Redbook

LBO Analysis of Executive Budget Proposal

Department of Youth Services

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Catalog of Budget Line Items (COBLI) Appropriation Spreadsheet

LBO Redbook

Department of Youth Services

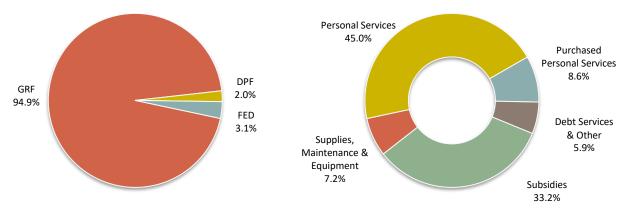
Quick look...

- The appropriations for the Department of Youth Services (DYS) are primarily supported by the GRF, which constitutes 95% of the Department's total FY 2026-FY 2027 biennial budget.
- DYS plans to allocate a total of \$49.3 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 to juvenile courts to provide services and programs to divert at-risk, unruly, and delinquent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. These grants are supported by the GRF as part of the Department's RECLAIM Ohio program and the Youth Services Block Grant.
- In addition to institutional operating expenses, DYS finances a range of community-based programs, including behavioral health services, wrap-around services for youth released from juvenile correctional facilities, and other residential and nonresidential services.

Fund Group	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
General Revenue (GRF)	\$243,684,685	\$264,043,179	\$281,432,565	\$284,675,099
Dedicated Purpose (DPF)	\$5,009,977	\$5,688,400	\$5,888,309	\$6,123,684
Federal (FED)	\$12,135,891	\$8,734,800	\$9,103,662	\$9,250,163
Total	\$260,830,552	\$278,466,379	\$296,424,536	\$300,048,946
% change		6.8%	6.4%	1.2%
GRF % change		8.4%	6.6%	1.2%

Chart 1: DYS Budget by Fund Group FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium

Chart 2: DYS Budget by Expense Category FY 2026-FY 2027 Biennium



Biennial total: \$596.5 million

Overview

Agency overview

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) is a cabinet-level agency managed by a director appointed by the Governor. The Department's role is to enhance public safety through the confinement of juvenile felony offenders and the provision or support of various institutional and community-based programs to aid in the rehabilitation of delinquent juveniles. For that purpose, the Department most notably:

- Funds the Circleville, Cuyahoga Hills, and Indian River state-operated juvenile correctional facilities with populations of 144, 180, and 165, respectively, as of January 23, 2025;
- Operates two regional parole offices;
- Funds three community-based alternative placement options (Applewood Centers, Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek, and Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Centers);
- Funds 11 county-operated community corrections facilities (CCFs); and
- Finances a range of community-based programs, including behavioral health services, wrap-around services for youth released from juvenile correctional facilities, and other residential and nonresidential services.

Appropriation summary

The executive budget provides a total appropriation of \$296.4 million in FY 2026 and \$300.0 million in FY 2027. The table and Chart 1 shown in the "**Quick look**" section present the executive recommended appropriations by fund group. As shown in Chart 1, DYS relies primarily on GRF funding, which constitutes 95% of the proposed funding for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium, to fulfill its duties and deliver juvenile justice system services.

Chart 2 in the "**Quick look**" section shows the executive recommended appropriations by object of expense. As seen in the chart, 45% of DYS's proposed budget is allocated for personal services, essentially payroll-related expenses associated with institutional, parole, and program management staff. Another 33% is allocated as subsidies, and the remaining 22% is comprised of purchased personal services (9%), supplies, maintenance, and equipment (7%), and other (6%). The "Other" expense category consists of: (1) debt services, (2) judgments, settlements, and bonds, and (3) transfers and nonexpense.

Agency staffing levels

Table 1 below shows DYS's staffing level trends from FY 2020 through FY 2024, as well as estimated staffing levels for the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium.

Table 1. DYS Annual Staffing Trend, FY 2020-FY 2027*							
Appointment Type	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026-2027 Estimate
Full-Time Permanent	986	935	935	919	932	971	1,015
Part-Time Permanent	1	1	1				5
Other**	27	6	2	10	8	8	
Total	1,014	942	938	929	940	979	1,020
# Change	N/A	-72	-4	-9	11	39	41
% Change	N/A	-7.1%	-0.4%	-1.0%	1.2%	4.1%	4.2%

*These are annual totals that are averaged from monthly values available from DataOhio's State Employee Trends. FY 2025 actual is as of February 12, 2025. FYs 2026-2027 are estimates from the Department's FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget Request.

**"Other" includes a mix of full- and part-time intermittent, interim and project appointments.

The Department has historically experienced a high level of Juvenile Correctional Officer (JCO) turnover. As of February 7, 2025, 319, or about 75.8%, of the Department's 421 available JCO positions were filled. According to the Department's budget request, DYS plans to increase the number of filled positions by 16.3%, to 371, during the FY 2026-FY 2027 biennium. Once filled, 88.1% of available JCO positions will be filled, leaving 50 positions unfilled.

Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 budget proposal

Introduction

This section provides an analysis of the executive recommended funding for each appropriation line item (ALI) in the Department of Youth Services' (DYS) budget. For organizational purposes, these ALIs are grouped into seven major categories based on their funding purposes. The analysis for an ALI with a lower category or subcategory designation will appear before that for an ALI with a higher category or subcategory designation. That is, the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:3 will appear before the analysis for an ALI with a category designation of C1:8.

