

# OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL

FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

BUDGET REQUEST



MELISSA MICHAELIS THOMPSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 1, 2024

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November 1, 2024

To the Citizens and Legislators of the State of Colorado:

The Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) is proud to have created a successful and well received Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) model of legal representation that includes social workers, attorneys, and parent advocates with lived experience. The ORPC's contractor community, judicial partners, and child welfare stakeholders have all embraced the inclusion of parent voice. Since the ORPC's inclusion of Parent Advocate contractors in 2021, we have seen a positive shift in Colorado's child welfare practice where legislators and stakeholders alike now seek out the voices of parents with lived experience.

*"ORPC HAS BUILT AN INCREDIBLE COHORT OF PARENT ADVOCATES WHO NOT ONLY PROVIDE SUPPORT, GUIDANCE, AND HOPE ON THE CASE LEVEL, BUT WHO ALSO PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL LIVED EXPERT PERSPECTIVE TO TRAININGS, INCLUDING THE COLORADO JUVENILE JUDGES INSTITUTE, CIP'S MULTIDISCIPLINARY CONVENING ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, AND TO CIP'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE D&N COURT SYSTEMS ACROSS THE STATE."*

*- Jessica Sucherman, Court Improvement Program Legal Strategist*

In 2017, the ORPC piloted a successful interdisciplinary team (IDT) representation project. For the first time in Colorado, indigent parents involved in dependency and neglect cases had access to an attorney and a social worker on their legal team. A 2019 study by Metropolitan State University helped the agency demonstrate the positive outcomes for families when parents had the benefit of an interdisciplinary team.

More recently, in 2021, the ORPC incorporated Parent Advocates into Colorado's IDT model. To continue demonstrating the model's benefits, the ORPC collaborated with the Colorado Action and Data Lab ("the Colorado Lab") for a multi-year evaluation process. Initial phases of this evaluation saw significantly higher rates of family reunification and of children reaching permanency with parents or kin than on cases with attorney-only representation. Specifically, the Colorado Lab found that the majority of children (81.3%) whose parents had interdisciplinary representation were reunified with their parents or living with a member of their family at case closure.

The final phase of the evaluation will identify activities and practices associated with positive case outcomes, explore the interdisciplinary model's long-term return on investment, and recommend systemic changes to further support the use of the model. These efforts exemplify the ORPC's commitment to Colorado's shared goal of evidence-

based practice and policy making. Additionally, the IDT model is promoted by the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the American Bar Association, the National Association for the Counsel of Children, and many others as a best practice for parental and child legal representation. Colorado should be proud to have that model functioning successfully in our state.

“PARENT ADVOCATES HAVE THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO EMPATHIZE WITH CLIENTS IN A VERY REAL AND TRUE WAY WHICH HELPS CLIENTS LEARN TO TRUST THE PROCESS AS A WHOLE. GETTING A CLIENT TO TRUST THE PROCESS IS THE BIGGEST BARRIER I HAVE FOUND TO SUCCEED IN THESE CASES.”

– *Respondent Parents’ Counsel, 2024 Contractor Survey*

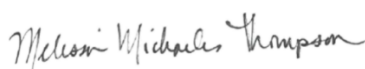
Peer mentoring and support has been an integral and successful part of mental health and substance use intervention for decades. The ORPC is seeing in real time the huge difference Parent Advocates make in the lives of their clients by supporting them through a complex process the Advocates themselves have successfully navigated. The ORPC, with help from the Colorado Lab, can point to years of data backing up the positive outcomes Parent Advocates create for Colorado parents, families, and communities. The Federal funding for this program, and other IDT models of representation, is available. We know these programs work, and we know we can continue to meet demand without impacting the state’s general fund.

“WE SEE THAT ACCESSING FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE PARENT ADVOCATE PROGRAM IS CRITICAL TO COLORADO’S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FROM THE CASE LEVEL TO THE STATE LEVEL.”

– *Jessica Sucherman, Colorado Court Improvement Program, Legal Strategist, 2024*

By allowing the ORPC to access Federal Funds in support of this program, Colorado can continue to support an evidence-based program that keeps more families safely together without impacting the General Fund. We ask that our agency is allowed to access the funds allowing us to continue programs that have been proven to engage and support parents. On behalf of our staff, our contractors, and the parents and families we serve, we appreciate your consideration of this budget request and your partnership in preserving and defending Colorado families and communities.

Sincerely,



Melissa M. Thompson  
**Executive Director**

# Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26 Budget Summary

The total FY 2025-26 budget request for the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) is \$36,159,845 and 20 FTE.

Our base budget request utilizes general, cash and reappropriated fund sources while our decision item request utilizes reappropriated funding derived from Title IV-E federal funding.

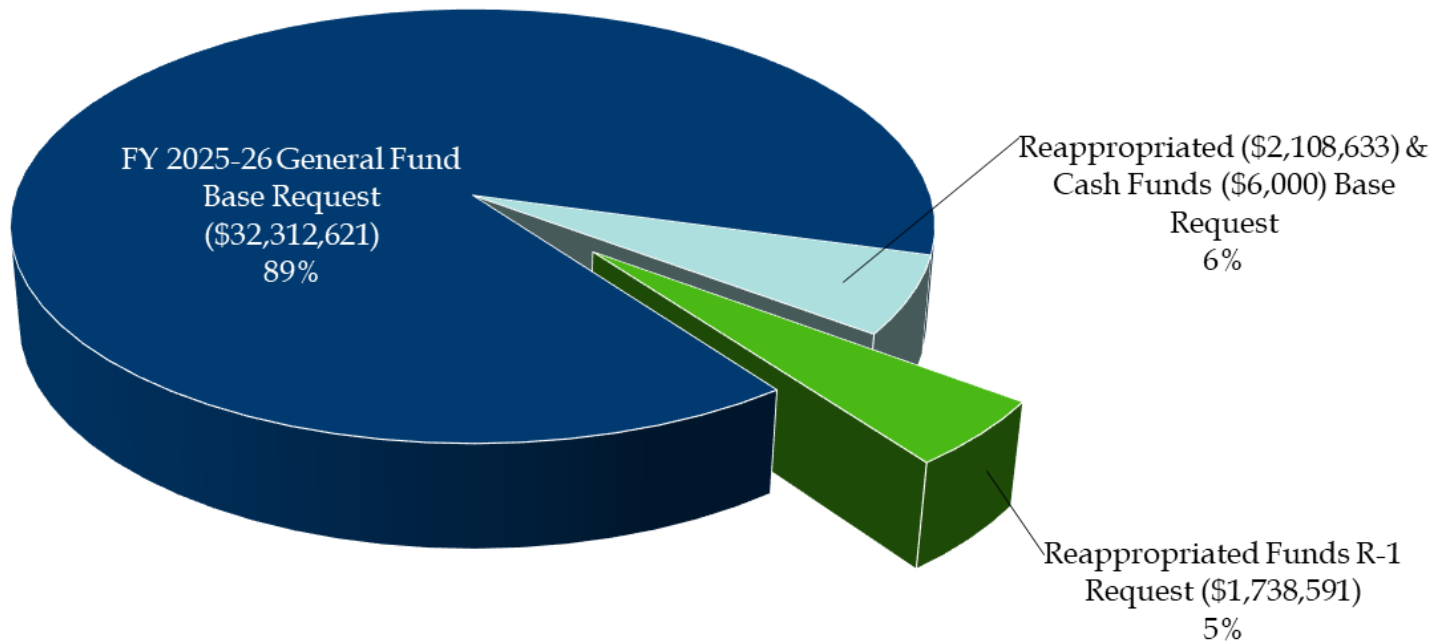
## FY 2025-26 Total General Fund Budget Request of \$36,159,845

General Fund: FY 2025-26 Base Request of \$32,312,621

Reappropriated & Cash Funds: FY 2025-26 Base Request of \$2,108,633

Reappropriated Fund: FY 2025-26 Decision Item R-1 of \$1,738,591

## FY 2025-26 Budget Request by Fund Source and Budget Element



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**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel**  
**FY 2025-26 Budget Change Summary - by Fund Source**

	FTE	Total	GF	CF	RF
<b>Long Bill</b>					
HB 24-1430, FY 2024-25 Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	19.9	\$33,582,812	\$26,198,112	\$6,000	\$7,378,700
<b>Total FY2024-25 Appropriation</b>	<b>19.90</b>	<b>\$33,582,812</b>	<b>\$26,198,112</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$7,378,700</b>
<b>Special Bill Annualizations</b>					
S.B. 23-227, State Agency Attorney Hourly Rate	0.0	\$993,130	\$986,150	\$0	\$6,980
<b>Total Special Bill Annualizations</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>\$993,130</b>	<b>\$986,150</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,980</b>
<b>Prior Year Budget Change Annualizations</b>					
R-1, Compliance Analyst annualization ( step pay allocation per comp template)	0.1	\$9,892	\$9,892	\$0	\$0
R-1, Compliance Analyst Operating reduction of capital outlay	0.0	(\$6,542)	(\$6,542)	\$0	\$0
R-3, Reduction of temporary funding source for Case MGMT system implementation	0.0	(\$300,000)		\$0	(\$300,000)
Adjust PY staff figuresetting recommendation for temporary refinance of CAC LB Line with IVE to original funding source per LB footnote	0.0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	(\$5,000,000)
<b>Total Prior Year Budget Change Annualizations</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>(\$296,650)</b>	<b>\$5,003,350</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$5,300,000)</b>
<b>Salary Survey and Step-Like Pay Increase</b>					
FY 2025-26 Salary Survey Increase	0.0	\$73,816	\$69,482	\$0	\$4,334
FY 2025-26 Step-Like Pay Increase	0.0	\$18,365	\$17,286	\$0	\$1,079
<b>Total Salary Survey and Step-Like Pay</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$92,181</b>	<b>\$86,768</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,413</b>
<b>Common Policy Adjustments</b>					
Health, Life and Dental Change	0.0	\$9,648	(\$1,536)	\$0	\$11,184
Short-term Disability Change	0.0	\$242	\$237	\$0	\$5
Paid Family and Medical Leave	0.0	\$730	\$714	\$0	\$16
Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments Change	0.0	\$16,194	\$15,859	\$0	\$335
<b>Total Common Policy Adjustments</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$26,814</b>	<b>\$15,274</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,540</b>
<b>Statewide Common Policy Allocations</b>					
Legal Services (Attorney General's Office FY26 Allocation)	0.0	\$31,362	\$31,362	\$0	\$0
Legal Services (Attorney General's Office FY25 Allocation)	0.0	(\$8,395)	(\$8,395)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Statewide Common Policy Allocations</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$22,967</b>	<b>\$22,967</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>\$34,421,254</b>	<b>\$32,312,621</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$2,102,633</b>
<b>Decision Items/Budget Amendments</b>					
R-1 Continue IDT Funding: IVE Parent Advocates	0.0	\$1,738,591	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,591
<b>Total Decision Items/Budget Amendments</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$1,738,591</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,738,591</b>
<b>Total FY 2025-26 Budget Request</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>\$36,159,845</b>	<b>\$32,312,621</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$3,841,224</b>
<b>#/\$\$ change from FY 2024-25</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>\$2,577,033</b>	<b>\$6,114,509</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$3,537,476)</b>
<b>% change from FY 2024-25</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>-47.9%</b>

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Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel - FY 2025-26

Reconciliation of Department Request

Long Bill Line Item	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	Gen'l Fund Exempt	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>Personal Services</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$2,786,853	19.9	\$2,617,945	\$0	\$0	\$168,908	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$2,786,853</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>\$2,617,945</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$168,908</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Annualization of FY 2024-25 R-1, Compliance Analyst	\$9,892	0.1	\$9,892	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FY 2024-25 Salary Survey allocated to Personal Services	\$78,343	0.0	\$73,430	\$0	\$0	\$4,913	\$0
FY 2024-25 Step Like pay allocated to Personal Services	\$88,057	0.0	\$82,535	\$0	\$0	\$5,522	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$2,963,145</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>\$2,783,802</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,343</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$2,963,145</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>\$2,783,802</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$179,343</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Health Life and Dental</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$384,471	0.0	\$374,892	\$0	\$0	\$9,579	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$384,471</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$374,892</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,579</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total Compensation Common Policy (incremental change)	\$9,648	0.0	(\$1,536)	\$0	\$0	\$11,184	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$394,119</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$373,356</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,763</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$394,119</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$373,356</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,763</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Short Term Disability</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$3,797	0.0	\$3,565	\$0	\$0	\$232	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$3,797</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$3,565</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$232</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total Compensation Common Policy (incremental change)	\$242	0.0	\$237	\$0	\$0	\$5	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$4,039</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$3,802</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$237</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$4,039</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$3,802</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$237</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$11,389	0.0	\$10,693	\$0	\$0	\$696	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$11,389</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$10,693</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$696</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total Compensation Common Policy (incremental change)	\$730	0.0	\$714	\$0	\$0	\$16	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$12,119</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$11,407</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$712</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$12,119</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$11,407</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$712</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments (UAED)</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$253,116	0.0	\$237,640	\$0	\$0	\$15,476	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$253,116</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$237,640</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,476</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Total Compensation Common Policy (incremental change)	\$16,194	0.0	\$15,859	\$0	\$0	\$335	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$269,310</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$253,499</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,811</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$269,310</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$253,499</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$15,811</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Salary Survey</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$78,343	0.0	\$73,430	\$0	\$0	\$4,913	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$78,343</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$73,430</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,913</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Salary Survey allocated to Personal Services	(\$78,343)	0.0	(\$73,430)	\$0	\$0	(\$4,913)	\$0
Total Compensation Common Policy (full amount for FY26)	\$73,816	0.0	\$69,482	\$0	\$0	\$4,334	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$73,816</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$69,482</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,334</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$73,816</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$69,482</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,334</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Step-Like Pay</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$88,057	0.0	\$82,535	\$0	\$0	\$5,522	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$88,057</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$82,535</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$5,522</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Step-Like Pay allocated to Personal Services	(\$88,057)	0.0	(\$82,535)	\$0	\$0	(\$5,522)	\$0
Total Compensation Common Policy (full amount for FY26)	\$18,365	0.0	\$17,286	\$0	\$0	\$1,079	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$18,365</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$17,286</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,079</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$18,365</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$17,286</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,079</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel - FY 2025-26**

**Reconciliation of Department Request**

Long Bill Line Item	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	Gen'l Fund Exempt	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$692,971	0.0	\$162,021	\$0	\$0	\$530,950	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$692,971</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$162,021</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$530,950</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Annualization of FY 2024-25, R-1 Compliance Analyst Operating	(\$6,542)	0.0	(\$6,542)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annualization FY 2024-25, R-3 Reduction of temporary funding for Case MGMT system	(\$300,000)	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$300,000)	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$386,429</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$155,479</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$230,950</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$386,429</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$155,479</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$230,950</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Legal Services</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$8,395	0.0	\$8,395	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$8,395</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$8,395</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
FY 2025-26 Dept. of Law Legal Services Allocation Adjustment	\$22,967	0.0	\$22,967	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$31,362</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$31,362</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$31,362</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$31,362</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Parent Advocates</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$50,000	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
R-1 Continue IDT Funding: IVE Parent Advocates	\$1,738,591	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,591	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$1,788,591</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,788,591</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Preventative Legal Services</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$50,000	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Annualize SB 23-227, State Agency Atty Hourly Rate	\$704	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$704	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$50,704</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,704</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$50,704</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,704</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Training</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$138,000	0.0	\$30,000	\$0	\$6,000	\$102,000	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Court-Appointed Counsel</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$27,891,733	0.0	\$21,482,404	\$0	\$0	\$6,409,329	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$27,891,733</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$21,482,404</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,409,329</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Annualization of SB 23-227, State Agency Attorney Hourly Rate	\$992,426	0.0	\$986,150	\$0	\$0	\$6,276	\$0
Reverse PY temporary refinance to original funding source	\$0	0.0	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	(\$5,000,000)	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$28,884,159</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$27,468,554</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,415,605</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$28,884,159</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$27,468,554</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,415,605</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Mandated Costs</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$1,114,592	0.0	\$1,114,592	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel - FY 2025-26

Reconciliation of Department Request

Long Bill Line Item	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	Gen'l Fund Exempt	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>Grants</b>							
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$31,095	0.0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,095	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation (Long Bill)</b>	<b>\$33,582,812</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>\$26,198,112</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$7,378,700</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>\$34,421,254</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>\$32,312,621</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$2,102,633</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>FY 2025-26 November 01 Request</b>	<b>\$36,159,845</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>\$32,312,621</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$3,841,224</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Change, FY 2024-25 Appropriation to FY 2025-26 Base Request	\$838,442	0.1	\$6,114,509	\$0	\$0	(\$5,276,067)	\$0
Change, FY 2024-25 Appropriation to FY 2025-26 November 01 Request	\$2,577,033	0.1	\$6,114,509	\$0	\$0	(\$3,537,476)	\$0
Percentage Change from FY 2024-25	7.7%	0.5%	23.3%	0.0%	0.0%	-47.9%	0.0%
<i>Change FY 2024-254 Appropriation to FY 2025-26 Base Request - FROM ANNUALIZATIONS</i>	<i>\$696,480</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$989,500</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>(\$293,020)</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Percent Changes - FROM ANNUALIZATIONS</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>3.8%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<i>Change FY 2024-25 Appropriation to FY 2025-26 Base Request - FROM COMMON POLICY</i>	<i>\$141,962</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>\$125,009</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$16,953</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Percent Changes - FROM COMMON POLICY</i>	<i>0.4%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.2%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
<i>Change FY 2024-25 Appropriation to FY 2025-265 Base Request - FROM DECISION ITEMS</i>	<i>\$1,738,591</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$1,738,591</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Percent Changes - FROM DECISION ITEMS</i>	<i>5.2%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>	<i>23.6%</i>	<i>0.0%</i>

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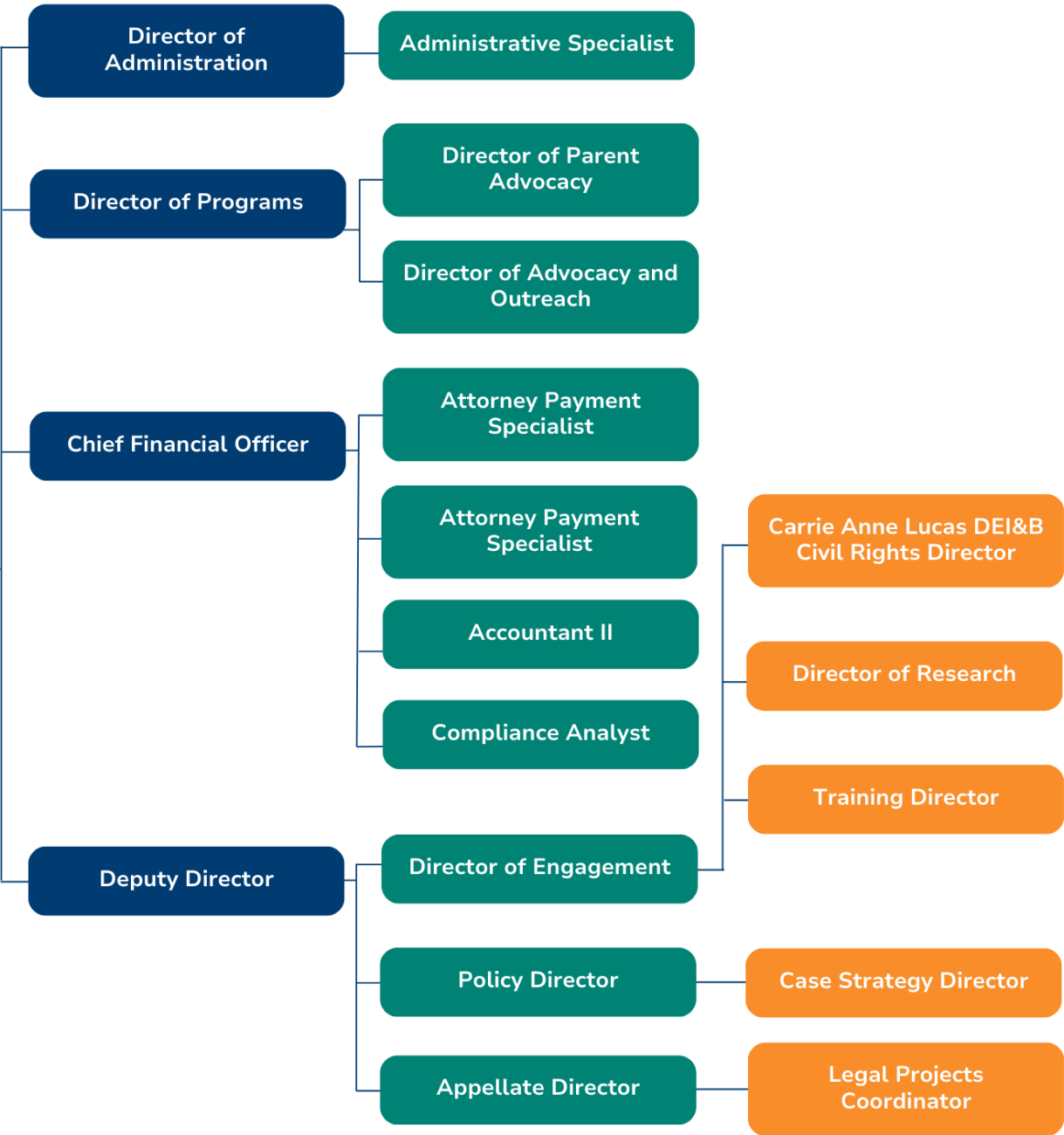
### III. Agency Overview



ORPC COMMISSION

Melissa M. Thompson

Executive Director



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## **A. Background**

The Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) provides court-appointed legal counsel to indigent parents in dependency and neglect (D&N) cases in Colorado. As former United States Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens highlighted more than thirty years ago, there is little that is "more grievous" than depriving a parent of the right to raise one's child, including even a prison sentence.<sup>1</sup> This deprivation of a parent's relationship with their child is what all respondent parents' counsel (RPC) tirelessly defend against.

In creating the ORPC, the Colorado General Assembly declared that an RPC "plays a critical role in helping achieve the best outcomes for children involved in dependency and neglect proceedings by providing effective legal representation for parents . . . , protecting due process and statutory rights, presenting balanced information to judges, and promoting the preservation of family relationships when appropriate."<sup>2</sup>

## **B. Statutory Mandate**

The Colorado legislature established the ORPC on January 1, 2016, to protect and oversee the appointment of these critical counsel. The legislature also provided that all existing and new state-paid RPC appointments be transferred to the ORPC on July 1, 2016. C.R.S. § 13-92-104 charges and entrusts the ORPC with, at a minimum:

- Ensuring the provision and availability of high-quality legal representation for parents in dependency and neglect proceedings;
- Making recommendations for minimum practice standards;
- Establishing fair and realistic state rates by which to compensate RPC; and
- Working cooperatively with the judicial districts to establish pilot programs.

Additionally, the ORPC Contract, Billing Policies and Procedures, and Chief Justice Directive 16-02 (CJD 16-02) govern the appointment, practice standards, payment, and training of RPC.

