

D18A18
Governor's Office for Children and Interagency Fund

Executive Summary

The Governor's Office for Children (GOC) oversees a comprehensive approach to the child- and family-focused service delivery system by facilitating the work of the Maryland Children's Cabinet and administering grants from the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF).

Operating Budget Data

(\$ in Thousands)

	<u>FY 18</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>FY 19</u> <u>Working</u>	<u>FY 20</u> <u>Allowance</u>	<u>FY 19-20</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u> <u>Prior Year</u>
General Fund	\$19,935	\$20,071	\$18,550	-\$1,521	-7.6%
Adjustments	0	8	0	-8	
Adjusted General Fund	\$19,935	\$20,079	\$18,550	-\$1,530	-7.6%
Reimbursable Fund	847	52	1,800	1,748	3361.5%
Adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Adjusted Reimbursable Fund	\$847	\$52	\$1,800	\$1,748	3361.5%
Adjusted Grand Total	\$20,782	\$20,131	\$20,350	\$218	1.1%

Note: The fiscal 2019 appropriation includes deficiencies, a one-time \$500 bonus, and general salary increases.

- The fiscal 2020 adjusted allowance increases by \$218,278, primarily due to a decrease of \$1.6 million in operating expenses and an increase of \$1.8 million for local care team grant awards.

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

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Personnel Data

	<u>FY 18 Actual</u>	<u>FY 19 Working</u>	<u>FY 20 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 19-20 Change</u>
Regular Positions	16.00	13.00	0.00	-13.00
Contractual FTEs	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Personnel	16.00	13.00	0.00	-13.00

Vacancy Data: Regular Positions

Turnover and Necessary Vacancies, Excluding New Positions

0.00 0.00%

Positions and Percentage Vacant as of 12/31/18

1.00 7.69%

- As a result of GOC making an administrative move to the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), the fiscal 2020 allowance reflects a transfer of 10 regular positions to GOCCP. More information about this change can be found in the discussion of fiscal 2019 actions section in this analysis.
- Additionally, 3 regular positions related to the Office of Education Accountability transferred to the Governor’s Coordinating Offices – Shared Services. Additional discussion of the Office of Education Accountability can be found in Issue 2.

Key Observations

- ***GOC Transfers to GOCCP:*** Effective December 2018, GOC personnel and operations moved under GOCCP, while the CCIF remains under the Maryland State Department of Education budget in fiscal 2020. GOC added three new funding priorities in the fiscal 2020 CCIF grant allocation process as a result.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Adopt committee narrative to request an out-of-home placement report.
2. Adopt committee narrative to request a report on the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund funding allocations.

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Governor's Office for Children and Interagency Fund

Operating Budget Analysis

Program Description

The Governor's Office for Children (GOC) was established by an executive order in 2005 to provide a coordinated, comprehensive interagency approach to the development of a continuum of care that is family- and child-oriented and emphasizes prevention, early intervention, and community-based services for all children and families, with special attention to at-risk populations. GOC activities include staffing the Children's Cabinet, administering the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF), providing technical assistance to local management boards (LMB), promoting child and family policy, and measuring results for child well-being. In December 2018, GOC was moved under the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). In that, the funding for personnel and operational expenses is absorbed into GOCCP in fiscal 2020; the analysis only includes the funding in the CCIF.

The key goals of GOC are to:

- work with LMBs and other State and local stakeholders to increase the capacity of communities to meet the specific needs of their jurisdictions' children and families;
- use data and technology to continuously monitor and evaluate outcomes;
- improve fiscal efficiency and accountability of programs that serve children and families, particularly those funded through the CCIF; and
- provide support and assistance to the cabinet, the cabinet's implementation team, the Interagency Placement Committee, and other interagency committees.

The cabinet works to ensure the effective, efficient, and comprehensive delivery of services to Maryland's children and families by coordinating the programs, policies, and budgets of the State child-serving agencies. The cabinet includes the Secretary of Budget and Management; the Secretary of Disabilities; the Secretary of Health; the Secretary of Human Services; the Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; the Secretary of Juvenile Services; the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services; the State Superintendent of Schools; and the executive director of GOCCP. The cabinet maintains an interagency fund, enters into agreements with LMBs, implements an interagency effort to maximize available resources, and uses outcome measures and fiscal incentives to ensure more effective use of State funds.

The key goals of the CCIF are to:

- use a collaborative, results-oriented accountability framework to track and evaluate the well-being of children across the State and in each jurisdiction through eight identified Results for Child Well-being; and
- work collaboratively to ensure a safe, stable, and healthy environment for children and families through coordinated policy recommendations to the Governor.

