

JUDICIARY - SUPREME COURT - FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD

A.R.S. § 8-515.04

Honorable Thomas A. Zlaket, Chief Justice

JLBC Analyst: Brad Regens

**General Fund and Other
Appropriated Funds****FY 1998
Actual****FY 1999
Estimate****FY 2000
Approved****FY 2001
Approved**

FTE Positions	46.5	48.5	53.0 ^{1/}	57.5 ^{1/}
Personal Services	1,122,600	1,295,900	1,358,400	1,416,500
Employee Related Expenditures	213,800	247,500	265,600	283,700
Professional and Outside Services	51,600	74,600	74,600	74,600
Travel	60,600	58,300	59,800	62,200
Other Operating Expenditures	249,700	260,700	268,500	274,900
Equipment	36,900	83,500	68,200	68,200
Operating Subtotal	1,735,200	2,020,500	2,095,100	2,180,100
Court Appointed Special Advocate	1,510,600	1,678,900	1,926,100	2,091,900
Confidential Intermediary	115,600	192,200	194,300	196,000
Model Court Program	0	269,000	513,500	521,800
Total Appropriations	3,361,400	4,160,600	4,729,000 ^{2/}	4,989,800 ^{2/}
Fund Summary				
General Fund	1,735,200	2,289,500	2,608,600	2,701,900
Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund	1,510,600	1,678,900	1,926,100	2,091,900
Confidential Intermediary and Private Fiduciary Fund	115,600	192,200	194,300	196,000
Total Appropriations	3,361,400	4,160,600	4,729,000	4,989,800

Agency Description — *The board reviews cases of dependent children in out-of-home placement to assess progress toward returning the child home or achieving a permanent plan for the child's removal. Federal law requires that each state provide independent administrative reviews of children who are in out-of-home care. Each review board reviews as many as 100 children and is comprised of 5 volunteers appointed by the presiding judge in each county.*

FCRB Program Specialists — A.R.S. § 8-515.01, requires the establishment of a Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) for each 100 children, or fraction thereof, who are in out-of-home placement and who are the subject of a dependency action. Based on average annual caseload growth of 6.6%, 5 additional FCRB's will be added by the end of FY 2000. The approved FY 2000 General Fund amount includes an increase of 1 FTE Position and \$51,200 to handle the expected caseload growth. The approved amount includes \$5,100 in one-time funding for equipment associated with the new position.

The approved FY 2001 General Fund amount includes a further increase of 1 FTE Position and \$46,400 to handle the expected 6.6% growth in children in out-of-home placement by the end of FY 2001. Included in the approved amount is \$5,100 in one-time funding for equipment associated with the new position.

Replacement Equipment — The approved FY 2000 General Fund amount includes \$68,200 to replace

equipment associated with the administration of the FCRB, including monies to make the lease-purchase payment on the program's photocopier. This amount is continued in FY 2001 to make the final lease-purchase payment on the photocopier.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) — The CASA program trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings. It is entirely supported by the CASA Fund, which consists of 30% of State Lottery unclaimed prize money. The approved FY 2000 amount includes an increase of 3.5 FTE Positions and \$151,500 to hire additional CASA field coordinators. The additional coordinators will enable 378 additional children to receive a CASA volunteer, increasing the total number of children with CASA's to approximately 2,336 in FY 2000. The approved FY 2000 amount includes \$10,700 in one-time funding for equipment associated with the new positions. In addition, the approved amount also provides \$75,000 to enable the CASA program to conduct a 3-year study to determine the

^{1/} Includes 15.0 and 18.5 FTE Positions funded from Special Line Items in FY 2000 and FY 2001, respectively.

^{2/} General Appropriation Act funds are appropriated as an Operating Lump Sum with Special Line Items by Agency.

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outcome of children assigned a CASA versus children without CASA's.

The approved FY 2001 amount includes a further increase of 3.5 FTE Positions and \$140,800 to hire additional field coordinators. Included in the approved amount is \$10,700 in one-time funding for equipment associated with the new positions.

Confidential Intermediary — Confidential Intermediary and Private Fiduciary Fund monies are used to train and certify confidential intermediaries to facilitate contact between adoptee or adoptive parents and birth parents, while protecting court and agency records and anonymity of those who desire it. The program is funded by adoption filing surcharges and by a birth certificate surcharge.

Model Court Program — The Model Court Program attempts to move children out of foster care faster by expediting the dependency hearing process. Preliminary protective custody hearings are required to be held within 5 to 7 working days after the child is taken into custody. Monies in this Special Line Item are used for additional juvenile court judicial and administrative staff, and indigent legal representation for preliminary protective custody hearings. The approved FY 2000 General Fund amount includes an increase of \$242,400 to annualize the funding provided in FY 1999. This amount with technical changes is continued in FY 2001.