



Engage families and communities to promote the safety and well-being of children through prevention, intervention, treatment and rehabilitative services.

DSCYF FY26 Operating and Capital Budget Requests

Operating Budget Request						
	Funding		FTE's			
	GF	ASF	GF	ASF	NSF	
FY25 Final Operating Budget	\$218,944.9	\$9,437.8	1,234.4	43.80	31.80	
Door Openers						
Adoption Inflation	\$1,275.0					
Treatment Services	\$2,729.6					
Structural						
Personnel Contingency	\$11,170.4					
SEUS	\$750.1	\$26.5				
Special Projects		\$40.0				
FY26 Requested Operating Budget	\$234,870.0	\$9,504.3	1,234.4	43.80	31.80	

Capital Budget Request	
Request	GF
Secure Care Roof Replacements	\$1,700.0
Stockley Building C-6 Renovation	\$6,000.0
Minor Capital Improvement and Equipment	\$2,000.0
Maintenance and Restoration	\$250.0

The overall mission of the department is to engage families and communities to promote the safety and well-being of children through prevention, intervention, treatment, and rehabilitative services. The Department’s FY26 Operating and Capital Budget requests seek to further our mission by investing in our staff, the children, and families we serve, and the infrastructure necessary for the secure and safe operation of our programs.

DFS Adoption Inflation

The department is mandated by Delaware State Code to provide adoption services to families who adopt eligible youth who have been placed in DSCYF custody by the Family Court. These services are provided through contracts which have not seen an increase in over twenty years. As a result of a recent RFP and newly negotiated contract rates, the cost for this service will increase significantly. Therefore, the department is requesting \$1,275,000 in state general funds to offset this increase.

DFS Treatment

In 2024, Delaware participated in a federally required audit of a state's child welfare system conducted by the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. While Delaware continues to perform well with meeting initial response times for high-risk cases, the State is underperforming in several child welfare measures, including initial response time on low-risk reports, the percentage of family time visits, and meeting the federal monthly caseworker visit contact requirement. To increase contracted case management and family visitation services, the department is requesting \$2.7M in FY26.

Capital Budget Request:

Roof Replacements

The department is requesting \$1,700,000 to complete roof replacement projects at the Stevenson House Detention Center. Funding for the New Castle County Detention Center and Ferris School roof replacements was allocated in FY24 and FY25.

Stockley Building C-6 Renovation

The department is requesting \$6,000,000 for the renovation of an existing facility on the DHSS Stockley campus for use as a 12-bed congregate foster care setting. This facility will be used as a no eject/no reject shelter for youth experiencing foster care which will help eliminate the need to have youth sleeping in DFS offices. A design proposal was completed in August 2024. This project will require an operating budget contractual expense.

Minor Capital Improvement and Equipment

The department is requesting \$2,000,000 for Minor Capital Improvements. This funding will support:

- Ongoing enhancement to site security and surveillance systems
- Replacement of building HVAC and electrical systems and equipment
- Ongoing maintenance and upgrades to living quarters in residential facilities

Maintenance and Restoration

The department is requesting \$250,000 for Maintenance and Restoration. In FY26, the department will maintain 17 state-owned buildings varying in age and usage. This funding supports repairs and replacements necessary to adequately maintain the health and safety of clients, staff, and the public.