

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

KLRD Analyst: Prosser
KLRD Summary: Vol. 2, Pg. 952

DOB Analyst: Ordiway
GBR Analysis: Vol. 1, Pg 77

Executive Summary

Summary of Total Expenditures, FY 2023 – FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2023 Actual	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	
FY 2024 Actual	-	-	-	-	
FY 2025 Actual	561,283	-	561,283	6.0	
FY 2026					
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 863,752	\$ -	\$ 863,752	7.0	
Agency Revised Estimate	863,752	-	863,752	7.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	745,900	-	745,900	7.0	
House Committee of the Whole	863,752	-	863,752	7.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	863,752	-	863,752	7.0	
Legislative Approved	763,795	-	763,795	7.0	
Governor's Recommendation	863,752	-	863,752	7.0	
FY 2027					
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 745,900	\$ -	\$ 745,900	7.0	
Agency Request	851,351	-	851,351	7.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget	751,650	-	751,650	7.0	
House Committee of the Whole	826,650	-	826,650	7.0	
Senate Committee of the Whole	851,351	-	851,351	7.0	
Legislative Approved	818,650	-	818,650	7.0	
Governor's Recommendation	826,650	-	826,650	7.0	

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) acts as a neutral, independent agency to ensure Kansas children and families receive adequate coordination of services for child safety and well-being.

The 2024 Legislature passed the Child Advocate Act ¹, which established the OCA as an independent state agency. The Act requires the OCA to ensure adequate coordination of child welfare services offered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF), DCF's contracting entities, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), the Kansas Department of Corrections, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the juvenile courts. This is accomplished by OCA receiving and responding to complaints regarding these entities.

Prior to becoming an independent state agency, the OCA existed through Executive Order 21-28 as the Division of the Child Advocate within the Department of Administration's Office of Public Advocates. Legislation previously considered would have established the OCA within the Legislative Branch or the Office of the Attorney General.

¹ [2024 SB 115](#), [KSA 75-7601](#) et seq.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

FY 2026

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2026					
	SGF	All Other Funds		Total	FTE Positions
Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 863,752	\$ -		\$ 863,752	7.0
Agency Revised Estimate	863,752	-		863,752	7.0
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)					
Change from Agency Revised Estimate	\$ (117,852)	\$ -		\$ (117,852)	-
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 745,900	\$ -		\$ 745,900	7.0
House Committees					
Social Services Budget	\$ 117,852	\$ -		\$ 117,852	-
Appropriations	-	-		-	-
Committee of the Whole	-	-		-	-
Subtotal – House Change from SBC	\$ 117,852	\$ -		\$ 117,852	-
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 863,752	\$ -		\$ 863,752	7.0
Senate Committees					
Ways and Means [Human Services]	\$ 117,852	\$ -		\$ 117,852	-
Ways and Means	-	-		-	-
Committee of the Whole	-	-		-	-
Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC	\$ 117,852	\$ -		\$ 117,852	-
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 863,752	\$ -		\$ 863,752	7.0
Legislative Approved					
Conference Committee	\$ 117,852	\$ -		\$ 117,852	-
Governor's Vetoes	-	-		-	-
Veto Overrides	-	-		-	-
Certifications	(99,957)	-		(99,957)	-
Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC	\$ 17,895	\$ -		\$ 17,895	-
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 763,795	\$ -		\$ 763,795	7.0

Agency

The **agency** submits a revised estimate of \$863,752 SGF and 7.0 FTE positions in FY 2026. There is no change between the agency's revised estimate and the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature.

The FY 2026 revised estimate includes the following select appropriations:

- **Case Investigative Analysts:** The Legislature approved adding \$198,049 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions in FY 2026 for the agency to hire two Case Investigative Analysts. During the 2025 Session, the agency stated that with the passage of the Act, the agency's scope was expanded to include working with youth currently receiving or who have received services from the Kansas Department of Corrections.
- **2025 Pay Plan:** The Legislature approved the 2025 Pay Plan to provide salary increases for most state employees based on the Department of Administration's market survey, which included adding \$6,583 SGF for this agency in FY 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

- **Statewide SGF Operations Lapse:** The Legislature deleted \$11,259 SGF in FY 2026 to lapse 1.5 percent of SGF operating expenditures for this agency.
- **Reappropriations:** The agency's revised estimate includes \$117,852 SGF in reappropriations.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency's revised estimate in FY 2026, with the following adjustment:

1. Delete \$117,852 SGF reappropriations in FY 2026.

House Committees

House Committee on Social Services Budget

The **House Budget Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$117,852 SGF to restore the agency's reappropriations in FY 2026.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **Committee** concurs with the **Budget Committee's** recommendation in FY 2026 with no additional adjustments.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the **Committee's** recommendation in FY 2026.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee Ways and Means – Human Service Subcommittee

The **Subcommittee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$117, 852 SGF to restore the agency's reappropriations in FY 2026.