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<sup>1</sup> *Lassiter v. Department of Social Services*, 452 U.S. 18, 59 (1981) (Stevens, J., dissenting).

<sup>2</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-92-101(1)(a) (2023).

## C. Mission Statement

The Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) supports Colorado parents in the fight to preserve families, their dignity, and the constitutional right to parent in dependency and neglect cases. The ORPC recruits and trains attorneys statewide, advocates for family centered policies, and promotes equity and transparency in the system through data collection and analysis. As a result of the agency's work, more families are reunified and stronger together.

To achieve this ideal, the ORPC identified five essential pillars that inform its work.

1. **Systems are Fair and Followed** – Procedural fairness occurs when parents receive access to excellent interdisciplinary teams through engagement, recruitment, and retention of contractors who have access to the resources necessary to give dignity and fairness to families and to ensure procedures are followed.
2. **Family Voice Leads** – Family voice is strong when parents are engaged and present at every stage of their case and supported by their family defense team, so they may be heard by the system and play an active role in their case planning.
3. **Trauma to Children is Decreased** – Trauma to children is reduced when parents are provided with preventative or in-home supports to keep children with their family of origin, when unnecessary removals are rare, and when children can safely stay with their family.
4. **Family Defenders Have a Strong Community** – Parents have better representation when there is a strong community of family defenders who have access to training, access to litigation and practice support, and who are celebrated for every kind of success in their parent advocacy.
5. **The ORPC is Recognized, Respected, Productive and its Staff is Strong** – The ORPC achieves its statutory mandate when its reputation, performance, staff strength, and adherence to its values have a positive impact on the child welfare system.

## **D. Representing Colorado’s Parents – The Role of Respondent Parents’ Counsel**

For a decade prior to the creation of the ORPC, the legal community recognized the serious inadequacy of parents’ representation in D&N cases in Colorado, as laid out in the Final Report of the Respondent Parents’ Counsel Work Group filed on September 30, 2014. To address the high caseloads, inadequate compensation, lack of support services and resources, inadequate training, and lack of oversight, the Work Group recommended the legislature create a centralized agency similar to the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel (OADC) to oversee recruitment, selection, oversight, payment, training, and support of respondent parents’ counsel (RPC).

Like the OADC, the ORPC only provides representation to clients who are indigent. To qualify for an RPC, a mother with two children would need to earn less than \$40,344 annually, even though the Colorado Center on Law and Policy estimates that she would need to earn upwards of \$83,000 annually in metro Denver just to meet the basic needs of her family, much less afford a lawyer. With nearly nine out of ten parents in dependency and neglect (D&N) cases eligible for representation by an RPC, the agency is in a unique position to observe the true extent of the disparate and disproportionate impact child welfare involvement has on families who lack resources, parents with disabilities, and families of color.

### **1. Disproportionality and Disparities in Colorado’s Child Welfare System**

Removals, even brief ones, traumatize children and parents. “[C]hildren report experiences of ambiguity, loss, and trauma and often equate child removal to kidnapping.”<sup>3</sup> The risk of being subject to a child welfare investigation is greater than most realize: nationally, more than one in three children will undergo a child welfare investigation by eighteen.<sup>4</sup> For one out of every 100 children, that investigation will culminate in the permanent separation of their family through termination of parental rights, and that risk has increased 60% in the last two decades.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Vivek Sankaran et al., *A Cure Worse Than the Disease? The Impact of Removal on Children and Their Families*, 102 MARQ. L. REV. 1161, 1168 (2019).

<sup>4</sup> Hyunil Kim, MSW, et al., *Lifetime Prevalence of Investigating Child Maltreatment Among US Children*, 107(2) AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 274, 278 (2017), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5227926/>.

<sup>5</sup> Christopher Wildeman et al., *The Cumulative Prevalence of Termination of Parental Rights for U.S. Children, 2000-2016*, 25 CHILD MALTREATMENT 32, 34-35 (2020), <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6868298/>.

Contrary to popular belief, most child welfare investigations and subsequent removals are due to allegations of neglect, not physical or sexual abuse.<sup>6</sup> Neglect is often confused with poverty, with 11% of removals nationwide – almost 20,000 children – associated with a housing concern.<sup>7</sup> Nationwide, families living below the poverty line are 22 times (2200%) more likely to have child welfare involvement than families living above the poverty line.<sup>8</sup> Colorado is not immune to these statistics. Statewide, while nearly one in ten Coloradans (9.3%) live below the poverty line,<sup>9</sup> approximately nine out of ten dependency and neglect cases involve at least one parent living below that line.

Unfortunately, poverty, race, and disability are inextricably linked in our child welfare system. Nationally, at least five to ten percent of parents are estimated to be disabled,<sup>10</sup> yet *nearly half* of all parents served by the ORPC have disabilities. According to an analysis of the ORPC’s data over the last three fiscal years, compared to parents without disabilities, parents with disabilities are 225% more likely to face permanent family separation through termination of parental rights and 70% less likely to reunify with their children.

This data is consistent with the Colorado legislature’s findings that families of color and people with disabilities have a greater chance of encountering the child welfare system and experiencing poor outcomes than White families and people without disabilities.<sup>11</sup> Black and Latinx children are particularly at risk of disparate treatment, with Native American children also overrepresented in investigations and out-of-home placement.<sup>12</sup>

Agency staff regularly consult with contractors and conduct court observations that include identifying and addressing whether and how discrimination presents in

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<sup>6</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, 30 THE AFCARS REPORT: PRELIMINARY FY 2022 ESTIMATES AS OF MAY 9, 2023, at 3 (2024),

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-30.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Martin Guggenheim, *General Overview of Child Protection Laws in the United States*, in REPRESENTING PARENTS IN CHILD WELFARE CASES: ADVICE AND GUIDANCE FOR FAMILY DEFENDERS 1, 17 (Martin Guggenheim & Vivek S. Sankaran eds., 2015).

<sup>9</sup> U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, *Colorado, S1701 | POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, 2023: ACS 1-YEAR ESTIMATES SUBJECT TABLES*,

<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1701?q=s1701&t=Income%20and%20Poverty&g=040XX00US08>.

<sup>10</sup> Robyn M. Powell, *Achieving Justice for Disabled Parents and Their Children: An Abolitionist Approach*, 33 YALE J.L. & FEMINISM 37, 73 (2022).

<sup>11</sup> Senate Bill 24-200, § (1)(e).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at § (1)(f).

individual cases. For example, ORPC staff regularly work with contractors to identify and address whether services and service providers are (1) culturally appropriate (including language access for limited English proficient parents and families) and (2) individualizing services for any family members with disabilities. The disparate treatment of families who lack resources, families of color, and people with disabilities is exacerbated when parents lack effective legal representation to protect their family relationships. Through recruitment, training, support, oversight, and advocacy, the ORPC endeavors to ensure all families have access to high-quality legal representation when they most need it to protect their family's ability to stay together.

## **2. ORPC Mandated Agency Activities**

C.R.S. § 13-92-104 sets forth the ORPC's mandated activities to enhance the provision of legal representation for parents across Colorado. First, the ORPC ensures the availability of high-quality legal representation in D&N cases across the state. The agency accomplishes this objective through recruitment; the maintenance of appointment lists; the provision of high-quality training; the distribution of resources available; and establishment of minimum practice standards through CJD 16-02, which set forth the duties of RPC, including standards for independent investigation, use of experts, and other resources. Second, the agency advocates for fair and realistic rates of compensation sufficient to attract and retain high-quality, experienced attorneys. Finally, the agency enforces the practice standards and its training through court observations and contractor evaluation processes.

### **i. Overview of the D&N Case Cycle and RPC Appointments**

To understand the work done by ORPC contractors, as well as how the agency supports them, a brief explanation of how D&N cases proceed may be illustrative. RPC are court-appointed for each indigent respondent named by the county department of human services (the department) in a petition in dependency and neglect.<sup>13</sup> Respondents are typically biological parents but may also be legal parents, such as an adoptive parent or legal guardians.<sup>14</sup>

The number of RPC appointed in a D&N case is determined by the number of indigent parents named in the petition. Some D&N cases may have only one parent and RPC

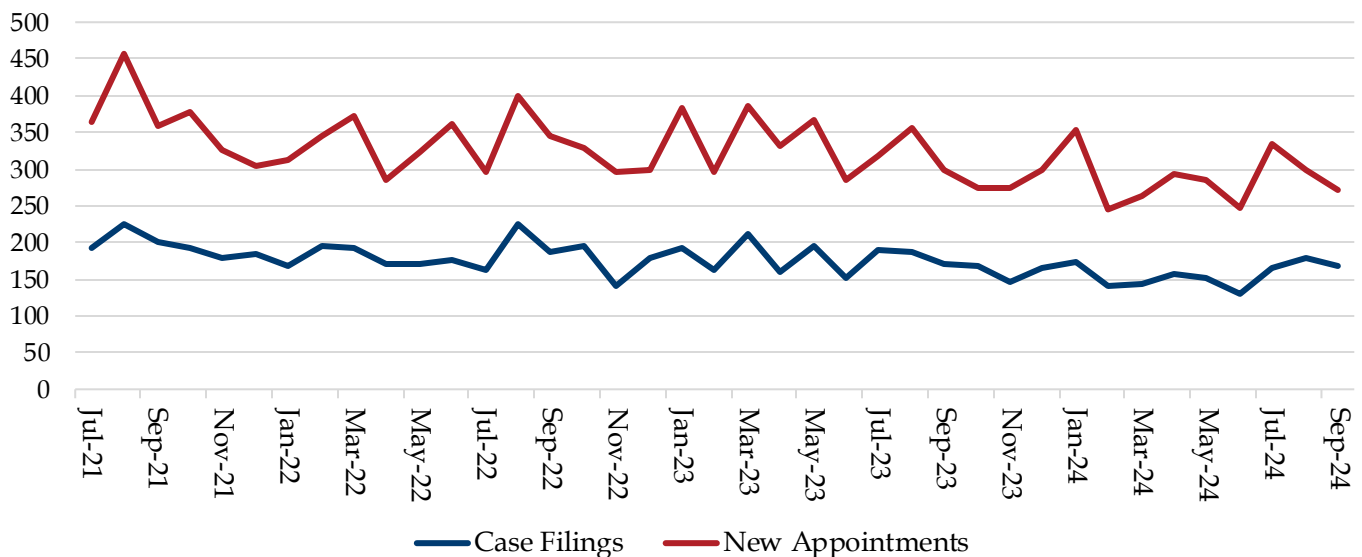
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<sup>13</sup> Rules of the Supreme Court of Colorado, Chief Justice Directive 16-02 § III(d) (2022), <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/CJD%2016-02%20%20Amended%20Nov.9%2C2022%2C%20Attachment%20B%20amended%20April%202024%20WEB%20.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-502(5) (2024).

appointment, while others may have five or six because multiple children with different parents are involved. The chart below illustrates the number of RPC appointments versus the number of D&N case filings by month for the period between July 2021 and September 2024.

D&N Case Filings & New ORPC Appointments by Month



Respondents are statutorily entitled to counsel throughout the dependency and neglect proceeding, including appeal.<sup>15</sup> The first hearing in a case is typically held within seventy-two hours of the emergency removal of a child or the entry of emergency orders.<sup>16</sup> Thereafter, hearings generally occur at least every ninety days but often occur more frequently, particularly at the beginning of the case or in specialty courts, such as family treatment courts. These hearings can be held in-person or virtually, depending on the policies of the jurisdiction.

The court makes critical decisions throughout the life of a D&N case. These decisions may lead to contested evidentiary hearings, including a possible jury trial to determine whether the child is dependent or neglected.<sup>17</sup> However, despite the volume of court appearances, most of the work conducted by RPC, Social Workers, and Parent Advocates takes place outside of court. This work includes expert consultations, investigation, professional meetings, family meetings, hearing preparation, motions drafting, legal

<sup>15</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-202(1) (2024).

<sup>16</sup> See Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-403 (2024).

<sup>17</sup> See Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-3-202(2) (2024).

research, discovery and record review, and communication with the parent client, professionals, family members, and team members.

The appointment of the RPC ends if either 1) the case is dismissed; 2) the RPC withdraws from the case or another RPC substitutes on to the case; or 3) the case ends in a termination of parental rights or allocation of parental responsibilities. Appointments vary in length, but commonly appointments last more than a year, with the average appointment open for about sixteen months.

Parents may appeal certain orders, including orders that terminate their parental rights, allocate parental responsibilities, assign permanent legal custody, adjudicate children dependent or neglected, impose a treatment plan, or determine parentage.<sup>18</sup> If the parent directs their trial counsel to file an appeal, the ORPC appoints a separate appellate RPC who has the independence and training to represent the parent effectively.<sup>19</sup> In most appeals, C.A.R. 3.4 requires the RPC to request the record on appeal. This requires the ORPC to pay for transcripts for all hearings in a case.<sup>20</sup> The ORPC pays per page for the transcripts, and there are often thousands of pages of transcripts that must be ordered.

## **ii. Recruitment**

As required by C.R.S. § 13-92-104(3), the ORPC provides legal representation to parents subject to D&N proceedings through an independent contractor model. At the start of FY 2024-25, the ORPC had 196 RPC, 39 Social Workers, and 21 Parent Advocates under contract across the state. Despite ongoing recruitment efforts, the agency has a need for at least one additional RPC in nearly every one of the 22 judicial districts across the state. Currently, many contractors drive long distances or appear virtually to provide coverage for court appearances in many parts of the state.

To maintain a sufficient number of qualified RPC across Colorado, the ORPC engages in recruitment efforts throughout the year. This includes recruiting legal interns and externs from the University of Colorado Law School, the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, and the University of Wyoming College of Law, which provides a career path for

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<sup>18</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-1-109; Colo. App. R. 3.4; *People in the Int. of N.S.*, 413 P.3d 172, 174-75 (Colo. App. 2017).

<sup>19</sup> Rules of the Supreme Court of Colorado, Chief Justice Directive 16-02 § IV (2022), <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/CJD%2016-02%20%20Amended%20Nov.9%2C2022%2C%20Attachment%20B%20amended%20April%202024%20WEB%20.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> See also Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 19-3-609(2), 19-3-610.

new attorneys to join the ORPC community. To ensure high-quality representation, the ORPC also provides experienced mentors to new RPC and helps place new attorneys as associates within firms with experienced attorneys. The ORPC accepts contractor applications on a year-round basis through a rigorous application and interviewing process that includes at least three ORPC staff members.

In June 2023, the federal government changed its rules to make some contractors eligible for federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). One year later, the ORPC celebrated the passage of the Judicial Contractor Loan Forgiveness Eligibility Act (House Bill 24-1374), which clarifies that contractors for the independent judicial agencies using independent contractor models are eligible for federal public service loan forgiveness and allows agencies, like the ORPC, to certify that a contractor appears to be eligible for the program. The ORPC created policies and procedures to process contractor requests to certify hours and started accepting those requests in August 2024. Since August, the ORPC has certified PSLF hours for seven current and former ORPC contractors, with many more contractors preparing their requests. This legislation aids the ORPC in recruiting both law students and experienced attorneys who are concerned about maintaining eligibility for public service loan forgiveness.

### **iii. Practice Standards**

The ORPC initially utilized the American Bar Association's *Standards of Practice for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases*, but in 2021, the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court adopted Colorado-specific Practice Standards drafted by the agency as Attachment A to CJD 16-02. The agency is working currently on minor revisions to the Practice Standards to reflect legislation and practice changes over recent years.

Obtaining discovery is an example of a practice standard requiring an update to the CJD after a new Colorado Rule of Juvenile Procedure was adopted this year. Currently, Practice Standard 6.2 requires RPC to review their client's child welfare agency case file, and Standard 6.3 requires RPC to use formal discovery when needed. However, after five years of committee work, the new rule sets timelines and procedures for obtaining those records and allows RPC to efficiently obtain access to basic discovery tools that attorneys



in criminal and civil cases have utilized for decades.<sup>21</sup> Parents have long had a statutory right to their own records.<sup>22</sup>

The new rule also potentially creates new costs for the agency: while this is a statewide mandate, each county department of human services sets its own pricing for the records it produces, and these costs vary widely. For example, one county charges \$1 per page for attorney review with an additional rate of 25 cents per page for copies and \$30 per hour for administrative time spent redacting the records, and another county charges \$42 per hour for time spent redacting records. Depending on the length of time a case has been open, there can be thousands of pages of records. Similar to the transcripts discussed above, discovery is considered a mandated cost the ORPC is required to pay.

#### **iv. Resources**

One of the primary barriers to high-quality legal representation for parents prior to the existence of the ORPC was the lack of resources for parents' attorneys, including access to expert witnesses, investigators, discovery, motions banks, listservs, consultations, and general support. The need for expert witnesses was particularly acute, with the Final Report of the Respondent Parents' Counsel Work Group noting that increased access to expert witnesses "leads to improved outcomes – shorter time in care for children and earlier, more effective treatment interventions for parents."

In FY 2023-24, the ORPC provided access to 54 expert witnesses, 14 interpreters, 22 investigators, and 43 transcribers across the state. Many of these individuals provided services in multiple cases. Additionally, the agency offers Telelanguage for all contractors to allow efficient communication with clients with limited English proficiency. Expenses for many of these resources are reflected as mandated costs.

As discussed in Section E, the agency has also greatly increased access to interdisciplinary team (IDT) models of representation, allowing RPC to focus more on legal aspects of their representation while ensuring their clients have the support they need from their legal team. Because trial schedules can be unpredictable, the ORPC also provides litigation support using experienced researchers to assist in legal research and motions drafting.

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<sup>21</sup> Colo. R. Juv. P. 4.6.

<sup>22</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 19-1-307(2)(e).

The agency maintains a motions bank that contains over 480 motions and resources, with more added each week. Every other week, contractors receive a newsletter called the *Family Defender Digest* containing important legislative and case law updates as well as practice tips, agency updates, and shout outs. Contractors have access to a statewide listserv for all contractors, as well as jurisdiction specific groups, and they are invited to participate in regular in-person and virtual gatherings with their jurisdictions to discuss needs and receive support from one another and from the ORPC. Finally, ORPC staff attorneys and staff social workers engage in multiple case consultations each day with contractors to provide support, resources, and encouragement. As most of the agency's 256 contractors structured as solo practitioners, ensuring that they have someone they can call when they need a sounding board helps retain talented and skilled contractors.

## **v. ORPC Training**

***"I feel like ORPC does an amazing job with the training you provide to all of us."***

*-Respondent Parents' Counsel, 2024 ORPC Contractor Survey*

The ORPC supports its mission through a comprehensive training program. The ORPC hosts a multitude of trainings for contractors, with many trainings open to the agency's child welfare and judicial partners. Training offered in the last year includes:

- 9th Annual Fall Conference: Reuniting Families & Redefining Futures
- 5th Annual Carrie Ann Lucas Disability Advocacy Training
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Training
- Challenging Presumptions: An Innovative Approach to Determining the Parental Capacity of Parents with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
- Appellate Certification and Trial Motions Writing
- Colorado Rule of Juvenile Procedure 4.6 Webinar
- Cultural Education Series Webinars
- Forensics Webinar Series
- Co-sponsor: Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel's (OADC) Trial Advocacy
- Co-Sponsor: Using Substantive Due Process to Fight for Families

## **vi. Fair Compensation**

The ORPC is charged with establishing fair state rates of compensation to attract and retain highly qualified attorneys. Independent contractors are small business owners who cover all their own overhead, insurance, student loan repayment, time off, and

retirement savings. Prior to the establishment of the ORPC, many judicial districts paid RPC on a flat-fee basis, with RPC receiving \$1,125 when they were appointed to a case, and then an additional \$1,262 if a motion to terminate parental rights was filed. Within one year of the ORPC opening its doors, the agency secured funding to convert all flat-fee cases to hourly billing to ensure RPC were being paid for the actual time they were spending and to incentivize high-quality legal representation. The hourly rate for RPC has gone from \$75 per hour in FY 2016-17 to \$105 per hour in FY 2024-25, a 40% increase over eight years.

Annual increases of \$5 per hour will continue thanks to the passage of Senate Bill 23-227, which provides for regular and sustainable increases in the hourly rate until it equals at least 75% of the federal Criminal Justice Act (CJA) rate (currently \$172). This is the rate paid to alternate defense counsel at the federal level in non-capital cases. Accordingly, the RPC hourly rate will increase to \$110 per hour for FY 2025-26. These increases are crucial to recruit and retain qualified attorneys, who could easily earn more money doing less stressful work in other legal fields. The availability of federal public service loan forgiveness for contractors following the passage of House Bill 24-1374 also assists contractors in reducing their expenses so they can continue to work at a lower hourly rate than they could earn in the private sector.

## **vii. Oversight**

The ORPC engages in contractor oversight activities throughout the year, including:

- Observing attorneys in courtrooms throughout the state and providing attorneys with feedback on their performance. The ORPC also provides both case and jurisdiction-specific support to meet RPC needs.
- Responding to contractor complaints from parents, judicial officers, and other child welfare professionals and documenting follow up to improve practice.
- Meeting regularly with contractors in each jurisdiction as well as judicial officers and other professionals and being responsive to the individual needs of each jurisdiction. This includes finding additional coverage for cases, attending best practices meetings, connecting contractors with resources, developing resources for the jurisdiction such as forms or motions, or providing data analysis of local practice trends as requested by judges.

- Requiring all contractors to submit renewal applications every five years. Renewing contractors complete a comprehensive application, participate in an interview, and must have at least four court observations over a five-year period.
- Requiring all contractors not renewing their contracts to submit annual verifications to certify compliance with ORPC contract obligations. This includes, for example, fulfilling required ORPC training, maintaining malpractice insurance, and confirming good standing with the Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel.

## **E. ORPC Innovations Increase Savings and Reduce Trauma to Children and Families**

### **1. The Interdisciplinary Team Model of Legal Representation**

Since its inception, the ORPC has studied and piloted intervention programs to improve the quality of legal representation for parents in Colorado, including the interdisciplinary team (IDT) model of legal representation that is considered a best practice model across the country. Indeed, the American Bar Association integrated the interdisciplinary representation approach into its Standards of Practice for Attorneys Representing Parents in Abuse and Neglect Cases.<sup>23</sup> As set forth in Section F, the Children’s Bureau actively promotes and financially supports this evidence-based approach.<sup>24</sup>

#### **i. Social Workers as Part of the Interdisciplinary Team Model**

The ORPC’s IDT model of legal representation pairs an attorney with a social worker or a parent advocate with lived experience. Drawing on the unique strengths of each member, the team works as a cohesive unit to support parents and families involved in dependency and neglect cases and to protect the fundamental right to parent. Importantly, the ORPC launched a Social Worker Pilot Program in FY 2017-18 and confirmed the benefits of this interdisciplinary legal team approach to child welfare through an independent evaluation conducted by Metropolitan State University in 2019.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> ABA, STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING PARENTS IN ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES (2006), at 30, [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child\\_law/aba-parent-rep-stds.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/aba-parent-rep-stds.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, ACYF-CB-IM-17-02 [hereinafter ACYF-CB-IM-17-02], HIGH QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL PARTIES IN CHILD WELFARE PROCEEDINGS, (2017), at 10-11, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im1702.pdf>.

