foster Care Rate Funding, and Exceptional Item 16, Foster Care Rate Adjustment.

A.2.10 ADOPTION SUBSIDY PAYMENTS

Under this strategy, DFPS provides adoption assistance to eligible children with special needs, formerly in foster care. Types of assistance include Medicaid coverage, monthly subsidy payments to assist with the cost of the child's special needs, and non-recurring adoption expenses. The non-recurring adoption assistance is capped at \$1,500 per adoption, and is intended to reimburse expenses incurred to legally complete the process. These types of assistance reduce the barriers to adoption for sibling groups, minority children, school age children and children with disabilities. Adoptive families are enabled to meet the children's special care needs. Without these types of assistance, many children in DFPS' care would not be adopted, or their placement would be delayed.

This strategy reports costs in two sub-strategies:

- Adoption Subsidy Payments
- Non-Recurring Adoption Payments

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42. The Social Security Act requires provision of adoption assistance. By federal law, eligible children are entitled to adoption assistance to at least age 18.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

In September 2003, a tiered payment schedule was established for the adoption subsidy program, as directed by H.B. 1, Rider 26, 78th Legislature. A two-tiered payment rate ceiling was implemented which allows the department to provide additional assistance to children whose service needs are moderate or higher at the time of adoptive placement. Since the average cost of an adoption subsidy is less than the average cost of foster care, there is an economic benefit to the State when adoptions of children with special needs increase.

The number of children free for adoption continues to increase, and the projection for the number of children placed for adoption continues to increase. Based on directions provided by leadership offices, the projected caseload growth for this federal entitlement service is not included in the base request, but is included in Exceptional Item 1, Foster Care/Adoption Subsidies Caseload Growth.

Two initiatives designed to increase permanency for children awaiting adoptions – a three-tiered payment schedule and providing adoption subsidies beyond age 17 – are included in Exceptional Item 17, Enhance Permanency for Children.

The primary federal funds participation included in this strategy is Title IV-E. State funds are included in accordance with the federal financial participation requirements, as well as to cover costs that are unallowable under Title IV-E.

A.2.11 – STAR PROGRAM

STAR services are provided to youth under the age of 18 who are runaways, truants, and/or living in family conflict, youth who are age 9 and younger who have allegedly been involved in or committed delinquent offenses, and 10 to 16 year olds who have

allegedly committed misdemeanor or state jail felony offenses but have not been adjudicated delinquent by a court. Services must include family crisis intervention counseling, short-term emergency residential care, individual and family counseling. STAR services are available in all 254 Texas counties.

Beginning in FY 2004, the Children's Trust Fund (CTF) helps to fund the STAR program. As a result, STAR providers must dedicate a portion of their contract funds to provide universal child abuse prevention services that may include media campaigns, parenting classes, and other awareness activities. In addition, providers may not charge more than 10% administrative expenditures to their CTF funding.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

Instructions were provided to all agencies by the LBB and the Governor's Office that limited an agency's baseline request for general revenue-related funds to 95% of the sum of amounts expended in FY 2004 and budgeted in FY 2005. The agency is applying the baseline reduction to the STAR program, resulting in a 26% funding cut. The restoration of this baseline funding reduction is being requested as Exceptional Item 3, Restore 5% Base Reduction.

STAR funding was cut 16% for the FY 2004-2005 biennium, which resulted in reduced service levels in all counties. The agency is requesting that funding be restored to the level of funding provided during FY 2002 – FY 2003 in Exceptional Item 12, Restore/Re-establish Prevention Services.

