



Results-based Plan Briefing Book 2012-13

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

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Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13

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Results-based Plan 2012-13

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

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Ministry of Children and Youth Services Overview

Introduction

Ontario is home to more than 2.8 million children and youth. This highly diverse and talented group of young people are the key to Ontario's future success and prosperity. They all deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential and become active, productive members of our communities. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) is committed to improving how services are provided to Ontario's young people and their families by focusing on improving outcomes and supporting a better service experience.

The majority of ministry funding flows as transfer payments to community agencies to provide services on behalf of the government. The ministry also directly operates facilities in the child and youth mental health sector, and the youth justice system, as well as youth probation offices across Ontario.

Ministry Vision

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services' vision is an Ontario where all children and youth have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

Ministry Mandate

The ministry works with community partners, other ministries, agencies, and municipalities to fund and / or provide:

- early identification and intervention services for young children and their families;
- financial support for families through the Ontario Child Benefit, Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families and the Children's Activity Tax Credit;
- intensive behavioural intervention services and applied behaviour analysis-based services and supports for children and youth with autism spectrum disorders and respite, residential, rehabilitative and transition supports to children with special needs including autism;
- child and youth mental health services;
- opportunities and supports to facilitate the successful achievement of key youth development outcomes needed for life success, through programs such as summer jobs and youth outreach workers to help at-risk youth;
- protection services and support for children who have been, or are at risk of being abused or neglected, including placement for adoption; and
- community and custodial programs for youth in, or at risk of, conflict with the law, aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence.

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In 2012-13, the ministry's key priorities include:

- integration of early identification and intervention supports and services for parents and infants and young children so they can access them in a more co-ordinated, timely and efficient way;
- preventing youth from coming in conflict with the law and reducing the number of youth who re-offend;
- implementation of the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, focusing on children and youth in the key areas of: fast access to high-quality services, early identification and support, and helping vulnerable kids with unique needs;
- delivery of mandated services including child protection and youth justice services;
- working with the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare and children's aid societies to find creative solutions that will help the child protection system remain sustainable and best meet the needs of the children, youth and families it serves;
- delivery of a range of services and supports to children with autism spectrum disorders, and their families;
- delivery of programs and services to help children with special needs and their families;
- policy and programs to meet the government's commitment to reducing child poverty, including the Ontario Child Benefit; and
- provision of employment opportunities and outreach services for at-risk youth to make positive choices.

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Ministry Programs and Services: Summary

The following programs and services are delivered through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

Healthy Child Development

- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Early Years Community Support
- Children's Activity Tax Credit

Children and Youth at Risk

- Child Protection Services
- Child Protection Transformation Fund
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Youth Justice Services

Specialized Services

- Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
- Autism

Ontario Child Benefit

- Ontario Child Benefit
- Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent
- Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families

Infrastructure Program

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Key Activities

Healthy Child Development

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program will continue to screen pregnant women, new mothers and their babies; offer information on child development and parenting to families with newborns; and provide extra support to those families who need it.

Changes proposed for HBHC in 2012-13, which will further strengthen the program to better serve at-risk children and families include an enhanced universal screening tool, a streamlined screening process, and best practice guidelines for the home visiting component of the program.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$86.5 million in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program.

Early Years Community Support

The ministry will continue to support early healthy child development through:

- the Infant Hearing Program, that identifies babies born deaf or hard of hearing and provides services to these children and their families to support language and early literacy development so they are ready to start school;
- the Preschool Speech and Language Program, which identifies children with a speech and language disorder as early as possible through targeted and universal services and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills so they are ready to start school;
- the Blind-Low Vision program, that provides critical early intervention and parent education services needed by families of children born blind or with low vision to help them achieve healthy development; and
- the Infant Development Program, which provides early intervention services for children up to age five with, or at risk of, developmental delays.

In 2012-13, the ministry will work with the Ministries of Education and Health and Long-Term Care to improve speech and language services for children and youth. Seven demonstration sites will continue testing different ways to better integrate speech and language services for children from birth through Grade Three and will be evaluated to determine if their models improve the access to, quality and value of speech and language services for children and their families. The sites have been extended until August 2013 to increase the breadth and depth of information collected regarding child outcomes, transition points, service integration and the costs of each model.