To aid the reader in locating each ALI in the analysis, the following table shows the category in which each ALI has been placed, listing the ALIs in order within their respective fund groups and funds.

In the analysis, each ALI's estimated expenditures for FY 2025 and recommended appropriations for FY 2026 and FY 2027 are listed in a table. Following the table, a narrative describes the line item's funding source(s) and purpose(s).

The narrative is divided into seven categories: (1) RECLAIM, (2) Parole Operations, (3) Institutional Operations, (4) Independent Juvenile Court Subsidies, (5) Program Management, (6) Federal Juvenile Justice Grants, and (7) Debt Service.

Ca	Categorization of DYS Appropriation Line Items for Analysis of FY 2026-FY 2027 Budget Proposal						
Fund	ALI	ALI ALI Name Category					
Genera	al Revenue	Fund					
GRF	470401	RECLAIM Ohio	1:1	RECLAIM			
GRF	470412	Juvenile Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments	7:1	Debt Service			
GRF	470510	Youth Services	4:1	Independent Juvenile Court Subsidies			
GRF	472321	Parole Operations	2:1	Parole Operations			
GRF	477321	Administrative Operations	5:1	Program Management			
Dedica	ted Purpos	e Fund Group					
1470	470612	Vocational Education	3:1	Institutional Operations			
1750	470613	Education Services	3:2	Institutional Operations			
4790	470609	Employee Food Service	3:3	Institutional Operations			
4A20	470602	Child Support	5:2	Program Management			
4G60	470605	Juvenile Special Revenue – Non-Federal	6:2	Federal Juvenile Justice Grants			
5BN0	470629	E-Rate Program	5:3	Program Management			

FundALIALI NameCategoryFederal Fund Group3210470601Education3:4Institutional Operations3210470603Juvenile Justice Prevention6:3Federal Juvenile Justice Grants
3210 470601 Education 3:4 Institutional Operations
3210 470603 luvenile lustice Prevention 6:3 Federal luvenile lustice Grants
3210 470606 Nutrition 3:5 Institutional Operations
3210 470614 Title IV-E Reimbursements 3:6 Institutional Operations
3V50 470604 Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention 6:1 Federal Juvenile Justice Grants

Category 1: RECLAIM

The RECLAIM (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) funding category provides 74%, or \$439.0 million, of DYS's FY 2026-FY 2027 biennial budget total of \$596.5 million, and, of that biennial budget, 78% of the total GRF appropriation. RECLAIM funding pays for a variety of services and activities associated with institutional services, juvenile court subsidies, community programs, and program management.

C1:1: RECLAIM Ohio (ALI 470401)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 470401, RECLAIM Ohio		\$196,391,179	\$218,505,972	\$220,528,981
	% change		11.3%	0.9%

The following table shows DYS's planned allocation of this line item's funding by program area and is followed by a narrative describing how that money will be used.

RECLAIM-Funded Program Area	FY 2026	FY 2027
Institutional Operations Total	\$111,551,727	\$115,681,740
Juvenile Correctional Facilities	\$104,118,345	\$108,248,358
Private Facility Contracts	\$7,433,382	\$7,433,382
Juvenile Courts and Community	\$81,883,295	\$84,254,205
RECLAIM County Subsidy	\$32,600,000	\$32,600,000
Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs)	\$36,241,248	\$38,605,727
County Detention Centers	\$735,955	\$736,000
Community Programs	\$12,113,811	\$12,113,811
Federal Juvenile Justice Programs Match	\$192,281	\$198,667
Program Management	\$25,070,950	\$20,593,036
Total	\$218,505,972	\$220,528,981

Juvenile Correctional Facilities

This RECLAIM-funded program area pays for the majority of DYS's operating expenses related to institutional services and activities provided to youth housed in the Circleville, Cuyahoga Hills, and Indian River juvenile correctional facilities. DYS plans to allocate \$104.1 million for the operation of its juvenile correctional facilities in FY 2026 and \$108.2 million in FY 2027.

Private FACILITY Contracts

DYS plans to allocate \$7.4 million for each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 for "private facility contracts" to provide alternative placements for females and certain male offenders.

Private Contracts for Females. DYS currently contracts with: (1) the Cleveland-based Applewood Centers to provide specialized residential programming to females committed to the Department's custody, and (2) the Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services to provide 15 beds for females committed to the Department. DYS also contracts with Springfield-based Oesterlen, and Columbus-based Buckeye Ranch on an as-needed basis for female youth who are medically stable, exhibit behavior problems that warrant intensive and secure residential treatment, and who may have a history of chemical abuse or addiction.

Paint Creek. DYS currently contracts with Lighthouse Youth Center – Paint Creek, a nonsecure treatment-intense facility located in Ross County, for 48 male youth beds as an alternative to placement in one of the three juvenile correctional facilities. Paint Creek provides cognitive-based therapy and specialized chemical dependency and sex offender services and has contracted for beds with DYS since the facility opened in 1986.