A.2.12 – COMMUNITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Community Youth Development (CYD) program provides grants to communities with high incidence of juvenile crime for the purpose of developing comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention approaches that support families and enhance positive youth development. CYD is a zip code based program and provides services in the following 15 areas of the state: Amarillo (79107), Austin (78744), Brownsville (78520), Corpus Christi (78415), Dallas (75216, 75217), El Paso (79924), Fort Worth (76106), Galveston (77550), Houston (77081), McAllen (78501), San Antonio (78207), Waco (76707), Lubbock (79415), and Pasadena (77506). Youth leadership development, community service programs, life skills development, character education, conflict resolution, sports and fitness, enrichment, employment, mentoring, and family support are examples of approaches used by communities to support positive youth development and prevent juvenile crime.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

This collaborative effort affords local communities the opportunity to be directly involved in addressing the problem of juvenile crime. Community members select the services they feel will prevent youth in their community from engaging in delinquent conduct. Through the CYD grants, extensive networking is encouraged. The program works to bring together local social service agencies, businesses, consumers of local

youth and family services, educators, members of the faith community, law enforcement and other community leaders to guide and shape the local program.

CYD funding was cut 16% for the FY 2004-2005 biennium, which resulted in a reduction in the number of youth served per month. The agency is requesting that funding be restored to the level of funding provided during FY 2002 – FY 2003 in Exceptional Item 12, Restore/Re-establish Prevention Services.

The federal funds participation in this strategy is Title IV-B, Part 2 which requires a 25% State match. Of the four service categories required by the ASFA amendment to Title IV-B, Part 2, this strategy delivers prevention and support and crisis intervention services. Title IV-B funding is expected to remain stable through the upcoming biennium.

A.2.13 – TEXAS FAMILIES PROGRAM

Through the Texas Families: Together and Safe program, DFPS provides funding for community-based projects designed to alleviate stress and promote parental competencies and behaviors that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children; enable families to use other resources and opportunities available in the community; and create supportive networks to enhance child rearing abilities of parents. Projects are developed by coalitions of local providers and government agencies to meet the specific needs of their community and to streamline access to services and focus on the whole family. The program is available in Bexar, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Cameron, Coleman, Coke, Comanche, Crosby, Eastland, El Paso, Grimes, Harris, Hidalgo, Irion, Lamb, Leon, Lubbock, Madison, Maverick, McCulloch, Mills, Robertson, San Saba, Starr, Sterling, Tarrant, Tom Green, Travis, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, and Washington counties.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

Grants for this program are awarded through a competitive procurement process. Proposal review includes the breadth and depth of collaboration in development of the proposal and operation of the program, the degree of client/family participation in service development and delivery, financial capability of the proposed grantee, and sufficiency of the proposed outcome evaluation of the project.

Funding for Texas Families: Together and Safe was cut by \$250,000, or approximately 5%, for the FY 2004-2005 biennium, in order to provide funding for the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program.

The federal funds participation in this strategy is Title IV-B, Part 2 which requires a 25% State match. This match is provided by local funds contributed by grantee communities. ASFA amended Title IV-B, Part 2 to require states to indicate the specific percentage of funds that will be expended on direct delivery of family preservation, community-based family support, time-limited family reunification and adoption promotion and support services, with a rationale for the decision. The state must have a strong rationale if the percentage provided is below 20% for any of the service categories. Of the four service categories mentioned above, this sub-strategy delivers prevention and support and crisis intervention services. Title IV-B funding is expected to remain stable through the upcoming biennium.

A.2.14 – BUFFALO SOLDIERS HERITAGE PROGRAM

This program operates in three counties – Bexar, Tarrant, and Dallas – serving at-risk youth between the ages of 10 and 17. Services are designed to develop honor, pride, and dignity in participants who might otherwise engage in delinquent behavior. The specific service components for the program include tutoring, Buffalo Soldiers history classes, character development, mentoring, self-esteem and life-skills training, and community service. Contracted service providers are selected through a competitive procurement process. DFPS staff manages and monitors the contracts.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

Although mandated, the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Program received no funding for the FY 2004-2005 biennium. To fund contracts, Title IVB, Part 2 funding previously budgeted for the Texas Families Together and Safe program was used to continue funding at the FY 2003 level. Title IV-B, Part 2 requires a 25% state match. This required match is provided by local funds contributed by the contracted service providers.

Limited funding has made it difficult to secure contractors in counties other than those currently providing services. When the program began, services were provided in five Texas counties – Washington, Tom Green, Bexar, Dallas, and Tarrant.