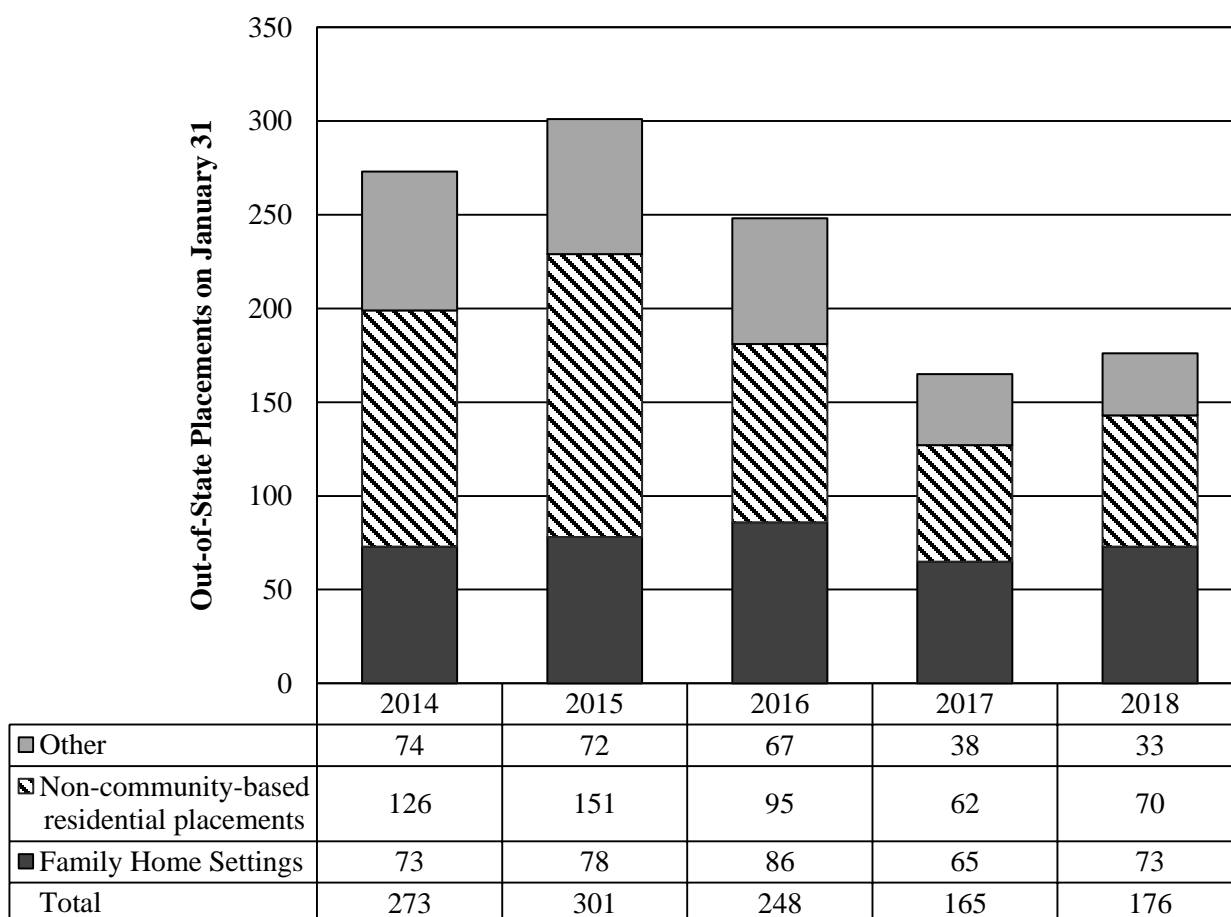
Performance Analysis: Managing for Results

Committee narrative in the 2018 *Joint Chairmen’s Report* (JCR) requested that GOC submit a report, due December 15, 2018, on out-of-home and out-of-state placements containing data on the total number of placements and entries by jurisdiction over the previous three years. The report has been requested in every JCR since 2011. As of February 3, 2019, GOC has not submitted the report to the budget committees. With no final report submitted, the following performance analysis uses data from a draft report provided by GOC. **GOC should comment on why the report on out-of-home and out-of-state placements was not submitted.**

1. Out-of-state Placements

The State has a goal to be able to provide the services that children need within the State except in instances when children are placed with relatives out of the State. **Exhibit 1** shows a single-day count of out-of-state placements taken on January 31 of each year from 2014 to 2018. The 2018 count showed a net increase of 11 more out-of-state placements compared to the 2017 count, increasing slightly to 176 children placed out-of-state. Of the 176 children total, 73 children were in family home setting placements, meaning that the children are placed with relatives or adopted in another state. This is the State’s preferred type of placement, and 8 more placements were in family home settings in 2018 compared to 2017. The total 2018 count is 41.5% lower than the high of 301 out-of-state placements counted on January 31, 2015.

Exhibit 1
Out-of-state Placements – Single-day Count by Placement Setting
January 31, 2014 to January 31, 2018



Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Exhibit 2 displays the single-day count of out-of-state placements by agency. The increase in placements overall is driven by the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), and the Behavioral Health Administration counting more out-of-state placements in 2018 than in 2017. DHS attributes its out-of-state placements to a lack of residential treatment centers with expertly trained staff members who are equipped and experienced in treating youth with acute medical issues and developmental disabilities. The department has issued a Request for Proposals to increase the number of placement options for these youth in Maryland. Compared to 2017, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recorded one fewer placement, and the Developmental Disabilities Administration has not placed any children out-of-state since 2011.

Exhibit 2
Out-of-state Placements – Single-day Count by Agency
January 31, 2014 to January 31, 2018

<u>Agency</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Department of Human Services	138	178	166	109	115
Department of Juvenile Services	96	84	52	41	45
Maryland State Department of Education	17	13	14	10	9
Behavioral Health Administration	20	26	16	5	7
Developmental Disabilities Administration	0	0	0	0	0
Total	271	301	248	165	176

Note: Total out-of-state placements on January 31, 2014, do not match the total in Exhibit 1 based on the information provided.

Source: Governor’s Office for Children

2. Out-of-home Placements

The State also has a goal to build family stability for children and reduce out-of-home placements. As shown in **Exhibit 3**, the total number of out-of-home placements decreased by an average annual rate of 7.5% between 2014 and 2018. Non-community-based placements showed the highest percent decrease in 2018 with 18% fewer placements than in 2017. Family home settings had the only increase in placements with 31, or 0.9%, more children in 2018 compared to 2017. As discussed previously, family home settings are the least restrictive and, thus, most preferable to the other placement types.

