



Children, Youth & Families Department

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

FY27 Budget Request Hearing

Legislative Finance Committee

Valerie Sandoval
Acting Cabinet Secretary

December 9, 2025

CYFD at a Glance (as of December 2025)



2,429 FTE

**23 County Offices
Statewide**

**2,130 Children
in Care**

2 Secure Facilities

**2 Reintegration
Facilities**

**2 Schools,
1 Superintendent,
29 educators**

\$400+ Million Budget

**3,287 Families
Served with
Prevention Services
in 2025**

24/7/365 Operations

**CBHS served 4,300
Children/Youth in
FY25**

**34,000+ SCI Reports
in 2025**

**Over 15,000 text
messages through
REACH NM since
2020**

Foster Parent Recruitment

**2,130 Children
in Care**

**1,106 total
Foster Homes**

**2,289 total
Foster Beds**

**349
New Licensed
Relative Foster
Homes Since
Jan 2025**

**94 New
Licensed
Foster Homes
Since 2025**

**71 Relative
Home Studies
in Progress**

**89 Non-
Relative Home
Studies in
Progress**



CYFD Budget Request

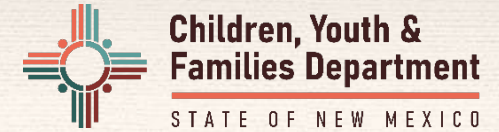
FY27 Budget Request

P576 – Program Support	\$24.7M
P577 – Juvenile Justice	\$96.1M
P578 – Protective Services	\$248.4M
P800 – Behavioral Health	\$53.1M
Total	\$422.3M

The request reflects a **4.7% overall increase** including an additional **\$43.1 million of General Fund** which includes funding for:

- Replacement of expired federal grants
- Replacement of exhausted fund balances
- Expansion of continuum sites in additional communities
- Expansion of services for community-based alternative to detention
- Increased operational costs for rent and fixed rates

FY27 Budget Request - GRO



Includes a **Governmental Result and Opportunity (GRO)** funding request for **\$61.3 million** which includes funding for:

- **Positions in Protective Services - \$14.8M**
 - ✓ To meet *Kevin S.* caseload standards and comply with Remedial Order #2
- **Juvenile Justice Positions - \$9.5M**
 - ✓ Correctional Officer Positions in the Facilities to support increased population
 - ✓ Probation Officer Positions in the Field to support increased referrals
- **Client clothing, meals, hygiene products, linens, medical care, supplies, and medications to meet basic needs - \$5.9M**
 - ✓ For increased population in facilities
- **Additional Behavioral Health Programs - \$1.5M**
 - ✓ To address increased substance use and infant mental health challenges
- **Positions in Program Support - \$5.0M**
 - ✓ To support our programs with contractual, financial, technological and legal needs



CYFD Workforce

CYFD Workforce

- CYFD has **2,429 Full Time Employees**
- Vacancy rate in September was **29%** and was **27%** as of December 5, 2025
- CYFD currently has **379 positions posted**.
 - **273** Protective Services and Family Services
 - **74** Program Support
 - **14** Juvenile Justice Services
 - **18** Behavioral Health Services
- CYFD has hired **563** new employees since January 1, 2025
- CYFD currently has **281** employees with a degree in social work.

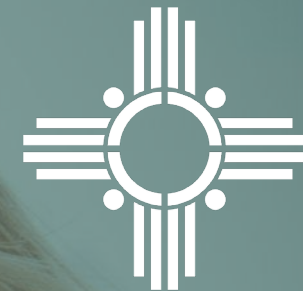
Workforce Strike Force



To address CYFD's historical workforce challenges, the department has established a high-level, cross-agency **Workforce Strike Force** led by the **Chief Operating Officer**.

Early accomplishments:

- **Identified opportunities to streamline the hiring pipeline process from 81 days to 45-50 days**
- **Investigative case closures – over 2500 since September**
- **Employee retention plan** is being finalized, with communications activities already starting and new employee onboarding strategies will start in January.
- **Finalized plan for stay interviews to start in January**



Protective Services

Protective Services Division

General Fund Request - \$31.5M

Operational Cost Increases

- Continued delivery of current services through federal budget replacement
- GSD and DoIT fixed rates

GRO Request - \$34.4M

Meeting *Kevin S.* Requirements for Caseload Compliance and Workforce

- Fill all positions in Protective Services
- Over fill positions by 10%
- Pay equities for Permanency, Placement, SCI & Investigations

Kevin S.

The *Kevin S.* Settlement builds upon CYFD's commitment to create a child welfare system built on trauma responsiveness and improving the state's outcomes for children who touch the child welfare system.

- **2022** - Final Settlement Agreement
 - ✓ Implementation Targets and Target Outcomes continue
- **2023** - Memorandum of Understanding
 - ✓ Multiple required reports are delivered to Co-Neutrals and Plaintiffs regularly
- **2025** - Remedial Order #1
 - ✓ Most requirements were not met timely resulting in Remedial Order #2
- **2025** - Remedial Order #2
 - ✓ Status conferences held October 7 and December 1 with progress noted
- **Pending**
 - ✓ A hearing will be held in early 2026 to assess compliance with the Remedial Orders



Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health Division



General Fund Request - \$435.2K

Operational Cost Increases

- Continued delivery of current services through federal budget replacement (to include sexual assault survivor services, mobile health unit and COVID Grants)
- GSD and DoIT fixed rates

GRO Request - \$5.2M

Continue Development of Children's Behavioral Health Continuum of Care Statewide

- Fill additional positions in program and CBHC's to support BH Care statewide
- Expand programming for adolescent substance use
- Expand programming for infant mental health



Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice Division

General Fund Request - \$9.8M

Operational Cost Increases

- Continued delivery of current services through federal budget replacement
- GSD and DoIT fixed rates
- Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
- Additional continuum sites in new communities
- Juvenile Community Corrections
- Additional services for community-based alternative to detention

GRO Request - \$16.0M

- Juvenile Correctional Officer Positions in the Facilities
- Juvenile Probation Officer Positions in the Field
- Client clothing, meals, hygiene products, linens, medical care, supplies, and medications



Questions?

Contact

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