A.2.15 – CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION GRANTS

The Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant, formerly known as the Community-Based Family Resource and Support grant (CBFRS), is allocated to states by federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act legislation. The CBCAP program increases community awareness of existing prevention services, strengthens community and parental involvement in child abuse prevention efforts, and encourages families to engage in services that are already available. The grant is used to fund local partnerships in order to strengthen and support families. Projects supported by CBCAP are located in Bexar, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Galveston, Jefferson, Harris, Midland, Potter, Randall, Tarrant, Taylor, Tom Green, Travis, and Webb counties. These funds also provide tertiary and secondary child abuse prevention services that are community-based and volunteer-driven. Communities supported by these prevention, intervention and aftercare services are located in Andrews, Brazos, Ector, Midland, Ward, and Winkler counties.

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The Administration for Children and Families of the federal Department of Health and Human Services sets criteria and guidelines for each year's federal CBCAP grant. DFPS is required to apply each year for CBCAP funds, and must agree to meet the criteria and guidelines to receive funding.

A.2.16 – OTHER AT-RISK PREVENTION SERVICES

This strategy is a compilation of diverse, specialized programs emphasizing at-risk prevention and early intervention. It also contains the DFPS staff delivered monitoring and oversight activities as well as any automation costs. Due to the funding reductions

resulting from the 78th Legislature, many of these prevention and early intervention programs were not funded for the FY 2004-2005 biennium.

The following sub-strategies report these discrete activities and programs:

- Runaway Hotline
- PEI Program Support and Training
- PEI Automation – Capital
- Healthy Families Program (not funded for FY 04-05)
- At-Risk Mentoring (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Family Outreach Program (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Second Chance Teen Parent Program (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Facility-Based Youth Enrichment (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Parents As Teachers (not funded for FY 04-05)
- Children’s Trust Fund

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 42.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

These programs have depended on cooperation and collaboration from other youth-serving agencies, and the quality and availability of service providers in the communities impact program outcomes. Development of less experienced service providers in previously unserved communities (e.g. rural counties with very few services) have required intensive staff training and technical assistance to ensure accountability. Violence among youth, particularly in schools, has raised awareness of prevention issues as well as generated discussions of prevention issues in public and private forums.

The agency is not requesting funding restoration for Family Outreach, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, Second Chance Teen Parent Program, or Facility-Based Youth Enrichment programs for the FY 2006 – 2007 biennium. Restoration of Healthy Families, At-Risk Mentoring, and Parents As Teachers programs to FY 2003 funding levels is being requested in Exceptional Item 12, Restore/Re-establish Prevention Services.

A.3.1 – ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In this strategy, Adult Protective Services (APS) staff investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly persons (statutorily defined as age 65 and older) and adults with disabilities age 18 to 64. APS also investigates reports concerning persons with disabilities under age 18 when they have been declared legal adults. When maltreatment is confirmed, APS staff provide or arrange for services to remedy or prevent further abuse. Cases are often complex and client capacity questionable.

This strategy reports costs in several distinct sub-strategies:

- APS Direct Delivery Staff
- APS Purchased Emergency Client Services
- APS Program Support and Training
- APS Automation
- APS Automation – Capital
- APS Guardianship Program

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 48.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

Socio-economic factors and isolation often negatively impact APS clients and consequently affect the APS program. The movement of vulnerable adults from institutions into the community results in APS providing a safety net when maltreatment is alleged in the community.

Under Executive Order RP 33 issued April 14, 2004, HHSC is directed to oversee the systemic reform of the APS program. HHSC began an intensive review of the APS program and issued a preliminary report on May 19, 2004, that included preliminary findings on program performance, functional review, and policy assessment of the APS program, including the Guardianship program. An implementation plan was issued July 12, 2004, that outlined corrective actions to be taken. Additional funding for FY 2005 has been included in this strategy and in Strategy 2.1.5 Maintain Automated System (IMPACT) to address the critical areas of the reform. The funding necessary for the continuation of staff and the other improvements for FY 2006-2007 is being requested as Exceptional Item 6, APS Reform.