Exhibit 3
Out-of-home Placements – Single-day Count by Placement Setting
January 31, 2014 to January 31, 2018

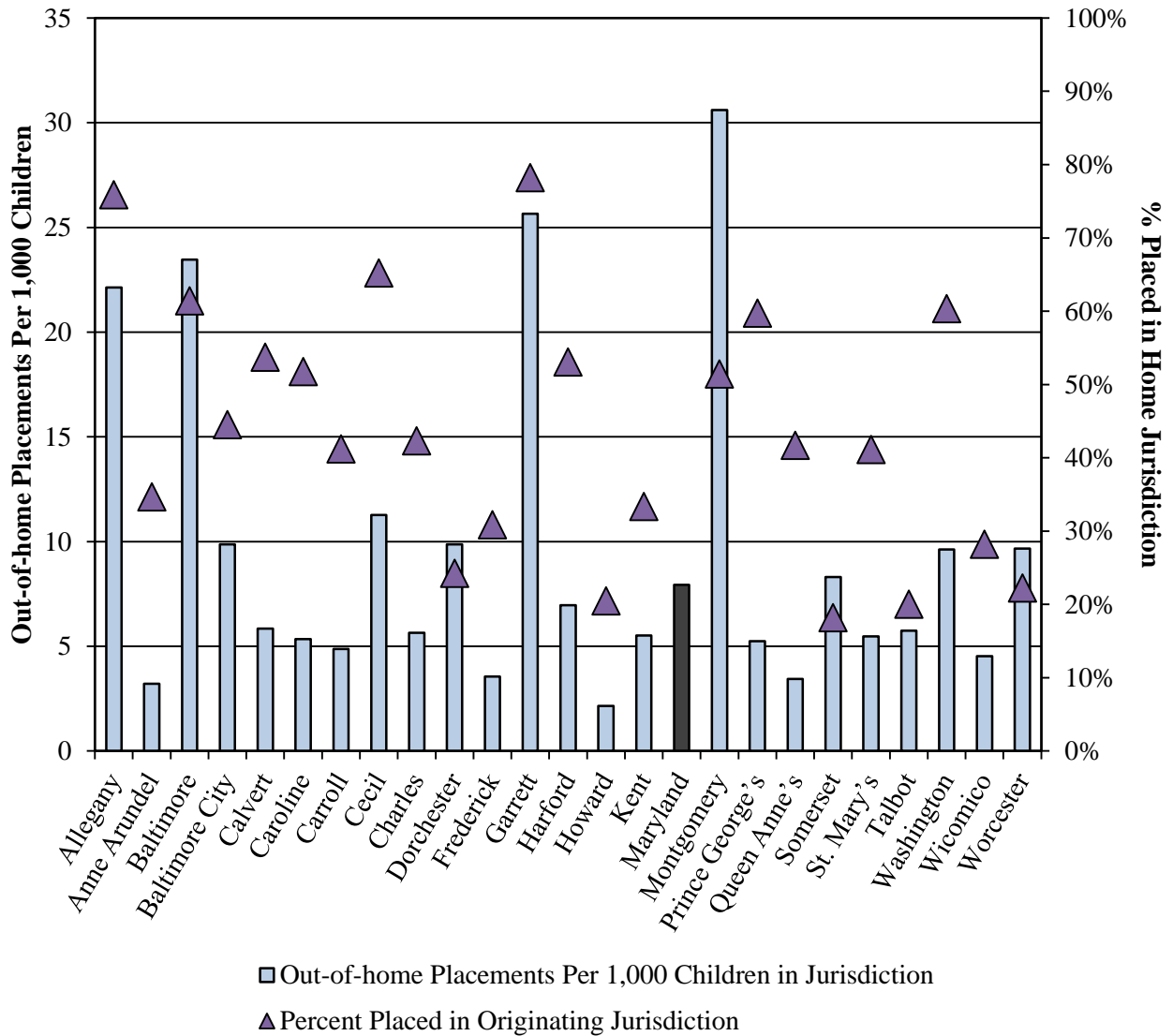
<u>Category</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>2017-2018</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Average</u> <u>Change</u> <u>2014-2018</u>
Community-based Residential Placement	1,357	1,009	1,015	971	821	-15.4%	-8.6%
Family Home Settings	4,114	3,594	3,612	3,499	3,530	0.9%	-5.1%
Hospitalization	25	25	58	69	57	-17.4%	22.8%
Non-community-based Residential Placement	931	1,095	1,086	947	777	-18.0%	-10.5%
Placement Category Not Available	322	328	92	94	85	-9.6%	-15.6%
All Categories	6,749	6,051	5,863	5,580	5,270	-5.6%	-7.5%

Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Exhibit 4 shows the rate of new out-of-home placements per 1,000 children in each jurisdiction and the percentage placed in the originating jurisdiction. Although the total number of out-of-home placements decreased by 310 placements from 2017 to 2018, the rate of new placements per 1,000 children increased from 6.7 to 7.9 new placements per 1,000 children from 2017 to 2018. This measure defines new placements as children who were initially placed and children who transitioned from one placement to another, so children are counted multiple times if they move placements during the year. Transitions between placements may involve movements to a more intensive service or less restrictive setting for the child.

Among out-of-home placements, the State has a goal to place children so that they can remain close to their home jurisdictions so that their family, social, educational, and cultural connections can be preserved during the duration of the placement. GOC indicates that placements in different counties occur due to a lack of resources to meet the child’s needs in the originating jurisdiction. In fiscal 2018, 13 jurisdictions increased the percentage of children placed in the home jurisdiction. Allegany and Garrett counties both placed more than 75% of out-of-home placements in the child’s originating jurisdiction.

Exhibit 4
New Out-of-home Placement Rates Per 1,000 Children by Jurisdiction
Fiscal 2018



Note: The rate of out-of-home placements per 1,000 children counts children who are initially placed and children who are transitioned from one placement to another, so children can be counted multiple times. Statewide out-of-home placements per 1,000 children denoted by darker color bar. Data is only for placement categories for which information is known.

Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Fiscal 2019 Actions

GOC Transfers to GOCCP

In December 2018, GOC was administratively transitioned to GOCCP. GOC indicates that this administrative move will strengthen the prevention component of GOCCP’s mission to reduce the number of children who become involved in the juvenile justice and/or criminal justice system while maintaining the operation of GOC and the integrity of LMBs. **GOC should discuss any changes that result from this move, including the office’s organizational framework and chain of command, the Children’s Cabinet membership and strategic goals, and the LMB grant management and monitoring process.**

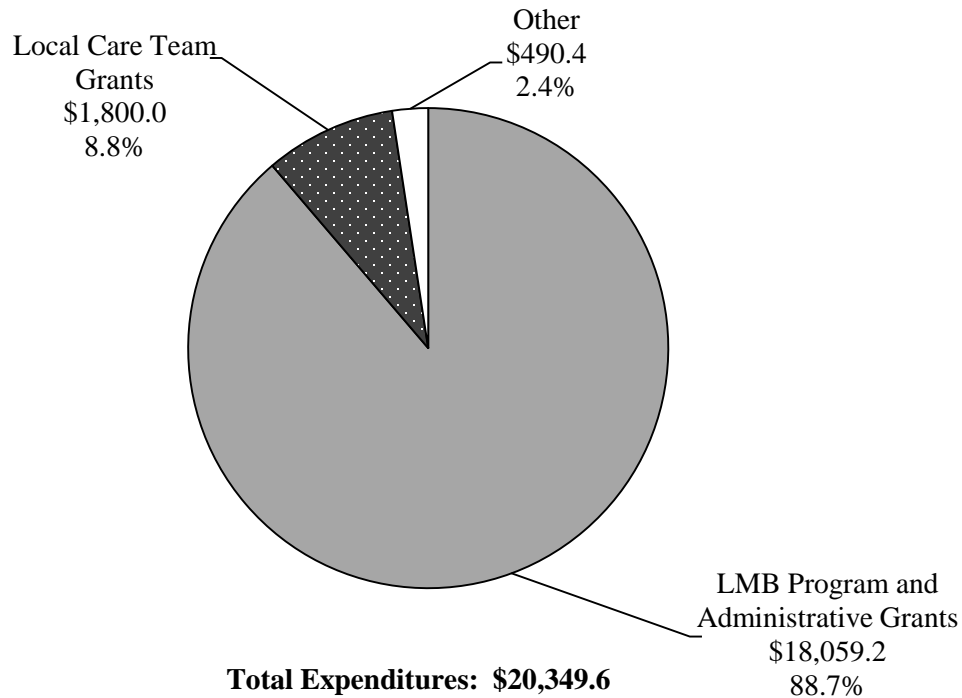
MSDE continues to house the CCIF and act as the fiscal agent for the fund. The CCIF was originally placed in MSDE because GOC lacked the appropriate fiscal personnel to administer the fund. GOCCP already has fund oversight and grants management expertise and, in that regard, the CCIF could be moved under GOCCP. **GOC should discuss whether it plans to propose a departmental bill that would establish GOCCP as the fiscal agent of the fund or move the CCIF under GOCCP.**

Fiscal 2020 Allowance

Overview of Agency Spending

The fiscal 2020 allowance for the CCIF totals \$20.3 million, as shown in **Exhibit 5**. Grant awards for LMB programs and administrative costs make up the largest share of the CCIF (\$18.1 million, or 88.7%). LMBs also receive \$1.8 million in grant awards from the CCIF specifically for local care team (LCT) administrative costs. GOC uses the remaining \$490,378 for the Governor’s Young Readers Program, LMB training and technical assistance, and an online application to publish LMB outcomes.

Exhibit 5
Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund Uses
Fiscal 2020 Allowance
(\$ in Thousands)



LMB: local management board

Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Proposed Budget Change

As shown in **Exhibit 6**, the fiscal 2020 adjusted allowance increases by \$218,278, primarily due to a decrease of \$1.6 million in operating expenses associated with GOC being transferred to GOCCP and an increase of \$1.8 million for LCT grant awards.

Exhibit 6
Proposed Budget
Governor’s Office for Children and Interagency Fund
(\$ in Thousands)

How Much It Grows:	<u>General</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Reimb.</u> <u>Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal 2018 Actual	\$19,935	\$847	\$20,782
Fiscal 2019 Working Appropriation	20,079	52	20,131
Fiscal 2020 Allowance	<u>18,550</u>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>20,350</u>
Fiscal 2019-2020 Amount Change	-\$1,530	\$1,748	\$218
Fiscal 2019-2020 Percent Change	-7.6%	3361.5%	1.1%
Where It Goes:			
Office for Children			
Operating expenses transferred to GOCCP.....			-\$1,641
Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund			
Local care team grant awards (reimbursable funds)			1,800
Governor’s Young Readers Program			59
Total			\$218

GOC: Governor’s Office for Children

GOCCP: Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Note: Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Local Care Team Coordinators

Beginning in fiscal 2018, GOC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DHS, DJS, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), and MSDE to receive funds approximately proportionate to each agency’s share of the out-of-state placements made in the last seven years. These reimbursable funds were used to award grants to LMBs for LCT coordinator salaries. LCTs are established in statute to:

- be a forum for families of children with intensive needs to receive assistance identifying the child’s individual needs and potential resources;

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- be a forum for interagency discussions and problem solving for child, family, and systemic needs;
- refer children and families to available local and community resources and care management entities, when appropriate;
- identify and share resource development needs and communicate with the care management entity; local core service agencies; or local behavioral health authority provider networks, LMBs, and other local care teams in surrounding jurisdictions; and
- discuss a request for a voluntary placement agreement for a child with a developmental disability or a mental illness.

