



Detail of Exceptional Items Presented to the Senate Finance Committee

FY 2008-2009
Legislative Appropriations Request
October 23, 2006

**Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Summary of Exceptional Items for FY 2008-2009**

	FY 2008		FY 2009		BIENNIAL TOTAL		FY 08	FY 09
	GR/GRD	All Funds	GR/GRD	All Funds	GR/GRD	All Funds	FTEs	FTEs
Base Request	467,472,916	1,175,561,677	441,544,635	1,137,058,330	909,017,551	2,312,620,007	8,345.2	8,345.2
Exceptional Item Requests:								
1. Restore Base Funding	20,189,177	20,189,177	20,189,177	20,189,177	40,378,354	40,378,354	-	-
2. Required Biennial Funding for Phased-in APS/CPS Reform Initiatives	39,672,707	47,732,620	39,904,030	47,982,620	79,576,737	95,715,240	1,150.0	1,150.0
<i>CPS Reform</i>	34,808,036	41,180,434	35,030,372	41,430,434	69,838,408	82,610,868	1,012.5	1,012.5
<i>APS Reform</i>	4,864,671	6,552,186	4,873,658	6,552,186	9,738,329	13,104,372	137.5	137.5
3. Restore Loss of Funds from Method of Financing Changes	7,652,269	13,541,323	7,650,503	13,541,323	15,302,772	27,082,646	325.0	325.0
4. Additional Direct Delivery Staff to Maintain Caseload Per Worker	18,068,090	21,048,115	20,675,171	23,899,927	38,743,261	44,948,042	486.0	531.0
<i>Statewide Intake</i>	1,862,491	1,907,383	3,361,165	3,431,231	5,223,656	5,338,614	45.0	90.0
<i>CPS Substitute Care</i>	8,842,961	10,444,947	9,901,452	11,706,031	18,744,413	22,150,978	253.0	253.0
<i>CPS Family Based Safety Services</i>	7,362,638	8,695,785	7,412,554	8,762,665	14,775,192	17,458,450	188.0	188.0
5. Additional Purchased Client Services for Caseload Growth	5,097,714	5,148,439	5,546,367	5,593,934	10,644,081	10,742,373	4.0	4.0
6. Additional Program Support Staff for Caseload Growth	668,206	785,368	719,101	836,505	1,387,307	1,621,873	13.0	15.0
7. Relative Caregiver Caseload Growth	274,745	2,717,452	327,514	3,245,140	602,259	5,962,592	-	-
8. Maintain Information Technology Capabilities	5,385,041	5,762,633	6,734,625	7,112,633	12,119,666	12,875,266	-	-
9. Increase Prevention Services	5,897,189	5,900,651	7,365,962	7,367,466	13,263,151	13,268,117	5.0	5.0
<i>Services to At-Risk Youth</i>	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	4,200,000	4,200,000	-	-
<i>Community Youth Development</i>	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
<i>Other At-Risk Prevention Programs</i>	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-
<i>Community-Based Family Services</i>	1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	-	-
<i>Additional Staff for Increased Prevention Services</i>	297,189	300,651	265,962	267,466	563,151	568,117	5.0	5.0
10. Establish Family Preservation Flexible Funding Program	-	4,426,500	-	4,823,000	-	9,249,500	-	-
11. Mobile Technology for Child Care Licensing Staff	2,536,485	2,893,467	1,224,668	1,386,399	3,761,153	4,279,866	-	-
Total Exceptional Items	105,441,623	130,145,745	110,337,118	135,978,124	215,778,741	266,123,869	1,983.0	2,030.0
Grand Total Request	572,914,539	1,305,707,422	551,881,753	1,273,036,454	1,124,796,292	2,578,743,876	10,328.2	10,375.2

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 1

Restore Base Funding

Request

Instructions were provided to all agencies by the LBB and the Governor's Office limiting agencies baseline request for general revenue-related funds to 90% of the sum of amounts expended in FY 06 plus budgeted in FY 07, excluding funds necessary to maintain caseloads for federal entitlement services.

In order to avoid the impediment of APS and CPS reform efforts the agency is applying this required reduction to the prevention programs. The 79th Legislature passed SB 6 that outlined a comprehensive reform of DFPS to improve its services. The Legislature demonstrated support for the critical nature of DFPS' mission by providing DFPS an unprecedented increase in funding and FTEs to achieve the improvements laid out in SB 6. Any reduction in staffing levels or other resources initially funded or increased by reform appropriations would impede the agency's ability to continue the critical improvements beyond the current biennium.