Part of the actions expected to be taken in the APS reform effort is to move the Guardianship program to another agency while allowing DFPS to convert the existing Guardianship FTEs to the APS In-Home program. This LAR submittal includes this FTE transfer into the APS In-Home program beginning in FY 2005.

This strategy is funded primarily with Title XX and Medicaid. Title XX funding does not require a State match. State funds are included in accordance with the federal financial participation requirements for Medicaid.

A.3.2 – MHMR INVESTIGATIONS

Staff funded by this strategy investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons, regardless of age, served by or through state operated MH/MR facilities, community MHMR centers, their contractors, and home and community-based services waiver programs.

This strategy reports costs in two distinct sub-strategies:

- MHMR Investigations Staff
- MHMR Program Support

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code, Title 5 and the HR Code, Chapters 40 and 48; Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapters 532, 576, 591-595.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

During the 78th Legislative session, funding for this program was cut by 25%. Policy changes were implemented in an effort to reduce the workload of APS staff handling MH/MR investigations. One change involved amending the definition of emotional/verbal abuse so that allegations must involve “observable distress or harm.” Another change was for the priority system for investigations to consider the seriousness of the allegation.

Changes to the service delivery system for mental health and mental retardation consumers, such as the increase in the home and community-based waiver program to address HHSC's Promoting Independence initiative, affects the complexity, number, duration, and types of investigations DFPS conducts. MH/MR investigations are rigorous and must be completed very promptly. Investigations in home and community-based programs take more time to complete and may involve APS and/or guardianship staff on an emergency basis to ensure resident's protection.

Additionally, the reorganization of the health and human services resulting in the MH/MR facilities and programs being divided between two state agencies, will require revisions to operating procedures. The impact of this reorganization on MH/MR investigations is presently unknown and will be monitored closely.

It is expected the workload will increase for FY 2006-2007, requiring the need for additional direct delivery staff to maintain projected caseload per worker. The funds needed are requested as Exceptional Item 9, Maintain APS MH/MR Current Caseload per Worker.

A.4.1 – CHILD CARE REGULATION

This strategy funds the regulatory activity for day care, 24-hour care, maternity homes, administrators of residential childcare, and child placing agencies. Included in this activity is the enforcement of minimum standards by routine inspections of facilities and investigations of complaints alleging non-compliance. Adverse action against a facility may include probation, suspension or revocation. This strategy also includes the investigation of reports alleging child abuse/neglect and reports of serious incidents in which children are injured or are otherwise considered at-risk in childcare facilities.

This strategy reports costs in the following sub-strategies:

- CCR Day Care Staff
- CCR Residential Child Care Staff
- CCR Program Support and Training
- CLASS Automation
- CLASS Automation - Capital

The statutory and/or constitutional provisions for this strategy is the Texas Family Code Sec. 261.401-409; the HR Code, Chapters 40, 42 and 43; and the Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 249.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The growth in overall child population as well as growth in the number of young school age children, the increasing turnover of childcare staff, and the increasing number of childcare facilities are all factors that impact the number of complaints in childcare facilities, and thus the agency's ability to ensure the protection of children. Additionally, there is a need for broader monitoring of foster homes verified by private child-placing agencies and foster homes verified by CPS. The additional staff needed to address these concerns are requested in Exceptional Item 10, Increase Monitoring of Licensed Facilities.

The primary funding source for this strategy is CCDF which does not require a State match.

B.1.1 – CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

This strategy consists of costs in support of all DFPS programs. It includes executive staff, public information, policy development, external liaison/affairs, general counsel, legal services, accounting, budget, financial reporting, contract administration, and internal audit.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge agency functions. A key component of successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of indirect administration functions so that direct delivery staff can concentrate on the delivery of protective services.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The agency has recently implemented the Health and Human Services Administrative System (HHSAS) under a consolidation plan directed by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). HHSAS is a PeopleSoft product customized by the Comptroller of Public Accounts and modified to meet the needs of HHSC enterprise agencies. HHSAS includes both a financial system and a human resources system.

Many areas contained in this strategy have been impacted by H.B.2292 requirements such as consolidation of administrative functions and changes to the organizational structure of the agency.