RECLAIM County Subsidy

RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that encourages juvenile courts to develop or purchase a range of community-based options to meet the needs of juvenile offenders or youth at risk of offending as an alternative to incarceration. The RECLAIM County Subsidy, which provides as much as half of a juvenile court's annual budget, is allocated to counties through a formula based upon each county's proportion of statewide felony delinquent adjudications, is the primary source of funding for RECLAIM Ohio. By diverting youth from DYS correctional facilities, a juvenile court is able to increase the amount of local RECLAIM funding available to them and admissions to DYS custody are limited to the more serious offenders.

For each of FY 2026 and FY 2027, DYS plans to allocate \$32.6 million in RECLAIM funding for the RECLAIM County Subsidy Program.

Community Corrections Facilities

Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) are local, secure, county-operated facilities and are fully funded by DYS. The Department plans to allocate \$36.2 million in FY 2026 and \$38.6 million in FY 2027 of its RECLAIM funding for CCFs.

These facilities are generally able to provide more individualized care for juvenile offenders by keeping them closer to their communities in less expensive settings for shorter periods, while also supporting a better transition to community settings following release. These beds are for felony adjudicated delinquent children who would otherwise be committed to a

state juvenile correctional facility. Money allocated from DYS's annual RECLAIM appropriation currently funds 329 beds at 11 CCFs located around the state. In FY 2024, CCFs served 351 youth, with an average stay of 6.5 months.

County Detention Centers

From its RECLAIM Ohio appropriation, DYS plans to distribute \$735,955 in FY 2026 and \$736,000 in FY 2027 to the 36 county detention centers throughout the state.

Community Programs

This is a flexible pot of money that can be allocated for a range of services and activities, including supplementing the county subsidy portion of RECLAIM and financing behavioral health programs, wrap-around services for youth released from juvenile correctional facilities, and other residential and nonresidential services. DYS plans to use the Community Programs allocation to fund three distinct programs or services: (1) Competitive RECLAIM, (2) Targeted RECLAIM, and (3) the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) initiative. These programs or services are aimed at reducing the number of juveniles that might otherwise be committed into the state's care and custody.

Of its executive recommended RECLAIM funding, DYS plans to allocate \$12.1 million in each of FY 2026 and FY 2027 for the continuation of Competitive RECLAIM, Targeted RECLAIM, and the BHJJ initiative.

Competitive RECLAIM. Competitive RECLAIM is a performance-driven grant program that provides funding to selected juvenile courts to serve adjudicated felony and misdemeanor youth as well as some nonadjudicated court-involved youth by implementing or expanding evidence-based and evidence-informed programs in their county. Services provided include a combination of diversion programming, evidence-based programs for youth at moderate or high risk to reoffend, and in-home interventions delivered regionally. Competitive RECLAIM is open to all 88 juvenile courts with opportunities for both single-county programs, as well as regionalized in-home services to multiple counties.

Targeted RECLAIM. Targeted RECLAIM uses model and evidence-based programs to divert appropriate felony youth from commitment to the care and custody of DYS and into effective community-based alternatives. Funding for Targeted RECLAIM is awarded, budgeted, and expended in conjunction with the juvenile courts' RECLAIM programs and services and is currently limited to 15 counties (Allen, Ashtabula, Butler, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Medina, Montgomery, Stark, Summit, and Trumbull) because of their history of a disproportionate number of commitments. Services provided include Multi-Systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Integrated Co-Occurring Treatment, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, High Fidelity Wraparound, Assertive Community Treatment, the Strengthening Families Program, and two community-based treatment centers.

Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice (BHJJ) initiative. BHJJ is a shared statewide initiative between the departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Youth Services that currently funds ten local programs serving 15 counties. The funds divert serious juvenile offenders with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders from the juvenile justice system and into community-based treatment. In addition to providing many of the same services as

Targeted RECLAIM, BHJJ is also part of the System of Care statewide initiative which is comprised of cross-system funding used to support child and youth behavioral prevention, early identification, and treatment.

Juvenile Justice Programs

Of the executive recommended RECLAIM funding, \$192,281 in FY 2026 and \$198,667 in FY 2027 is expected to be allocated for administrative cash match needs on federal grants that provide funding to local communities and youth-serving agencies to deliver programs and services to youth.

Program Management

Of its executive recommended RECLAIM funding, DYS plans to allocate \$25.1 million in FY 2026 and \$20.6 million in FY 2027 for its central office operations (a funding category herein referred to as "Program Management").

Temporary law

The executive budget contains temporary law that:

- Permits the Department, for purposes of implementing juvenile sentencing reforms, to use up to \$1,375,000 of the unexpended, unencumbered balance of the portion of GRF appropriation item 470401, RECLAIM Ohio, that is allocated to juvenile correctional facilities in each fiscal year to expand Targeted RECLAIM, the BHJJ, and other evidencebased community programs; and
- Permits a juvenile court, in collaboration with that county's family and children first council, to transfer portions of its allocations from one or both of GRF appropriation items 470401, RECLAIM Ohio, and 470510, Youth Services, to a flexible funding pool as authorized by Section 423.100 (Family and Children First Flexible Funding Pool) of H.B. 96.

Category 2: Parole Operations

This category of appropriation line items provides funds for DYS's Division of Parole and Community Services that operates two regional parole offices for the purpose of supervising juveniles released from state juvenile correctional facilities or alternative placements, or brought into Ohio through the Interstate Compact for Juveniles. Parole operations can be grouped into two distinct services and activities: (1) parole operations and (2) contract treatment. Under the executive budget, approximately 4% of DYS's annual operating budget is allocated for parole operations.