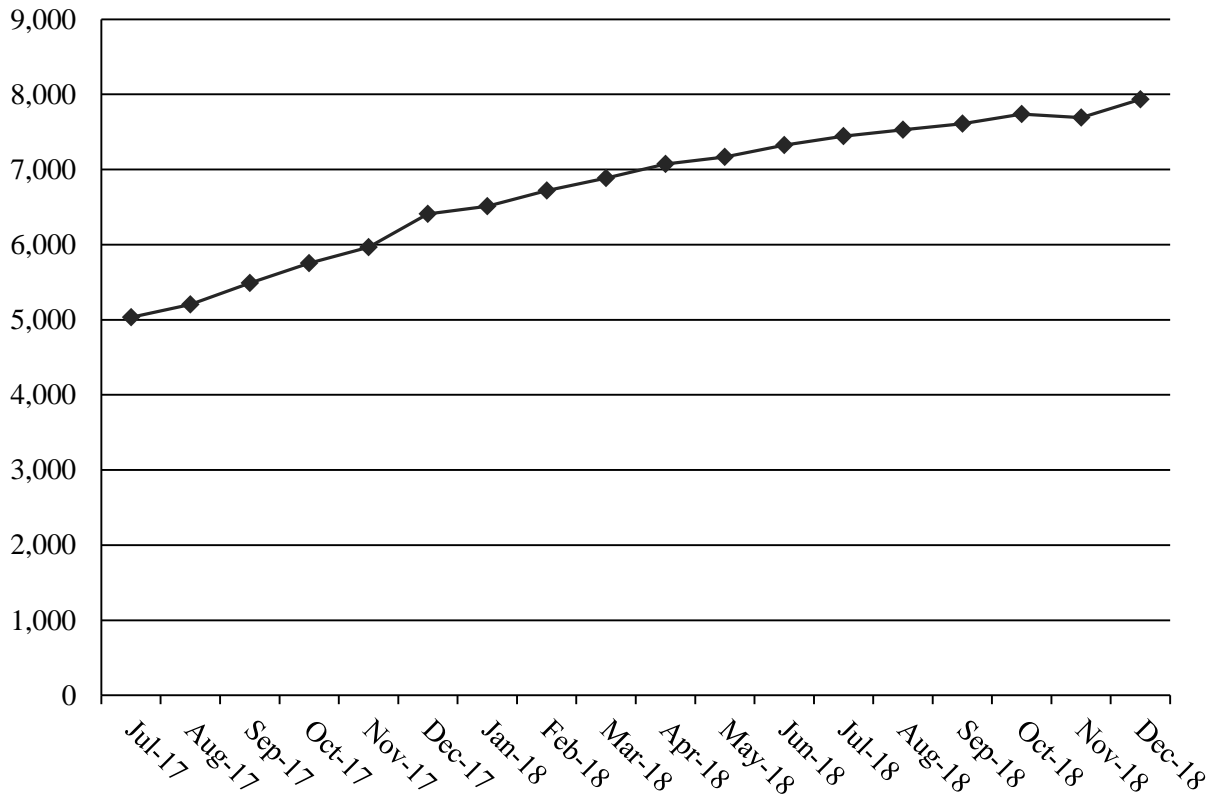
LCT coordinators in each jurisdiction are responsible for referring and tracking cases, maintaining a comprehensive resource database, collecting data, ensuring parental involvement in LCT meetings, facilitating a coordinated approach to services, and other tasks as determined by the Children’s Cabinet.

According to MOU, grant awards for LCT coordinator salaries total \$990,000 in fiscal 2018 and \$1.98 million in fiscal 2019. Actual spending on LCT grant awards in fiscal 2018 totaled \$846,847, and LMBs received LCT grants totaling \$1.6 million in fiscal 2019. In fiscal 2020, \$1.8 million in reimbursable funds are budgeted for LCT coordinator grants. However, although the fiscal 2019 budget authorizes DHS, MDH, and MSDE to provide funding for LCT grants, there has not been a budget amendment to transfer any funds to the CCIF. As a result, the fiscal 2020 allowance reflects a \$1.8 million increase in reimbursable funds.

Governor’s Young Readers Program

The fiscal 2020 allowance includes \$246,193 for the Governor’s Young Readers Program, an increase of \$59,193 compared to the fiscal 2019 working appropriation. The program is a partnership between GOC, the Children’s Cabinet, the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, and Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to mail a free book each month to all children up to the age of five in Baltimore City, regardless of family income. As shown in **Exhibit 7**, enrollment since the beginning of fiscal 2018 has steadily increased from 5,032 children receiving books in July 2017 to 7,932 children receiving books in December 2018.

Exhibit 7
Governor’s Young Readers Program Monthly Enrollment
July 2017 to December 2018



Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Under the program, the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation serves as the coordinating organization and enrolls children living in Baltimore City. The CCIF appropriation funds the cost of the books and shipping fees. In addition to the Banneker-Douglass Museum Foundation, there are currently 12 Imagination Library affiliate programs in Maryland listed on the Imagination Library website. **GOC should provide an update on any plans to expand the Governor’s Young Readers Program or to partner with organizations in regions not currently receiving books from Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.**

Issues

1. Local Management Board Funding

In facilitating the work of the Children’s Cabinet, GOC administers the grant application and management process for LMBs. Each LMB applying for CCIF grants develops and submits a community partnership agreement that is coordinated with the *Maryland Children’s Cabinet 3-year Plan* and any local government plan for services for children, youth, and families.

The most recent *Maryland Children’s Cabinet 3-Year Plan*, published in March 2017, continued to focus the cabinet’s efforts on four strategic goals to reduce:

- the impact of parental incarceration on children, youth, families, and communities;
- the number of disconnected youth (ages 16 to 24 who are not working or in school);
- childhood hunger; and
- youth homelessness.

Beginning in the fiscal 2019 grant cycle, LMBs were specifically encouraged to implement strategies and programs addressing any or all of the four strategic goals for all CCIF funding allocations. For strategies that did not meet this criteria, LMBs were asked to identify a plan for sustaining the program without future CCIF funding. GOC indicated that LMBs could request a waiver to fund strategies and programs that did not address the strategic goals in certain circumstances.