<sup>25</sup> LORI DARNEL, MSW & DAWN MATERA BASSET, PHD, LCSW, METRO. STATE UNIV. OF DENVER, DEP’T OF SOC. WORK, A PROGRAM EVALUATION OF COLORADO OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS’ COUNSEL SOCIAL

**“I utilize a Social Worker or Family Advocate in almost all of my cases because I believe them to be so wonderfully beneficial. As an attorney, it allows me to focus on litigating and legal strategy with input from the client and advocate. Meanwhile, the Social Worker is working behind the scenes with the caseworker to advocate for the best success for our clients. I cannot recommend them enough!”**

*-Respondent Parents’ Counsel, 2024 ORPC Contractor Survey*

## **ii. Parent Advocates Further Support Parents and Enhance Family Voice**

**“We see that accessing funding to support the parent advocate program is critical to Colorado’s efforts to improve outcomes for children and families from the case level to the state level.”**

*- Jessica Sucherman, Court Improvement Program Legal Strategist, 2024*

The ORPC’s interdisciplinary teams often include a Parent Advocate who has personally navigated the child welfare system and reunited with their children. Parent Advocates are particularly well-suited to addressing barriers to parental engagement during their child welfare case. They are trained and mentored in working alongside attorneys to guide and support parents with current dependency and neglect cases. Peer mentoring and support has been an integral and successful part of mental health and substance use intervention for decades. Because of that, the Children’s Bureau and the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare promote and provide technical assistance for agencies to include peer mentors on interdisciplinary teams.<sup>26</sup>

Based on the successful outcomes of interdisciplinary models, including Parent Advocates on legal teams,<sup>27</sup> the ORPC recruited, trained, and mentored three classes of parent advocates. Parent Advocates have been assigned to work 1,161 new parent cases since the first cohort joined the ORPC community in 2021.

In addition to being on the front lines and helping parents directly, Parent Advocates also bring the voice of parents and families to policy and lawmaking bodies. Parent Advocates

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WORK PROGRAM (2019), <https://coloradoorpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ORPC-SWPP-Evaluation.pdf>.

<sup>26</sup> See CHILD WELFARE CAPACITY BUILDING COLLABORATIVE, *Capacity Building Center for States: Parent Partner Program Navigator*, (2018), <https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/topics/foster-care-permanency/parent-partner-navigator>; NAT’L CTR. ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE & CHILD WELFARE, *THE USE OF PEERS AND RECOVERY SPECIALISTS IN CHILD WELFARE SETTING* (2019), [https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/files/peer19\\_brief.pdf](https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/files/peer19_brief.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> See Lucas Gerber et al, *Effects of an interdisciplinary approach to parental representation in child welfare*, 102 CHILD. AND YOUTH SERV. REV. 42 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.04.022>.

served in leadership roles on the Pre-Adolescent Services Task Force, established by House Bill 22-1131, and are appointed to positions on the Mandatory Reporter Task Force, established by House Bill 22-1240. The ORPC is proud to amplify the voices of Colorado’s families in policymaking decisions, including through the lived experience of the ORPC’s Parent Advocates.

### **iii. Pre-filing Legal Services Pilot Program**

Pre-filing representation provides parents with legal representation to address a range of civil legal problems that threaten to destabilize the family and increase the chances of child welfare system involvement. Critically, providing representation for civil legal services before a dependency and neglect petition is filed may address child safety concerns in the home and help families stabilize without having to place children in foster care.<sup>28</sup>

Nearly three-quarters of low-income families face civil legal challenges, but few can access legal assistance.<sup>29</sup> To combat this, from 2009-2016, the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy employed a model where lawyers, social workers, and parent advocates provided the civil legal advocacy families needed. The result was stunning: The model was able to avoid D&N petitions and foster care entry in 98% of the cases served.<sup>30</sup>

To pilot the pre-filing representation program in Colorado, the ORPC collaborated with the Jefferson County Department of Human Services and child welfare stakeholders in FY 2021-22 to develop programming to address the unmet civil legal services needs of indigent families at risk of entering the child welfare system. The ORPC has expanded to accept referrals beyond Jefferson County and has received over 160 referrals for the program since March 2022. The ORPC briefly paused new referrals in October 2023 due to a lack of staff capacity to process referrals and a cut in availability of IV-E funding in the current budget cycle.

The ORPC began accepting referrals for the program again in Spring 2024 and will continue to provide these services within available funding. The Agency is collaborating with the Colorado Lab to track and analyze case outcomes and offer program

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<sup>28</sup> See CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS, STRATEGY BRIEF: HOW CAN PRE-PETITION LEGAL REPRESENTATION HELP STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND KEEP THEM TOGETHER? (Updated Jan. 2020), [https://www.casey.org/media/20.07-QFF-SF-Preventive-Legal-Support\\_fnl.pdf](https://www.casey.org/media/20.07-QFF-SF-Preventive-Legal-Support_fnl.pdf).

<sup>29</sup> Legal Services Corp., *The Justice Gap: The Unmet Civil Legal Needs of Low-Income Americans* (2022), p. 8, <https://justicegap.lsc.gov/the-report>.

<sup>30</sup> See Vivek Sankaran, *Using Preventative Legal Advocacy to Keep Children from Entering Foster Care*, 40 Wm. Mitchell L. Rev. 1036 (2014).

improvements. By investing in preventive legal services and advocacy, Colorado can reduce trauma to children caused by unnecessary and costly court intervention and family separation.

## **2. Data-Driven Investments and Evidence Building Activities**

The ORPC's enabling legislation charges the agency with "[a]nnually reviewing and evaluating the office's performance to determine whether the office is effectively and efficiently meeting the goals of improving child and family well-being..."<sup>31</sup> The ORPC takes an evidence-based, data-driven approach toward accomplishing this mission and has contracted with the Colorado Evaluation & Action Lab ("the Colorado Lab") since 2019 to evaluate its work.

The ORPC's initial evaluation project with the Colorado Lab explored the value of the interdisciplinary team model of legal representation versus attorney-only representation and provided evidence that the IDT model achieved significantly better outcomes. As part of this project, the Colorado Lab will also identify the most cost-effective activities and practices associated with positive case outcomes.

Additional ongoing projects with the Colorado Lab include an assessment of the pre-filing representation pilot program that the ORPC launched in early 2022 and the provision of research support to the statutory High Quality Parenting Time Task Force, with the end goal of developing recommendations for funding high-quality family time. Through its partnership with the Colorado Lab, the ORPC is continuously improving parent representation in Colorado and doing so in a fiscally responsible way.

## **3. Advocacy and Collaboration for Family Centered Policies**

In recent years, the ORPC has focused its advocacy on legislation that supports families in having every opportunity to remain safely together or to spend meaningful time together, as well as legislation to enhance the civil rights of families navigating D&N cases. These bills include House Bill 23-1024, which prioritized placement of children with relatives and kin and created additional rights for relatives and kin, and Senate Bill 24-08, which provided financial support to relatives and kin caring for children. Additionally, the ORPC Policy Director chairs the High Quality Parenting Time Task Force. The Colorado Lab will file a report regarding the work of the Task Force in October 2024. The ORPC also helped research and draft a bill through the Child Welfare Interim Committee process. House Bill 24-1031 requires court orders in D&N cases to be

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<sup>31</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-92-104(1)(e) (2024).

translated, codifies federal protections for people with limited English proficiency, and clarifies requirements for the use of effective communication for parents with disabilities.

In recognition of the agency's efforts to support parents who are incarcerated in keeping their families together through Senate Bill 23-039, the ORPC received a Game Changer Award from the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition in 2024. One in four parents represented by RPC is incarcerated at some point during their D&N case, so improving support for parents who are incarcerated and their children is vitally important.

In the last year, the ORPC Policy Director testified in support of two rule packages in support of legislation advanced by the agency to enhance opportunities for family time and for parents who are incarcerated to maintain connections with their children. ORPC engagement was also critical in passing rules requiring that parents be notified when their child welfare records are discovered to contain falsified materials. Altogether, the agency is represented on over sixty committees around the state and at the national level.

ORPC's advocacy goes beyond collaborating for change at the state legislature to include amicus appellate advocacy, rulemaking, and policy work through participation on dozens of committees. In the last year, the ORPC Appellate Director played an instrumental role in drafting five Amicus briefs, with four briefs involving multiple partner advocacy organizations.

Finally, the ORPC brings people together to celebrate success. Of note, the agency cohosted the 2nd Annual Reunification Celebration, with the Office of the Child's Representative; the Office of Children Youth and Families; and the Court Improvement Program. The Reunification Celebration recognizes the people and efforts that help families stay together.

## **F. Funding Considerations**

For decades, the child welfare system's primary intervention involved removing children from their homes and placing them in foster care, or, in too many instances, residential placements. This intervention is extremely costly, both from a financial and health perspective, as children placed out of their homes are more likely to experience homelessness and serious mental health challenges and to drop out of high school. Mounting evidence across the country demonstrates that funding high-quality legal



representation for parents and children can reduce family separation, mitigating the harmful financial and long-term impacts of out-of-home placement.<sup>32</sup>

## **1. Assessing the True Cost of Foster Care and Out-of-Home Placement**

For the most recent year with comprehensive data available, FY 2019-20, Colorado spent *nearly half a billion dollars* (\$455,074,837.71) in federal, state, local, and other funds on child welfare services.<sup>33</sup> Further, despite the number of children in foster care dropping each year, the cost of such care keeps going up. The average daily cost of foster care in our state also varies widely, with the rate ranging from \$42 a day for younger children to nearly \$247 a day for treatment foster care (\$1,300 to \$7,400 per month).<sup>34</sup>

Keeping children safely at home whenever possible leads to the best outcomes for children and does so at the lowest costs.<sup>35</sup> Specifically, keeping children safely in their homes for one year through services such as mental health supports, substance use treatment, or parental skills education is approximately one-tenth to one-third the cost of placing a child in foster care for a year, with far better long term outcomes for the child.<sup>36</sup>

Considering this data, the ORPC provides high-quality interdisciplinary legal representation to reduce the number of out-of-home placements, to place children with relatives and kin when children are removed from the home, and to promote earlier family reunification for separated families. Additionally, the agency's legislative advocacy in both 2023 and 2024 prioritized relative and kinship placement and monetary support for these placements, which creates better outcomes for children and families and reduces costs overall. Individual attorneys use these legislative changes and the extensive training provided by the ORPC to advocate for thoughtful solutions that keep children safely with their families whenever possible, further improving outcomes for individual children and families and reducing costs in both the short and long terms.

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<sup>32</sup> CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS, STRATEGY BRIEF: HOW DOES HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR PARENTS SUPPORTS BETTER OUTCOMES? (Updated July 2019), [https://www.casey.org/media/SF\\_Quality-parent-representation\\_fnl.pdf](https://www.casey.org/media/SF_Quality-parent-representation_fnl.pdf).

<sup>33</sup> Kristina Rosinsky et al., CHILD WELFARE FINANCING SFY 2020: A SURVEY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL EXPENDITURES, CHILD TRENDS, 56 (May 2023), [https://cms.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ChildWelfareFinancingReport\\_ChildTrends\\_May2023.pdf](https://cms.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ChildWelfareFinancingReport_ChildTrends_May2023.pdf).

<sup>34</sup> COLO. OFF. OF CHILD, YOUTH & FAM., DIV. OF CHILD WELFARE RATE, IM-CW-2024-0028, FY 2024-25 RATE INCREASE (2024), <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yNGqF24VudcA-50hxA61eFEgJDgfatl/view>.

<sup>35</sup> ALIA, THE CASE AGAINST FAMILY SEPARATION: FAMILY PRESERVATION AND KINSHIP CARE COST AND BENEFIT ANALYSIS, 5 (May 2022), <https://online.fliphtml5.com/dqaor/zybb/#p=1>.

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

The federal government also recognized the promise of high-quality legal representation for parents and children to keep children safely at home, reduce out-of-home placements, and avoid family separation.<sup>37</sup> For the past five years, federal policy not only shifted towards providing increased funding for legal representation, but it has also encouraged interdisciplinary and preventative legal representation like the model increasingly used by the ORPC over the last eight years.

## **2. Timeline of Reappropriated Federal Title IV-E Funding**

The ORPC has worked diligently throughout its history to draw down federal funding to increase the availability of evidence-based, high-quality interdisciplinary legal representation and improve outcomes for families in Colorado.

### **June 17, 1980: Federal Title IV-E Legislation Is Enacted**

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act (commonly called “Title IV-E” or “IV-E”) establishes federal funding for foster care as part of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act (Public Law 96-272). IV-E funding provides federal reimbursement to states for the cost of providing child welfare services, including foster care, adoption assistance, and kinship guardianship assistance.

### **January 17, 2017: The Children’s Bureau Stresses Importance of High-Quality Legal Representation**

In 2017, just one year after the ORPC is created, the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“Children’s Bureau”) issues a memorandum noting that high-quality legal representation for parties in child welfare proceedings contributes to a fundamental increase in both the actual and perceived fairness of the proceedings and increases engagement in the proceedings by parents.<sup>38</sup>

### **January 7, 2019: Title IV-E Policy Changes to Include Parent Legal Representation**

Two years later, the Children’s Bureau’s recognizes the crucial importance of funding legal representation for parents and children. Accordingly, the Children’s Bureau’s Child Welfare Policy Manual is “revised to allow the [T]itle IV-E agency

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<sup>37</sup> See generally ACYF-CB-IM-17-02, *supra* note 24 at 2; U.S. DEP’T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, ACYF-CB-IM-21-06, UTILIZING TITLE IV-E FUNDING TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION AND PROMOTE CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING (2021), at 10 [hereinafter ACYF-CB-IM-21-06], <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im2106.pdf>.

<sup>38</sup> ACYF-CB-IM-17-02, *supra* note 24 at 2.

to claim [T]itle IV-E administrative costs of independent legal representation by an attorney for a child who is a candidate for [T]itle IV-E foster care or in foster care and his/her parent to prepare for and participate in all stages of foster care legal proceedings.... ”<sup>39</sup>

### **January 10, 2019: Colorado Department of Human Services Contacts the ORPC to Discuss Claiming Title IV-E Dollars**

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) contacts the ORPC to begin the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/Interagency Agreement discussions to draw down these funds. Approximately three months later, the MOU is finalized by the State Controller.

### **May 23, 2019: Senate Bill 19-258 Takes Effect and Requires IV-E Funding to Pass Through to the ORPC**

Senate Bill 19-258 requires CDHS to claim Title IV-E administrative costs for independent legal representation of children and parents when the child is a candidate for Title IV-E foster care or is in foster care, creates a cash fund, and mandates that “federal reimbursements related to administrative costs of independent legal representation incurred by . . . the office of respondent parents’ counsel must be disbursed from the fund to the agencies as incurred and pursuant to the state department’s memorandum of understanding with the agencies.”<sup>40</sup>

## **i. Federal Dollars Enhance Parent Representation in Colorado**

### **November 1, 2019: The ORPC First Requests IV-E Spending Authority in FY 2020-21 Budget**

At the first opportunity following the change to the Child Welfare Policy Manual and passage of Senate Bill 19-258, the ORPC requests spending authority for the Title IV-E administrative cost cash fund created by Senate Bill 19-258 in a Decision Item (ORPC FY 2020-21 Budget Request, Change Request R-4). The submitted written requests include the below four IV-E Legal Representation Priorities:

1. Increasing RPC access to an interdisciplinary team, including Parent Advocates;

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<sup>39</sup> U.S. DEP’T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, CHILD WELFARE POLICY MANUAL 8.1.B, TITLE IV-E, ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS/COSTS, ALLOWABLE COSTS – FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM, *Question 30* (2019), [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public\\_html/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/policy\\_dsp.jsp?citID=36](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public_html/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=36).

<sup>40</sup> Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 26-2-102.5(3)(b)(V).

2. Expanding available legal services to parents and families through early appointment of counsel; addressing ancillary legal issues; recruiting, training and mentoring attorneys; and contracting with professionals to assist in providing agency supports;
3. Improving the Respondent Parent Payment System (billing, payment, and data collection); and
4. Establishing a partnership with the Colorado Data Lab.

**January 2, 2020: FY 2019-20 Supplemental and Budget Amendment Are Submitted**

The ORPC adds a fifth IV-E Legal Representation priority in alignment with Children’s Bureau guidance to “support cross-systems trainings in partnership with counties, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to strengthen communication, legal representation, and collaboration.”<sup>41</sup> The agency also includes detailed budgets for each of the five priorities, including a detailed budget for building capacity for Parent Advocates to join the IDT model starting in FY 2019-20.<sup>42</sup>

The ORPC specifically “requests Reappropriated Funds spending authority . . . for funds made available under Title IV-E for allowable legal representation costs incurred by ORPC pursuant to Section 474(a)(3) of the Social Security Act. The ORPC requests that this spending authority be appropriated in a new Long Bill Line to be titled ‘IV-E Legal Representation.’”<sup>43</sup>

**January 21, 2020: Joint Budget Committee Staff Is Briefed on ORPC’s Supplemental Request**

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC)’s discussion of the ORPC’s Title IV-E Spending Authority request and the analyst’s recommendations reflect the very new nature of the policy change from the Children’s Bureau and the concern that audits and changing federal guidance could lead to the state owing the federal government money if claimed reimbursable expenses were subsequently disallowed. Analyst Steve Allen’s comments to the JBC regarding interdisciplinary representation reflect the need to start small, “I believe those things can be scaled up that they

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<sup>41</sup> ORPC FY 2019-20 Supplemental & FY 2020-21 Budget Amendment, S-03, BA-02 (2020), p. 29.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at 32.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 23.

won't be able to do it for everybody and that they will probably expand in the number of people who receive that representation.”<sup>44</sup>

Mr. Allen concludes by recognizing his exclusion of the agency's budget for the proposed IV-E programming in his staff writeup, offering that he has “a much more detailed description of how they intend to spend the money and certainly can provide that to members of the committee if they're interested.”<sup>45</sup>

**January 28, 2020: JBC Staff Comeback on ORPC Supplemental and JBC Approval**

The JBC unanimously approves the creation of the ORPC's Title IV-E Legal Representation Line item and funds it with 2.3 million in Reappropriated IV-E funds.<sup>46</sup>

**March 4, 2020: House Bill 20-1249 Funds IV-E Legal Representation Through the Title IV-E Cash Fund**

For FY 2019-20, \$2,370,740 is appropriated to the ORPC for Title IV-E Legal Representation from Reappropriated Funds received from CDHS pursuant to the mechanism established in Senate Bill 19-258.

**March 12, 2020: FY 2020-21 Figure Setting for Judicial Branch**

JBC staff recommends allocation of Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds to specific line items to fund specific requests in lieu of General Fund, such as allocating Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds to the personal services line item to fund R-7, the Carrie Ann Lucas Fellowship. Staff further recommends that the ORPC's specifically identified Title IV-E priorities, including increasing the Interdisciplinary Team model of representation, be funded on a separate line item called Title IV-E Legal Representation.

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<sup>44</sup> Colorado General Assembly Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Supplemental Request for the Departments of Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen (January 21, 2020, 1:20:32 PM), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200121/-/1/10199?mediaStartTime=20200121125807&mediaEndTime=20200121133836&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>.

<sup>45</sup> *Id.* at 1:20:51.

<sup>46</sup> ORPC Supplemental JBC Staff Briefing, (Jan. 28, 2020, 1:07:04 PM), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200128/-/1/10204?mediaStartTime=20200128130551&mediaEndTime=20200128130718&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>.

Similar to the JBC's discussion during Staff Briefing on the ORPC Supplemental Request, Analyst Steve Allen continues to recommend the ORPC have discretion to spend the Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds on the priorities identified in R-4 and BA-02, explaining:

I am recommending that we allow them to spend it at their own discretion. They do have plans to do it. They want to expand programs in a number of ways. . . I probably should have included some material about . . . how they were going to spend it, but I did not. That was discussed some in the supplemental documents about the various areas they want to spend it on...so I am leaving the vast majority of that money in their hands to pursue their own plans. . . .<sup>47</sup>

Department was going to try and do innovative things with the money, for instance, among the things they were talking about was getting representation from a very early stage in the process...and then there was a list of other things that they were going to do . . . I'm sorry I didn't present it here, I did present it during supplementals, I can certainly bring that document to you, as I summarized how they were going to spend the money at that point.<sup>48</sup>

The JBC unanimously approves the analyst's recommendation.

### **March 25, 2020: Stay-at-Home Order Issued**

The Governor issues an emergency order requiring all Coloradans not employed in critical businesses to stay home. This has an incredible impact on the ORPC's work. Lawyers cannot go to court or see their clients. Many parents are denied in-person visits with their children for six months. No jury trials are held for over a

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<sup>47</sup> Colorado General Assembly Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Figure Setting Recommendations for the Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen, (March 12, 2020, 7:52:59 PM), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200312/-1/10235?mediaStartTime=20200312193508&mediaEndTime=20200312202251&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>.

<sup>48</sup> Colorado General Assembly Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Figure Setting Recommendations for the Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen, (March 12, 2020, 7:56:25 PM), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200312/-1/10235?mediaStartTime=20200312193508&mediaEndTime=20200312202251&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>.

year. At a time the agency had planned to launch IV-E initiatives, the ORPC instead tries to support lawyers and families when the very way lawyers practice law fundamentally changes.

**April 20, 2020: IV-E Funds Are Authorized for Interdisciplinary Team Model**

The Children's Bureau issues guidance clarifying that administrative costs for paralegals, investigators, parent advocates, and social workers can be claimed as Title IV-E administrative costs to support an attorney providing independent legal representation.<sup>49</sup>

**April 27, 2020: Staff Balances Budget for FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21**

Due to the pandemic, the JBC holds a hearing to reduce General Fund expenditures. Decision items previously approved with General Fund on March 12, 2020, are eliminated or funded with Reappropriated IV-E dollars.

**May 26, 2020: FY 2020-21 Long Bill Signed (House Bill 20-1360)**

The following FY 2020-21 ORPC budget requests are funded through Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds, for a total of \$5,261,578 in Title IV-E Reappropriated Funds across all line items in ORPC's budget:

- Title IV-E Legal Representation line is funded entirely by \$ 4,741,480 of Reappropriated IV-E Funds (ORPC FY 2020-21 R-4/BA-02).
- Social Worker Pilot Program is funded entirely with \$318,240 in Reappropriated IV-E Funds (ORPC FY 2020-21 R-5).
- Carrie Ann Lucas Fellowship is funded entirely with \$173,858 in Reappropriated IV-E Funds (ORPC FY 2020-21 R-7).
- Training line item is increased by \$28,000 in Reappropriated IV-E Funds (FY 2020-21 R-10).