Fund/ALIFY 2025
EstimateFY 2026
IntroducedFY 2027
IntroducedGRF ALI 472321, Parole Operations\$11,500,000\$11,547,202\$11,926,365% change--0.4%3.3%

C2:1: Parole Operations (ALI 472321)

This line item supports DYS's two regional parole office operations (e.g., juvenile parole officers, safety vehicles and equipment, staff training, office maintenance, security and maintenance of youth records, and other confidential correspondence) and paroled youth services, including housing, public assistance, education and treatment for medical, mental health, and substance abuse. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Category 3: Institutional Operations

This category of line items pays for services and activities provided by DYS to youth in its care and custody. This includes behavioral health services, medical services, security, education, and food services.

In addition to the line items listed in this category, a portion of DYS's institutional operating costs are also paid from the Department's RECLAIM Ohio funding (GRF line item 470401), Child Support (DPF line item 470602), and Juvenile Special Revenue – Non-Federal (DPF line item 470605). The allocation of RECLAIM funding across a range of DYS's services and activities is discussed under "**Category 1: RECLAIM**."

The specific types of institutional services and activities include:

- Behavioral Health Services. Mental health services (psychology and psychiatry), social services (social work and case management), recovery services (substance abuse assessment and treatment), sex offender assessment and programming, and ancillary therapies (occupational, music, and art therapies).
- Medical and Dietary Services. Physical health and wellness services, acute and chronic care, disease management, and dental and nutritional services.
- Educational Services. Standards-based curriculum intended to mirror education opportunities in the community, special education services, career technology, and General Educational Development (GED) classes.
- Facility Operations. Unit management, security, institutional coordination and oversight, maintenance, support services, community partnerships, religious services, and strengthbased behavior management.

C3:1: Vocational Education (ALI 470612)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 1470 ALI 470612, Vocational Education	\$1,482,700	\$1,436,125	\$1,494,968
% change		-3.1%	4.1%

This line item supports the delivery of vocational education services and programs to youth who are incarcerated in state juvenile correctional facilities. Its appropriation is drawn from program payments transferred from the Ohio Department of Education. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C3:2: Education Services (ALI 470613)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 1750 ALI 470613, Education Services	\$3,915,300	\$4,140,884	\$4,317,416
% change		5.8%	4.3%

This line item supports educational services for youth in DYS custody, including earning a high school diploma or GED, programming for graduates to learn employment skills or to pursue secondary education opportunities. The Department operates Buckeye United Schools, its own school district, under a charter from the Ohio Department of Education. This line item is funded through basic aid and special education program payments transferred from the Ohio Department of Education.

The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C3:3: Employee Food Service (ALI 470609)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4790 ALI 470609, Employee Food Service	\$21,400	\$30,300	\$30,300
% change		41.6%	0.0%

This line item supports the purchase of food, supplies, and equipment for DYS facility food service operations. Its appropriation is supported by revenue generated from the sale of meals to employees within DYS facilities. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C3:4: Education (ALI 470601)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
FED Fund 3210 ALI 470601, Education		\$1,046,900	\$1,899,343	\$1,956,154
	% change		81.4%	3.0%

This line item supports DYS's institutional education program, including academic, vocational, special education, remedial, and individualized programming. Its appropriation is drawn from money awarded under the Title I Part D, IDEA-B Special Education, and Carl Perkins Career Technical and Adult Education federal grant programs. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027. Increased funding is attributable to carryover and an increase in grant awards to provide additional education services including grant funded staffing increases according to the Department's budget request.

C3:5: Nutrition (ALI 470606)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
FED Fund 3210 ALI 470606, Nutrition		\$1,055,000	\$1,551,000	\$1,551,000
	% change		47.0%	0.0%

This line item supports DYS's institutional food services program, including the purchase of food and supplies. Its appropriation is drawn from federal funding awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service and passed through the Ohio Department of Education for breakfasts, lunches, and snacks for DYS committed youth. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027 which is tied to an increasing youth population that results in increased food costs but also additional revenue to help offset these increased costs.

C3:6: Title IV-E Reimbursements (ALI 470614)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
FED Fund 3210 ALI 470614, Title IV-E Reimbursements	\$1,406,000	\$1,521,776	\$1,529,243
% change		8.2%	0.5%

This line item supports costs associated with administrative operations and contracts with nonsecure private facilities, primarily the Paint Creek Lighthouse Youth Center located in Ross County. The funds are appropriated from federal Title IV-E reimbursements drawn from the Department of Job and Family Services' federal Foster Care Program. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Category 4: Independent Juvenile Court Subsidies

This category of line items is used to distribute money to juvenile courts for the development, implementation, and operation of secure and nonsecure community programs for at-risk, unruly, and delinquent youth.

In addition to the line item listed in this category, juvenile court subsidies are paid from DYS's RECLAIM Ohio funding (GRF line item 470401). Together, RECLAIM and the Youth Services Grant make up the DYS Subsidy Grant. The allocation of RECLAIM funding across a range of DYS's services and activities is discussed under "**Category 1: RECLAIM**." Although the funds for the DYS Subsidy Grant are allocated separately, juvenile courts are not required to account for expenditures separately.

