



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 <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	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 <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	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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