The fiscal 2019 grant cycle also extended the community partnership agreement to a three-year term from July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2021. Funding in fiscal 2020 and 2021 would be based on funding availability and an annual update from LMBs on the jurisdictions’ outcomes and performance.

Fiscal 2020 Priorities

According to the fiscal 2020 notice of funding availability (NOFA), LMBs are specifically encouraged to focus on the following priorities:

- reducing the impact of parental incarceration on children, youth, families, and communities;
- reducing youth homelessness;
- improving outcomes for disconnected/opportunity youth;

- reducing childhood hunger;
- juvenile justice diversion;
- trauma-informed care and reducing adverse childhood experiences; and
- preventing out-of-state placements.

The waiver policy for strategies and programs that do not address the priorities is still in effect in the fiscal 2020 grant cycle. GOC notes on NOFA that additional funding may be available through GOCCP, so LMBs may include requests for additional funding in the application. GOC reports that there are no additional funds specifically for this purpose in the GOCCP fiscal 2020 allowance. However, funds from existing GOCCP resources may be available to LMBs. **GOC should discuss all funding availability for the fiscal 2020 LMB grant award cycle and beyond.**

Due to recent changes to the CCIF grant award process, specifically the addition of three new priorities for LMB programs and strategies, the Department of Legislative Services recommends committee narrative requesting that GOC and GOCCP submit a report on funding allocations to LMBs.

CCIF Grant Award Process

GOC originally published a fiscal 2020 NOFA on December 31, 2018, that outlined a competitive grant allocation process for program and strategy funds. NOFA specified that there would be no per jurisdiction allocation for program and strategy funds and that each LMB may submit an application that includes a request for any amount up to the maximum available (\$13.8 million of the \$18.1 million in available funds). During the evaluation process, each program or strategy would be reviewed and scored separately and ranked in order of average score. GOC reported that a State review team would assess the merits of the proposed programs and strategies in addition to factors such as geographic diversity, the incorporation of a two-generation approach, and the impact on racial equity, among other factors.

Under this process, each LMB could apply for a set allocation from the remaining \$4.3 million in CCIF allocations for board support and administrative costs based on the board’s fiscal 2019 board support allocation as of December 31, 2018.

Fiscal 2020 NOFA Revision

GOC has since published a revised fiscal 2020 NOFA that outlines base awards for program and strategy funds that are built off of the fiscal 2019 grant allocations. In a memo dated January 18, 2019, the office clarified that LMBs should apply for funding consistent with the fiscal 2019 level and strategy in an effort to remain consistent with the *Notice of Base Funding Availability Fiscal Year 2019; Three-Year Community Partnership Agreement (FY19-FY21)*. **Exhibit 8** displays the distribution of CCIF grant awards for LMBs in fiscal 2019 and 2020, including base awards under the revised fiscal 2020 NOFA. GOC reports that it plans to move toward a fully competitive CCIF award process in the fiscal 2022 grant cycle.

Exhibit 8
Local Management Board Grant Awards
Fiscal 2018-2020

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>2018 Competitive Awards</u>	<u>2019 Program Awards</u>	<u>2019 Administrative Funding</u>	<u>2019 LCT Awards</u>	<u>2019 Total Funding</u>	<u>2020 Base Awards</u>	<u>2020 Total Funding</u>
Allegany County	\$0	\$362,798	\$100,000	\$57,500	\$520,298	\$462,798	\$462,798
Anne Arundel County	126,500	911,752	329,500	110,000	1,351,252	1,241,252	1,241,252
Baltimore City	442,124	2,090,780	830,322	72,000	2,993,102	2,921,102	2,921,102
Baltimore County	294,953	1,098,973	297,943	103,000	1,499,916	1,396,916	1,396,916
Calvert County	107,645	286,942	70,125	71,000	428,067	357,067	357,067
Caroline County	0	421,528	141,897	50,000	613,425	563,425	563,425
Carroll County	0	448,102	65,000	38,000	551,102	513,102	513,102
Cecil County	149,564	436,499	90,930	63,000	590,429	527,429	527,429
Charles County	0	318,826	65,000	91,000	474,826	383,826	383,826
Dorchester County	0	275,000	158,413	50,000	483,413	433,413	433,413
Frederick County	0	308,656	84,947	53,000	446,603	393,603	393,603
Garrett County	0	465,263	65,000	69,000	599,263	530,263	530,263
Harford County	88,000	445,914	125,080	91,000	661,994	570,994	570,994
Howard County	0	330,370	117,679	70,000	518,049	448,049	448,049
Kent County	0	296,000	80,358	59,000	435,358	376,358	376,358
Montgomery County	439,468	1,086,755	440,414	65,000	1,592,169	1,527,169	1,527,169
Prince George’s County	0	1,207,900	516,496	98,000	1,822,396	1,724,396	1,724,396
Queen Anne’s County	0	270,286	65,000	25,000	360,286	335,286	335,286
St. Mary’s County	0	331,718	70,000	72,000	473,718	401,718	401,718
Somerset County	0	202,129	86,626	51,000	339,755	288,755	288,755
Talbot County	109,775	360,499	109,979	55,000	525,478	443,418	443,418
Washington County	0	553,047	121,400	39,000	713,447	674,447	674,447
Wicomico County	0	584,700	179,787	63,000	827,487	764,487	764,487
Worcester County	241,971	655,803	124,115	53,000	832,918	779,918	779,918
Unallocated LCT Awards							1,800,000
Total	\$2,000,000	\$13,750,240	\$4,336,011	\$1,568,500	\$19,654,751	\$18,059,191	\$19,859,191

LCT: local care team

Note: Fiscal 2020 base awards include administrative and program awards combined. Fiscal 2020 LCT awards have not yet been determined.

