

Childrens Administration

010 - PL - FL - NOTIFICATION CHANGES

Agency Submittal: 11-2017-19-YR Agency Req

Budget Period: 2017-19

SUMMARY

The Children's Administration (CA) proposes an ongoing savings of \$180,000 (\$176,000 GF-State) in the 2017-19 Biennium and each biennium thereafter through changes in notification to clients. CA is requesting agency legislation to no longer send a notification of unfounded investigative findings by certified mail.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Statute requires that DSHS send certain notices by certified mail, when due process requirements would allow those notices to be sent by regular mail. Under RCW 26.4.100 (3), CA is required to send a notification of any investigative findings by certified mail, return receipt requested. In line with the Governor's priority to have an efficient, effective and accountable government and as a part of department-wide efforts to reduce costs, CA proposes to amend statute to remove the certified mail requirement and allow DSHS to use regular mail to send notices.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Children's Administration proposes an ongoing savings of \$180,000 (\$176,000 GF-State) in the 2017-19 Biennium and each biennium thereafter. The agency request legislation would allow CA to send notices of an 'unfounded finding' by regular mail, instead of requiring certified mail. CA would continue to send 'founded findings' by certified mail. It is estimated that CA will save \$90,000 annually (\$88,000 GF-State) due to reduced postage costs (18,564 'unfounded findings' multiplied by \$4.85 postage savings per finding).

EXPECTED RESULTS

DSHS expects cost savings from removing these unnecessary certified mail requirements.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This same concept was proposed as Senate Bill 6495 and companion House Bill 2915 in the 2016 Legislative Session, but neither bill passed. DSHS previously proposed this concept but the 2016 Legislative Session was the first session a bill was introduced.

This change would affect the operations of only the DSHS Economic Services Administration and the DSHS Children's Administration. Other interested parts of state government may include the Office of Attorney General, Health Care Authority, and Department of Early Learning.

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DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

OTHER CONNECTIONS

Performance Outcomes/Important Connections

1. Does this DP provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities?

Goal 4: Healthy & Safe Communities - Healthy People - Provide access to good medical care to improve people's lives.

2. The decision package meets the following DSHS' strategic objectives:

1.1: The high percentage of alleged child victims seen by a social worker within 24 hours of the intake in emergent cases will be maintained.

3. Identify other important connections or impacts below. (Indicate 'Yes' or 'No'. If 'Yes' identify the connections or impacts related to the proposal.)

a) Regional/County impacts? No.

b) Other local government impacts? No.

c) Tribal government impacts? No.

d) Other state agency impacts? No.

e) Responds to specific task force, report, mandate or executive order? No.

f) Does request contain a compensation change or require changes to a Collective Bargaining Agreement? No.

g) Facility/workplace needs or impacts? No.

h) Capital budget impacts? No.

i) Is change required to existing statutes, rules or contracts? Yes, this budget request is tied to agency request legislation that would amend RCW 26.4.100 (3).

j) Is the request related to litigation? No.

k) Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery? No.

l) Other important connections? No.

4. Please provide a detailed discussion of connections/impacts identified above. None.

Alternatives/Consequences/Other

5. What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

010 - PL - FL - Notification Changes

If the agency request legislation is not passed, the department will not see the expected savings. If the department is required to continue to use certified mail, the due process protections are not enhanced in any way.

6. How has or can the agency address the issue or need within its current appropriation level?

If the RCW is not amended, there will be no savings and CA will continue to send notices by certified mail as is currently required.

7. Does this decision package include funding for any IT-related costs (hardware, software, services, cloud-based services, contracts or IT staff)?

- No**
- Yes (Include an IT Addendum)**

Fiscal Detail**010 - PL - FL - Notification Changes**

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
001-1 General Fund-State	-88,000	-88,000	-88,000	-88,000
001-A General Fund-DSHS Fam	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Total Cost	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000
Staffing	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
FTEs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Performance Measure Detail

Activity:	Incremental Changes			
	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
Program: 010				
A011 Program Support for Children's Administration	0	0	0	0
No measures submitted for package				

Object Detail

	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
E Goods and Other Services	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000
Total Objects	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000

DSHS Source Detail**Overall Funding**

Operating Expenditures		<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>
Fund 001-1, General Fund-State					
<u>Sources Title</u>					
0011	General Fund State	-88,000	-88,000	-88,000	-88,000
Total for Fund 001-1		-88,000	-88,000	-88,000	-88,000
Fund 001-A, General Fund-DSHS Fam					
<u>Sources Title</u>					
658L	Title IV-E-Foster Care (50%)	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Total for Fund 001-A		-2,000	-2,000	-2,000	-2,000
Total Overall Funding		-90,000	-90,000	-90,000	-90,000