

Children's Cabinet

July 25, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on adoption of April meeting minutes
- FY25 Budget Highlights
- Public Comment
- Adjournment

FY2025 Budget Highlights



Department of Administration/Office of Management and Budget

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Department of Administration / OMB

The FY 2025 Budget as Enacted includes many of Governor McKee's proposals to achieve RI 2030 goals: improve educational outcomes, increase per-capita income and enhance health and wellness.

Improve Educational Outcomes

- Additional investments in pre-K (\$7.1M), Learn365/out-of-school learning (\$5M), English & math coaching (\$5M) and Multilingual Learners (\$10.1M, now 20% of Core Instructional Amount)

Increase Per-Capita Incomes

- General Obligation Bond for URI Life Sciences Building (\$87.5M) and RIC Cybersecurity Center (\$73M); historic housing bond (\$120M)

Enhance Health and Wellness

- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (\$27.0M general revenue/\$76.7M all funds); OHIC-recommended provider rate increases; cigarette tax increase and new vape tax; invest JUUL settlement funds into school anti-vaping/smoking initiatives and enforcement

RI Department of Education

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Rhode Island Department of Education

FY25 Budget Highlights

- *Supports for Multilingual Learners:* Increases additional percentage of per student funding for multilingual learners from 15% to 20%
- *Instructional Coaching:* Provides additional \$5 million for a coaching initiative to improve reading and math achievement
- *Learn365RI Grants:* Directs \$5 million to support high-quality, out-of-school time programming, with an emphasis on critical skill development. The Learn365RI initiative prioritizes learning 365 days a year by building partnerships among municipalities, local education agencies, and community organizations
- *Pre-K:* Increases pre-K funding from \$22.9 million to \$29.9 million to bring online 35 new classrooms totaling 700 seats for the 2024-2025 school year. These additional seats will bring Rhode Island's total to approximately 3,000
- *School Meal Eligibility:* Includes \$800,000 to transition approximately 6,500 students from being eligible for reduced-price breakfast and lunch to receiving both meals at no cost

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

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Executive Office of Health and Human Services

FY25 Budget Highlights - Overview of key outcomes for children and youth:

- **Rate Increases:** The budget adds \$163,4 million, including \$64.3 million from general revenues, to fully fund the rate increase for home and community-based, behavioral health, care and children's services recommended by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner as part of the required rate review, effective October 1, 2024.
 - This includes a rate increase for Early Intervention
- **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC):** Includes approval for an October 1st start date for eight CCBHCs, representing 91% state coverage. CCBHCs provide behavioral healthcare for children and must provide Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS), as a required Evidence-Based Practice.
- **FY 25 Revised: (New Funding) 2.5M grant for Children's Health Care in Schools.** Allows Medicaid to submit a State Plan Amendment to permit Local Education Authorities to draw down federal matching dollars for any Medicaid Service for Medicaid enrolled children, including screening (hearing/vision/BH assessments).

Department of Human Services

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Department of Human Services

The Enacted FY25 Budget includes important provisions that support the overarching mission of DHS. Some of the highlights supporting children and families include:

Child Care

- **CCAP Reimbursement Rate Increase:** Rates paid to child care centers serving children in the **Child Care Assistance Program** were raised by 5% in July 2024, the first increase since 2022. This rate increase is comparable to rate increases family child care providers have received through collective bargaining.
- **CCAP Income Limit Increase:** The Child Care Assistance Program will be expanded to help more families starting in January 2025, raising the household income limit to **261% of the federal poverty level** (\$67,390 for a family of three in 2024), the highest level in state history. This policy will enable a two-parent family with one child where both parents are working full-time and earning \$16/hour to qualify for child care assistance.
- **CCAP for ECE Educators Pilot Continuation:** continued through July 2025. This program is designed to help recruit and retain child care educators by covering the cost of child care for the children of staff with household incomes under 300% of the federal poverty level (\$77,460 for a family of three in 2024).

Department of Human Services

- **Creation and implementation of CCAP-approved summer camps:** As of January 2025, DHS will be promulgating regulations to support the licensing of summer camp programming for Rhode Island's children.

Supporting Families

- **RI Works:** The Enacted FY 2025 Budget includes a \$5.4 million increase from federal funds to increase the monthly cash assistance payment made through the Rhode Island Works program by 20%. In addition, RI Works beneficiaries will have additional cash assistance up to \$112.50 because they will be able to keep more of their earned income.
- **SNAP Summer EBT.** The Enacted FY 2025 Budget includes an increase for the administration of a newly available permanent, nationwide Summer EBT Program. This program would provide an estimated \$10.2 million in federal benefits to eligible children in the state, allowing them to continue receiving nutritious food in the summer months.
- **Call Center Workforce Stabilization:** The proposal to increase the Call Center workforce by 10 FTEs was included in the budget, which will reduce wait times and improve overall timeliness for customers contacting the Call Center.

Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

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BHDDH's Division of Behavioral Healthcare

Key Outcomes for Children and Youth in FY24

Healthy Transitions

- In FY24, Healthy Transitions was expanded to be sustained through the CCBHC standards as a required evidence-based program in CCBHC.
- Block grant dollars will be used in FY25 to ensure uninsured and undocumented youth have access to this program for all licensed BHDDH sites.