Source: Governor’s Office for Children

Prior Year Competitive Grant Allocation

When available, competitive funds have been awarded to a limited number of LMBs to address the four strategic goals. Exhibit 8 presents the distribution of \$2 million in competitive awards in fiscal 2018, the last time that they were available. The competitive funding in fiscal 2018 became part of the selected jurisdictions’ base funding in fiscal 2019. In 2018 budget hearing testimony, GOC explained that the funds were included in the fiscal 2019 base funding to allow LMBs to fully implement their programs and strategies and adequately evaluate outcomes. Since awarding the competitive grants, GOC reports that it does not evaluate or monitor these programs and strategies separately from the programs and strategies receiving base awards. **GOC should provide the fiscal 2018 and 2019 grant allocations for each of the programs that received fiscal 2018 competitive grants. GOC should also present outcome data and performance analysis for these programs.**

2. Office of Education Accountability

In September 2018, an executive order established the Office of Education Accountability under GOC to enhance and promote integrity and accountability in Maryland’s public school systems. GOC was also tasked with creating an electronic tip system to allow anonymous reporting of concerns and developing and maintaining a database that tracks the concerns and their resolutions. Any operating costs for the office were funded with GOC’s existing resources. One vacant position in GOC was reclassified to be the director of the office in September and, in December 2018, a deputy director and executive assistant were hired to support the office. All 3 positions are transferred to the Governor’s Coordinating Offices – Shared Services in the fiscal 2020 allowance.

In its 2018 annual report, the office describes the case management process as having the following six steps.

Intake

The office reviews and categorizes tips received via the tip line, email, or mail. Intake for any tip received over the phone also involves identifying issues, asking clarifying questions, exploring options, and taking notes. Staff members log a description of the issue and any complainant information available into a database for non-emergent tips.

For tips regarding an emergent threat to the safety and/or well-being of students or school staff, the office immediately shares the tip with law enforcement and the Maryland Center for School Safety. Beginning in October 2018, the Safe Schools Maryland tip line and mobile application was established for tips about bullying, abuse, harassment, and other emergent concerns, and the office’s electronic tip line website also directs respondents to report these concerns to the Safe Schools Maryland tip line.

Acknowledgement

When vital information is missing from the tip, the office contacts the complainants to acknowledge their submission and to request needed information. In cases where the complainant provided contact information, the office responds within 48 hours to acknowledge receipt of the tip.

Research

The office performs research into applicable policies, procedures, or situations and sends inquiries as needed.

Consultation/Referrals

Staff members consult public school officials; State Board of Education members; and State agencies, departments, and resources as appropriate to attempt to resolve the issue. The office specifies that complainants are never identified unless they have given permission. At this step, possible violations of criminal law are referred to the Office of the State Prosecutor or State’s Attorneys with jurisdictions to prosecute the violation.

Communication of Proposed Resolution

Staff members explain the proposed resolution to the complainant, including the plan of action and/or suggested proactive steps for the individual to take.

Resolution

The office logs a resolution and closes the complaint.

According to the 2018 annual report, public school stakeholders made 287 contacts with the office between September 12, 2018, and December 31, 2018. The office categorizes concerns into five areas: safety; grading/graduation requirements; educational facilities; procurement/budgets; and other. Of the total concerns filed with the office, 44.3% were categorized as other, and 30.3% were categorized as educational facilities concerns. **GOC should describe the types of complaints commonly categorized as other and discuss some resolutions that resulted from the tips.**

In response to the tips and concerns received in 2018, the office outlines recommendations and goals for local school systems. For example, the office indicates that it received seven concerns regarding chronic absenteeism under grading/graduation requirement tips, and the office recommends that the State Board of Education consider asking MSDE to examine the correlation between chronic absenteeism and how local school systems factor attendance into grading. The office also makes recommendations for legislation, including SB 92 and HB 45 of 2019. This is an Administration bill that would establish an Education Monitoring Unit as an independent unit in the State. The bill would also create an inspector general position within the unit.

GOC should comment on the planned activities for the Office of Education Accountability in fiscal 2020.

Operating Budget Recommended Actions

1. Adopt the following narrative:

Out-of-home Placements: To facilitate evaluation of Maryland’s family preservation programs in stemming the flow of children from their homes, the Governor’s Office for Children (GOC), on behalf of the Children’s Cabinet, is requested to prepare and submit to the budget committees a report on out-of-home placements containing data on the total number of out-of-home placements and entries by jurisdiction over the previous three years and similar data on out-of-state placements. The report should also provide information on the costs associated with out-of-home placements, the reason for new placements, and an evaluation of data derived from the application of the Maryland Family Risk Assessment. Data should also be collected concerning indicated findings of child abuse and neglect occurring while families are receiving family preservation services or within one year of each case closure. Each agency or administration that funds or places children and youth in out-of-home placements is requested to work closely with GOC and comply with any data requests necessary for production of the report.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on out-of-home placements	GOC	December 31, 2019

2. Adopt the following narrative:

Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund Grant Allocations: The Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) has moved under the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). As a result, GOC added three new priorities for the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund (CCIF) grant process, including juvenile justice diversion, trauma-informed care and reducing adverse childhood experiences, and preventing out-of-state placements. The four strategic goals of reducing the impact of parental incarceration on children, families, and communities; the number of disconnected youth; childhood hunger; and youth homelessness are still priorities in the fiscal 2020 grant cycle. GOC should submit a report on CCIF grant allocations and local management board (LMB) funding following the transition to GOCCP. The report should include:

- total fiscal 2020 CCIF grant allocations by priority;
- a description of any guidelines used to determine how much in CCIF funds would be used for each priority;

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- fiscal 2020 funding to LMBs from all other sources by program;
- fiscal 2020 LMB funding from existing GOCCP grant programs by program;
- identification of programs that were rejected for funding; and
- a description of the grant management and monitoring processes, including any changes that result from the transition to GOCCP.

