Office of Civil Legal Aid

2027-29 Regular Budget Session

Policy Level - A6 - Unaccompanied Children

## Agency Recommendation Summary

The longstanding federal funding that supported immigration legal services for unaccompanied children ended in July 2026, leaving Washington providers without dedicated funding to sustain representation for nearly 900 ongoing cases or sufficient capacity to accept newly arriving children. Without representation, hundreds of children will face removal proceedings on their own each year. OCLA requests $10.85 million for the 2027–29 biennium to sustain specialized legal representation and ensure unaccompanied immigrant children in Washington have counsel to protect their rights and pursue available legal protections.

## Fiscal Summary

| Fiscal Summary<br>*Dollars in Thousands* | Fiscal Years | | Biennial | Fiscal Years | | Biennial |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2028 | 2029 | 2027-29 | 2030 | 2031 | 2029-31 |
| **Staffing** | | | | | | |
| FTEs | 1.5 | 1.5 | **1.5** | 1.5 | 1.5 | **1.5** |
| **Operating Expenditures** | | | | | | |
| Fund 001 - 1 | $5,220 | $5,220 | **$10,440** | $5,220 | $5,220 | **$10,440** |
| Total Expenditures | **$5,220** | **$5,220** | **$10,440** | **$5,220** | **$5,220** | **$10,440** |

## Decision Package Description

See attached.

## Assumptions and Calculations

***Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:***

n/a

***Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:***

n/a

***Workforce Assumptions:***

n/a

***Historical Funding:***

n/a

## Strategic and Performance Outcomes

***Strategic Framework:***

n/a

***Performance Outcomes:***

n/a

## Equity Impacts

***Community Outreach and Engagement:***

n/a

***Disproportional Impact Considerations:***

n/a

***Target Communities and Populations:***

n/a

***Community Inputs and Incorporation:***

n/a

## Other Collateral Connections

***HEAL Act Agencies Supplemental Questions***

n/a

***Puget Sound Recovery:***

n/a

***State Workforce Impacts:***

n/a

***Intergovernmental:***

n/a

***Stakeholder Impacts:***

n/a

***State Facilities Impacts:***

n/a

***Changes from Current Law:***

n/a

***Legal or Administrative Mandates:***

n/a

***Governor's Salmon Strategy:***

n/a

## Reference Documents

2026.09.08 Memo to Gov. Ferguson.pdf
2027-29 Decision Package Unaccompanied Children - Calculations.pdf
OCLA A6 - Unaccompanied Children Immigration DP.pdf

## IT Addendum

***Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?***

No

## Objects of Expenditure

| Objects of Expenditure<br>*Dollars in Thousands* | Fiscal Years | | Biennial | Fiscal Years | | Biennial |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2028 | 2029 | 2027-29 | 2030 | 2031 | 2029-31 |
| Obj. A | $205 | $205 | **$410** | $205 | $205 | **$410** |
| Obj. C | $5,000 | $5,000 | **$10,000** | $5,000 | $5,000 | **$10,000** |
| Obj. E | $10 | $10 | **$20** | $10 | $10 | **$20** |
| Obj. G | $5 | $5 | **$10** | $5 | $5 | **$10** |

## Agency Contact Information

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