B.1.2 – OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

This strategy consists of State Office staff who coordinate inventory and records management activities.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge agency functions. A key component of successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of indirect administration functions so that direct delivery staff can concentrate on the delivery of protective services.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

This strategy has been impacted by the H.B.2292 requirement for the consolidation of administrative functions.

B.1.3 – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION

DFPS operates through field offices spread throughout the state. This strategy consists of the field managers and their staff who provide functions such as business services and automation support at the regional level.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge agency functions. A key component of successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of indirect administration functions so that direct delivery staff can concentrate on the delivery of protective services.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

In many areas of the state, DFPS shares leased space with staff who previously reported to DHS but are now HHSC staff. The changes to the delivery of eligibility determination authorized by H.B. 2292 may impact DFPS field office locations if these changes result in office closures.

B.1.4 – IT PROGRAM SUPPORT

This strategy consists of State Office staff responsible for DFPS automation and telecommunications activities. The Information Technology (IT) division addresses the major on-going operational needs of the agency including:

- Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT) – supports the statewide case management delivery system
- IT Operations – responsible for maintaining the statewide data network and all associated contract management of automation services
- Telephone Operations – Manages the statewide phone system and supports the 24 hour Statewide Intake call center
- Internet Services – manages the DFPS web site and web applications
- Security

Other responsibilities include development of planning documentation needed for submission to other agencies and state leadership, such as Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). Information Technology also provides project management and change management to ensure the successful implementation of technology efforts.

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code authorize the agency to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge the agency's functions. A key component to successful program delivery is adequate funding/staffing of indirect administration so that direct delivery staff can concentrate on the delivery of protective services.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

DFPS has transitioned from the Child and Adult Protective System (CAPS) case management tool to IMPACT. IMPACT utilizes new technologies that allow IT to respond to expanded access and program change needs in a more timely and efficient manner.

B.1.5 – MAINTAIN AUTOMATED SYSTEM

This strategy provides funds for outsourced services to operate the Information Management Protecting Adults and Children in Texas (IMPACT) system, staff workstations, hardware maintenance, help desk, network operations, data center management, and security.

IMPACT provides complete casework management for reported cases of abuse and neglect in Texas and links all activities from intake to foster and adoptive casework. IMPACT also meets all federal requirements for State Automation Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System. IMPACT allows DFPS staff to manage resources; enhance caseworker productivity and efficiency; and improve the quality and utilization of information. IMPACT serves CPS, APS, and the investigation function of Child Care

Licensing. It also interfaces with agencies such as the Office of Attorney General and the Department of Public Safety, and interfaces with the agency's accounting system for payment processing and funds accountability.

This strategy has the following sub-strategies:

Agencywide – Desktop Services Contract – Capital

Agencywide – Automation Maintenance

Agencywide – Automation Enhancements/Replacements – Capital

IMPACT Automation Maintenance

IMPACT Automation Enhancements/Replacements – Capital

Sections 40.002, 40.031, and 40.032 of the Human Resources Code give the agency the authority to staff at the level necessary to efficiently administer and discharge agency functions.

EXTERNAL/INTERNAL FACTORS IMPACTING STRATEGY

The ability to collect and maintain accurate information, and the ability to access information timely are critical for quality decision-making and for documentation to substantiate claims for federal funding. The ability to fund contracted support for the maintenance of the automated system is crucial to the daily operations of DFPS. A key component of successful program delivery is adequate funding of support functions so that direct delivery staff can concentrate on the delivery of protective services.

Additional funding for FY 2005 has been included in this strategy to address technological improvements identified in the review of the APS program under Executive Order RP33. The funding necessary to continue the improvements put in place in FY 05 for FY 06-07 is being requested in Exceptional Item 6, APS Reform.

Upgrades needed to maintain the data network, meet IMPACT application requirements, and provide security assurances through the next biennium are requested in Exceptional Item 13, Infrastructure Upgrades/Improvements, and enhancements needed to ensure continued effective service delivery are requested in Exceptional Item 14, IMPACT Enhancements.