By applying the 10% reduction to prevention services funding, there is a resulting 53.5% reduction. This item requests funds to restore this reduction and maintain the FY 06-07 funding levels.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$20,189,177	\$20,189,177	\$40,378,354
Number of FTEs	0.0	0.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$20,189,177	\$20,189,177	\$40,378,354
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
Average # STAR Youth Served per Mo.	3,262	3,262
Average # CYD Youth Served per Mo.	1,447	1,447
Average # Families Served in Tx Families	1,842	1,842

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 2

Required Biennial Funding for Phased-in APS/CPS Reform Initiatives

Request

DFPS was appropriated additional funding during the 79th Legislative Session to address APS and CPS Reform. Funding for several reform purposes were phased-in over the biennium. In addition, funding was provided for additional APS in-home direct delivery staff and CPS substitute care caseworkers beginning in FY 07.

Because of the phase-in over the biennium, the FY 08-09 baseline request does not contain adequate funding to maintain staffing levels and other initiatives provided for the FY 06-07 biennium due to the annualized cost being higher than the FY 06-07 cost.

This item requests the funds needed to continue the phased-in initiatives at the annualized cost for the FY 08-09 biennium.

If this item is not funded, 1,150 FTEs requested in this item would have to be reduced effective with the start of FY 08, which would greatly impair the agency's ability to continue critical APS and CPS reform efforts.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$47,732,620	\$47,982,620	\$95,715,240
Number of FTEs	1,150.0	1,150.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$39,672,707	\$39,904,030	\$79,576,737
Federal Funds	\$8,059,913	\$8,078,590	\$16,138,503

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
Investigation	27.60	29.90
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
Family Based Safety Services	28.90	31.50
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
Substitute Care	51.70	55.60
APS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
In-Home	37.50	39.20

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 3

Restore Loss of Funds from Method of Financing Changes

Request

This item requests the funding needed to address the FY 08-09 baseline shortfall associated with two method of financing issues.

Issue #1:

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) contained a provision that resulted in a reduction in the level of participation of Title IV-E administrative claiming, creating a state funds need for the agency for the current biennium. Another DRA provision stated that beginning in January 2006, Medicaid Targeted Case Management (TCM) for children in foster care was no longer allowable. Since this outcome for TCM was anticipated due to a disallowance in FY05 and was funded by the 79th Legislature, there were no negative budget implications for the loss of TCM. The agency continued to claim TCM for Sept. through Dec. 2005 which provided additional funding above the appropriated level and helped offset the loss of Title IV-E for FY06.

Issue #2:

Another issue impacting the agency's ability to claim federal funds is a change in the results of the agency's time study that is used to determine how much of the direct delivery staff expense is paid by federal funding sources. Recent results indicate a shift from entitlement Title IV-E activity to non-entitlement TANF and Title IV-B activities. This also created a state funds need for the current biennium.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$13,541,323	\$13,541,323	\$27,082,646
Number of FTEs	325.0	325.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$7,652,269	\$7,650,503	\$15,302,772
Federal Funds	\$5,889,054	\$5,890,820	\$11,779,874

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker: Investigation	26.20	28.40
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker: Family Based Safety Services	27.40	29.90
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker: Substitute Care	49.10	52.90

Impact on FY 08-09:

These state fund needs have been addressed for the current biennium. However, the TCM claimed for the first four months of FY06 cannot be included in the baseline request, and the impact of the loss of federal funds due to the time study shift is greater when annualized for the FY08-09 biennium.

Therefore, the FY08-09 baseline request is insufficient to continue all the CPS direct delivery staff appropriated for FY07. It is critically important for this item to be funded to avoid a cut of 325 CPS direct delivery staff. If funding is not provided, reform efforts will not be able to continue at the level envisioned by CPS Reform.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 4

Additional Direct Delivery Staff to Maintain Caseload
Per Worker

Request

Based on forecasted caseload increases for FY 08-09, DFPS will need additional direct delivery staff to maintain projected FY 07 caseloads per worker.