To help develop the Best Start Child and Family Centres concept, the ministry will evaluate research projects in a number of communities across the province. These projects demonstrate innovative approaches to integrating child and family services. Under a Best Start Child and Family Centre system, parents across Ontario will know where to go for information, supports and services related to their child's early development.

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The Student Nutrition Program will continue to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth – especially those in high-needs neighbourhoods – so they are ready to learn in school.

In 2012-13, the ministry will mark the 10th year since the establishment of Ontario Early Years Centres and will continue supporting over 100 centres and a number of satellite centres. These centres offer informal and formal programs and services, such as parenting and nutrition workshops.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$192.9 million in the Early Years Community Support Program.

Children's Activity Tax Credit

The Children's Activity Tax Credit helps parents with the cost of enrolling their children in activities that encourage them to be healthy and active. For 2012, parents and guardians will be able to claim eligible expenses of up to \$526 to receive a credit of up to \$52.60 per child under age 16 (up to \$105.20 per child with a disability who is under age 18).

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$80.0 million in the Children's Activity Tax Credit Program.

Children and Youth at Risk

Child Protection Services

Child protection services help children and youth who have been, or are at risk of being, abused or neglected, grow up in safer, more stable, caring environments. Forty-seven Children's Aid Societies (CASs), including seven Aboriginal CASs, protect children, provide for their care and supervision when necessary and help place them for adoption.

The ministry provides CASs with standards and tools to assess the risk to a child's safety and match their response to the needs of the child and family. An emphasis is placed on resolving child protection cases outside the courtroom through alternative dispute resolution and permanency planning for children and youth.

The ministry will continue working with CASs and the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare to find creative solutions that will help the child protection system remain sustainable and best meet the needs of the children, youth, and families it serves, while being fiscally responsible. The Commission will focus its work on five priority areas until the end of its mandate in September 2012, at which time the Commission will submit its final report and recommendations to the ministry. The five priority areas are:

- a funding approach for designated Aboriginal CASs;
- scope of services to be delivered by CASs;
- implementing shared services in the child welfare sector;
- piloting an initial set of performance indicators in some CASs and recommendations regarding next steps on sector-wide accountability; and
- child welfare cost drivers.

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The ministry will continue to consult with the child welfare sector on the Commission's proposed funding approach and is conducting an independent third-party review of the Commission's proposed funding model.

Any new approach to funding must include clear accountability and performance measures. The ministry will continue its work to develop an approach that includes the development of guiding principles and outcome measures that assess the health of the system as a whole, including agency performance and capacity, and child and youth outcomes. The ministry will continue to consider advice provided by the Commission.

Work will continue on the development of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) to modernize the province's child protection system. The new information system will help agencies more easily manage case files and finances, share information with each other, make decisions for the children they serve and make it possible to track and report on outcomes.

To help more kids find permanent homes, the ministry will provide targeted subsidies to eligible families who want to adopt or gain legal custody of a Crown ward. The new funding is in addition to existing subsidies that most CASs already provide to some adoptive families.

In late 2011, the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth held two days of public hearings on the experiences of youth leaving care. Young people currently and formerly in the care of CASs shared their views on how they can be better supported to succeed. The Youth Leaving Care Team is expected to submit a report to the government in 2012. The ministry will carefully consider its recommendations.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$1.5 billion in Child Protection Services.

Child Protection Transformation Fund

Through the ministry's Child Protection Transformation initiative, which began in 2004-05, amendments were made to the Child and Family Services Act and new regulations, standards, policies and tools were developed and implemented which support improved outcomes for children and youth, while creating a more accountable and sustainable child protection system.

Child and Youth Mental Health

Mental health services for children and youth are delivered through more than 260 child and youth mental health agencies, 17 hospital-based outpatient programs, two directly-operated child and youth mental health centres and on-site clinical supports at six directly-operated youth justice secure custody/detention facilities.

The ministry will continue working in 2012-13 to transform the child and youth mental health system and to build a system that delivers what children and youth need, when they need it, as close to home as possible.

Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which focuses on children and youth in the first three years, will continue to roll out. The strategy is strengthening services for children and youth, creating a more integrated and responsive system, and building awareness and capacity within the education system to support students and their families. Over 50,000 Ontario kids and their families are expected to benefit from quicker and easier access to the right mental health supports.

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New supports and services across Ontario will continue to focus on three key areas:

- Faster access to high quality services so kids with mental health needs receive the right type of services, at the right time, when they need it;
- Identifying kids with mental health needs earlier and getting them the right help sooner so they can stay in school, graduate and lead fulfilling and productive lives; and
- More services and supports to meet the unique needs of vulnerable kids, Aboriginal children and youth, and those living in remote communities.

The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health will continue its work to improve the quality and effectiveness of child and youth mental health services through the promotion of evidence-based practices and knowledge transfer with front-line service providers.

With the phased closure of Thistleton Regional Centre (TRC) by March 2014, the ministry will continue the two-year process of transferring programs and services from TRC to community-based agencies. The ministry will continue to work with families and community agencies to provide a seamless transition for TRC clients during the phased closure. Youth, residents and families will continue to receive coordinated and comprehensive services.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$597.3 million in Child and Youth Mental Health.

Youth Justice Services

The ministry has successfully repositioned youth justice programs and services to create a system that reduces re-offending, contributes to community safety, and prevents youth crime through rehabilitative programming, while holding youth accountable and creating opportunities for youth at risk. By helping youth make better choices and lessening the likelihood they will re-offend, the ministry is making communities safer while giving youth a better opportunity to succeed.

In 2012-13, the ministry will continue to provide evidence-informed community and custodial programs, ranging from diversion to reintegration of youth after custody. Fewer youth continue to come into custody, with the majority of youth receiving service/supervision in the community including diversion, rehabilitation, probation and supports for youth with mental health issues. Youth who are placed in custody and detention facilities are given the opportunity to participate in rehabilitative programs that help them develop the skills they need to achieve success in the community. Programs include skills development, substance abuse counselling, life skills and anger management.

The ministry will build on its achievements to strengthen the youth justice service system. Priorities include expanding evidence-informed programming in custody/detention, using a strengths-based approach to probation case management, optimizing the use of youth justice facilities and improving capacity to report on outcomes for youth as a result of service.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$359.7 million in Youth Justice Services.

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Residential Services

Children and youth may come into residential care through a court order for child protection or as a result of being in conflict with the law. Other children may require residential care due to developmental and physical challenges, medically-fragile conditions, behavioural difficulties, psychiatric disorders or substance abuse.

Residential care is provided through group or foster care settings or open custody facilities. In 2012-13, the ministry will continue to fund approximately 4,100 beds in over 500 group homes, approximately 12,000 beds in more than 8,000 foster homes, and 1,001 beds in youth justice residential settings.

The ministry's regional offices will work with community partners to implement transition planning protocols that will formalize transition planning responsibilities among community partners. The protocols follow the development of the Transition Planning Framework, a planning tool that helps young people with a developmental disability prepare for the transition to adulthood.

The ministry will also roll out an updated Foster Care Licensing Manual for regional offices and licensed foster care service providers. The manual refines, clarifies, and updates the previous manual and removes requirements that are redundant, out-dated and unnecessary.

Services and Supports for Aboriginal Children and Youth

The ministry will continue to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal young people living on- and off-reserve across Ontario in 2012-13. It will continue to fund the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, the Aboriginal Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Child Nutrition Program, the Akwe:go and Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Programs and community-based programs for Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law.

As the ministry implements Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, it remains committed to providing culturally appropriate mental health services as close to home as possible. Investments in Aboriginal mental health workers, a new Aboriginal training program for mental health workers, and an expanded and enhanced Child and Youth Telepsychiatry Program will help meet the needs of Aboriginal children and youth.

The Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare is expected to publicly release its recommendations on Aboriginal child welfare in spring 2012.

The ministry will continue working with a number of Aboriginal service providers seeking designation as Aboriginal Children's Aid Societies.

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Specialized Services

Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) provide rehabilitation services to children and youth up to 19 years of age with physical and/or developmental disabilities, chronic illness and/or communication disorders. CTCs provide core rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. A variety of other services and clinics – such as autism, preschool speech and language, respite and developmental programs – are offered depending on local needs and the mix of providers in each community.