C4:1: Youth Services (ALI 470510)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 470510, Youth Services		\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000
	% change		0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports the Youth Services Block Grant Program, which distributes funds to juvenile courts to divert at-risk, unruly, and delinquent youth from entering the juvenile justice system; such services typically include nonsecure community programs that emphasize prevention, diversion, intervention, and treatment programs. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Unlike RECLAIM program funding, which is dependent on the number of youths diverted from state juvenile correctional facilities by a juvenile court, the Youth Services Block Grant is distributed to juvenile courts according to a set formula. Under that formula, each juvenile court is guaranteed a base of \$50,000 plus additional funding on a per-capita basis for counties with a population over 25,000.

Category 5: Program Management

This category of line items supports central office operations. In addition to the items listed in this category, a portion of DYS's program management costs are paid from RECLAIM Ohio funding (GRF line item 470401). The allocation of RECLAIM funding across a range of the Department's services and activities is discussed under "**Category 1: RECLAIM**." Other line items appropriated for DYS's use may also be used to provide supplemental funding for program management operations.

C5:1: Administrative Operations (ALI 477321)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 477321, Administrative Operations		\$16,000,000	\$17,177,391	\$18,017,753
	% change		7.4%	4.9%

This line item supports operating expenses associated with the Department's program management and administrative operations, including payroll for administrative staff. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C5:2: Child Support (ALI 470602)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4A20 ALI 470602, Child Support		\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95 <i>,</i> 000
	% change		0.0%	0.0%

This line item supports behavioral health programming for youth in DYS's custody, administrative costs, and funding to support the programmatic and independent living needs for youth on parole. Its appropriation is drawn from: (1) child support payments collected from noncustodial parents on behalf of youth committed to DYS's custody, and (2) fees received from the Social Security Administration for identifying adjudicated delinquents that are no longer eligible to receive benefits.

The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C5:3: E-Rate Program (ALI 470629)

Fund/ALI		FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 5BN0 ALI 470629, E-Rate Program		\$59,000	\$71,000	\$71,000
	% change		20.3%	0.0%

This line item draws its appropriation from the E-Rate Program, which is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission and is used to pay telecommunications and internet services costs for DYS's institutional school district. The E-Rate Program uses fees paid by telecommunications providers to assist eligible schools and libraries in obtaining affordable Internet access and telecommunications services.

The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Category 6: Federal Juvenile Justice Grants

This category of line items consists of juvenile justice grants awarded by the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In addition to the line items listed in this category, a portion of DYS's federal juvenile justice grants program costs are paid from RECLAIM Ohio funding. The allocation of RECLAIM funding across a range of DYS services and activities is discussed under "**Category 1: RECLAIM**."

C6:1: Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention (ALI 47060)4)
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Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
FED Fund 3V50 ALI 470604, Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention	\$1,912,500	\$1,657,737	\$1,731,824
% change		-13.3%	4.5%

This line item, which consists of federal money awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), is used to provide subgrants to local governments and nonprofit agencies to implement various programs that address juvenile delinquency and its prevention. The primary award supporting this line item is the Title II Formula Grant.

Title II Formula Grant funds are awarded annually by DYS through a competitive application process to juvenile justice professional and youth serving agencies across the state for up to four years subject to satisfactory performance and available funding.

The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
DPF Fund 4G60 ALI 470605, Juvenile Special Revenue – Non-Federal	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000
% change		0.0%	0.0%

C6:2: Juvenile Special Revenue – Non-Federal (ALI 470605)

This line item's appropriation is supported by miscellaneous revenue streams, including foundation grants, sales from recycled products, utility savings programs, and interagency agreements with other state agencies. The current revenue stream is used to plan and monitor detention reforms, find detention alternatives, and support sustainability programs. The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

C6:3: Juvenile Justice Prevention (ALI 470603)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
FED Fund 3210 ALI 470603, Juvenile Justice Prevention	\$2,747,300	\$2,473,806	\$2,481,942
% change		-10.0%	0.3%

This line item is used to expend miscellaneous grants awarded by federal agencies other than the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or received as pass-through awards from other state of Ohio agencies when the source is federal funding. Current awards support: (1) personal responsibility education aimed at reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, (2) behavioral health services, and (3) identification and response to juvenile victims of human trafficking.

The executive budget fully funds the requested appropriation for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Category 7: Debt Service

This funding category includes money appropriated to retire bond debt related to various capital improvement projects financed through the Juvenile Correctional Building Fund (Fund 7028).

C7:1: Juvenile Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments (ALI 470412)

Fund/ALI	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced
GRF ALI 470412, Juvenile Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments	\$23,450,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000
% change		-25.4%	0.0%

This line item pays for the state's debt service obligations incurred as a result of issuing bonds that cover DYS's capital appropriations. The money made available as a result of these bonds has financed the design, construction, renovation, and rehabilitation phases of various departmental capital projects, as well as the construction and renovation costs associated with local projects, including community corrections facilities and county detention centers. OBM, not DYS, sets the appropriation and controls the actual spending levels.

Facts and figures

Population summary

The Department confines male and female offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. While the Department can keep an offender until the age of 21, the committing offense must have occurred before the offender reached 18 years of age. Juvenile court judges impose minimum sentences as prescribed by law, but the actual length of stay varies and is based on several factors.