**July 20, 2020: States May Claim Administrative Costs for "Pre-Removal"**

The Children's Bureau issues a Technical Bulletin further clarifying that states may claim allowable administrative costs of "pre-removal" independent legal

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<sup>49</sup> U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN'S BUREAU, CHILD WELFARE POLICY MANUAL 8.1.B, TITLE IV-E, ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS/COSTS, ALLOWABLE COSTS - FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM, *Question 32* (2020), [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public\\_html/programs/cb/laws\\_policies/laws/cwpm/policy\\_dsp.jsp?citID=36](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/public_html/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=36).



representation by an attorney for a child that is at risk of entry into the child welfare system for Title IV-E foster care and/or his or her parent.<sup>50</sup>

## **ii. The ORPC is Nationally Recognized as the Agency Builds IDT Capacity**

### **November 2020 - October 2023: The ORPC Seeks No Increases To IV-E**

#### **Appropriation**

For three years, from FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24, the ORPC concentrates on developing its existing, approved, and funded IV-E priorities and does not request changes to the IV-E Legal Representation line item or other IV-E appropriations beyond annualizations and centrally appropriated line-item increases.

Because the IV-E Legal Representation line item is funded through a cash fund containing monies earned by the ORPC through federal reimbursement for legal services, any funds not expended pursuant to the ORPC's authorized spending authority under this line item continue to accrue in the cash fund rather than being reverted to General Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

### **January 14, 2021: Children's Bureau Recognizes Colorado's IDT Model**

The next year, the Children's Bureau specifically recognizes the study of Colorado's interdisciplinary model as providing "robust evidence consistent with existing research that has found enhanced parent representation leads to increased reunification and faster permanency for children."<sup>51</sup> The Children's Bureau calls upon other states to utilize IV-E funds to develop their own IDT models of legal representation.

## **iii. The Joint Budget Committee Redistributes Title IV-E Legal Representation Funds**

### **March 8, 2024: FY 2024-25 Figure Setting for Judicial Branch**

The ORPC's Joint Budget Committee analyst recommends a refinance of the ORPC's Title IV-E Legal Representation Line. ORPC staff engages with the analyst to draft a plan in the three full days between the Figure Setting and Comebacks.

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<sup>50</sup> U.S. DEP'T OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN'S BUREAU, TECHNICAL BULLETIN, FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON INDEPENDENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION (2020), at 3, [https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/technical\\_bulletin\\_faq\\_legal\\_representation.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/technical_bulletin_faq_legal_representation.pdf).

<sup>51</sup> ACYF-CB-IM-21-06, *supra* note 37, at 10.



This refinance results in the redistribution of Title IV-E Reappropriated Funds from the Title IV-E Legal Representation line item across multiple ORPC budgetary lines as well as the creation of two programmatic lines: Parent Advocates and Preventative Legal Services. Spending for both IV-E priorities had previously been under the Title IV-E Legal Representation line item, requiring the ORPC to create new models of budget presentation without adequate time and needed staffing. The Title IV-E Legal Representation line is eliminated.

A key ongoing funding recommendation includes funding Parent Advocates and Preventative Legal Services lines with \$50,000 Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds each, with the understanding that the ORPC would solidify program spending figures and submit a Supplemental Request for FY 2024-25 and Decision Item for FY 2025-26 to appropriately fund these lines. Additionally, the Court Appointed Counsel line is funded with \$1,064,667 in Reappropriated Title IV-E Funds with a reduction in General Fund of the same.

Key one-time budgetary decisions include a \$5,000,000 IV-E General Fund swap to reduce the overall balance of the Title IV-E Administrative Cost Cash Fund.<sup>52</sup> This decision resulted in a one-time \$5,000,000 reduction in the Court Appointed Counsel line's General Fund and a one-time \$5,000,000 increase in the Court Appointed Counsel line in IV-E Reappropriated Funds. The ORPC's Operating Expenses line increased by \$300,000 in Title IV-E Reappropriated Funds to pay for the remainder of the ORPC's new billing system.

### **March 20, 2024: JBC Initiated Comeback Regarding IV-E Funds**

Two weeks later, on March 20, 2024, the JBC initiates a discussion to reconsider the ORPC's request for increased Title IV-E funding to include Parent Advocates on IDTs. The analyst suggests that if the ORPC can show their history of spending on the program and its spending authority, the agency should submit a Supplemental in January 2025, stating, "It's not like 1.7 million of parent advocate program just goes away and there's no funding for it. We can still – we can still find that money."<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> 2024-25 Long Appropriations Bill, House Bill 24-1430, Part IX (Judicial Department), ("Of these amounts, \$5,000,000 appropriated in the Court-appointed Counsel line item is a one-time appropriation from this fund source included as a one-year General Fund offset.").

<sup>53</sup> Colorado General Assembly Joint Budget Committee Initiated Comeback Regarding IV-E Funding for Parent Advocate Program, (Mar. 20, 2024, 3:19:16 PM), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20240320/->

#### **iv. IV-E Funds for IDT and Preventative Representation Codified in Federal Rule**

##### **May 10, 2024: Title IV-E Reimbursement for Independent Legal Representation is Codified into Federal Rule**

The change to the Child Welfare Policy Manual which allowed the ORPC to seek federal reimbursement for legal representation of parents was codified at 45 C.F.R. § 1356.60(c)(4)(ii). The final rule permits IV-E reimbursement for interdisciplinary legal representation of parents, children, and relative caregivers, including for representation of children and families at risk of entering foster care and for civil legal services.<sup>54</sup>

### **3. The Continuation of Federal Title IV-E Funding Priorities Ensures High-Quality Legal Representation for Parents and Families**

Considering the Children’s Bureau’s priorities,<sup>55</sup> the original ORPC IV-E priorities plan continues to be improved and includes the following initiatives and programming:

1. Increasing RPC access to an interdisciplinary team model, including social workers, parent advocates, experts, and other professionals.
2. Expanding available legal services to parents and families through:
  - a. Ensuring early appointment of RPC prior to initial hearings and early access to an interdisciplinary team;
  - b. Providing legal representation during investigations, upon initial filings, and throughout the dependency and neglect case to address a family’s ancillary civil legal issues that may impact the removal of children and reunification, such as protective orders, housing and eviction issues, and guardianships;

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<sup>54</sup> Foster Care Legal Representation, 89 Fed. Reg. 40400 (May 10, 2024)(amending 45 C.F.R. § 1356.60).

<sup>55</sup> ACYF-CB-IM-17-02, *supra* note 24; U.S. DEP’T. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, ACYF-CB-IM-20-02, FAMILY TIME AND VISITATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN OUT-OF-HOME CARE (2020), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im2002.pdf>; U.S. DEP’T. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, ACYF-CB-IM-19-03, ENGAGING, EMPOWERING, AND UTILIZING FAMILY AND YOUTH VOICE IN ALL ASPECTS OF CHILD WELFARE TO DRIVE CASE PLANNING AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT (2019), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im1903.pdf>; U.S. DEP’T. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVS., CHILDREN’S BUREAU, ACYF-CB-IM-18-05, RESHAPING CHILD WELFARE IN THE UNITED STATES TO FOCUS ON STRENGTHENING FAMILIES THROUGH PRIMARY PREVENTION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT AND UNNECESSARY PARENT-CHILD SEPARATION (2018), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/im1805.pdf>.

- c. Exploring methods for recruiting new RPC talent, providing mentoring to attorneys, and incentivizing work in rural communities and “legal deserts” where there are fewer than 10, or even no, registered attorneys;<sup>56</sup> and
  - d. Contracting with professionals to assist in providing agency supports, facilitate and manage ORPC programs, and conduct quality assurance, supervision, and mentoring of ORPC contractors such as attorneys, social workers, and parent advocates.
3. Developing the Respondent Parent Payment System (RPPS) to allow for billing efficiency, programming and software enhancements and maintenance, updated technology platforms, tracking IV-E eligible costs and spending on new initiatives, and robust data collection.
4. Continuing the agency’s partnership with the Colorado Lab to develop a data analysis plan to identify best practices and effective programs and to fully utilize the ORPC’s access to the Linked Information Network of Colorado, which will assist the agency in obtaining individual, case-level child welfare data as opposed to aggregate data.
5. Assessing ORPC administrative, personal, and operational needs to ensure adequate staffing, resources, and support for agency programming, branding, strategic planning initiatives, and recruitment efforts.
6. Evaluating collaborative partnerships with contractors, agency staff, and child welfare stakeholders to ensure positive working relationships and cross-disciplinary professional development.

The above efforts are designed to deliver timely, evidence-based legal interventions to parents and families and to move child welfare policy toward a future where the removal of a child from their home is reserved for only the most extreme circumstances.

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<sup>56</sup> In a 2020 Annual Report, the Colorado Office of Attorney Regulation highlighted the limited number of attorneys in many rural jurisdictions of Colorado. *See* THE OFF. OF ATT’Y REGUL. COUNS., 2020 ANNUAL REPORT, at 4 (2020), <https://coloradosupremecourt.com/PDF/AboutUs/Annual%20Reports/2020%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26**  
**Change Request Summary**

**Schedule 10**

Priority	Request Name	FTE	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>R-1</b>	<b>Continue IDT Funding: IVE Parent Advocates</b>	-	\$ 1,738,591	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,738,591	\$ -
	<b>Total Change Requests</b>	-	<b>\$ 1,738,591</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,738,591</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

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*Department Priority: R-1*

*Request Title: Continue IDT Funding: IV-E Parent Advocates*

Summary of Incremental Funding Change for FY 2025-26	Total funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE
<b>TOTAL REQUEST (All Lines)</b>	<b>\$ 1,738,591</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,738,591</b>	<b>-</b>
Parent Advocates	1,738,591	-	-	1,738,591	

**Request Summary:**

The Office of Respondent Parents’ Counsel (ORPC) requests \$0 General Fund spending authority and \$1,738,591 additional Reappropriated Fund spending authority to the Parent Advocates long bill line item. This is needed to support the ongoing use of the successful Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) model of legal representation. The IDT model is an evidence-based practice, with a “promising” evidence designation, according to House Bill 24-1428. This model ensures that indigent parents have access to a high-quality legal representation team that includes lived experts. These experts educate attorneys and parent clients on resources that improve parents’ chances of a successful and lifelong reunification and connection with their children. The IDT model has also been shown to drive positive outcomes, especially for complex cases. Parent Advocates are an essential element of this model.

**Background:**

The ORPC was established on January 1, 2016, and on July 1, 2016, assumed responsibility for paying contract Respondent Parents’ Counsel (RPC) attorneys, Paralegals, Social Workers, and Parent Advocates who are tasked with representing indigent parents in dependency and neglect cases.

**I. The ORPC’s Statutory Mandate Calls for Pilot Programs to Enhance Respondent Parents’ Counsel Representation at the Local Level**

The ORPC’s enabling legislation, § 13-92-104, C.R.S., charges and entrusts the ORPC with, at a minimum, enhancing the provision of Respondent Parents’ Counsel by:

1. Ensuring the provision and availability of high-quality legal representation for parents in dependency and neglect proceedings;
2. Making recommendations for minimum practice standards;

3. Establishing fair and realistic state rates to compensate Respondent Parents' Counsel; and
4. Working cooperatively with the judicial districts to establish pilot programs.

As required by statute, the ORPC works cooperatively with judicial districts to establish pilot programs. Even as a new agency, the ORPC received multiple requests from judges and attorneys to provide access to interdisciplinary teams on dependency and neglect (D&N) cases. In researching this possibility, the agency recognized the success of national models providing access to interdisciplinary teams for parents. Based on the success of the model nationwide, the ORPC launched a Social Worker Pilot Program on July 1, 2017.

The two-year Social Work Pilot Program (SWPP) explored the potential benefits of pairing trained Social Workers with attorneys to represent parents in dependency and neglect cases as part of the legal defense team. In 2019, Metropolitan State University (MSU) conducted an independent evaluation of the program. The program evaluation found the ORPC's incorporation of social workers and other forensic mental health professionals into the parent defense practice reduces the time that children are placed in out-of-home care and increases a parent and child's likelihood of being reunified safely at case closure.<sup>57</sup>

Based on these findings from the MSU evaluation and review of the latest and best available national research evidence on parent representation models, the ORPC transitioned from the SWPP to the evidence-based practice of the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) model, adding Parent Advocates as an essential element of the model.

## **II. The ORPC Proposed Practice Standards Approved by the Chief Justice Requiring Attorneys to Consider Utilizing Interdisciplinary Teams**

In addition to the ORPC's statutory framework, the agency is governed by a Chief Justice Directive, which is a court order or rule issued by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. As required by the enabling statute, the ORPC's Chief Justice Directive (CJD) 16-02 includes standards of practice for attorneys representing parents in dependency and neglect cases. These standards of practice are modeled after the national American Bar Association's (ABA) standards for parent attorneys.

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<sup>57</sup> LORI DARNEL, MSW & DAWN MATERA BASSET, PHD, LCSW, METRO. STATE UNIV. OF DENVER, DEP'T OF SOC. WORK, A PROGRAM EVALUATION OF COLORADO OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNSEL SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM (2019), <https://coloradoorpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ORPC-SWPP-Evaluation.pdf>.



The national ABA standards specifically instruct parent attorneys to hire Social Workers, Paralegals, and/or Parent Advocates to work as part of a team to help clients access services.<sup>58</sup> Like the ABA standards, the standards in CJD 16-02 specifically instruct parent attorneys to consider assembling an interdisciplinary team to represent indigent parents.<sup>59</sup>

### **III. The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Model of Legal Representation Includes Parent Advocates as an Essential Element of the Family Defense Team**

#### The IDT Model and ORPC's Interdisciplinary Legal Teams

The IDT model pairs a respondent parent attorney (RPC) with a Social Worker or Parent Advocate to form an interdisciplinary team. Interdisciplinary teams are an evidence-based model for parent defense, which has earned a “promising” evidence designation as defined by House Bill 24-1428.<sup>60</sup> The IDT model is more robust than the Social Work Pilot Program because it includes the essential role of Parent Advocates. The ORPC's Parent Advocates are Coloradans who have been personally impacted by the child welfare system and who undergo training and mentorship by the ORPC. Parent Advocates bring their lived experience and system knowledge to assist the family defense legal team's effective representation of parents in dependency and neglect (D&N) cases. The fidelity of the IDT model in Colorado requires the involvement of the Parent Advocate as the essential element of the interdisciplinary team.

The essential elements of the IDT model include:

- **Building a client-centered team:** Creating a cohesive legal team and strategy; coordinating and communicating within the team; and building a relationship between client and team by, in part, understanding the client's needs, hopes, and goals.

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<sup>58</sup> A.B.A., STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR ATTORNEYS REPRESENTING PARENTS IN ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES (2006) [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child\\_law/aba-parent-rep-stds.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/child_law/aba-parent-rep-stds.pdf).

<sup>59</sup> Rules of the Supreme Court of Colorado, Chief Justice Directive 16-02 (2022), <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/CJD%2016-02%20%20Amended%20Nov.9%2C2022%2C%20Attachment%20B%20amended%20April%202024%20WEB%20.pdf>.

<sup>60</sup> Codified at Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 2-3-210(3)(a)(IV) (2024).

- **Supporting the client in addressing their needs:** Promoting a meaningful treatment plan, connecting the client with structural supports and services, facilitating communication among case actors, and attending family meetings.
- **Advocating for the client both in and out of court:** Holding state actors accountable to their obligations, ensuring appropriate fact findings, and providing court preparation and representation.

What separates the interdisciplinary team from an attorney-only representation model is the *depth and intentionality with which these support and advocacy activities are carried out.*

**“Parent advocates are one of the most useful people on the team. The parent advocate has been through the system, sat in court, been to the department meetings, and got their kids back. Parent advocates give clients hope when they have lost everything. Parent advocates show clients there is a way through this process and it can end well.”**

*- Current Respondent Parents’ Attorney*

The ORPC is proud to include 21 active Parent Advocates in its contractor community who provide high-quality legal representation through the IDT model. Since 2021, the ORPC’s IDT model has expanded to include Parent Advocate contractors as part of the legal defense team, where they work alongside parent clients and RPC. For FY 2024-25, the inclusion of Parent Advocates has allowed the ORPC to utilize the IDT model to fidelity in 25.1% of D&N appointments. This means that one out of four parents represented by an RPC is also supported by a Social Worker or Parent Advocate on their interdisciplinary team.

Parent Advocates play a unique role in D&N cases. They have walked the same path as parents currently facing child welfare involvement. Parent Advocates support parents’ full participation in: effective communication with attorneys, caseworkers, and service providers; preparation for court appearances; preparation for important meetings at the Department of Human Services (DHS); preparation and participation in meetings with schools, hospitals and other service providers; and full involvement in family time with their children. These are essential services parents need in order to safeguard meaningful engagement in their children’s lives, even when separated by foster care.

**“Clients really appreciate having someone to talk to who has been through this experience before. It gives them hope for their own future and helps them to understand the task in front of them is not impossible.”**

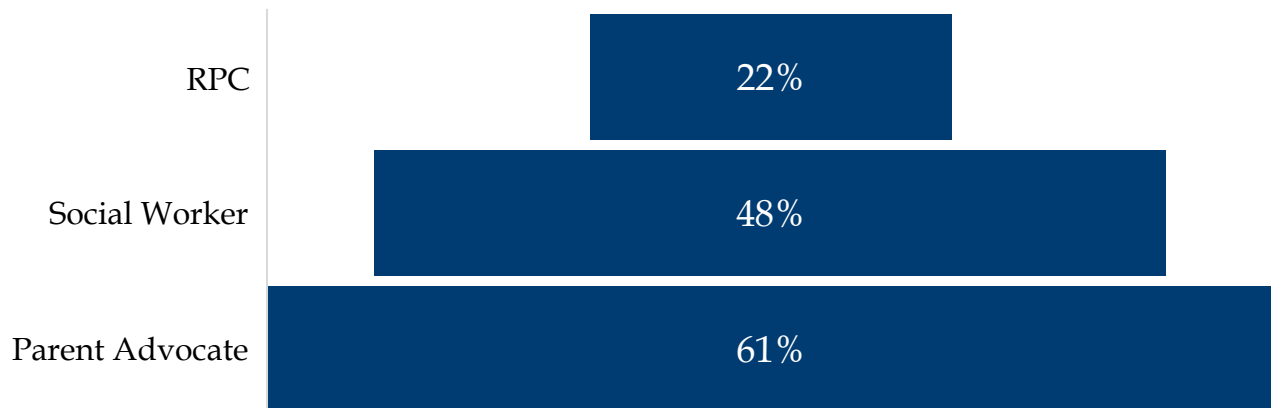
*- Current Respondent Parents’ Attorney*

## Building a Client-Centered Team to Increase Parental Engagement

Other child welfare stakeholders frequently contact the ORPC and ask what more can be done to engage parents. After collecting data from four years of the IDT model with Parent Advocate contractors, the ORPC found that Parent Advocates spend on average **61%** of their time communicating directly with parent clients and helping those parents overcome barriers to engaging in their treatment plans. By comparison, Social Workers spend 48% of their time and RPC spend 22% of their time communicating with clients.

### ORPC Parent Advocates Invest the Most Time Communicating with Clients to Engage & Support

*ORPC Contractors % Hours Spent Communicating Directly with Parent Clients  
FY 2020-21 – FY 2023-24*



Due to their unique lived experience and training, Parent Advocates are in the best position to do the critical work of engaging parent clients. A Parent Advocate’s ability to engage and advocate for the client outside of court affords RPC the time to utilize their legal training in preparing for court appearances, filing and responding to motions, and engaging with other parties associated with the parent’s legal case. This is not only a more cost-effective and efficient use of attorney time, but it also drives better outcomes for parent clients. Additionally, many RPC maintain heavy court schedules. This can present a barrier to regular and consistent communication between the attorney and the parent client, particularly when parents often lack consistent access to resources like cell phones or internet availability. Parent Advocates set regular times and methods to check in with parent clients and to respond quickly to what are often practical and logistical questions about prioritizing or accessing services. These are the types of questions that must be answered quickly, and when parent clients cannot get the answers they need from

caseworkers or attorneys, they are much more likely to become discouraged and disengage.

**“I can make twice the progress twice as fast with parent advocates. I have clients who need that personal bond to engage in the case. I cannot meet those support needs and rely on my trusted advocates to do this.”**

*- Current Respondent Parents' Attorney*

### Supporting Clients in Addressing Their Needs

It is a common misconception that caseworkers provide direct services or support to parents in accessing services. Unfortunately, they generally lack the time or knowledge of resources to do so. As a result, referrals to services often look like handing a parent a phone number or list of phone numbers. If a parent calls a resource and finds out they are ineligible or cannot get a human on the other end, they often become disengaged. Parent Advocates bridge this gap.

A example of this in practice is the work of ORPC Parent Advocate Sonia Neblett. Since Ms. Neblett joined the ORPC as a Parent Advocate in 2021, she has used her personal experience of reunifying with her own children and her professional skills **to help more than 40 families obtain housing vouchers and find housing**, which enabled their successful family reunification. Ms. Neblett knows that having a voucher is not enough and that often parents struggle to find safe rental units that will accept their housing vouchers. Consequently, Ms. Neblett also accompanies parents to visit apartments and meet with landlords who accept vouchers. When parents obtainsafe housing, Ms. Neblett also assists families in finding free resources to furnish the home appropriately. Ms. Neblett bridges the gap for parents where caseworkers and RPC are unable or unwilling.

The complexities of D&N cases require a team and a division of labor. For example, an RPC would not have the knowledge, expertise, or time to navigate the practical barriers associated with assisting a parent client in obtaining housing. Nor would it be cost effective to bill attorney time for this type of out-of-court work. Parent Advocates are in the best position to help parents overcome what is often the biggest barrier to reunification: understanding and navigating the system and accessing financial resources successfully.

## Parent Voice and Systemic Impact

**“The Children’s Bureau has recognized parent advocate programs as an effective way to increase reunification rates and minimize reentry rates and has encouraged CIPs across the country to build these programs. In Colorado we have been very lucky to be able to support ORPC’s nationally recognized parent advocate program rather than trying to build such a program from scratch. ORPC has built an incredible cohort of parent advocates who not only provide support, guidance, and hope on the case level, but who also provide an essential lived expert perspective to efforts to improve D&N Court systems across the state.”**

*- Jessica Sucherman, Court Improvement Program Legal Strategist, 2024*

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), judicial partners, the Office of Child’s Representative (OCR), and policy makers have all recognized the importance of including the voice of people with lived experience in decision making and policy. Because these stakeholders have recognized the value of hearing these voices, the influence of Parent Advocates has exceeded the parameters of the ORPC’s IDT model. Parent Advocates are recruited regularly by other agencies and partners to inform their work and provide a Parent Advocate’s perspective. This includes serving in policy-making leadership roles on:

- Court Improvement Program’s (CIP) Taskforce, dedicated to improving the handling of dependency and neglect cases in the court system.
- High Quality Parenting Time Task Force, established by House Bill 21-1101.
- Family Advisory Council, which provides family voice and lived experience feedback on Division of Child Welfare planning, policies, and procedures to improve the design and delivery of high-quality child welfare services to the youth and families in Colorado.
- Mandatory Reporter Task Force, established by House Bill 22-1240, which requires appointment of members with lived experience.
- Pre-Adolescent Services Task Force, established by House Bill 22-1131.
- Reimagining Child Welfare Steering Committee, which collaborates with system-wide stakeholders to transform the child welfare system into a resource that families would willingly use.