This item seeks funding to maintain the following:

- average daily caseload per worker of 24.9 for CPS Family Based Safety Services staff
- average daily caseload per worker of 46.8 for CPS Substitute Care staff
- average response time of 7.9 minutes for Statewide Intake staff

Meeting Reform requirements for quality casework requires that workers spend sufficient time with children who are at risk of abuse and neglect and their families to ensure the child remains safe at home, and that workers have sufficient time to provide proper case management and supervision when the child is removed from the home.

Having sufficient staff to respond to Statewide Intake calls results in less abandoned calls and better routing of intakes, resulting in quicker action.

If funds are not appropriated for this item, caseloads would increase which results in significant child safety issues.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$21,048,115	\$23,899,927	\$44,948,042
Number of FTEs	486.0	531.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$18,068,090	\$20,675,171	\$38,743,261
Federal Funds	\$2,980,025	\$3,224,756	\$6,204,781

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
SWI Mo. Workload Equivalency Measure	98.20	98.20
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
Family Based Safety Services	24.90	24.90
CPS Daily Caseload per Worker:		
Substitute Care	46.70	46.80

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 5

Additional Purchased Client Services for Caseload Growth

Request

As caseloads increase additional purchased client services funding is needed to provide critical professional services to the increased number of CPS and APS clients.

For CPS, the provision of purchased client services reduces the risk of abuse and/or neglect so that children can remain safe in their home, and in many cases allows children who have been removed from their home to be reunited with their families in a shorter timeframe. For APS, purchased client services are critical in helping reduce or prevent further abuse and/or neglect.

This item requests the funding necessary to increase purchased client services as more caseworkers are added to address caseload growth. It also includes the funds for additional contract monitoring staff that would be needed to handle the increased volume of contracting activity associated with this item.

These types of resources were recognized through Reform decisions as being critical to address the improvements needed in protective services. Maintaining sufficient resources are critical in addressing the needs of clients involved in the CPS and APS systems.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$5,148,439	\$5,593,934	\$10,742,373
Number of FTEs	4.0	4.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$5,097,714	\$5,546,367	\$10,644,081
Federal Funds	\$50,725	\$47,567	\$98,292

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
Clients Receiving Post Adopt Purchased Services	121	138
Clients Receiving Substance Abuse Purchased Services	380	432
Clients Receiving Other CPS Purchased Services	764	869

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 6

Additional Program Support Staff for Caseload Growth

Request

As direct delivery staff are added to address increased caseloads, certain additional program support staff are necessary to address increased workload for critical support functions.

This item requests funding for additional :

- regional attorneys who work with cases in all CPS stages of service and with APS cases to provide critical expertise for court proceedings
- trainers who provide the essential twelve week training course for all new CPS and APS caseworkers
- automation support staff who provide the critical behind-the-scenes support to all DFPS regional employees in their use of automation tools, including desktop PCs, tablet PCs, and the various program applications.

These types of resources were recognized through Reform decisions as being critical to address the improvements needed in protective services. Sufficient programmatic support resources are critical to providing a seamless protective service system.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$785,368	\$836,505	\$1,621,873
Number of FTEs	13.0	15.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$668,206	\$719,101	\$1,387,307
Federal Funds	\$117,162	\$117,404	\$234,566

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 7

Relative Caregiver Caseload Growth

Request

SB 6 enacted by the 79th Legislature called for the agency to develop and implement the Relative and Other Designated Caregiver Monetary Assistance Program by March 1, 2006.

This program provides monetary assistance that includes:

- a one-time cash payment of not more than \$1,000 per family to assist the caregiver in purchasing essential child-care items such as furniture and clothing
- the reimbursement of other expenses not to exceed \$500 per year per child.

This item would provide the necessary funding to address projected caseload in this program for FY 08-09 biennium.

SB 6 identified the need to promote continuity and stability for children in the conservatorship of DFPS by placing those children with relative or other designated caregivers. It further identified the need to facilitate these placements by providing assistance and services to those caregivers. By funding this item, the agency can continue to promote relative placements that could result in fewer children being placed in substitute care.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$2,717,452	\$3,245,140	\$5,962,592
Number of FTEs	0.0	0.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$274,745	\$327,514	\$602,259
Federal Funds (TANF)	\$2,442,707	\$2,917,626	\$5,360,333

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
Average Mo # Children: Caregiver Monetary Assistance	396	473
Number Children: Caregiver Monetary Assistance	4,757	5,682

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 8

Maintain Information Technology Capabilities

Request

This item requests funds for several critical upgrades and replacements of current automation infrastructure items to ensure system and data security, productivity, compatibility, and vendor support.