A selective summary of the Department's facility and parole population statistics for FY 2024 follows:

- Average length of facility stay: 15.6 months;
- Average length of parole stay: 10.9 months;
- Average daily facility population: 519;
- Average daily parole population: 265;
- Average per-diem cost to house, care for, and treat a juvenile offender: \$610.42.¹
- Three counties accounted for nearly half of all admissions: Cuyahoga (73 youth or 19.2%), Franklin (63 youth or 16.5%), and Hamilton (41 youth or 10.8%).

Youth committed for felony offense

Table 2 below shows the number of juveniles admitted annually to the care and custody of DYS from FY 2020 through FY 2024.

Table 2. Youth Admissions, FY 2020-FY 2024					
Youth 2020 2021 2022 2023 202					
Number of Youth	266	287	359	344	381
# Change	N/A	21	72	-15	37
% Change	N/A	7.9%	25.1%	-4.2%	10.8%

*Extracted from DYS "Youth Services Admissions" dataset located on DataOhio.

Gun specification population

Table 3 below summarizes the subset of youth committed annually to DYS with a gun specification from FY 2020-FY 2024.

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¹ FY 2024 was a leap year, meaning that the per diem was calculated based on 366 days.

Table 3. Gun Specification Commitments, FY 2020-FY 2024								
Gun Specification	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024			
Number of Youth	84	116	143	131	144			
# Change	N/A	32	27	-11	13			
% Change	N/A	38.1%	23.3%	-7.7%	9.9%			

*Extracted from DYS "Youth Servcies Gun Specification Population" dataset located on DataOhio.

Sex offender population

Table 4 below summarizes the subset of youth committed annually to DYS for a sex offense from FY 2020-FY 2024.

Table 4. Sex Offender Commitments, FY 2020-FY 2024								
Sex Offender	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024			
Number of Youth	34	40	33	52	37			
# Change	N/A	6	-7	19	-15			
% Change	N/A	17.6%	-17.5%	57.6%	-28.8%			

*Extracted from DYS "Youth Services Sex Offender Population" dataset located on DataOhio.

Transfers to adult court

Table 5 below summarizes the number of youth transferred annually to adult court by their level of felony offense from FY 2019-FY 2023.

Table 5. Youth Transfers to Adult Court, FY 2019-FY 2023									
Felony Level	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023				
Aggravated Murder/Murder	17	23	40	43	62				
Felony 1	131	111	113	90	79				
Felony 2	32	31	24	19	23				
Felony 3	18	18	11	6	7				
Felony 4	8	5	9	1	2				
Felony 5	3	4	0	1	2				
Total	209	192	197	160	175				

*Extracted from DYS "Youth Transferred to Adult Court" dataset located on DataOhio.

General Keve	nue Funu					
GRF 470401	L RECLAIM Ohio					
FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced	
\$167,933,224	\$174,987,951	\$185,561,440	\$196,391,179	\$218,505,972	\$220,528,981	
% change	4.2%	6.0%	5.8%	11.3%	0.9%	
Source:	General Revenue	Fund				
Legal Basis:	R.C. 5139.41; Sect 152 of the 120th 0		. 33 of the 135th (G.A. (originally est	ablished by H.B.	
Purpose:						

GRF 470412	GRF 470412 Juvenile Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments							
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027			
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced			
\$19,051,405	\$15,275,144	\$15,299,505	\$23,450,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000			
% change	-19.8%	0.2%	53.3%	-25.4%	0.0%			
Source:	General Revenue F	und						
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 111 of the 118th G.A.)							
Purpose:	This line item is used to make debt service payments required to retire bonds issued to fund the Department of Youth Services' capital appropriations.							

GRF 470510	Youth Services				
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced
\$16,702,728	\$16,702,728	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000
% change	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Source: General Revenue Fund

General Revenue Fund

Legal Basis: R.C. 5139.34; Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 440 of the 114th G.A.)

Purpose: This line item funds the Youth Services Block Grant, a subsidy program through which all juvenile courts receive money to provide services and programs to divert at-risk, unruly, and delinquent youths from entering the juvenile justice system. Each juvenile court is guaranteed a base of \$50,000 plus additional funding on a per capita basis for counties with a population over 25,000.

General Reve	General Revenue Fund								
GRF 47232	Parole Operation	าร							
FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced				
\$9,281,715	\$10,484,008	\$10,157,609	\$11,500,000	\$11,547,202	\$11,926,365				
% change	13.0%	-3.1%	13.2%	0.4%	3.3%				
Source:	General Revenue F	und							
Legal Basis:	al Basis: Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 117 of the 121st G.A.)								
Purpose:									

GRF 47732	1 Administrative C	Operations						
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027			
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced			
\$14,027,835	\$14,457,070	\$15,964,131	\$16,000,000	\$17,177,391	\$18,017,753			
% change	3.1%	10.4%	0.2%	7.4%	4.9%			
Source:	General Revenue	und						
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 117 of the 121st G.A.)							
Purpose:	This line item funds operating expenses associated with the Department of Youth Services' central office operations.							