Parent Advocates have also presented and trained child welfare professionals at:

- American Bar Association’s Center on Children and the Law’s Children and the Law Conference

- CIP Convening on Children, Youth & Families
- Kempe Center’s International Virtual Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare
- ORPC’s Annual Trainings, including the Carrie Ann Lucas Disability Advocacy Training and the Annual Contractor Conference.
- ORPC’s Cultural Education Webinar Series on topics including Housing Advocacy, Supporting Parents in Recovery During the Holidays, Fatherhood Engagement, Culturally Respectful Family Time, Elevating Lakota and Ute Mountain Voices, and more.

Nate Bustamante is one of the first ORPC Parent Advocates to serve parents through the interdisciplinary team model when the IDT program was enhanced in 2021. A dedicated father, Mr. Bustamante successfully reunified with his children after a complex D&N case in Jefferson County. Mr. Bustamante uses his passion to improve child welfare services and to make a difference in the lives of children and families. He provides individual client advocacy in addition to taking on leadership roles with stakeholders to promote family centered policies. He is a board member of the CDHS Child Welfare Family Advisory Council (FAC) and a participant in the Reimagining Child Welfare Steering Committee. In these groups, child welfare professionals collaborate with professionals who have lived expertise to consider how to reinvent the current systems to provide service with dignity to Colorado’s vulnerable populations. The ORPC is proud to support the voices of parents such as Mr. Bustamante in Colorado’s legislative and policy work.

The inclusion of Parent Advocates in the ORPC’s IDT model has been enormously successful. Parent Advocates have been assigned to work with 1,161 parents<sup>61</sup> on new cases since the first cohort joined the ORPC community in 2021. This figure includes new cases with a Parent Advocate from the first quarter of the current fiscal year (July 1, 2024, - September 30, 2024). The ORPC provides interdisciplinary team representation to some of the most challenging child welfare cases in the state. Including Parent Advocates in these cases ensures that parents have a meaningful opportunity to engage in their legal case, treatment plan, and children’s lives. Parent Advocates also use their professional experiences on legal teams and their lived expertise to inform policymaking decisions.

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<sup>61</sup> ORPC Internal Data, Number of Unique Parent Cases with Parent Advocate Billing, RESPONDENT PARENT PAYMENT SYSTEM, (analyzed September 2024 for the period FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24).

#### IV. The Best Available Research Evidence Establishes the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) Model of Legal Representation as a Promising Evidence-Based Practice

##### Evidence Summary for House Bill 24-1428

As a legal representation program, the IDT model is subject to requirements of House Bill 24-1428, Evidence-Based Designations for Budget. A systematic review of the literature was done to determine the evidence designation for the IDT model. All available peer-reviewed literature and grey literature that studied interdisciplinary and parent legal representation in the last 15 years for families involved in child welfare were sourced. The literature was then narrowed to only eligible studies allowed under House Bill 24-1428 (two eligible studies total, one from Colorado and one national). Results established the IDT model as a “promising” evidence-based practice. A summary of how this designation was achieved and the best available research behind it is given below.

<p><b>Program Objective</b></p>	<p>The IDT model of legal representation pairs an attorney with a Social Worker and/or a Parent Advocate with lived experience for families involved in child welfare. Together as a parent defense team, they protect the fundamental right to parent, address root causes of systems involvement, and promote family strengthening.</p>
<p><b>Outputs Being Measured</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Case complexity:</b> the proportion of cases served by the IDT model, relative to attorney-only cases, and their rates of (a) case complexities (e.g., substance use), (b) prior child welfare involvement, and (c) parent characteristics (e.g., race and ethnicity).<sup>62</sup></li> <li>● <b>Case staffing</b> (1) roles comprising the IDT model contractors (e.g., Social Worker, Parent Advocate, other professionals). This information is drawn from billing codes.</li> <li>● <b>Time spent on key components of the IDT model:</b> (a) building a client centered team, (b) supporting the client in addressing their needs, and (c) advocating for client both in</li> </ul>

<sup>62</sup> COURTNEY L. EVERSON ET AL., UNIV. OF DENVER, COLO. EVALUATION AND ACTION LAB, CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES OF ORPC REPRESENTATION (REPORT NO. 20-06E) 8 (2023), [https://coloradolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/IDT-Phase-II-LCA-Findings\\_FINAL\\_12.12.pdf](https://coloradolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/IDT-Phase-II-LCA-Findings_FINAL_12.12.pdf).



	<p>and out of court. This information is drawn from billing codes.<sup>63</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case Length:</b> length of the child welfare cases with interdisciplinary representation. This information is drawn from child welfare administrative data linked with ORPC representation data.<sup>64</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcomes Being Measured</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family preservation outcomes</b> during a child welfare case (percent of children who remain at home or are placed in kinship care after removal).</li> <li>• <b>Child permanency outcomes</b> of a child welfare case (percent reunified with parents or permanent placement with kin)</li> <li>• <b>Preventing future risk of harm</b> and reducing re-entry (percent of families re-entering the child welfare system)</li> </ul> <p>The above outcomes data are generated from Colorado child welfare administrative data (Trails) linked with ORPC representation data (RPPS).<sup>65</sup> These outcomes have also been measured in national research from other states. Together, Colorado and national research make the best available research evidence on the IDT model to inform the evidence designation listed below.</p>
<p><b>Evidence Designation with Brief Justification</b></p>	<p>Based on the best available research evidence, which includes Colorado-specific outcomes data, the interdisciplinary program is <b>promising</b>. Of the full body of literature, two eligible study designs were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rigorous, quasi-experimental propensity score matching design study conducted in New York demonstrated that the IDT model led to reduced length of time in foster care and faster</li> </ul>

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<sup>63</sup> COURTNEY L. EVERSON ET AL., UNIV. OF DENVER, COLO. EVALUATION AND ACTION LAB, COLORADO OFFICE OF RESPONDENT PARENTS’ COUNSEL (ORPC) INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REPRESENTATION: PHASE 1 EVALUATION FINDINGS (REPORT NO. 20-06B) 20 (2022), [https://coloradolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ORPC-IDT-Phase-I-Report\\_SF22\\_FINAL.pdf](https://coloradolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ORPC-IDT-Phase-I-Report_SF22_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>64</sup> EVERSON, *supra* note 62 at 22.

<sup>65</sup> *Id.* at 3.



rates of reunification. This evaluation provides the best available national research evidence.

- Rigorous, independent evaluation of the ORPC’s IDT model measuring changes in outcomes overtime. This evaluation provides the best available research evidence in Colorado. Findings show that equity is being advanced in Colorado by using the IDT model to serve complex cases and achieve improved family preservation, reunification, placement with kin, and reduce risk of future harm, compared to attorney-only representation.

As such, the IDT model achieves the “promising” designation because there is causal evidence demonstrating its effectiveness and Colorado-specific data showing that it is advancing equity for complex cases.

### Summary of Best Available Research Evidence

The evidence below is specific to studies that used methods eligible in House Bill 24-1428. A growing body of literature on the IDT model, using a variety of designs, supports these results.

#### *National Evidence*

A rigorous, quasi-experimental design using propensity score matching was conducted to evaluate New York City’s Interdisciplinary Representation model.<sup>66</sup> This independent evaluation provides the best available national evidence for the IDT model. Independent researchers assessed the causal impact on child welfare outcomes when parents were provided interdisciplinary law office representation, compared to parents who received a standard panel attorney. The evaluation included:

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<sup>66</sup> Lucas Gerber et al, *Effects of an interdisciplinary approach to parental representation in child welfare*, 102 CHILD. AND YOUTH SERV. REV. 42, 42-55 (2019).

- Multi-Year Sample: Child welfare cases with parent representation in the New York City Family Court between 2007 to 2014, with cases closed by December 1, 2017.
- Sample: n=9,582 families and n=18,288 children.
- Data Sources: (1) Administrative data from New York City Administration for Children’s Services was used for outcome reporting. (2) Attorney rosters from each of New York City’s assigned counsel panels and Interdisciplinary Law Offices was used to determine the representation model (i.e., IDT or Attorney-only Model).
- Methods: (1) *Matching Characteristics*: a statistical technique called propensity scores was used to match parents in the two representation models on key case, parent, and child characteristics using a variety of covariates; 2) *Comparison between Representation Models*: a statistical modeling technique called propensity score matching (PSM) was used to estimate causal effects on three main outcomes of interest between the two groups: foster care entry, days spent in foster care, re-entry into child welfare system; 3) *Understanding Children’s Exits from Foster Care*: a statistical modeling technique called competing risk models was used to understand whether children exited care sooner and the effect on the time to different exits from out-of-home care, including reunification, guardianship, adoption, and aging out.

### *Findings from National Studies*

The study’s key findings are summarized below and additional evidence can be found in the published study.<sup>67</sup>

Findings demonstrate that children: 1) spend less time spent in foster care; and 2) receive more timely permanency, reunification, and guardianship. Together, results show that the IDT model is an effective intervention to promote permanency for children in foster care.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> *Id.*

<sup>68</sup> The study did not assess case length. No significant differences were found for entry into foster care or re-entry into the child welfare system when comparing the two representation models. *Id.* at 49.

*Improved Outcomes from PSM Analysis: **Reduced Length of Stay in Foster Care:*** Interdisciplinary representation decreased the average days children in each family spent in foster care.

- *Comparison Across Models:* Cases with interdisciplinary representation have a statistically significant effect on decreasing the average days children in each family spend in foster care by 47 days (339 days Interdisciplinary model; 386 panel attorney).

*Improved Outcomes from competing risk models Analysis: **Faster Reunification.*** Children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation experienced reunification 43% faster in the first year.

- *Comparisons Across Models:* Time to reunification was statistically faster for children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation (interdisciplinary: 1.43 subhazard ratio vs. panel attorney: .9996 subhazard ratio).

*Improved Outcomes: **Faster Guardianship.*** Children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation achieved guardianship 106% faster in the first year.

- *Comparisons Across Models:* Time to guardianship was statistically faster for children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation (interdisciplinary: 2.06 subhazard ratio vs. panel attorney: .9994 subhazard ratio).

*Improved Outcomes: **Improved Permanency.*** Children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation achieved permanency 34% more often in the first year.

- *Comparisons Across Models:* Overall permanency was statistically higher for children whose parents had interdisciplinary representation (interdisciplinary: 1.34 subhazard ratio vs. panel attorney: .9998 subhazard ratio).

### **The Interdisciplinary Team Model Can Provide Annual Savings for the Child Welfare System**

There are steep costs associated with foster care placement. Using a foster care board rate of \$83.83 for daily family foster care in New York, *the study estimated an annual savings of almost \$40 million* if the interdisciplinary team model was implemented for all eligible parents.

### *Colorado Evidence*

A rigorous cohort design using latent class analysis and analysis of variance that was conducted in an independent evaluation of the ORPC's IDT model provides the best available research evidence in Colorado.<sup>69</sup> The Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab, an independent, third-party evaluator, examined child welfare case outcomes where parents received interdisciplinary team representation and compared those outcomes to cases that received attorney-only representation. The evaluation included:

- Multi-Year Sample: child welfare cases with ORPC representation that started on or after January 1, 2019, and closed in calendar years 2021 and 2022.
- Sample: n=3,719 child welfare cases; n = 5,854 parents and n = 5,988 children.
- Data Sources: (1) Colorado's certified State Automated Child Welfare Information System ("Trails") was used for outcome reporting; maintained by CDHS. Trails is the most comprehensive and reliable source of child welfare case characteristics and outcome data as it is tied to payments for those services. (2) The ORPC's Respondent Parent Payment System (RPPS) was used to determine the representation model (i.e., IDT or Attorney-only Model) and to augment Trails data on case and client characteristics.
- Methods: Data were linked between CDHS Trails and ORPC RPPS data systems at the client level, using the Linked Information Network of Colorado.<sup>70</sup> Linked data were analyzed by: (1) *Change over time*: changes in child welfare outcomes for the IDT model were assessed between case opening and case closing; (2) *Case Complexity*: a statistical modeling technique called latent class analysis (LCA) was used to understand how complex case needs group together; this created "groups" of cases that share common characteristics (e.g., youth who are beyond control of the parent; greater previous child welfare involvement); (3) *Comparisons Between Representation Models*: a statistical technique called analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare outcomes, used to (a) determine if cases that received IDT representation were more complex, (b) if so, any differences in outcomes between the two representation models in meeting complex case needs.

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<sup>69</sup> EVERSON, *supra* note 62.

<sup>70</sup> LINKED INFORMATION NETWORK OF COLORADO, <https://coloradolab.org/linc/> (last visited Oct. 25, 2024).

### ***Findings from Colorado Studies***

Key findings are summarized below; additional evidence can be found in the full Colorado report.<sup>71</sup>

Findings demonstrate: (1) the IDT model has shown positive changes over time in the areas of family preservation during a case, permanency and reunification, and preventing systems reinvolvement, with no evidence of harm; (2) the IDT model is serving more complex cases, and outcomes are as good or better than attorney-only representation; and (3) for some groups of complex cases, findings suggest that the IDT model may be working particularly well. Together, results show that the IDT model acts as a leveling up mechanism to drive more equitable outcomes for clients with complex case factors. For example, in the group “youth beyond control of parent,” the evaluation determined a statistically significant difference in reunification rates for those parents who received the IDT model compared to those parents who received the attorney-only model.

*Change Over Time: **Keeping family networks together during the case.*** Over half (51%) of all cases with interdisciplinary representation successfully kept family networks together, meaning *all* children in the case remained at home or were placed with kin if removed.

- *Comparisons Across Models:* Cases with interdisciplinary representation have a significantly higher rate of placing *at least one* child on the case with kin (74.5% IDT vs. 70.9% attorney-only).

*Change Over Time: **Keeping kids safely with their parents, at case start and at case end.*** The majority of children (60%) whose parents had interdisciplinary representation either stayed with their parents for the life of the case (meaning they were never removed) or they were reunified with their parents after a removal.

- *Comparison Across Models:* Reunification with parents was significantly higher for children whose parents had IDT representation (24.99% IDT vs. 22.56% attorney-only).

*Change Over Time: **Promoting sustained family strengthening.*** The majority of children (81.3%) whose parents had interdisciplinary representation were reunified with their parents or living with a member of their family at case closure.

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<sup>71</sup> EVERSON, *supra* note 62.

- *Comparisons Across Models:* Achieving permanency with parents or kin was significantly higher for interdisciplinary cases (81.3% IDT vs. 73.3% attorney-only).

*Change Over Time: Preventing future risk of harm.* Cases with IDT representation had a low rate of re-entry (2.84%). We define re-entry as a new case opening within one year of case closure.

- *Comparison Across Models:* This (IDT, 2.84%) is a lower observed rate compared to attorney-only staffing (3.77%).

### **The IDT Model Serves Disproportionate and Vulnerable Populations**

Interdisciplinary teams are serving a high proportion of parents of color and parents with disabilities.

- Parents of color make up nearly 45% of all clients served by interdisciplinary teams. Equipping families of color with client-centered parent defense teams is a strategic lever to redress systemic racism in the child welfare system and combat root cause drivers of involvement.
- Nearly 50% of all cases with interdisciplinary representation involve a parent with a disability. Interdisciplinary teams are well suited to support parents with disabilities in meeting their needs and mitigating the stigma and discrimination that come when parenting with a disability.

### ***Ongoing Evaluation Plan***

The ORPC has established a multi-year evidence building agenda, led by the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab as independent, third-party evaluators. Future evidence building for the interdisciplinary model will focus on: a) a quasi-experimental design to assess causal impacts of interdisciplinary representation, matching groups on key characteristics; and b) understanding outcomes relative to precision staffing of when to use a Social Worker, a Parent Advocate, or both to help reduce disparities and improve equitable outcomes for all families.

## **V. The ORPC Seeks Restoration of Title IV-E Reappropriated Spending Authority to Deliver the IDT Model to Fidelity and Achieve Outcomes as a Promising Evidence-Based Practice**

Because of the successful outcomes of interdisciplinary representation models and the success of the ORPC's own IDT model, the ORPC needs additional access to reappropriated Title IV-E funds to ensure adequate availability of Parent Advocates and continued fidelity to the model. The ORPC recruited, trained, and mentored three classes of Parent Advocates as part of its IDT model from 2021-2023, totaling 21 current Parent Advocates. Before funding for this program was drastically cut, the ORPC had plans to onboard a fourth class of advocates in 2024 to meet clients' needs. With this budget request, the ORPC seeks restoration of reappropriated Title IV-E funding for Parent Advocates as an essential element necessary to deliver the IDT model with fidelity in Colorado.

### Title IV-E of the Social Security Act is Federal Funding for Foster Care

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act is a source of funding the federal government provides to match up to 50% of state funds used to pay for foster care, including administrative costs.<sup>72</sup> Administrative costs have long been defined as including the costs of legal representation for county departments of human services seeking placement of children in foster care. In January 2019, the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Health and Human Services ("Children's Bureau") revised its Child Welfare Policy Manual to acknowledge the crucial importance of funding independent legal representation for both parents and children who are either in foster care or at serious risk of entering foster care,<sup>73</sup> to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to prevent removal and ensure parental engagement. This policy and subsequent rule specifically permit and encourage agencies to claim Title IV-E administrative costs for IDT models of

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<sup>72</sup> The Social Security Act and attendant regulations specify that federal financial participation (FFP) is available at 50% for administrative expenditures necessary for the proper and efficient administration of the title IV-E plan. 42 U.S.C. § 674(a)(3); 45 C.F.R. § 1356.60(c).

<sup>73</sup> Colorado defines foster care candidate in its federally approved Five-Year Family First Prevention Services Act Prevention Plan: "A child/youth is a candidate to receive Title IV-E prevention services when they are at serious risk of entering or re-entering foster care and who can remain safely at home or with kin, with the support and provision of mental health, substance use treatment, or in-home parenting services for the child/youth, parent or kin caregiver. Youth in foster care who are pregnant or parenting are also candidates." COLO. DEP'T OF HUMAN SERVS., COLORADO FIVE-YEAR FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES PLAN 15 (2022), [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wIv-VG7w0or76lrJ0ME\\_8iGXQK0p1li/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wIv-VG7w0or76lrJ0ME_8iGXQK0p1li/view).

representation, citing multiple studies that show such are promising, evidence-based practices.<sup>74</sup>

As a result of this change to the Child Welfare Policy Manual, and with the cooperation and support of CDHS and the legislature, the ORPC and the OCR, sought federal reimbursement for allowable independent legal representation costs for parents and children. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 26-2-102.5, codified in 2019, those funds pass through to the ORPC. Beginning May 10, 2024, this change to the Child Welfare Policy Manual was codified into federal rule, available at 45 C.F.R. § 1356.60(4)(ii).

### The ORPC Draws Down Title IV-E Legal Representation Funds

As described in C.R.S. § 26-2-102.5, the ORPC has an interagency agreement with CDHS governing the process of claiming Title IV-E funds for legal representation. Requests for reimbursement of costs incurred by the ORPC for legal representation are reimbursed at 50% of Colorado's penetration rate, which is a state's proportion of foster care children eligible for Title IV-E. The reimbursed funds are first put into the Title IV-E administrative costs cash fund created in Senate Bill 19-258 and housed in CDHS. Prior to the current year FY 2024-25, when funds were disbursed to the ORPC from the cash fund, the funds were recorded in the Long Bill line titled IV-E Legal Representation. ORPC expenses which met the Title IV-E requirements were also recorded in the IV-E Legal Representation Long Bill line or as reappropriated funds in the appropriate line item.

When the Title IV-E Legal Representation line was created in 2020, the ORPC's prior JBC analyst recommended a structure where Title IV-E funds were allocated to specific, already-existing budget lines when appropriate. The bulk of the IV-E funds were allocated to activities to enhance the ORPC's provision of high-quality legal representation, as set forth in the ORPC's budget request for FY 2020-21, and those activities were allocated to the Title IV-E Legal Representation line. During a JBC staff briefing for the Judicial department on January 21, 2020, JBC analyst Steve Allen described information the ORPC provided to justify the planned IV-E expenditures and his comments to the JBC regarding interdisciplinary representation reflect the need to start small:

I have reproduced the bullet list here from the ORPC. I believe those things can be scaled up that they won't be able to do it for everybody and that they will probably expand in the

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<sup>74</sup> Foster Care Legal Representation, 88 Fed. Reg. 66769 (proposed Sept. 28, 2023).



number of people who receive that representation. I have a much more detailed description of how they intend to spend the money and certainly can provide that to members of the committee if they're interested.<sup>75</sup>

On March 12, 2020, during a JBC Figure setting hearing, the structure of this line was described by JBC analyst Steve Allen:

I am recommending that we allow them to spend it at their own discretion. They do have plans to do it. They want to expand programs in a number of ways. . . . I did talk about those, and I probably should have included some material about . . . how they were going to spend it but I did not. That was discussed some in the supplemental documents about the various areas they want to spend it on...<sup>76</sup>

Department was going to try and do innovative things with the money, for instance, among the things they were talking about was getting representation from a very early stage in the process...and then there was a list of other things that they were going to do . . . I'm sorry I didn't present it here, I did present it during supplementals, I can certainly bring that document to you, as I summarized how they were going to spend the money at that point.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Supplemental Request for the Departments of Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen at 1:20:32 PM (January 21, 2020), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200121/-1/10199?mediaStartTime=20200121125807&mediaEndTime=20200121133836&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>

<sup>76</sup> Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Figure Setting Recommendations for the Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen, at 7:52:59 PM (March 12, 2020), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200312/-1/10235?mediaStartTime=20200312193508&mediaEndTime=20200312202251&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>.

<sup>77</sup> Joint Budget Committee, *Consideration of Figure Setting Recommendations for the Judicial Department and Independent Agencies*, JBC Staff Analyst Steve Allen, at 7:56:25 PM (March 12, 2020), <https://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00327/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20200312/-1/10235?mediaStartTime=20200312193508&mediaEndTime=20200312202251&viewMode=3&globalStreamId=3>

The ORPC's FY 2020-21 Budget Request specifically laid out the activities referenced by JBC Analyst Allen in Item R-4, and specifically reference funding these items through the Title IV-E Legal Representation Line Item. In reference to the IDT model and parent advocates, R-4 states:

the ORPC has developed a plan for use of reimbursement funds from the new Long Bill Line that include the following new initiatives and expansions of existing programming: 1. Increasing parent attorney access to an interdisciplinary team which may include social workers, **parent advocates**, **parent partners**, experts, and other professionals that are not currently available in the state.<sup>78</sup>

In accordance with the approved Title IV-E Legal Representation line spending authority in the Long-Bill, the ORPC began using the funding from Title IV-E Legal Representation line to fund the use of Parent Advocates as part of the IDT model. This has grown in both size and impact since 2021.

Beginning this year in FY 2024-25, the Joint Budget Committee restructured this process and removed the single IV-E Legal Representation line. Instead of funding multiple IV-E initiatives from this line, funding was allocated to specific expense lines across the ORPC's budget. Consequently, funding for Parent Advocates was reduced significantly from \$1,383,705 spent in FY 2023-24 to just \$50,000 approved in FY 2024-25 for the entire year.

