

Funding Your County Children and Youth Services Agency

The funding of the County Children and Youth Services Agency (CCYA) is a complicated combination of federal, state and local tax dollars. Basically, all of the expenses of the agency are paid for by the County, who is then reimbursed, according to different formulas and up to certain limits, by the federal and state governments and, to some degree, by the families of those children placed outside of the home (if the Court determines that they are able to pay a share of the placement costs). For example, for every dollar spent by the county on child protective services, the state may reimburse them seventy-five cents up to the limit, or "cap", set by the state through the Needs-Based Plan and Budget (NBP&B) process, if the services delivered comply with applicable laws, policies and regulations.

CCYA's operate their budgets on a July 1st-to-June 30th Fiscal Year. The NBP&B follows that cycle. Thus, in the spring of 1999, counties are nearing the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. They will begin revising their Implementation Budget for FY 1999-2000 (which they submitted the previous August) as soon as they get their tentative allocations, or spending limits, from the state, finishing this step by August. At the same time, they will begin analyzing service needs and expenditures as they plan for FY 2000-2001. The Needs-Based Plan and Budget will also be submitted to the state for approval in August. After the Department of Public Welfare's Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) determines, or "certifies", an amount that they feel is the county's justified "need", this amount is forwarded to the Governor and to the legislature as they put together the statewide budget packages. Once the final budget is signed, allocations are given to the CCYA's and they modify their service and spending plans. If they appeal the limits set by OCYF, negotiations begin to determine the amount of funding allowed.

While the NBP&B process is moving through its Fiscal Year cycles, many counties still operate their budgets on a calendar year (January through December) basis. This means that the CCYA also keeps track of its services and spending according to the county's budget structure as well, with budgets being prepared and submitted in the fall for approval in December.

Month	State Budget Cycle	County Budget Cycle
January	Beginning of 3rd Quarter fy 1998-99;	Beginning of 1999 budget year
February	Gov. presents fy 1999-2000 budget to Legislature;	
March	DPW issues fy 2000-01 plan & budget guidelines to counties and tentative fy 1999-2000 allocations;	
April	Beginning of 4th Quarter fy 1998-99; Counties begin formal planning of changes to fy 1999-2000 plan & budget and forecasting needs for fy 2000-01	Beginning of 2nd Quarter, 1999;
May	Planning continues;	
June	Planning continues; Legislature approves state budget; actual allocations for fy 1999-2000 rec'd. from DPW;	
July	Beginning of fy 1999-2000;	Beginning of 3rd Quarter, 1999; Receive guidelines for 2000 budget & begin formal planning;
August	Submit amended budget for fy 1999-2000 and Needs-Based Plan and Budget for fy 2000-01;	Planning continues;
September	Review budgets with DPW;	Complete & submit budget for 2000;
October	Beginning of 2nd Quarter fy 1999-2000; make modifications, as needed;	Beginning of 4th Quarter, 1999; make adjustments to planned budget;
November	Budgets approved by DPW;	County 2000 budget proposal open for public comment;
December	DPW forwards budget amounts for Fy 2000-01 to Gov.'s Budget Office for integration into State Budget	2000 county budget approved;