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group

1470 47061	2 Vocational Educ	ation						
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027			
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced			
\$1,344,520	\$1,316,209	\$1,469,411	\$1,482,700	\$1,436,125	\$1,494,968			
% change	-2.1%	11.6%	0.9%	-3.1%	4.1%			
Source:	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Vocational education program payments transferred from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's operating budget							
Legal Basis:		Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on January 9, 1984)						
Purpose:	This line item funds the costs of providing vocational education services and activities to youth incarcerated in Department of Youth Services' institutions.							

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group								
1750 470613	B Education Servic	es						
FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced			
\$1,972,567	\$2,468,439	\$3,399,668	\$3,915,300	\$4,140,884	\$4,317,416			
% change	25.1%	37.7%	15.2%	5.8%	4.3%			
Source:	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Basic aid and special education program payments transferred from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce							
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H 118th G.A.)	H.B. 33 of the 135	th G.A. (originally	established by H.	B. 111 of the			
Purpose:								

4790 47060	9 Employee Food	Service				
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced	
\$11,138	\$4,244	\$15,710	\$21,400	\$30,300	\$30,300	
% change	-61.9%	270.2%	36.2%	41.6%	0.0%	
Source:	Dedicated Purpose	e Fund Group: Ins	titutional cafeteri	a and surplus prop	perty sales	
Legal Basis:	R.C. 5139.86; Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board in March 1982)					
Purpose:	This line item is used to purchase food, supplies, and cafeteria equipment for Department of Youth Services' institutions.					

4A20 47060	2 Child Support							
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027			
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced			
\$60,034	\$74,520	\$71,084	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000			
% change	24.1%	-4.6%	33.6%	0.0%	0.0%			
Source:	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: (1) Child support payments collected from non- custodial parents on behalf of youth committed to the Department of Youth Services' custody, and (2) fees received from the Social Security Administration for identifying adjudicated delinguents that are no longer eligible to receive benefits							
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of I on August 3, 1992)		th G.A. (originally	established by Cc	ontrolling Board			
Purpose:	management, insti	This line item supports a varying mix of Department of Youth Services' program management, institutional services, and parole operation costs, including services for youth under its control and custody.						

Dedicated Purpose Fund Group										
4G60 47060	470605 Juvenile Special Revenue - Non-Federal									
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2024 FY 2025		FY 2027					
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced					
\$4,348	\$1,592	\$47,365	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000					
% change	-63.4%	2,876.1%	142.8%	0.0%	0.0%					
Source:	Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Miscellaneous revenue, including foundation grants, sales from recycled products, utility savings programs, and interagency agreements with other state agencies									
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of in April 1994)	H.B. 33 of the 135	th G.A. (originally	established by Co	ontrolling Board					
Purpose:	Since FY 2011, revenue has included grants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Since FY 2016, revenue generated through recycling and energy usage savings is used to support an environmental sustainability program.									
5BN0 47062	9 E-Rate Program									
FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced					

FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced	
\$10,800	\$37,958	\$6,739	\$59,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	
% change	251.5%	-82.2%	775.5%	20.3%	0.0%	
Source: Dedicated Purpose Fund Group: Reimbursement credits from telecommunicat vendors that participate in the E-Rate Program						

Legal Basis: Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on March 14, 2005)

Purpose: This line item funds telecommunications and data-communications costs of the Department of Youth Services' institutional school district, which is a chartered entity that serves students in grades 6-12.

Federal Fund Group							
3210 47060	1 Education						
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027		
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced		
\$834,922	\$1,174,112	\$1,054,756	\$1,046,900	\$1,899,343	\$1,956,154		
% change	40.6%	-10.2%	-0.7%	81.4%	3.0%		
	Education, primarily (1) FAL 84.013, Title I State Agency Program for Neglected and Delinquent Children and Youth, (2) FAL 84.048, Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States, and (3) FAL 84.027, Special Education Grants to States						
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 111 of the 118th G.A.)						
Purpose:	This line item supports the Department of Youth Services' institutional education program (academic, vocational, special education, remedial, and individualized programming).						

3210 470603 Juvenile Justice Prevention								
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2023 FY 2024		FY 2026	FY 2027			
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced			
\$2,052,863	\$1,785,746 \$3,163,064 \$2,747,300		\$2,473,806	\$2,481,942				
% change	-13.0%	77.1%	-13.1%	-10.0%	0.3%			
Source:	Federal Fund Group: Various federal justice assistance and health and human services grants awarded directly to the Department of Youth Services as the prime recipient or indirectly as a sub award from another prime recipient, primarily FAL 93.092, Affordable Care Act (ACA) Personal Responsibility Education Program							
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on August 18, 1986)							
Purpose:	This line item is used to expend miscellaneous grants awarded by federal agencies other than the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention or received as pass-through awards from other state agencies.							

3210 47060	6 Nutrition					
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
Actual	Actual Actual Estimate		Estimate	Introduced	Introduced	
\$889,600	\$970,614	\$970,614 \$1,026,381 \$1,055,000		\$1,551,000	\$1,551,000	
% change	9.1% 5.7% 2.8%		47.0%	0.0%		
Source:	Federal Fund Group: (1) FAL 10.555, National School Lunch Program, and (2) FAL 10.553, School Breakfast Program					
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board in November 1976)					
Purpose:	This line item supports the Department of Youth Services' institutional food services program.					