The chart below details the ORPC's use of Title IV-E Reappropriated funds spent by fiscal year on Parent Advocates as part of the IDT model. The cost of Parent Advocates has increased each fiscal year due to:

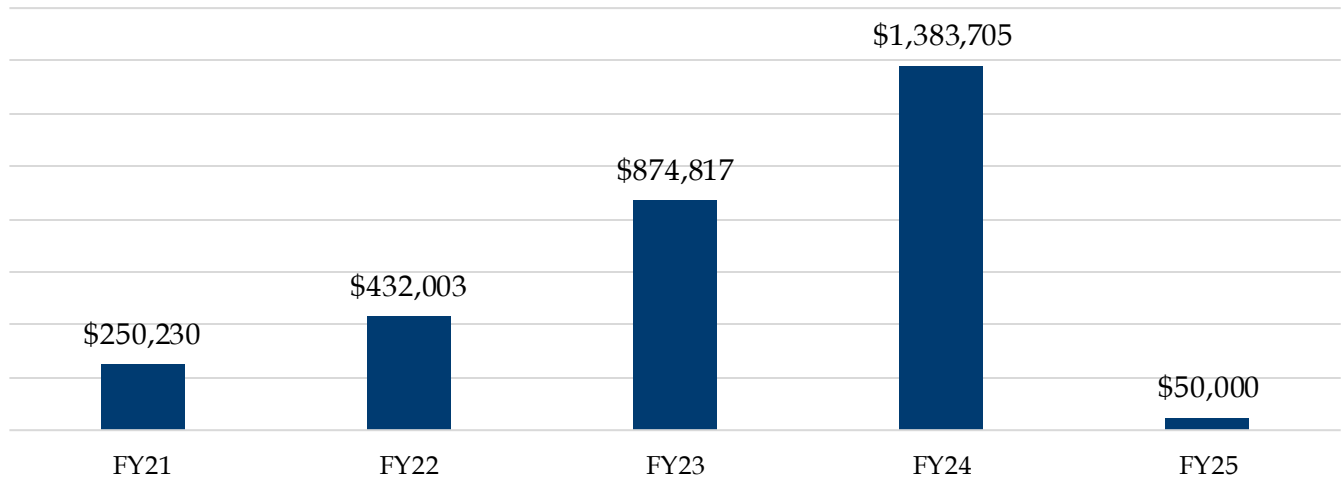
- Increasing number of Parent Advocate contractors
- Increasing numbers of parent clients served and hours worked
- Increasing case complexity

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<sup>78</sup> COLO. JUD. BRANCH, COLO. OFF. OF RESPONDENT PARENTS' COUNS., FISCAL YEAR 2020-21 BUDGET REQUEST 48, <https://coloradorpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FY2020-21-Budget-Request-ORPC-Final.pdf>

The current \$50,000 allocation for FY 2024-25 therefore prohibits the ORPC’s ability to deliver this promising evidence-based practice with fidelity.

### Federal IV-E Funds for Parent Advocates Increased through FY24, Cut in FY25, Prohibiting Provision of IDT Model with Fidelity



The ORPC seeks to access the requisite funding to deliver the IDT model to fidelity and achieve outcomes as a promising evidence-based practice. Additionally, the ORPC has seen turnover in its Parent Advocate contractors and if approved, seeks to recruit and onboard a new class of Parent Advocate contractors in 2025 to meet the increasing need.

#### Assumptions and Calculations:

The chart below shows Parent Advocate base costs, which include actual expenditures from FY 2020-21 through FY 2023-24 using the approved Title IV-E legal representation line item and projected base costs for the current fiscal year and beyond. The base cost for Parent Advocates increased in prior years as the agency built capacity for this contractor type. In FY 2024-25 the ORPC has reached capacity in this contractor type and thus assumes the base costs will remain consistent starting in FY 2025-26 and in future years with slight increases annually reflecting increased costs for mileage. The increase in the mileage costs assumes the same quantity of miles are being traveled but accounts for an increasing mileage rate. Based on the Colorado State mileage reimbursement historical rates, the ORPC assumes an average increasing rate of \$.03 per year in mileage rates.

Parent Advocate Base Costs							
Fiscal Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Projected</i>	<i>Projected</i>	<i>Projected</i>
Contract Work	\$232,237	\$384,732	\$773,447	\$1,252,980	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000
Travel Mileage	\$17,993	\$47,271	\$101,370	\$130,725	\$142,050	\$149,153	\$156,255
<b>Total Parent Advocate Base Costs</b>	<b>\$250,230</b>	<b>\$432,003</b>	<b>\$874,817</b>	<b>\$1,383,705</b>	<b>\$1,462,050</b>	<b>\$1,469,153</b>	<b>\$1,476,255</b>

The ORPC seeks Title IV-E Reappropriated Fund spending authority to onboard a new class of Parent Advocates in FY 2025-26. Consistent with the ORPC’s successful prior approach, the ORPC anticipates recruiting and onboarding approximately eight Parent Advocate contractors to participate in training before accepting initial case assignments. The ORPC assumes that contractors will accept a limited number of initial cases, building their caseload capacity slowly over their first 12 months.

Based on the actual expenditures of existing Parent Advocate contractors, the ORPC assumes 29.5 hours per week of billing for contractors who reach their capacity caseload. Once contractors scale up to a capacity caseload, the agency assumes that the program costs would be maintained at the same level as existing Parent Advocate contractors. The ORPC assumes that contractors will not work on cases for two weeks per year, so the estimate for a new contractor class reflects 50 weeks of work capacity in each fiscal year. The agency’s delivery of the IDT model for Parent Advocates assumes a small percentage of time for mentoring. The ORPC assumes that the number of miles driven will be equivalent to the amount driven during similar phases from previous classes and mileage rates assume an average increasing rate of \$.03 per year.

Parent Advocate New Class Costs										
FY 2025-26						FY 2026-27				
New Class	<i>Development &amp; Build Capacity</i>					<i>Capacity Caseload</i>				
	# of Contractors	Hrs per wk	Cost per Hour	# of Weeks	Cost	# of Contractors	Hrs per wk	Cost per Hour	# of Weeks	Cost
Onboarding	8	15	\$42	10	\$50,400	-	-	-	-	-
Building Caseload *	8	15.6	\$42	36	\$188,160	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity Caseload	8	29.5	\$42	4	\$39,648	8	29.5	\$42	50	\$495,600
Mentoring	2	3	\$75	50	\$22,500	2	2	\$75	50	\$15,000
Mileage	est. 29,731 miles x \$.63				\$18,730	est. 58,903 miles x \$.66				\$38,876
<b>Total New Class Costs</b>	<b>\$ 319,438</b>					<b>\$ 549,476</b>				

\* Hours per week is a weighted average as case load buildup increases overtime over the course of the Building Caseload phase

The chart below summarizes the total Parent Advocate base costs and new class costs and includes the total FY 2025-26 request for Title IV-E Reappropriated Fund spending authority for Parent Advocate contractors.

<b>Total Parent Advocate Costs</b>				
<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>2023-24</b> <i>Actual</i>	<b>2024-25</b> <i>Projected</i>	<b>2025-26</b> <i>Projected</i>	<b>2026-27</b> <i>Projected</i>
Base Costs	1,383,705	1,462,050	1,469,153	1,476,255
New Class Costs	-	-	319,438	549,476
<b>Total Base and New Class Costs</b>	<b>\$1,383,705</b>	<b>\$1,462,050</b>	<b>\$1,788,591</b>	<b>\$2,025,731</b>
<b>REQUEST - Parent Advocates</b>			<b>YEAR 1</b>	<b>YEAR 2</b>
Base Costs			1,469,153	1,476,255
New Class Costs			319,438	549,476
Adjustment for Base Budget			(50,000)	(50,000)
<b>TOTAL PARENT ADVOCATES</b>			<b>\$ 1,738,591</b>	<b>\$ 1,975,731</b>

### **Anticipated Outcomes:**

The ORPC’s IDT model of representation will be available to parents navigating complex child welfare cases on a minimum of 35% of the Agency’s dependency and neglect caseload. Contract Parent Advocates are an integral part of the IDT model and adequate resourcing is needed to ensure fidelity to this promising, evidence-based practice. To meet both current and future demands, the ORPC would seek to recruit, onboard, and oversee new cohorts of eight Parent Advocates in 2025 and 2026.

The ORPC seeks to utilize the IDT model to continue to achieve – and exceed – the following benchmarks for dependency and neglect involved indigent parents:

- **Family preservation outcomes** during a child welfare case: More than 50% of all children on a case remain at home or are placed in kinship care after removal for the life of their child welfare case.
- **Child permanency outcomes** of a child welfare case: More than 80% achieve permanency with parents or with kin.
- **Preventing future risk of harm** and reducing re-entry: Less than 3% of families re-entering the child welfare system within one year of case closure.

The above benchmarks are generated from Colorado child welfare administrative data linked with ORPC representation; methodology can be found in the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab's independent evaluation report.<sup>79</sup>

### **Impact to Other State Government Agencies:**

This request will not have additional cost impacts on other state agencies. Resourcing Parent Advocates to ensure fidelity to the IDT model as a promising practice is a long-term cost-offset mechanism to other systems. This is because the evidence for the IDT model shows that it can help achieve timely permanency, reduce re-entry into the child welfare system, and strengthen families to reduce systems involvement of children and parents.

### **Consequences if Not Funded:**

Funding the IDT model with reappropriated Title IV-E funds will not increase costs to Colorado and the agency is not requesting General Fund. Federal match funding of the IDT model supports a promising, evidence-based practice that has been well received by families, attorneys, and child welfare and court stakeholders. However, if this request to access Title IV-E Reappropriated Fund Spending Authority is not approved, the ORPC will be unable to maintain fidelity to this promising evidence-based practice or continue contracting with Parent Advocates to achieve positive child welfare outcomes. Additionally, the long-term financial benefit to Colorado and Colorado taxpayers will be lost.

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<sup>79</sup> EVERSON, *supra* note 62 at 2.

**Schedule 13**

**Funding Request for the 2025-26 Budget Cycle**

Department: Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
 Request Title: Continue IDT Funding: IV-E Parent Advocates  
 Priority Number: R-1

Dept. Approval by: Meloni Michael Thompson 11/1/2024  
 Date

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision Item FY 2025-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Base Reduction Item FY 2025-26
<input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental FY 2024-25
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Amendment FY 2025-26

**JBC CRITERIA FOR SUPPLEMENTAL:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency or act of God
<input type="checkbox"/> Technical error in calculating the original appropriation
<input type="checkbox"/> Data which was not available when the original appropriation was made
<input type="checkbox"/> Unforeseen contingency, such as a significant workload change

Line Item Information		FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26		FY 2026-27
		1	2	3	4	5
	Fund	Appropriation FY 2024-25	Supplemental Request FY 2024-25	Base Request FY 2025-26	Funding Change Request FY 2025-26	Continuation Amount FY 2026-27
<b>Total of All Line Items</b>	<b>Total</b>	50,000	-	1,738,591	237,140	1,975,731
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	-	-	-	-	-
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	50,000	-	1,738,591	237,140	1,975,731
	FF	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Parent Advocates</b>	<b>Total</b>	50,000	-	1,738,591	237,140	1,975,731
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	-	-	-	-	-
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	50,000	-	1,738,591	237,140	1,975,731
	FF	-	-	-	-	-
<b>( ) Long Bill Group, Line Item Name</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	-	-	-	-	-
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	-	-	-	-	-
	FF	-	-	-	-	-
<b>( ) Long Bill Group, Line Item Name</b>	<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-
	FTE	-	-	-	-	-
	GF	-	-	-	-	-
	GFE	-	-	-	-	-
	CF	-	-	-	-	-
	RF	-	-	-	-	-
	FF	-	-	-	-	-

Letternote Text Revision Required?      Yes:      No: X      If yes, describe the Letternote Text Revision:

Cash or Federal Fund Name and CORE Fund Number:      N/A

Reappropriated Funds Source, by Department and Line Item Name:      IVE from CDHS

Approval by OIT?      Yes:      No:      Not Required: X

Schedule 13s from Affected Departments:      CDHS will need associated increased spending authority in Cash Fund 13C0

Other Information:      None

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**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26  
Department Summary**

**Schedule 2**

Item	FTE	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
FY 2015-16 Actual Expenditures	2.7	712,564	712,564	-	-	-
FY 2016-17 Actual Expenditures	10.0	13,961,461	13,932,510	9,613	19,338	-
FY 2017-18 Actual Expenditures	9.7	16,110,219	16,045,575	-	64,644	-
FY 2018-19 Actual Expenditures	9.2	20,525,589	20,435,214	20,300	70,076	-
FY 2019-20 Actual Expenditures	12.8	22,102,901	22,008,823	29,498	64,580	-
FY 2020-21 Actual Expenditures	11.9	23,879,099	22,829,158	10,354	1,039,587	-
FY 2021-22 Actual Expenditures	13.3	24,175,294	23,257,002	6,475	911,817	-
FY 2022-23 Actual Expenditures	14.4	25,966,657	25,221,802	38,867	705,988	-
FY 2023-24 Actual Expenditures	19.0	30,925,439	27,570,239	46,577	3,308,623	-
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	19.9	33,595,998	26,198,112	6,000	7,391,886	-
FY 2025-26 Request	20.0	36,159,845	32,312,621	6,000	3,841,224	-

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26  
Summary**

Long Bill Line Item	Total Funds	FTE	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>						
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, H.B. 22-1329	\$31,191,058	15.80	\$25,529,320	\$48,000	\$5,613,738	\$0
Special Bill, H.B. 22-1133	(\$4,193)		(\$3,907)	\$0	(\$286)	\$0
<b>FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	\$31,186,865	15.80	\$25,525,413	\$48,000	\$5,613,452	\$0
<b>FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>						
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, S.B. 23-214	\$36,511,055	19.00	\$30,816,158	\$48,000	\$5,646,897	\$0
Special Bill, H.B. 23-1027	\$142,000		\$142,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplemental, HB 24-1188	(\$1,197,375)		(\$1,197,375)	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	\$35,455,680	19.00	\$29,760,783	\$48,000	\$5,646,897	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Appropriation</b>						
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	\$33,582,812	19.90	\$26,198,112	\$6,000	\$7,378,700	\$0
<b>FY 2024-25 Appropriation</b>	\$33,582,812	19.90	\$26,198,112	\$6,000	\$7,378,700	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>						
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	\$33,582,812	19.90	\$26,198,112	\$6,000	\$7,378,700	\$0
Annualization of S.B. 23-227 Atty Rate Increase	\$993,130	-	\$986,150	\$0	\$6,980	\$0
Common policy adjustment, Salary Survey	\$73,816	-	\$69,482	\$0	\$4,334	\$0
Common policy adjustment, Step-like Pay	\$18,365	-	\$17,286	\$0	\$1,079	\$0
Common policy adjustment, HLD	\$9,648	-	(\$1,536)	\$0	\$11,184	\$0
Common policy adjustment, STD	\$242	-	\$237	\$0	\$5	\$0
Common policy adjustment, PFML	\$730	-	\$714	\$0	\$16	\$0
Common policy adjustment, UAED	\$16,194	-	\$15,859	\$0	\$335	\$0
Common policy adjustment, Legal Services Allocation (AG's Office)	\$22,967	-	\$22,967	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annualization of PY Decision Items	(\$296,650)	0.10	\$3,350	\$0	(\$300,000)	\$0
Annualization of PY temporary refinance per LB footnote	\$0	-	\$5,000,000	\$0	(\$5,000,000)	\$0
R-1, Continue IDT Funding: IVE Parent Advocates	\$1,738,591	-	\$0	\$0	\$1,738,591	\$0
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>	\$36,159,845	20.00	\$32,312,621	\$6,000	\$3,841,224	\$0
<i>annual change</i>	\$2,577,033	0.10	\$6,114,509	\$0	(\$3,537,476)	\$0
<b>Change, FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26:</b>						
Dollar amounts and FTE	\$2,577,033	0.10	\$6,114,509	\$0	(\$3,537,476)	0%
Percentage	7.7%	0.5%	23.3%	0.0%	-47.9%	0%

Schedule 3 – Appropriation Summary

Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26

Schedule 3

Line Item by Year

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Funds	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Fund	Federal Fund
<b>Personal Services</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	15.8	2,199,742	14.8	2,042,482	-	-	1.0	157,260	-	-
FY 2022-23 Supplemental Bill, SB 23-120	0.3	18,483	0.3	18,483	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>2,218,225</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>2,060,965</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>157,260</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services - POTS	-	496,082	-	463,238	-	-	-	32,844	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	106,735	-	110,000	-	-	-	(3,265)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>2,821,042</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>2,634,203</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>186,839</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	2,720,554	-	2,579,984	-	-	-	140,570	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>100,488</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>54,219</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>46,269</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	19.0	2,576,678	18.0	2,415,230	-	-	1.0	161,448	-	-
HB 23-1027, Parent and Child Family Time	-	142,000	-	142,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2,718,678</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>2,557,230</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>161,448</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services - POTS	-	662,714	-	615,269	-	-	-	47,445	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	196,240	-	151,250	-	-	-	44,990	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>3,577,632</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>3,323,749</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>253,883</b>	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	3,525,584	-	3,271,705	-	-	-	253,879	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>52,048</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>52,044</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	19.9	2,786,853	18.9	2,617,945	-	-	1.0	168,908	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>2,786,853</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>2,617,945</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>168,908</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	19.9	2,786,853	18.9	2,617,945	-	-	1.0	168,908	-	-
FY 2024-25 Salary Survey Allocated to Personal Svcs	-	78,343	-	73,430	-	-	-	4,913	-	-
FY 2024-25 Step-Like Pay Allocated to Personal Svcs	-	88,057	-	82,535	-	-	-	5,522	-	-
Annualization of FY 2024-25, R-1 Compliance Analyst	0.1	9,892	0.1	9,892	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>2,963,145</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2,783,802</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>179,343</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>2,963,145</b>	-	<b>2,783,802</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>179,343</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>2,786,853</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>2,617,945</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>168,908</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>2,963,145</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2,783,802</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>179,343</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>2,963,145</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>2,783,802</b>	-	-	<b>1.0</b>	<b>179,343</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>6%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reapp. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Health, Life and Dental</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	254,473	-	238,747	-	-	-	15,726	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>254,473</b>	-	<b>238,747</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,726</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(254,473)	-	(238,747)	-	-	-	(15,726)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	316,986		291,061				25,925	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>316,986</b>		<b>291,061</b>				<b>25,925</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(316,986)		(291,061)				(25,925)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-		-				-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	384,471	-	374,892	-	-	-	9,579	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>384,471</b>	-	<b>374,892</b>	-	-	-	<b>9,579</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	384,471	-	374,892	-	-	-	9,579	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy		9,648	-	(1,536)	-	-	-	11,184	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>394,119</b>	-	<b>373,356</b>	-	-	-	<b>20,763</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>394,119</b>	-	<b>373,356</b>	-	-	-	<b>20,763</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>384,471</b>	-	<b>374,892</b>	-	-	-	<b>9,579</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>394,119</b>	-	<b>373,356</b>	-	-	-	<b>20,763</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>394,119</b>	-	<b>373,356</b>	-	-	-	<b>20,763</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>2.5%</b>	-	<b>-0.4%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>116.8%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fun	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reapp. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Short-term Disability</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	2,953	-	2,749	-	-	-	204	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>2,953</b>	-	<b>2,749</b>	-	-	-	<b>204</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(2,953)	-	(2,749)	-	-	-	(204)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	3,506	-	3,298	-	-	-	208	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>3,506</b>	-	<b>3,298</b>	-	-	-	<b>208</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(3,506)	-	(3,298)	-	-	-	(208)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	3,797	-	3,565	-	-	-	232	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>3,797</b>	-	<b>3,565</b>	-	-	-	<b>232</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	3,797	-	3,565	-	-	-	232	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy	-	242	-	237	-	-	-	5	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>4,039</b>	-	<b>3,802</b>	-	-	-	<b>237</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>4,039</b>	-	<b>3,802</b>	-	-	-	<b>237</b>	-	-
FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation	-	3,797	-	3,565	-	-	-	232	-	-
FY 2025-26 Base Request	-	4,039	-	3,802	-	-	-	237	-	-
FY 2025-26 Total Request	-	4,039	-	3,802	-	-	-	237	-	-
Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26	-	6.4%	-	6.6%	-	0.0%	-	2.2%	-	0.0%

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-							-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	11,389	-	10,693	-	-	-	696	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>11,389</b>	-	<b>10,693</b>	-	-	-	<b>696</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	11,389	-	10,693	-	-	-	696	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy		730	-	714	-	-	-	16	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>12,119</b>	-	<b>11,407</b>	-	-	-	<b>712</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>12,119</b>	-	<b>11,407</b>	-	-	-	<b>712</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>11,389</b>	-	<b>10,693</b>	-	-	-	<b>696</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>12,119</b>	-	<b>11,407</b>	-	-	-	<b>712</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>12,119</b>	-	<b>11,407</b>	-	-	-	<b>712</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>6.4%</b>	-	<b>6.7%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>2.3%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>S.B. 04-257 AED</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	92,283	-	85,920	-	-	-	6,363	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>92,283</b>	-	<b>85,920</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,363</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(92,283)	-	(85,920)	-	-	-	(6,363)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	115,969	-	109,043	-	-	-	6,926	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>115,969</b>	-	<b>109,043</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,926</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(115,969)	-	(109,043)	-	-	-	(6,926)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation -</b>										
Starting FY 2024-25 the S.B. 04-257 AED LB Line moved to the line "Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments" which combines: S.B. 04-257 AED and S.B. 06-235 SAED										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>S.B. 06-235 SAED</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	92,283	-	85,920	-	-	-	6,363	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>92,283</b>	-	<b>85,920</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,363</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(92,283)	-	(85,920)	-	-	-	(6,363)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	115,969	-	109,043	-	-	-	6,926	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>115,969</b>	-	<b>109,043</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,926</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(115,969)	-	(109,043)	-	-	-	(6,926)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
Starting FY 2024-25 the S.B. 04-257 SAED LB Line moved to the line "Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments" which combines: S.B. 04-257 AED and S.B. 06-235 SAED										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>



Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Fund	Federal Fund
<b>Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments (UAED) - Combines: S.B. 04-257 AED and S.B. 06-235 SAED</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rollforward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	253,116	-	237,640	-	-	-	15,476	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>253,116</b>	-	<b>237,640</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,476</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	253,116	-	237,640	-	-	-	15,476	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy	-	16,194	-	15,859	-	-	-	335	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>269,310</b>	-	<b>253,499</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,811</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>269,310</b>	-	<b>253,499</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,811</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>253,116</b>	-	<b>237,640</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,476</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>269,310</b>	-	<b>253,499</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,811</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>269,310</b>	-	<b>253,499</b>	-	-	-	<b>15,811</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>6.4%</b>	-	<b>6.7%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>2.2%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Salary Survey</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	54,090	-	49,902	-	-	-	4,188	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>54,090</b>	-	<b>49,902</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,188</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(54,090)	-	(49,902)	-	-	-	(4,188)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	110,284	-	102,824	-	-	-	7,460	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>110,284</b>	-	<b>102,824</b>	-	-	-	<b>7,460</b>	-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	(110,284)	-	(102,824)	-	-	-	(7,460)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	78,343	-	73,430	-	-	-	4,913	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>78,343</b>	-	<b>73,430</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,913</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	78,343	-	73,430	-	-	-	4,913	-	-
Allocate to Personal Services	-	(78,343)	-	(73,430)	-	-	-	(4,913)	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy	-	73,816	-	69,482	-	-	-	4,334	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>73,816</b>	-	<b>69,482</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,334</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>73,816</b>	-	<b>69,482</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,334</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>78,343</b>	-	<b>73,430</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,913</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>73,816</b>	-	<b>69,482</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,334</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>73,816</b>	-	<b>69,482</b>	-	-	-	<b>4,334</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>-5.8%</b>	-	<b>-5.4%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>-11.8%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Step-Like Pay</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-							-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-							-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-							-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-							-	-
Allocated to Personal Services	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	88,057	-	82,535	-	-	-	5,522	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>88,057</b>	-	<b>82,535</b>	-	-	-	<b>5,522</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	88,057	-	82,535	-	-	-	5,522	-	-
Allocate to Personal Services		(88,057)	-	(82,535)	-	-	-	(5,522)	-	-
Total Compensation Common Policy		18,365	-	17,286	-	-	-	1,079	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>18,365</b>	-	<b>17,286</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,079</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>18,365</b>	-	<b>17,286</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,079</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>88,057</b>	-	<b>82,535</b>	-	-	-	<b>5,522</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>18,365</b>	-	<b>17,286</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,079</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>18,365</b>	-	<b>17,286</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,079</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>-79.1%</b>	-	<b>-79.1%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>-80.5%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Operating</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	141,500	-	140,550	-	-	-	950	-	-
FY 2022-23 Supplemental Bill, SB 23-120	-	44,349	-	44,349	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>185,849</b>	-	<b>184,899</b>	-	-	-	<b>950</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>235,849</b>	-	<b>234,899</b>	-	-	-	<b>950</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	<b>190,398</b>	-	<b>190,398</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>45,451</b>	-	<b>44,501</b>	-	-	-	<b>950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	168,489	-	167,539	-	-	-	950	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>168,489</b>	-	<b>167,539</b>	-	-	-	<b>950</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	51,150	-	51,150	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>219,639</b>	-	<b>218,689</b>	-	-	-	<b>950</b>	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	219,631	-	218,681	-	-	-	950	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>8</b>	-	<b>8</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	692,971	-	162,021	-	-	-	530,950	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>692,971</b>	-	<b>162,021</b>	-	-	-	<b>530,950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	692,971	-	162,021	-	-	-	530,950	-	-
Annualization of FY 2024-25, R-1 Compliance Analyst Operating	-	(6,542)	-	(6,542)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Annualization FY 2024-25, R-3 Reduction of temporary funding for Case MGMT system implementation	-	(300,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(300,000)	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>386,429</b>	-	<b>155,479</b>	-	-	-	<b>230,950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>386,429</b>	-	<b>155,479</b>	-	-	-	<b>230,950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>692,971</b>	-	<b>162,021</b>	-	-	-	<b>530,950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>386,429</b>	-	<b>155,479</b>	-	-	-	<b>230,950</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>386,429</b>	-	<b>155,479</b>	-	-	-	<b>230,950</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>-44.2%</b>	-	<b>-4.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>-56.5%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Legal Services</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-	-						-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-						-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-						-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	-	-						-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-						-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	8,395	-	8,395	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>8,395</b>	-	<b>8,395</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	8,395	-	8,395	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Services (AG's Office) Common Policy		22,967	-	22,967	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>8,395</b>	-	<b>8,395</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	<b>31,362</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>273.6%</b>	-	<b>273.6%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Parent Advocates</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
R-1 Continue IDT Funding: IVE Parent Advocates	-	1,738,591	-	-	-	-	-	1,738,591	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>1,788,591</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,788,591</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>1,788,591</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,788,591</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>3477.2%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>3477.2%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Preventative Legal Services</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	-	-						-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	-	-						-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-	-						-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	-							-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	-							-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	50,000	-		-	-	-	50,000	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	50,000	-		-	-	-	50,000	-	-
Annualize SB 23-227, State Agency Atty Hourly Rate		704	-		-	-	-	704	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50,704</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>1.4%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>1.4%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Training</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	106,000	-	30,000	-	48,000	-	28,000	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>106,000</b>	-	<b>30,000</b>	-	<b>48,000</b>	-	<b>28,000</b>	-	-
Undercollection of Revenue	-	(7,873)	-	-	-	(7,873)	-	-	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	108,323	-	5,058	-	-	-	103,265	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>206,450</b>	-	<b>35,058</b>	-	<b>40,127</b>	-	<b>131,265</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	198,185	-	28,053	-	38,867	-	131,265	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>8,265</b>	-	<b>7,005</b>	-	<b>1,260</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	106,000	-	30,000	-	48,000	-	28,000	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>106,000</b>	-	<b>30,000</b>	-	<b>48,000</b>	-	<b>28,000</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	232,420	-	232,420	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>338,420</b>	-	<b>262,420</b>	-	<b>48,000</b>	-	<b>28,000</b>	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	336,791	-	262,419	-	46,577	-	27,795	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>1,629</b>	-	<b>1</b>	-	<b>1,423</b>	-	<b>205</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	138,000	-	30,000	-	6,000	-	102,000	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>138,000</b>	-	<b>30,000</b>	-	<b>6,000</b>	-	<b>102,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	138,000	-	30,000	-	6,000	-	102,000	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>138,000</b>	-	<b>30,000</b>	-	<b>6,000</b>	-	<b>102,000</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>138,000</b>	-	<b>30,000</b>	-	<b>6,000</b>	-	<b>102,000</b>	-	-
FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation	-	138,000	-	30,000	-	6,000	-	102,000	-	-
FY 2025-26 Base Request	-	138,000	-	30,000	-	6,000	-	102,000	-	-
FY 2025-26 Total Request	-	138,000	-	30,000	-	6,000	-	102,000	-	-
Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%



Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>IV-E Legal Representation</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	5,025,969	-	-	-	-	-	5,025,969	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>5,025,969</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>5,025,969</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	(50,000)	-	-	-	-	-	(50,000)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>4,975,969</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4,975,969</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	<b>429,320</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>429,320</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>4,546,649</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4,546,649</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	5,033,297						5,033,297	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>5,033,297</b>						<b>5,033,297</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	(44,990)						(44,990)	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>4,988,307</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4,988,307</b>	-	-
PY Expenditures related to FY 2022-23 corrected in FY 2023-24*		<b>840,849</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>840,849</b>	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	2,168,336	-	-	-	-	-	2,168,336	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>1,979,122</b>	-	-				<b>1,979,122</b>	-	-
* See footnote on IVE line in Schedule 14 for explanation										
** Starting in FY 2024-25 the ORPC's Long Bill has been refinanced, and the Title IV-E Legal Representation Long Bill line item no longer has an appropriation. Instead these funds have distributed throughout other line items in the reappropriated column in ORPC's Long Bill.										
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation **</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2025-26 Base Request	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2025-26 Total Request	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fund	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Court-appointed Counsel</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	22,247,566	-	21,910,232	-	-	-	337,334	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>22,247,566</b>	-	<b>21,910,232</b>	-	-	-	<b>337,334</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	(590,058)	-	(540,058)	-	-	-	(50,000)	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>21,657,508</b>	-	<b>21,370,174</b>	-	-	-	<b>287,334</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	21,137,078	-	21,132,246	-	-	-	4,832	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>520,430</b>	-	<b>237,928</b>	-	-	-	<b>282,502</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	26,888,462	-	26,543,800	-	-	-	344,662	-	-
FY 2023-24 ,Supplemental Bill, HB 24-1188	-	(1,672,615)	-	(1,672,615)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>25,215,847</b>	-	<b>24,871,185</b>	-	-	-	<b>344,662</b>	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	(434,820)	-	(434,820)	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>24,781,027</b>	-	<b>24,436,365</b>	-	-	-	<b>344,662</b>	-	-
PY Expenditures related to FY 2022-23 corrected in FY 2023-24*	-	(840,849)	-	(840,849)	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	23,233,453	-	23,233,453	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)**</b>	-	<b>2,388,423</b>	-	<b>2,043,761</b>	-	-	-	<b>344,662</b>	-	-
* PY adjustment reduces the net expenditures for this line. See footnote on CAC line in Schedule 14 for explanation										
** General Fund reversion overstated by amount of PY adjustment. See footnote on CAC line in Schedule 14 for explanation. See what the actual reversion would have been without this adjustment in the line below.										
		<b>1,547,574</b>		<b>1,202,912</b>				<b>344,662</b>		
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	27,891,733	-	21,482,404	-	-	-	6,409,329	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>27,891,733</b>	-	<b>21,482,404</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,409,329</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	27,891,733	-	21,482,404	-	-	-	6,409,329	-	-
Annualize SB 23-227, State Agency Atty Hourly Rate	-	992,426	-	986,150	-	-	-	6,276	-	-
Reverse PY temporary refinance to original funding source	-	-	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	(5,000,000)	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>28,884,159</b>	-	<b>27,468,554</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,415,605</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>28,884,159</b>	-	<b>27,468,554</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,415,605</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>27,891,733</b>	-	<b>21,482,404</b>	-	-	-	<b>6,409,329</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>28,884,159</b>	-	<b>27,468,554</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,415,605</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>28,884,159</b>	-	<b>27,468,554</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,415,605</b>	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>3.6%</b>	-	<b>27.9%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>-77.9%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Mandated Costs</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	938,911	-	938,911	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>938,911</b>	-	<b>938,911</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year End Transfers	-	375,000	-	375,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>1,313,911</b>	-	<b>1,313,911</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	1,291,121	-	1,291,121	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>22,790</b>	-	<b>22,790</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	1,044,320	-	1,044,320	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2023-24 ,Supplemental Bill, HB 24-1188	-	475,240	-	475,240	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>1,519,560</b>	-	<b>1,519,560</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>1,519,560</b>	-	<b>1,519,560</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	1,424,830	-	1,424,830	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>94,730</b>	-	<b>94,730</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	1,114,592	-	1,114,592	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	1,114,592	-	1,114,592	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	<b>1,114,592</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>0%</b>	-	<b>0%</b>	-	<b>0%</b>	-	<b>0%</b>	-	<b>0%</b>

Long Bill Line Item	Total FTE	Total Fund	FTE - Gen'l Fund	General Fun	FTE - Cash Fund	Cash Funds	FTE - Reappr. Funds	Reappropriated Funds	FTE - Fed'l Funds	Federal Fund
<b>Grants</b>										
<b>FY 2022-23 Actual</b>										
FY 2022-23 Long Bill, HB 22-1329	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
Custodial Appropriation	-	40,210	-	-	-	-	-	40,210	-	-
<b>Final FY 2022-23 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>71,305</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>71,305</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Total Available Spending Authority</b>	-	<b>71,305</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>71,305</b>	-	-
FY 2022-23 Expenditures	-	56,985	-	-	-	-	-	56,985	-	-
<b>FY 2022-23 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>14,320</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>14,320</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Actual</b>										
FY 2023-24 Long Bill, SB 23-214	-	31,095						31,095	-	-
<b>Final FY 2023-24 Appropriation</b>	-	<b>31,095</b>						<b>31,095</b>	-	-
FY 2023-24 Expenditures	-	16,814						16,814	-	-
<b>FY 2023-24 Reversion/(Overexpenditure)</b>	-	<b>14,281</b>	-					<b>14,281</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>										
FY 2024-25 Long Bill, H.B. 24-1430	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
<b>FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation</b>	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Request</b>										
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Base Request</b>	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-
<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>31,095</b>	-	-
FY 2024-25 Total Appropriation	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
FY 2025-26 Base Request	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
FY 2025-26 Total Request	-	31,095	-	-	-	-	-	31,095	-	-
<b>Percentage Change FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>	-	<b>0.0%</b>

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26**

**Schedule 4**

**Funding Source**

	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
FY 2015-16 Actual	712,564	712,564	-	-	-
FY 2016-17 Actual	13,961,461	13,932,510	9,613	19,338	-
FY 2017-18 Actual	16,110,219	16,045,575	-	64,644	-
FY 2018-19 Actual	20,525,589	20,435,214	20,300	70,076	-
FY 2019-20 Actual	22,102,901	22,008,823	29,498	64,580	-
FY 2020-21 Actual	23,879,099	22,829,158	10,354	1,039,587	-
FY 2021-22 Actual	24,175,292	23,257,001	6,475	911,816	-
FY 2022-23 Actual	25,966,657	25,221,802	38,867	705,988	-
FY 2023-24 Actual	30,925,439	27,570,239	46,577	3,308,623	-
FY 2024-25 Appropriation	33,595,998	26,198,112	6,000	7,391,886	-
FY 2025-26 Request	36,159,845	32,312,621	6,000	3,841,224	-

## Line Item to Statute

Following passage of S.B. 14-203 and H.B. 15-1149, and pursuant to sections 13-92-101 through 104, C.R.S. (2015), the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel was established as an independent agency in the Judicial Branch beginning January 1, 2016. This Long Bill Group funds the activities of the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel, which include ensuring provision of uniform, high-quality legal representation for parents involved in judicial dependency and neglect proceedings and who lack the financial means to afford legal representation; to assume all existing Respondent Parent Counsel appointments; and to make all new Respondent Parent Counsel appointments.

Long Bill Line	Line Item Description	Programs Supported by Line Item	Statutory Cite
Personal Services	Funds all staff within the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Health/Life/Dental	Funds all health/life/dental costs for Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel employees.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Short-term disability	Funds all short-term disability costs for Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel employees.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance	Funding for paid family and medical leave insurance premiums	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	8-13.3-401 to 424, C.R.S.
SB 04-257 AED	Funds Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel's disbursement towards amortizing the unfunded liability in the PERA trust fund. This line rolls into UAED line starting in FY 2024-25.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
SB 06-235 Supplemental AED	Funds Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel's disbursement towards amortizing the unfunded liability in the PERA trust fund. This line rolls into UAED line starting in FY 2024-25.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
UAED	Funds Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel's disbursement towards amortizing the unfunded liability in the PERA trust fund. This line was implemented in FY 2024-25 and combines lines SB 04-257 AED and SB 06-235 SAED into one line and therefore replaces these lines in the budget after implementation.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Merit Pay	Funding for salary increases for merit-based compensation adjustments	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Step Pay	Funding for salary increases for step-like compensation adjustments	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Operating Expenses	Funds general operating expenses for the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Legal Services	Statewide common policy allocation from Attorney General's Office to pay for legal services for the use by the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Parent Advocates	Funds interdisciplinary team model of legal representation provided by the Parent Advocate contractor type.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Preventative Legal Services	Funds pre-filing legal representation pilot for indigent parents.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Training	Funds training for attorneys providing respondent parents' counsel.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Title IV-E Legal Reimbursement	Funds the expansion and enhancement of legal representation for parents and administrative costs under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau Child Welfare Policy Manual.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	26-2-102 to 26-5-104, C.R.S.
Court-appointed Counsel	Funds the payment of attorneys appointed to represent indigent Respondent Parents' in Dependency and Neglect cases.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Mandated Costs	Funds the payment of case-related costs which are required by statutory or Constitutional law to ensure due process. Mandated costs include fees and travel reimbursements for expert witnesses and interpreters and fees for mental health evaluations and transcripts.	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.
Grants	Funds various programs within the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel	13-92-101 to 104, C.R.S.

Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26

Schedule 6

Special Bills Summary

Bill Number & Short Title	FTE	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>FY 2015-16</b>						
<b>H.B. 15-1149: Concerning the RPC</b>						
Personal Services	(4.2)	(479,386)	(479,386)	-	-	-
HLD		(18,790)	(18,790)	-	-	-
STD		(868)	(868)	-	-	-
AED		(17,362)	(17,362)	-	-	-
SAED		(16,770)	(16,770)	-	-	-
Operating		(13,113)	(13,113)	-	-	-
Case Management System		(215,625)	(215,625)	-	-	-
Training		(30,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	-	-
Court-appointed Counsel		(4,986,663)	(4,986,663)	-	-	-
<b>H.B. 15-1149: Concerning the RPC</b>	<b>(4.2)</b>	<b>(5,778,577)</b>	<b>(5,763,577)</b>	<b>(15,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2015-16 Department Total</b>	<b>(4.2)</b>	<b>(5,778,577)</b>	<b>(5,763,577)</b>	<b>(15,000)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2016-17 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2017-18 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2018-19 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2019-20 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2020-21</b>						
<b>S.B. 20-162: Changes for Fed'l Family First Policy</b>						
Court-appointed Counsel		99,636	99,636	-	-	-
Mandated Costs		78,924	78,924	-	-	-
<b>S.B. 20-162: Changes for Fed'l Family First Policy</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>178,560</b>	<b>178,560</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2020-21 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>178,560</b>	<b>178,560</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2021-22 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2022-23</b>						
<b>H.B. 22-1133: Family &amp; Medical Leave Ins. Fund</b>						
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance		(4,193)	(3,907)	-	(286)	-
<b>H.B. 22-1133: Family &amp; Medical Leave Ins. Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,193)</b>	<b>(3,907)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(286)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2022-23 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,193)</b>	<b>(3,907)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(286)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2023-24</b>						
<b>H.B. 23-1027: High Quality Parent Time (HQPT)</b>						
<b>Task Force - Parent and Child Family Time</b>						
Personal Services		142,000	142,000	-	-	-
<b>H.B. 23-1027: Family Time</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2023-24 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2024-25 - none</b>						

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26**

**Schedule 7**

**Supplemental Bills Summary**

Bill Number & Short Title	FTE	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>FY 2015-16 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2016-17, Senate Bill 17-164</b>						
Operating		6,890	6,890			
Court-appointed Counsel		2,173,497	2,173,497			
Mandated Costs		161,614	161,614			
GRANTS (new line)		23,755			23,755	
<b>FY 2016-17 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,365,756</b>	<b>2,342,001</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,755</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2017-18 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2018-19, Senate Bill 19-115</b>						
Court-appointed Counsel		2,847,813	2,847,813			
Mandated Costs		230,431	230,431			
<b>FY 2018-19 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,078,244</b>	<b>3,078,244</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2019-20, House Bill 20-1249</b>						
Personal Services		36,245	36,245			
STD		50	50			
AED		1,475	1,475			
SAED		1,475	1,475			
Operating		12,273	12,273			
Training		5,000		5,000		
Title IV-E Legal Representation (new line)		2,370,740	-		2,370,740	
Court-appointed Counsel		1,709,919	1,709,919			
Mandated Costs		232,994	232,994			
<b>FY 2019-20 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,370,171</b>	<b>1,994,431</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,370,740</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2020-21, Senate Bill 21-045</b>						
Court-appointed Counsel		100,000	100,000			
Mandated Costs		1,410,276	1,410,276			
<b>FY 2020-21 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,510,276</b>	<b>1,510,276</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>FY 2021-22, House Bill 22-1176, no fiscal impact, footnote change only</b>						
<b>FY 2022-23 - none</b>						
<b>FY 2023-24, House Bill 24-1188</b>						
Court-appointed Counsel		(1,672,615)	(1,672,615)			
Mandated Costs		475,240	475,240			
<b>FY 2023-24 Department Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,197,375)</b>	<b>(1,197,375)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26** **Schedule 8**  
**Common Policy Summary**

	Total Funds	General Fund	Cash Funds	Reappropriated Funds	Federal Funds
<b>Health, Life, and Dental</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	254,473	238,747	-	15,726	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	316,986	291,061	-	25,925	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	384,471	374,892	-	9,579	-
Request FY 2025-26	394,119	373,356	-	20,763	-
<b>Short-term Disability</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	2,953	2,749	-	204	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	3,506	3,298	-	208	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	3,797	3,565	-	232	-
Request FY 2025-26	4,039	3,802	-	237	-
<b>Paid Family &amp; Medical Leave Insurance</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	11,389	10,693	-	696	-
Request FY 2025-26	12,119	11,407	-	712	-
<b>AED</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	92,283	85,920	-	6,363	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	115,969	109,043	-	6,926	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	-	-	-	-	-
Request FY 2025-26	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SAED</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	92,283	85,920	-	6,363	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	115,969	109,043	-	6,926	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	-	-	-	-	-
Request FY 2025-26	-	-	-	-	-
<b>UAED</b>					
Appropriation FY 2024-25	253,116	237,640	-	15,476	-
Request FY 2025-26	269,310	253,499	-	15,811	-
<b>Salary Survey</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	54,090	49,902	-	4,188	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	110,284	102,824	-	7,460	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	78,343	73,430	-	4,913	-
Request FY 2025-26	73,816	69,482	-	4,334	-
<b>Merit</b>					
Appropriation FY 2022-23	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation FY 2023-24	-	-	-	-	-
Appropriation FY 2024-25	-	-	-	-	-
Request FY 2025-26	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Step-Like Pay</b>					
Appropriation FY 2024-25	88,057	82,535	-	5,522	-
Request FY 2025-26	18,365	17,286	-	1,079	-

Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26

Schedule 14

Personal Services

Position Type	FY 2023-24		FY 2024-25		FY 2025-26 Request	
	Actual Expenditures	FTE	Appropriation			
Executive Director	193,008	1.0				
Executive Management	453,494	2.9				
Professional Staff	1,047,945	8.0				
Administrative & Accounting Staff	389,425	5.0				
<b>Total Full and Part-time Employee Expenditures</b>	<b>2,083,872</b>	<b>16.9</b>				
PERA Contributions & Other Retirement Plans	263,273					
Medicare	32,758					
Merit Pay	-					
Unemployment	20,285					
Temporary Employees	198,680	0.5				
Sick and Annual Leave Payouts	30,062	0.2				
Contract Services	286,352	0.5				
Furlough Wages	-					
H.B. 23-1027: HQPT - Parent and Child Family Time Study	90,000					
Other Expenditures (specify as necessary)	11,581					
<b>Total Employee, Contract, and Other Expenditures</b>	<b>3,016,863</b>	<b>18.1</b>				
POTS Expenditures (excluding Salary Survey and Performance-based Pay already included above):						
Health, Life, Dental and Vision	278,503					
Short-term Disability	3,068					
S.B. 04-257 AED	113,575					
S.B. 06-235 SAED	113,575					
<b>Total Expenditures for Line Item</b>	<b>3,525,584</b>	<b>18.1</b>				
<b>Spending Authority (General Fund)</b>	<b>3,172,499</b>	<b>18.0</b>				
<b>Spending Authority (Reappropriated Funds)</b>	<b>208,893</b>	<b>1.0</b>				
<b>Transfers (GF)</b>	<b>151,250</b>	<b>-</b>				
<b>Transfers (RF)</b>	<b>44,990</b>	<b>-</b>				
<b>Rollforwards from Prior Year</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>				
<b>Total Spending Authority - General Fund</b>	<b>3,323,749</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>3,400,700</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>3,512,634</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Spending Authority - Reappropriated Funds</b>	<b>253,883</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>205,326</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>222,279</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Total Spending Authority</b>	<b>3,577,632</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>3,606,026</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>3,734,913</b>	<b>20.0</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended - General Fund</b>	<b>52,044</b>	<b>-</b>				
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended - Reappropriated Funds</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.9</b>				