Twenty of Ontario's 21 CTCs are funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care because it provides in-patient services. CTCs served over 63,000 children and youth with special needs in 2010-11.

The ministry will continue to fund respite services for families with children who are medically-fragile, technology-dependent or who have multiple special needs. Services are provided in the family home or in a setting outside the home, such as a group home.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$109.3 million in Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services.

Services and Supports for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

A range of new Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services will continue to benefit approximately 8,000 children and youth with ASD in 2012-13. These services help young people with ASD become more independent, develop communication, social, behaviour management and daily living skills, and cope better in school.

More training and support will continue to be offered to parents so they can incorporate strategies into daily activities at home and further develop the skills their kids are learning at school and/or in a program delivered by an autism service provider. This training and support helps parents better address the needs of their children and to reduce family stress. Parents will also continue to have more access to resource materials and information about the full range of services and supports for children and youth with ASD.

Parents want to know how their children with ASD are progressing and that they are receiving the treatment and services that best meet their needs. In 2011-12, the ministry established an ASD Clinical Expert Committee to advise the government on effective interventions, emerging research and best clinical practices. In 2012-13, the committee will promote transparency in clinical decision-making and will help ensure that kids with ASD get the right supports at the right time.

To promote more transparency, the ministry will establish an independent review process. If a family is not satisfied with a decision related to their child's eligibility for, or discharge from, IBI services, they will be able to request an independent review. This will reassure parents that decisions affecting their children are fair and objective.

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The ministry will continue to fund the Potential Program (formerly known as Realize Community Potential), which helps reduce the stress on families by providing supports like parent networking opportunities, training and access to ASD experts and resources.

The ministry will continue to provide funding to help children and youth with autism attend March break programs and summer camps. Kids enjoy making new friends, learning new skills and participating in fun activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, bowling, skating and music. The ministry will also continue funding respite services for families caring for a child with autism.

The ministry will continue working with the Ministry of Education to offer Connections for Students, a program that establishes transition teams in all 72 school boards across the province to support children leaving the Autism Intervention Program and starting or continuing in a publicly-funded school.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$192.0 million in services for children and youth with ASD.

Ontario Child Benefit

Ontario Child Benefit and Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a non-taxable benefit that helps low-income families provide for their children. In 2012-13, more than one million children in low-income families will receive up to a maximum of \$1,100 per child. To be considered for the benefit, individuals need to file their annual income taxes and register their child for the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

The ministry will also provide funding equivalent to the maximum OCB to children and youth in the care of children's aid societies. This funding helps provide supports such as tutoring, skills building and recreational programs to all children and youth in care. Older youth also participate in a savings program to help them prepare for independence and the transition to adulthood. These youth will have access to their savings when they leave care.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$955.7 million in the Ontario Child Benefit and Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent.

Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families

Effective April 1, 2012, payments related to the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (OCCS) will be reported within the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, to better reflect sector expense.

OCCS supports low and middle income working families with young children by helping with their child care costs; provides families with supports to strengthen the commitment to work; and helps working families remain self-reliant.

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Youth Opportunities Strategy

The Youth Opportunities Strategy, part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, helps at-risk youth ages 15 to 18 reach their full potential and achieve individual success. The strategy includes the Summer Jobs for Youth Program, the Youth in Policing Initiative, and the Youth Outreach Worker Program.

In 2012-13, 3,980 full-time job placements will be available to young people to gain valuable work skills and experience through the Summer Jobs for Youth Program in 19 communities. Approximately 370 youth will benefit from summer jobs with local police services through the Youth in Policing Initiative. Sixty-two youth outreach workers across Ontario will work with local agencies to connect hard-to-reach youth to needed services and supports.

Youthconnect.ca, the ministry's website targeted to young people, will continue to provide information about these programs and other resources available to youth in Ontario.

Youth Resource Tool

The ministry will share its youth resource tool with individuals who work with and support youth in their daily lives. The tool will help government, service providers, community leaders and decision-makers better understand what young people need to reach their full potential at each stage of their development.