Federal Fund Group						
3210 47061	4 Title IV-E Reimb	ursements				
FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Introduced	FY 2027 Introduced	
\$1,985,141	\$3,503,014	\$3,632,716 \$1,406,000		\$1,521,776	\$1,529,243	
% change	76.5%	3.7%	-61.3%	8.2%	0.5%	
Source:	Federal Fund Group: FAL 93.658, Foster Care Title IV-E					
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on December 9, 1988)					
Purpose:	This line item pays for the cost of the Department of Youth Services' contracts with non-secure private facilities, primarily the Paint Creek Lighthouse Youth Center located in Ross County.					

3210 47069	1 COVID Mitigatio	on and Detection				
FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	
Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Introduced	Introduced	
\$94,763	\$433,806	3,806 \$1,690,707 \$567,100		\$0	\$0	
% change	357.8%	289.7%	-66.5%	-100.0%	N/A	
Source:	Federal Fund Group: FAL 93.323, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (subaward from Ohio Department of Health)					
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by Controlling Board on March 7, 2022)					
Purpose:	This line item is used, per an interagency agreement with the Ohio Department of Health, to pay for COVID-19 detection and mitigation expenses. FY 2025 will be the final year of expenditures for this line item, as the federal grant that supports it closes at the end of FFY 2024.					

3V50 47060	4 Juvenile Justice/	Delinquency Prev	vention				
FY 2022 Actual			FY 2024 FY 2025 Actual Estimate		FY 2027 Introduced		
\$2,074,392	\$1,851,075	\$1,568,266			\$1,731,824		
% change	-10.8%	-15.3%	21.9%	-13.3%	4.5%		
Source:	Federal Fund Group: Various federal grants, primary ongoing funding from FAL 16.540, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Title II, Part B Formula Grants)						
Legal Basis:	Section 421.10 of H.B. 33 of the 135th G.A. (originally established by H.B. 94 of the 124th G.A.)						
Purpose:	This line item is primarily used to provide subgrants to local governments and nonprofit agencies to implement various programs that address juvenile delinquency and its prevention.						

Legislative Budget Office of the Legislative Service Commission

FY 2026 - FY 2027 Appropriations - As Introduced All Fund Groups - Detail

Main Operating Appropriations Bill

		Estimate	Introduced	Introduced	FY 2025 to FY 2026	FY 2026 to FY 2027
Detail by Agency	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	% Change	% Change
DYS Department of Youth Services						
GRF 470401 RECLAIM Ohio	\$185,561,440	\$196,391,179	\$218,505,972	\$220,528,981	11.26%	0.93%
GRF 470412 Juvenile Correctional Facilities Lease Rental Bond Payments	\$15,299,505	\$23,450,000	\$17,500,000	\$17,500,000	-25.37%	0.00%
GRF 470510 Youth Services	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	\$16,702,000	0.00%	0.00%
GRF 472321 Parole Operations	\$10,157,609	\$11,500,000	\$11,547,202	\$11,926,365	0.41%	3.28%
GRF 477321 Administrative Operations	\$15,964,131	\$16,000,000	\$17,177,391	\$18,017,753	7.36%	4.89%
General Revenue Fund Subtotal	\$243,684,685	\$264,043,179	\$281,432,565	\$284,675,099	6.59%	1.15%
1470 470612 Vocational Education	\$1,469,411	\$1,482,700	\$1,436,125	\$1,494,968	-3.14%	4.10%
1750 470613 Education Services	\$3,399,668	\$3,915,300	\$4,140,884	\$4,317,416	5.76%	4.26%
4790 470609 Employee Food Service	\$15,710	\$21,400	\$30,300	\$30,300	41.59%	0.00%
4A20 470602 Child Support	\$71,084	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$95,000	0.00%	0.00%
4G60 470605 Juvenile Special Revenue - Non-Federal	\$47,365	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$115,000	0.00%	0.00%
5BN0 470629 E-Rate Program	\$6,739	\$59,000	\$71,000	\$71,000	20.34%	0.00%
Dedicated Purpose Fund Group Subtotal	\$5,009,977	\$5,688,400	\$5,888,309	\$6,123,684	3.51%	4.00%
3210 470601 Education	\$1,054,756	\$1,046,900	\$1,899,343	\$1,956,154	81.43%	2.99%
3210 470603 Juvenile Justice Prevention	\$3,163,064	\$2,747,300	\$2,473,806	\$2,481,942	-9.96%	0.33%
3210 470606 Nutrition	\$1,026,381	\$1,055,000	\$1,551,000	\$1,551,000	47.01%	0.00%
3210 470614 Title IV-E Reimbursements	\$3,632,716	\$1,406,000	\$1,521,776	\$1,529,243	8.23%	0.49%
3210 470691 COVID Mitigation and Detection	\$1,690,707	\$567,100	\$0	\$0	-100.00%	N/A
3V50 470604 Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention	\$1,568,266	\$1,912,500	\$1,657,737	\$1,731,824	-13.32%	4.47%
Federal Fund Group Subtotal	\$12,135,891	\$8,734,800	\$9,103,662	\$9,250,163	4.22%	1.61%
Department of Youth Services Total	\$260,830,552	\$278,466,379	\$296,424,536	\$300,048,946	6.45%	1.22%
Main Operating Appropriations Bill Total	\$260,830,552	\$278,466,379	\$296,424,536	\$300,048,946	6.45%	1.22%