The Seven Challenges Program

- Expanded Substance and Co-occurring Treatment from three provider sites and the Training School; to Rhode Island Student Assistance Services (RISAS) and private practice clinicians statewide; and as a required evidence-based program CCBHC.
- Treatment includes school based, outpatient, homebased, telehealth, peer-based, family and group counseling.

Seeking Safety

- An evidenced- based model funded by BHDDH to help youth living with trauma to attain safety from the effects of traumatic event(s).
- Three trainings will be offered with up to 300 spaces to providers to help provide the tools to address trauma.

Rhode Island Student Assistance Services

- Currently in 77 middle and high schools across Rhode Island
- Multi-component prevention program includes universal prevention education in grades 8/9, groups for children of parents with substance use disorder, parent education, and SBIRT as needed.
- Some schools also implement additional evidence-based practices such as Life of an Athlete.
- Results: 20% decrease in suicide ideation, 35% lower past month use of cigarettes, 20% lower past month use of alcohol, fewer depressive symptoms, 27% lower past month use of cannabis, 28% lower past month vaping compared to non-RISAS schools.

Community-Based Prevention

- Seven regional prevention task force coalitions consisting of municipal behavioral health coalitions.
- Funding includes federal grants targeting youth alcohol and cannabis use (Partnerships for Success), opioid and stimulant use (State Opioid Response), tobacco/vaping and other substances
- Applies five different strategies: information dissemination, education, community-based process, environmental, and alternative events.



BHDDH-Division of Developmental Disabilities

Key Outcomes for Children and Youth in FY24

- Ensuring transition age youth are able to access funding is a mandate of the Consent Decree Addendum (10/02/2023).
- Youth 18 years and older who have been determined eligible for adult DD services (even those still in school) are able to access funded services to explore or gain employment and to engage in meaningful community activities.
- For FY25 expenditures are estimated to be \$9.9 million for supported employment services. (This funding is for all individuals in the adult DD system, not just those 18-21.)
- Youth are also able to access community-based supports to explore interests within their communities and make meaningful connections prior to exiting school funded services.
- In FY25 individuals and families determined eligible for adult DD services will be able to utilize Peer-to-Peer Supports and Family-to-Family Supports. This is a newer service which will assist in the transition from school funded or children's funded services to the adult service system.



Department of Children, Youth and Families

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FY 25 Enacted Budget

The FY 25 Enacted Budget included \$25.5M GR more than the Governor's Recommended Budget.

New / Increased Funding Items	GR	All Funds
Procurement	\$16M	\$24.6M
Foster Parent Stipends	\$4.5M	\$4.9M
Comprehensive Needs Assessment	\$200K	\$300M
Rate Setting Consultant	\$1M	\$1.5M
Turnover Savings Restoration	\$3.7M	\$4.6M
Wage Stabilization Continuation		\$1.2M
Total	\$25.5M	\$37.1M

FY 25 Enacted Budget

Foster Parent Stipends

Current Rates

Age Range	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
0-3	\$28.32	\$28.32	\$54	\$65	\$77
4-11	\$31.86	\$31.86	\$54	\$65	\$77
12+	\$33.04	\$33.04	\$54	\$65	\$77

New Rates – Effective 8/1/24

Age Range	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	Tier 5
0-3	\$35	\$35	\$75	\$85	\$95
4-11	\$45	\$45	\$75	\$85	\$95
12+	\$55	\$55	\$75	\$85	\$95

Higher Education Opportunity Incentive Grant

- Reduced the length of time youth must be in care to be eligible from 24 to six months.
- Created the Workforce Development Incentive Grant, allowing youth in workforce programs at CCRI to be eligible.

Department of Health

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FY25 Budget Highlights- Early Childhood

- **Home Visiting Programs:** All four of RIDOH's home visiting programs received rate increases through the OHIC review process. This will mitigate program cuts and allow as many families as possible to have their needs met.
- **Lead Registry:** FY'25 Rental Registry budget of \$1.3 million to fund a registry of rental units in RI and allow RIDOH to track lead safety certificates – this will allow RI to determine when landlords are out of compliance with the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act and levy penalties for non-compliance. The act will promote universal compliance with the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act and ensure that every rental unit in RI is safe for occupancy by children under six years of age.

FY25 Budget Highlights- Supporting Safe Youth

- Transfer of \$350,000 JUUL Settlement funds to the Tobacco Control Program to address youth vaping through:

Working with K-12 and post-secondary schools to decrease health disparities and increase positive behavior change by:

- Strengthening school and campus policies to be inclusive of all tobacco/nicotine products.
 - Provide funding, toolkits, and educational workshops on implementing restorative practices for those found in possession.
 - Integrating evidence-based youth vaping prevention educational programming.
 - Invest in educational marketing campaigns tailored to youth.
- **First cigarette excise tax increase since 2017 (0.25, from 4.25 to 4.50):**
RI currently is 5th in the country for highest tax; once the increase goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2025, RI would be tied for 3rd with Washington DC
 - **Safe storage of firearms legislation 2202 SUB A (Senate) and 7373 SUB A (House) signed into law by Governor McKee on 06/13/2024:**
Requires safe storage of firearms/provides civil and criminal penalties for violations/adds rifles and shotguns to the types of firearms requiring a trigger lock to be included with purchase/requires firearms dealers post signs regarding safe storage



Other Budget highlights not reported?

Public Comment