Schedule 14 – Position and Object Code Detail

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26  
Operating - General Fund**

Schedule 14

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1920 - Professional Services		\$12,000		
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	\$7,500	\$116		
2230- Equipment Maintenance	18			
2252 - State Fleet	350			
2253 - Rental of Non-IT Equipment	2,112	\$2,668		
2255 - Rental of Meeting Rooms & Leased Space	-	\$5,312		
2260 - Rental Information Technology	-	\$3,834		
2510 - General Travel - Employee	6,025	\$3,908		
2511 - Common Carrier Fares	5,617	\$4,987		
2512 - Meals - Employee	3,365	\$2,090		
2513 - Mileage Reimbursement - Employee	2,407	\$2,276		
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	1,456	\$759		
2522 - Meal Reimbursement - Nonemployee	150			
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	50	\$52		
2530 - General Travel - Employee, Out of State	-	\$1,309		
2532 - Meals - Employee, Out of State	-	\$79		
2540 - Out-of-State Travel/Non-Employee	1,189			
2541 - Out-of-State/Non-Employee - Common Carrier	375			
2610 - Advertising and Marketing	-	\$444		
2631 - Communication Services	18,474	\$18,911		
2680 - Printing & Reproduction Services	2,295	\$2,068		
2681 - Photocopy Reimbursement	52			
2820 - Purchased Services	12	\$3,087		
3110 - Identification & Safety Supplies	443	\$490		
3118 - Food & Food Services Supplies	3,651	\$3,478		
3120 - Books / Periodicals / Subscriptions	491	\$764		
3121 - Office Supplies	1,269	\$1,566		
3123 - Postage	1,038	\$807		
3128 - NonCapitalized Non-IT Equipment	60	\$288		
3132 - NonCapitalized Office Furniture and Fixtures	9,627	\$739		
3140 - Noncapitalized IT Eqpt - Software and Hardware	8,704	\$41,487		
3145 - Software Subscriptions	92,282	\$95,660		
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	1,269	\$118		
4111 - Prizes and Awards	209	\$0		
4140 - Dues and Memberships	11,625	\$4,999		
4180 - Official Functions - Nontaxable	-	\$1,259		
4220 - Registration Fees	8,103	\$2,375		
4222 - Registration Fees Reimbursement	180	\$751		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$190,398</b>	<b>\$218,681</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>234,899</b>	<b>218,689</b>	<b>\$162,021</b>	<b>\$155,479</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>44,501</b>	<b>8</b>		

Schedule 14 – Position and Object Code Detail

**Operating - Reappropriated Funds**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
2511 - Common Carrier Fares	-	323		
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	-	150		
4140 - Dues and Memberships	-	477		
<b>Total Expenditures for Line Item</b>	\$0	950		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$950</b>	<b>\$950</b>	<b>\$530,950</b>	<b>\$230,950</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$950</b>	<b>\$0</b>		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Legal Services**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
2690 - Legal Services	\$0	\$0		
<b>Total Expenditures Denoted in Object Codes</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,395</b>	<b>\$31,362</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel**  
**Parent Advocates**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services				
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee				
2522 - In-State/Non-Employee - Personal Per Diem				
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee				
2543 - Mileage - Nonemployee, Out of State				
4260 - Nonemployee Expense Reimbursements				
<b>Total Expenditures Denoted in Object Codes</b>	\$0	\$0		
<b>Total Spending Authority / Request for Line Item</b>	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$1,788,591
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	\$0	\$0		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel**  
**Preventative Legal Services**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services				
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee				
2522 - In-State/Non-Employee - Personal Per Diem				
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee				
2543 - Mileage - Nonemployee, Out of State				
4260 - Nonemployee Expense Reimbursements				
<b>Total Expenditures Denoted in Object Codes</b>	\$0	\$0		
<b>Total Spending Authority / Request for Line Item</b>	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,704
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	\$0	\$0		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Training - General Fund**

Schedule 14

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1310 - Honorarium		\$33,055		
1920 - Professional Services		(\$10,188)		
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	\$0	(\$537)		
2250 - Miscellaneous Rentals		\$299		
2253 - Rental of Non-IT Equipment		\$843		
2255 - Rental of Meeting Rooms	1,799	7,378		
2259 - Parking Fee Reimbursement		150		
2510 - General Travel - Employee	4,820	34,342		
2511 - Common Carrier Fares		4,028		
2512 - Meals - Employee	157	1,508		
2513 - Mileage Reimbursement - Employee	49	883		
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	10,012	6,346		
2521 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee	-	1,090		
2522 - Meals - Nonemployee	-	1,695		
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee		1,706		
2530 - General Travel - Employee, Out of State		9,581		
2531 - Out-of-State Common Carrier Fares	-	2,507		
2532 - Meals - Employee, Out of State		2,615		
2540 - General Travel - Nonemployee, Out of State	-	10,927		
2541 - Common Carrier Fares	18	12,092		
2542 - Out-of-State/Non-Employee - Personal Per Diem		2,857		
2543 - Out-of-State/Non-Employee - Personal Vehicle Reimbursement		988		
2680 - Printing & Reproduction Services	50	919		
2820 - Purchased Services	605	35,327		
3110 - Identification & Safety Supplies	537	9,502		
3118 - Food & Food Services Supplies	9,516	65,977		
3120 - Books / Periodicals / Subscriptions				
3121 - Office Supplies	-	1,852		
3123 - Postage				
3128 - Noncapitalized Non-IT Equipment		97		
3140 - Noncapitalized IT - Software and Hdwe		2,496		
3145 - Software Subscriptions	-	4,699		
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	415	1,898		
4180 - Official Functions - Nontaxable		885		
4220 - Registration Fees	75	13,852		
4230 - Registration Fees		750		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$28,053</b>	<b>262,419</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$35,058</b>	<b>\$262,420</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$7,005</b>	<b>\$1</b>		

Schedule 14 – Position and Object Code Detail

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Training - Cash Fund**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1920 - Professional Services	\$101			
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	5,280			
2510 - General Travel - Employee	2,062			
2512 - Meals - Employee	116			
2513 - Mileage Reimbursement - Employee	67			
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	10,312			
2521 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee	575			
2522 - Meals - Nonemployee	279			
2541 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee, Out of State	535			
2542- Personal Per Diem	90			
2820 - Purchased Services	170	6,179		
3118 - Food & Food Services Supplies	8,163	32,058		
3121 - Office Supplies	2,200			
3145 - Software Subscriptions	172			
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	987			
4140 - Dues and Memberships	7,025			
4170- Miscellaneous Fees And Fines	65			
4180 - Official Functions - Nontaxable	-	8,340		
4220 - Registration Fees	668			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$38,867</b>	<b>\$46,577</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$48,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$9,133</b>	<b>\$1,423</b>		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Training - Reappropriated Funds**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1310 - Honorarium	\$0	\$4,960		
1920 - Professional Services	\$0	\$584		
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	\$13,681			
2255 - Rental of Meeting Rooms & Leased Space	11,989			
2260 - Rental - Information Technology	6,045			
2510 - General Travel - Employee	4,585			
2511 - In-State Common Carrier Fares	465			
2512 - Meals - Employee	474			
2513 - Mileage Reimbursement - Employee	187			
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	8,623			
2523 - Employee - Personal Vehicle Reimbursement	668			
2533 - Employee Mileage Reimbursement	20			
2540 - Out-of-State Travel/Non-Employee	2,870			
2541 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee, Out of State	3,001			
2542 - Out-of-State/Non-Employee - Personal Per Diem	145			
2543 - Mileage - Nonemployee, Out of State	225			
2680 - Printing and Reproduction Services	1,637			
2820 - Purchased Services	4,430			
3110 - Supplies and Materials	591	1,268		
3118 - Food & Food Services Supplies	45,406	1,213		
3121 - Office Supplies	10,710	328		
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	444			
4140 - Dues and Memberships	4,500	19,400		
4180 - Official Functions	10,051			
4220 - Registration Fees	518	42		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$131,265</b>	<b>\$27,795</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$131,265</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>	<b>\$102,000</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$205</b>		



**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel**  
**IV-E Legal Reimbursement - Reappropriated Funds**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1622 - Contractual Employee, PERA	\$21			
1624 - Contractual Employee, PERA AED	9			
1625 - Contractual Employee, PERA Supplemental AED	9			
1920 - Personal Services - Professional	12,500	43,579		
1935 - Professional Services Legal (Associated with FY2022-23 activity)	390,322	840,849 *		
1935 - Professional Services Legal (Associated with FY 2023-24 activity)		1,344,099		
1960- Personal Services - Information Technology	13,750	568,000		
2253 - Rental of Non-IT Equipment		206,886		
2255 - Rental of Meeting Rooms & Leased Space	7,000			
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	(2,316)			
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	6,415			
2541 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee, Out of State	583			
2543- Out-of-State/Non-Employee - Personal Vehicle Reimbursement	-	364		
2820 - Purchased Services		3,981		
3118 - Food & Food Services Supplies	84			
3145 - Software Subscriptions		1,191		
4260 - Nonemployee Reimbursement	943	236		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$429,320</b>	<b>\$3,009,185</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$4,975,969</b>	<b>\$4,988,307</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$4,546,649</b>	<b>\$1,979,122</b>		

\* In FY 2022-23, Title IVE eligible contractor billing totaling \$840,848.62 was incorrectly billed to the Court Appointed Counsel (CAC) General Fund long bill line item. This coding error was discovered in FY 2023-24 and immediately resolved by transferring the above amount from the CAC line to the correct appropriation, the Title IVE Long Bill line item. This transfer resulted in a refund to the General Fund in FY 2023-24. Due to accounting financial reporting standards, this correction could not be made directly to prior year financial statements and shows as an adjustment on the year the correction was discovered.

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Court-appointed Counsel - General Fund**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1622 - Contractual Employee, PERA	\$1,056	\$131		
1624 - Contractual Employee, PERA AED	458	56		
1625 - Contractual Employee, PERA Supplemental AED	458	56		
1920 - Professional Services		(2,604)		
1935 - Professional Services Legal (Associated with FY2022-23 activity)	20,531,828	(840,849) *		
1935 - Professional Services Legal (Associated with FY 2023-24 activity)		22,730,885		
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	1,866	1,283		
2522 - In-State/Non-Employee - Personal Per Diem	-			
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	535,539	393,219		
2543 - Mileage - Nonemployee, Out of State	2,239	4,379		
2820 - Purchased Services		11,488		
4260 - Nonemployee Expense Reimbursements	58,802	94,560		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,132,246</b>	<b>\$22,392,604</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$21,370,174</b>	<b>\$24,436,365</b>	<b>\$21,482,404</b>	<b>\$27,468,554</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$237,928</b>	<b>\$2,043,761</b> **		

\* In FY 2022-23, Title IVE eligible contractor billing totaling \$840,848.62 was incorrectly billed to the Court Appointed Counsel (CAC) General Fund long bill line item. This coding error was discovered in FY 2023-24 and immediately resolved by transferring the above amount from the CAC line to the correct appropriation, the Title IVE Long Bill line item. This transfer resulted in a refund to the General Fund in FY 2023-24. Due to accounting financial reporting standards, this correction could not be made directly to prior year financial statements and shows as an adjustment on the year the correction was discovered.

\*\* The true reversion for FY 2023-24 activity is \$1,203,026, inflated to \$2,043,875 by the effect of the prior year's correction. This difference is significant when analyzing balances and forecasting funding availability for the agency.

<b>Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel</b>				<b>Schedule 14</b>
<b>Court-appointed Counsel - Reappropriated Funds</b>				
Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	\$4,811			
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	21			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$4,832</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$287,334</b>	<b>\$344,662</b>	<b>\$6,409,329</b>	<b>\$1,415,605</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$282,502</b>	<b>\$344,662</b>		

<b>Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel</b>				<b>Schedule 14</b>
<b>Mandated Costs - General Fund</b>				
Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1622 - Contractual Employee, PERA	\$1,746	\$1,014		
1624 - Contractual Employee, PERA AED	758	438		
1625 - Contractual Employee, PERA Supplemental AED	758	438		
1920 - Professional Services		1,500		
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	1,287,585	1,422,821		
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	274			
2820 - Purchased Services		(2,161)		
4260 - Nonemployee Reimbursement		780		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,291,121</b>	<b>\$1,424,830</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$1,313,911</b>	<b>\$1,519,560</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>	<b>\$1,114,592</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$22,790</b>	<b>\$94,730</b>		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel  
Grants - Reappropriated Funds**

**Schedule 14**

Object Code & Description	FY 2022-23 Actual	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Appropriation	FY 2025-26 Request
1935 - Professional Services - Legal Services	33,144	4,000		
1920 - Professional Services		1,250		
2512 - Meals - Employee	177			
2513 - Mileage Reimbursement - Employee	97			
2520 - General Travel - Nonemployee	517	12		
2523 - Mileage Reimbursement - Nonemployee	61	82		
2540 - General Travel - Nonemployee, Out of State	406			
2541 - Common Carrier Fares - Nonemployee, Out of State	4,776			
2542 - Meals - Nonemployee, Out of State	199			
2543 - Mileage - Nonemployee, Out of State	73			
2820 - Purchased Services	8,740	11,470		
3121 - Office Supplies	5,392			
3145 - Software Subscriptions	499			
4100 - Other Operating Expenditures	2,904			
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$56,985</b>	<b>\$16,814</b>		
<b>Total Spending Authority after Transfers / Request for Line Item</b>	<b>\$71,305</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>	<b>\$31,095</b>
<b>Amount Under/(Over) Expended</b>	<b>\$14,320</b>	<b>\$14,281</b>		

**Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26**

**Transfers**

Long Bill Line Item	Spending Authority before Transfers	Transfers per C.R.S. 24-75-108 (5)	Use of Footnote Transfer Authority	Benefits Transfers	Rollforward to Subsequent Year	Spending Authority after Transfers
<b><u>FY 2021-22 Transfers</u></b>						
Personal Svcs	1,912,724	-	8,000	391,815	-	2,312,539
Health, Life, and Dental	187,275	-	-	(187,275)	-	-
Short-term Disability	2,437	-	-	(2,437)	-	-
SB 04-257 AED	76,137	-	-	(76,137)	-	-
SB 06-235 SAED	76,137	-	-	(76,137)	-	-
Salary Survey	49,829	-	-	(49,829)	-	-
Merit	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operating	126,400	-	34,500	-	-	160,900
Legal Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-	-	-
Case Management System	-	-	-	-	-	-
Training	106,000	-	9,500	-	-	115,500
Court-appointed Counsel	19,918,541	-	(1,302,000)	-	-	18,616,541
Mandated Costs	1,955,495	-	1,250,000	-	-	3,205,495
Grants - Reappropriated	31,095	-	-	-	-	31,095
	4,741,480	-	-	-	-	4,741,480
Rollforwards from FY21: Personal Services						-
<b>FY 2021-22 Spending Authority</b>	29,183,550	-	-	-	-	29,183,550
Percentage of appropriation allowed as additional transfer authority per Long Bill footnote	5.0%					
Additional Transfer Authority allowed	1,459,178					
Additional Transfer Authority used	1,302,000					

<b>Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26</b>						
<b>Transfers</b>						
Long Bill Line Item	Spending Authority before Transfers	Transfers per C.R.S. 24-75-108 (5)	Use of Footnote Transfer Authority	Benefits Transfers	Rollforward to Subsequent Year	Spending Authority after Transfers
<b><u>FY 2022-23 Transfers</u></b>						
Personal Svcs	2,218,225	-	106,735	496,082	-	2,821,042
Health, Life, and Dental	254,473	-		(254,473)	-	-
Short-term Disability	2,953	-		(2,953)	-	-
SB 04-257 AED	92,283	-		(92,283)	-	-
SB 06-235 SAED	92,283	-		(92,283)	-	-
Salary Survey	54,090	-		(54,090)	-	-
Operating	185,849	-	50,000	-	-	235,849
Training	106,000	-	108,323		-	214,323
Title IV-E Legal Representation	5,025,969	-	(50,000)		-	4,975,969
Court-appointed Counsel	22,247,566	-	(590,058)		-	21,657,508
Mandated Costs	938,911	-	375,000		-	1,313,911
Grants - Reappropriated	71,305	-	-		-	71,305
<b>FY 2022-23 Spending Authority</b>	<b>31,289,907</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,289,907</b>
Percentage of appropriation allowed as additional transfer authority per Long Bill footnote	5.0%					
Additional Transfer Authority allowed	1,564,495					
Additional Transfer Authority used	640,058					
<b><u>FY 2023-24 Transfers</u></b>						
Personal Svcs	2,718,678	-	196,240	662,714	-	3,577,632
Health, Life, and Dental	316,986	-		(316,986)	-	-
Short-term Disability	3,506	-		(3,506)	-	-
SB 04-257 AED	115,969	-		(115,969)	-	-
SB 06-235 SAED	115,969	-		(115,969)	-	-
Salary Survey	110,284	-		(110,284)	-	-
Operating	168,489	-	51,150		-	219,639
Training	106,000	-	232,420		-	338,420
Title IV-E Legal Representation	5,033,297	-	(44,990)		-	4,988,307
Court-appointed Counsel	25,215,847	-	(434,820)		-	24,781,027
Mandated Costs	1,519,560	-			-	1,519,560
Grants - Reappropriated	31,095	-			-	31,095
<b>FY 2023-24 Spending Authority</b>	<b>35,455,680</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,455,680</b>
Percentage of appropriation allowed as additional transfer authority per Long Bill footnote	5.0%					
Additional Transfer Authority allowed	1,772,784					
Additional Transfer Authority used	479,810					

# Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26

## Salary Pots Request Template

### Salary Pots Request Template

	TOTAL FUNDS/FTE FY 2025-26	GENERAL FUND	CASH FUNDS	REAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	FEDERAL FUNDS
<b>I. Continuation Salary Base</b>					
Sum of Filled FTE as of July 31, 2024	20.00	94.129%	0.000%	5.871%	0.0000%
Salary X 12	\$2,611,573	\$2,458,248	\$0	\$153,325	\$0
FUND SPLITS - From Position-by-Position Tab					
PERA (Standard, Trooper, and Judicial Rates) at FY 2025-26 PERA Rates	\$303,203	\$285,402	\$0	\$17,801	\$0
Medicare @ 1.45%	37,868	35,645	\$0	\$2,223	\$0
Subtotal Continuation Salary Base =	\$2,952,644	\$2,779,295	\$0	\$173,349	\$0
<b>II. Salary Survey Adjustments</b>					
System Maintenance Studies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cost of Living Adjustment - Base Building	\$65,289	\$61,456	\$0	\$3,833	\$0
Cost of Living Adjustment - Non-Base Building	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Movement to Statewide Minimum Wage - Base Adjustment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Subtotal - Salary Survey Adjustments</b>	<b>\$65,289</b>	<b>\$61,456</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,833</b>	<b>\$0</b>
PERA (Standard, Trooper, and Judicial Rates) at FY 2025-26 PERA Rates	\$7,580	\$7,135	\$0	\$445	\$0
Medicare @ 1.45%	\$947	\$891	\$0	\$56	\$0
<b>Request Subtotal =</b>	<b>\$73,816</b>	<b>\$69,482</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,334</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>III. Step Pay Adjustments</b>					
Step Increase - Base Adjustment - Classified, Step Eligible	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Step-Like Increase - Base Adjustment - Step-Ineligible	\$16,244	\$15,290	\$0	\$954	\$0
<b>Subtotal - Step Pay Adjustments</b>	<b>\$16,244</b>	<b>\$15,290</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$954</b>	<b>\$0</b>
PERA (Standard, Trooper, and Judicial Rates) at FY 2025-26 PERA Rates	\$1,886	\$1,775	\$0	\$111	\$0
Medicare @ 1.45%	\$235	\$221	\$0	\$14	\$0
<b>Request Subtotal =</b>	<b>\$18,365</b>	<b>\$17,286</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,079</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>IV. Shift Differential</b>					
FY 2023-24 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES for All Occupational Groups	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Actual and Adjustments @ 100%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PERA (Standard, Trooper, and Judicial Rates) at Current PERA Rates	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medicare @ 1.45%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Request Subtotal =</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>V. Revised Salary Basis for Remaining Request Subtotals</b>					
Total Continuation Salary Base, Adjustments, Performance Pay & Shift	\$2,693,106	\$2,534,994	\$0	\$158,112	\$0
<b>VI. Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments</b>					
Revised Salary Basis * 10.00%	\$269,310	\$253,499	\$0	\$15,811	\$0
<b>VII. Short-term Disability</b>					
Revised Salary Basis * 0.15%	\$4,039	\$3,802	\$0	\$237	\$0
<b>VIII. Health, Life, and Dental</b>					
Funding Request	\$394,119	\$373,356	\$0	\$20,763	\$0
<b>IX. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program Premiums</b>					
	\$12,119	\$11,407	\$0	\$712	\$0
		94.7%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%

**Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel FY 2025-26**

**Salary Pots Summary**

<b>Common Policy Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2024-25 Appropriation</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>CF</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>FF</b>
Salary Survey	\$78,343	\$73,430		\$4,913	
Step Pay	\$88,057	\$82,535		\$5,522	
Merit Pay	\$0				
PERA Direct Distribution	\$0				
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	\$11,389	\$10,693		\$696	
Shift	\$0				
Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments	\$253,116	\$237,640		\$15,476	
Short-term Disability	\$3,797	\$3,565		\$232	
Health, Life and Dental	\$384,471	\$374,892		\$9,579	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$819,173</b>	<b>\$782,755</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$36,418</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Common Policy Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2025-26 Total Request</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>CF</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>FF</b>
Salary Survey	\$73,816	\$69,482	\$0	\$4,334	\$0
Step Pay	\$18,365	\$17,286	\$0	\$1,079	\$0
Merit Pay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PERA Direct Distribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	\$12,119	\$11,407	\$0	\$712	\$0
Shift	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments	\$269,310	\$253,499	\$0	\$15,811	\$0
Short-term Disability	\$4,039	\$3,802	\$0	\$237	\$0
Health, Life and Dental	\$394,119	\$373,356	\$0	\$20,763	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$771,768</b>	<b>\$728,832</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$42,936</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Common Policy Line Item</b>	<b>FY 2025-26 Incremental</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>CF</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>FF</b>
Salary Survey	\$73,816	\$69,482	\$0	\$4,334	\$0
Step Pay	\$18,365	\$17,286	\$0	\$1,079	\$0
Merit Pay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
PERA Direct Distribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program	\$730	\$714	\$0	\$16	\$0
Shift	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Unfunded Liability Amortization Equalization Disbursement Payments	\$16,194	\$15,859	\$0	\$335	\$0
Short-term Disability	\$242	\$237	\$0	\$5	\$0
Health, Life and Dental	\$9,648	-\$1,536	\$0	\$11,184	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$118,995</b>	<b>\$102,042</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,953</b>	<b>\$0</b>