Information Request	Author	Due Date
Report on CCIF grant allocations	GOC	November 1, 2019

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Appendix 1
Current and Prior Year Budgets
Governor’s Office for Children and Interagency Fund
(\$ in Thousands)

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Fund</u>	<u>Federal Fund</u>	<u>Reimb. Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal 2018					
Legislative Appropriation	\$20,378	\$0	\$0	\$52	\$20,430
Deficiency/Withdrawn Appropriation	-19	0	0	0	-19
Cost Containment	-50	0	0	0	-50
Budget Amendments	-41	0	0	990	949
Reversions and Cancellations	-332	0	0	-195	-527
Actual Expenditures	\$19,935	\$0	\$0	\$847	\$20,782
Fiscal 2019					
Legislative Appropriation	\$20,059	\$0	\$0	\$52	\$20,111
Budget Amendments	12	0	0	0	12
Working Appropriation	\$20,071	\$0	\$0	\$52	\$20,123

Note: The fiscal 2019 appropriation does not include deficiencies, a one-time \$500 bonus, or general salary increases. Numbers may not sum to total due to rounding.

Fiscal 2018

Actual expenditures in fiscal 2018 were \$20.8 million, a net increase of \$352,295 from the legislative appropriation.

A withdrawn appropriation in Section 19 of the fiscal 2019 Budget Bill reduced the appropriation by \$19,295 in general funds due to a surplus in the health insurance account. A Board of Public Works cost containment action further reduced the appropriation by \$50,000.

Budget amendments led to a decrease of \$41,307 in general funds and an increase of \$990,000 in reimbursable funds. The amendments included two general fund reductions to realign health benefits disbursements (\$34,000) and telecommunications expenditures (\$7,307) across agencies. Two budget amendments added a total of \$990,000 in reimbursable funds to pay for the salaries and fringe benefits of 24 local care team (LCT) coordinators as part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Human Services, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Maryland State Department of Education.

The Governor’s Office for Children (GOC) reverted a total of \$331,950 in general funds and canceled \$195,153 in reimbursable funds. A majority of this reduction, \$321,358 in general funds and \$52,000 in reimbursable funds, was unspent due to staff vacancies. The remaining reversion (\$10,592) was intended for local management board training. GOC canceled \$143,153 in reimbursable funds for LCT coordinator salaries due to a delayed hiring process.

Fiscal 2019

To date, the fiscal 2019 budget has increased by \$11,793 in general funds for a 2% general salary increase for State employees, effective January 1, 2019, that was centrally budgeted.

Appendix 2
Object/Fund Difference Report
Governor's Office for Children and Interagency Fund

<u>Object/Fund</u>	<u>FY 18 Actual</u>	<u>FY 19 Working Appropriation</u>	<u>FY 20 Allowance</u>	<u>FY 19 - FY 20 Amount Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Positions					
01 Regular	16.00	15.00	0.00	-15.00	-100.0%
Total Positions	16.00	15.00	0.00	-15.00	-100.0%
Objects					
01 Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,329,757	\$ 1,540,734	\$ 0	-\$ 1,540,734	-100.0%
02 Technical and Special Fees	395	1,200	0	-1,200	-100.0%
03 Communication	6,225	16,816	0	-16,816	-100.0%
04 Travel	13,692	22,370	0	-22,370	-100.0%
07 Motor Vehicles	1,498	2,597	0	-2,597	-100.0%
08 Contractual Services	83,728	27,608	0	-27,608	-100.0%
09 Supplies and Materials	2,079	8,450	0	-8,450	-100.0%
10 Equipment – Replacement	0	9,247	0	-9,247	-100.0%
11 Equipment – Additional	56	1,086	0	-1,086	-100.0%
12 Grants, Subsidies, and Contributions	19,342,631	18,490,376	20,349,569	1,859,193	10.1%
13 Fixed Charges	2,099	2,347	0	-2,347	-100.0%
Total Objects	\$ 20,782,160	\$ 20,122,831	\$ 20,349,569	\$ 226,738	1.1%
Funds					
01 General Fund	\$ 19,935,313	\$ 20,070,831	\$ 18,549,569	-\$ 1,521,262	-7.6%
09 Reimbursable Fund	846,847	52,000	1,800,000	1,748,000	3361.5%
Total Funds	\$ 20,782,160	\$ 20,122,831	\$ 20,349,569	\$ 226,738	1.1%

Note: The fiscal 2019 appropriation does not include deficiencies, a one-time \$500 bonus, or general salary increases.

Appendix 3
Fiscal Summary
Governor's Office for Children and Interagency Fund

<u>Program/Unit</u>	<u>FY 18 Actual</u>	<u>FY 19 Wrk Approp</u>	<u>FY 20 Allowance</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>FY 19 - FY 20 % Change</u>
01 Governor's Office for Children	\$ 1,440,529	\$ 1,632,455	\$ 0	-\$ 1,632,455	-100.0%
01 Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund	19,341,631	18,490,376	20,349,569	1,859,193	10.1%
Total Expenditures	\$ 20,782,160	\$ 20,122,831	\$ 20,349,569	\$ 226,738	1.1%
General Fund	\$ 19,935,313	\$ 20,070,831	\$ 18,549,569	-\$ 1,521,262	-7.6%
Total Appropriations	\$ 19,935,313	\$ 20,070,831	\$ 18,549,569	-\$ 1,521,262	-7.6%
Reimbursable Fund	\$ 846,847	\$ 52,000	\$ 1,800,000	\$ 1,748,000	3361.5%
Total Funds	\$ 20,782,160	\$ 20,122,831	\$ 20,349,569	\$ 226,738	1.1%

Note: The fiscal 2019 appropriation does not include deficiencies, a one-time \$500 bonus, or general salary increases.