

## Human Services

### STATE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

	1999-2001 Actuals	2001-03 Legislatively Adopted at Close of Session	2001-03 Legislatively Approved through Fifth Special Session	2003-05 Governor's Balanced
General Fund	\$51,615,786	\$61,398,701	\$54,473,649	\$55,586,542
Lottery Funds	0	0	0	0
Other Funds	17,547,550	21,667,206	21,326,948	24,556,622
Federal Funds	2,066,309	275,501	281,452	178,809
Other Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds (Nonlimited)	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$71,229,645</b>	<b>\$83,341,408</b>	<b>\$76,082,049</b>	<b>\$80,321,973</b>
Positions	32	36	35	36
Full-time Equivalent	30.67	34.50	34.00	34.50

### Overview

The Commission on Children and Families provides a focal point for statewide partnerships to improve the quality of life for children and families in Oregon. They provide leadership and support local coordinated comprehensive planning for all children and family programs.

The Commission has taken a leadership role in the development of the Oregon Children's Plan, a system of services and supports for children and their families that emphasizes prevention and early intervention. All 36 counties have developed Comprehensive Plans that detail their programs and partnerships in providing local services. Counties have also identified strategies to overcome gaps in their services, and have incorporated those elements into their plans. Outcomes have been identified, and an evaluation system continues to be developed that will measure the improvements to services.

The Oregon Children's Plan provides a framework through which all local services to children and their families can be most effectively coordinated and delivered. The initiative recognizes the many additional needs in local service resources while demanding accountability from counties in organizing resources to provide those services.

The State Commission on Children and Families distributes state and federal funds to county commissions to support home visitation programs and community-based services. Other state partners include the Department of Education, Oregon Youth Authority, Criminal Justice Commission, and the Department of Human Services.

The Commission funds two administrative positions in each county. State staff provide program leadership, technical support, training, and coordination statewide. The Commission has a central role in implementing outcome measures and regular program evaluations, which increases accountability in the system. The Children's Ombudsman provides statewide technical support and information related to child sexual abuse. These services are provided by the Governor's Advocacy Office.

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## Balanced Budget

The Governor's balanced budget for the Commission is \$80,321,973 total funds. This is a 5.6 percent increase compared to the 2001-03 Legislatively Approved Budget through the Fifth Special Session. The budget continues to fund a portion of the Oregon Children's Plan. Basic funding for infrastructure will allow the comprehensive planning process, the implementation of a statewide early childhood system, and leveraging of community resources to continue. However, programs funded with General Fund have been reduced due to budget constraints. This funding has been reduced almost \$6 million or about nine percent compared to the funding level adopted at the beginning of the 2001-03 biennium.

The following major funding areas will continue:

- Healthy Start – Provides voluntary home visitation/family support program services during the prenatal period or at the time of birth.
- Great Start – Provides grants to communities to ensure that children reach the first grade with good physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development.
- Children, Youth and Families Grant – Provides grants to communities for research-based systems, programs or initiatives identified as priorities in the local coordinated, comprehensive plan.
- Family Preservation and Support – Provides federal grants to communities to promote family supports and maintain the family unit.
- Youth Investment – Provides federal community grants that target a population of at-risk youth with prevention and intervention services.

The budget provides almost \$32 million in state funds for Healthy Start to serve 65 percent of first-birth families in all 36 counties. The budget redirects \$5.3 million of flexible funding streams to Healthy Start in order to accomplish this. The 2001-03 budget anticipated an expansion of Healthy Start to serve 80 percent of first births with state funding, but this was scaled back to 65 percent during budget reductions. Most counties will have reached this level of service by the end of 2001-03. The Governor's balanced budget will provide funding to serve 65 percent of first-birth families for the full 2003-05 biennium.

State funding has been reduced for a number of programs, including the locally invested grants, Crisis Nurseries, and Court Appointed Special Advocates. The budget has restored half the cuts to Crisis Nurseries, funding them at 74 percent of the 2001-03 Close of Session level. The budget eliminates funding for the Together for Children program and for Family Resource Centers. Nearly all the funding for local early identification efforts for the Oregon Children's Plan has been eliminated.

## Revenue

General Fund is the largest revenue source for the Commission. It supports most of the funding streams and staff. Most of the Commission's Other Funds are federal revenues transferred from other agencies. These include Title XX (Social Services Block Grant), Title IV-B(2) (Safe and Stable Families), and Title XIX Medicaid funds

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received from the Department of Human Services. The Employment Department transfers Child Care and Development Block Grants to the Commission. The small amount of Federal Funds revenue is from grants.