Upgrades include subscription agreements for Microsoft server and desktop operating systems and for Microsoft Office. By upgrading existing licenses (all of which are too old to have mainstream vendor support) to subscription agreements for the latest versions of software, DFPS will maintain supported versions that will be eligible for service releases, security patches, and upgrades provided by the vendor.

In addition to software upgrades, new circuits and routers are also being requested in order to upgrade the local area network so that current and future network traffic is properly supported.

Finally, this item requests the replacement of approximately 1,400 printers with 275 leased all-in-one work centers. These work centers do printing, faxing, scanning, and copying of documents and on site maintenance support is included in the lease agreement.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$5,762,633	\$7,112,633	\$12,875,266
Number of FTEs	0.0	0.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$5,385,041	\$6,734,625	\$12,119,666
Federal Funds	\$377,592	\$378,008	\$755,600

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 9

Increase Prevention Services

Request

This item would provide additional prevention services funding.

It includes:

- 10% expansion to the Services to At-Risk Youth (STAR) program
- two new sites for the Community Youth Development (CYD) program
- approximately 3-4 new specialized evidence based contracted programs for child abuse prevention and juvenile delinquency
- funding for community-based at-risk family services, a prevention approach called for in Senate Bill 6.

It also includes the additional staff needed to manage the new contracted services. Providing additional funding for these prevention services allows a greater number of at-risk children, youth and families to be served with the outcome of preventing child abuse or neglect and juvenile delinquency.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$5,900,651	\$7,367,466	\$13,268,117
Number of FTEs	5.0	5.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$5,897,189	\$7,365,962	\$13,263,151
Federal Funds	\$3,462	\$1,504	\$4,966

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
Average # STAR Youth Served per Mo.	609	609
Average # CYD Youth Served per Mo.	342	342
Average Mo # Served:Other At Risk Prog	1,833	2,933

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 10

Establish Family Preservation Flexible Funding Program

Request

National studies indicate a relationship exists between neglect and poverty, and that addressing a family's poverty in many instances reduces or eliminates the neglect found in the home. This exceptional item seeks TANF funding to implement a Family Preservation Flexible Funding pilot program in several CPS disproportionality sites. This program proposes a model that offsets certain poverty-related factors to help families working with CPS avoid having their children removed from the home, and that maintains the safety and home placement of children reunified with their families.

This program would expand on current services within the Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) and Reunification service delivery models to provide families with a flexible fund account for nonrecurring expenses that have been defined in the service plan for the family.

The flexible fund account would consist of 1) cash assistance with a maximum cumulative amount of \$250, and 2) activities and/or purchased goods and services with a maximum cumulative amount of \$3,000.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$4,426,500	\$4,823,000	\$9,249,500
Number of FTEs	0.0	0.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds (TANF)	\$4,426,500	\$4,823,000	\$9,249,500

Program Impact	FY 2008	FY 2009
Ave # Clients Receiving Other CPS Purchased Services	2,025	2,206

Families would qualify for assistance at various times in the life of the case to help with meeting the child's needs, maintaining the safety of the child, relieving the stress of the family and enhancing family strengths and functioning.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

Exceptional Item 11

Mobile Technology for Child Care Licensing Staff

Request

This item requests funding to provide tablet PCs for all Licensing monitoring staff and for CCL Day Care investigation staff.

Tablet PCs would provide an efficient, automated way to comply with the SB 6 requirements to complete a monitoring exit conference, provide the information about the results of the inspection to the child-care provider, and input the information into CLASS. It is anticipated that leaving the inspection form with the provider may reduce the number of administrative reviews requested by facilities that disagree with the inspection results as the provider will have the opportunity to view the results with the worker at the completion of the inspection. This automated process would improve quality and accuracy of documentation and improve staff productivity.

Tablet PCs for Day Care investigation staff would reduce time spent on documenting cases thus allowing more worker time in the field. It would also improve quality by allowing timely input from supervisors through the email capability. As more time and expertise becomes available for investigations, outcomes for children are improved.

Funding Request	FY 2008	FY 2009	Biennium
Total	\$2,893,467	\$1,386,399	\$4,279,866
Number of FTEs	0.0	0.0	
Method of Financing:			
General Revenue	\$2,536,485	\$1,224,668	\$3,761,153
Federal Funds	\$356,982	\$161,731	\$518,713