Senate Committee Ways and Means

The **Committee** concurs with the **Subcommittee's** recommendation in FY 2026 with no adjustments.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the **Committee's** recommendation in FY 2026.

Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the **Special Committee's** recommendation in FY 2026, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$117, 852 SGF to restore the agency's reappropriations in FY 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustments which were certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Delete \$99,957 SGF to eliminate funding for positions which have been vacant for at least 60 calendar days in FY 2026.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

FY 2027

Summary of Legislative Recommendations, FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
FY 2026 Approved, without Reappropriations	\$ 745,900	\$ -	\$ 745,900	7.0	
Agency Request	851,351	-	851,351	7.0	
Special Committee on the State Budget (SBC)					
Change from Agency Request	\$ (99,701)	\$ -	\$ (99,701)	-	
TOTAL – Special Committee	\$ 751,650	\$ -	\$ 751,650	7.0	
House Committees					
Social Services Budget	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	-	
Appropriations	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – House Change from SBC	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	-	
TOTAL – Current House Position	\$ 826,650	\$ -	\$ 826,650	7.0	
Senate Committees					
Ways and Means [Human Services]	\$ 99,701	\$ -	\$ 99,701	-	
Ways and Means	-	-	-	-	
Committee of the Whole	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal – Senate Change from SBC	\$ 99,701	\$ -	\$ 99,701	-	
TOTAL – Current Senate Position	\$ 851,351	\$ -	\$ 851,351	7.0	
Legislative Approved					
Conference Committee	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	-	
Governor's Vetoes	-	-	-	-	
Veto Overrides	-	-	-	-	
Certifications	(8,000)	-	(8,000)	-	
Subtotal – Approved Change from SBC	\$ 67,000	\$ -	\$ 67,000	-	
GRAND TOTAL – Final Approved	\$ 818,650	\$ -	\$ 818,650	7.0	

Agency

The **agency** requests \$851,351 SGF, including 7.0 FTE positions for FY 2027. This is an increase of \$105,451 or 14.1 percent above the amount approved by the 2025 Legislature in FY 2026 (excluding reappropriations) largely due to the agency's enhancement request.

The agency requested an enhancement of \$99,701 SGF to address the agency's underestimation of expenses for the two FTE positions approved by the 2025 Legislature. This includes funding for software license fees (\$44,353), building rent (\$41,348) as the agency anticipates moving from the 10th floor of the Landon building to the 4th floor, and various other contractual services (\$14,000) as described in the KLRD Budget Summary.

Special Committee on the State Budget

The **Special Committee** concurs with the agency request for FY 2027 with the following adjustment:

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

1. Delete \$99,701 SGF as part of the global motion to delete all enhancement requests for FY 2027.

House Committees

House Committee on Social Services Budget

The **House Budget Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027 with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$75,000 SGF in ongoing funding for operational costs associated with the two FTE positions approved by the 2025 legislature.

House Committee on Appropriations

The **Committee** concurs with the **Budget Committee's** recommendation for FY 2027 with no additional adjustments.

House Committee of the Whole

The **House Committee of the Whole** concurs with the Committee's recommendation for FY 2027.

Senate Committees

Senate Committee Ways and Means – Human Service Subcommittee

The **Subcommittee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027 with the following adjustment:

1. Add \$99,701 SGF in ongoing funding for operational costs associated with the two FTE positions approved by the 2025 legislature.

Senate Committee Ways and Means

The **Committee** concurs with the **Subcommittee's** recommendation for FY 2027 with no adjustments.

Senate Committee of the Whole

The **Senate Committee of the Whole** concurs with the **Committee's** recommendation for FY 2027.

Conference Committee

The **Conference Committee** concurs with the Special Committee's recommendation for FY 2027, with the following adjustments:

1. Add \$75,000 SGF in ongoing funding for operational costs associated with the two FTE positions approved by the 2025 legislature.

Legislative Approved

HB 2513 authorized the following statewide adjustments which were certified following the conclusion of the 2026 Session:

1. Add \$3,275 to implement the Executive Branch pay plan approved by the 2026 Legislature and certified by the State Finance Council for FY 2027.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Committee Report

2. Delete \$11,275 to lapse 1.5 percent of state operations funded from the SGF for FY 2027. This lapse does not apply to SGF-financed operating expenditures for authorized contractual services, specific projects, or an identified program or entity.