Child Poverty

Ontario's first-ever poverty reduction strategy, *Breaking the Cycle*, is focused on improving opportunities for children and their families. The strategy, released in December 2008, sets a target of reducing child poverty by 25 per cent over five years.

The implementation highlights for 2012-13 include:

- The Ontario Child Benefit will provide direct financial support to more than one million children in almost 530,000 low income families;
- Full Day Kindergarten will expand to reach approximately 120,000 students;
- A 30 per cent tuition rebate for full time undergraduate college and university students will help families that earn less than \$160,000 per year;
- The government will receive the report of the Social Assistance Review and will carefully review its recommendations for a more responsive, coordinated and transparent social services system;
- The Student Nutrition Program will continue providing healthy snacks and meals to students so they are ready to learn and succeed at school;
- The *Not-For-Profit Corporation Act, 2010*, will come into force and benefit many organizations across the province, including those providing food, employment and housing assistance; and
- Ontario's Social Venture Exchange - a regulated financial market designed to assess and attract sustainable financing or needed investment capital for firms with a social mission including enterprising non-profits - will launch to help strengthen the social enterprise sector.

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Measuring progress and communicating results to Ontarians is an important part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The ministry will report on progress in the fourth annual progress report, expected to be released in December 2012.

Infrastructure Program

Capital Investments in Social Service Facilities

Investing in infrastructure is critical to helping vulnerable Ontarians and building strong communities.

In 2012-13, the ministry will invest \$35.3 million to help social service agencies better serve children, youth and their families through new construction or upgrades to existing facilities. The ministry will also develop a capital policy framework to help manage strategic infrastructure investments.

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Ministry Contribution to Key Priorities and Results				
Priorities	Better Ontario for Families	Healthier Ontario	Smarter Ontario	Stronger Ontario
Key Results	- More children arriving in school ready to learn - More children screened for risk factors, identified earlier - Increase in adoptions - Children and youth whose families need assistance benefit from the Ontario Child Benefit - Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families - Children's Activity Tax Credit	- More children getting a healthy breakfast or snack - More children are screened for risk factors and identified earlier - More children receiving supports for special needs - Improved function after mental health care	- More children arriving in school ready to learn - More at-risk children and youth successful in school - More youth graduating from secondary school	- More opportunities for children and youth at risk - Fewer youth entering justice system and reduction in re-offending rates
Strategies	Support for low-income families; screening programs and support for at-risk families; healthy child development programs; access to appropriate services for children and youth with special needs including autism and mental health issues; nutrition programs; stability for children in need of protection.	Screening programs and support for at-risk families; healthy child development programs; increased access to appropriate services for children and youth with special needs (including autism) and mental health issues; nutrition programs; stability for children in need of protection.	Support for low-income families; programs for at-risk youth and youth in conflict with the law; healthy child development programs; nutrition programs; focus on permanency for children in care; increased access to appropriate services for children and youth with special needs (including autism) and mental health issues; stability for children in need of protection.	Programs for at-risk youth and youth in conflict with the law; support for low-income families; increased support for families with children with special needs (including autism) and mental health issues; stability for children in need of protection.
Major Activities	Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent (OCBE), and Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families (OCCS) Healthy Child Development Programs Services for children and youth with special needs including autism Mental health programs and services Child Protection Services Children's Activity Tax Credit (CATC)	OCB, OCBE and OCCS Healthy Child Development Programs Services for children and youth with special needs including autism Student Nutrition Program Mental health programs and services Child Protection Services Enhanced screening at 18 months CATC	OCB, OCBE and OCCS Healthy Child Development Programs Youth Opportunities Strategy Services for children and youth with special needs including autism Mental health programs and services Child Protection Services Youth Justice Services CATC	OCB, OCBE and OCCS Youth Opportunities Strategy Youth Resource Tool Youth Justice Services Services for children and youth with special needs including autism Mental health programs and services Child Protection Services Ontario's policy framework for child and youth mental health CATC

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Ministry Contribution to Priorities and Results

The ministry's initiatives support the government's priorities of a healthier Ontario, a smarter Ontario, a stronger Ontario and a better Ontario for families. With its community partners, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is developing and tracking outcomes for children and youth to help the ministry determine how programs are working and if young people are getting the services that they need.

Healthy Child Development

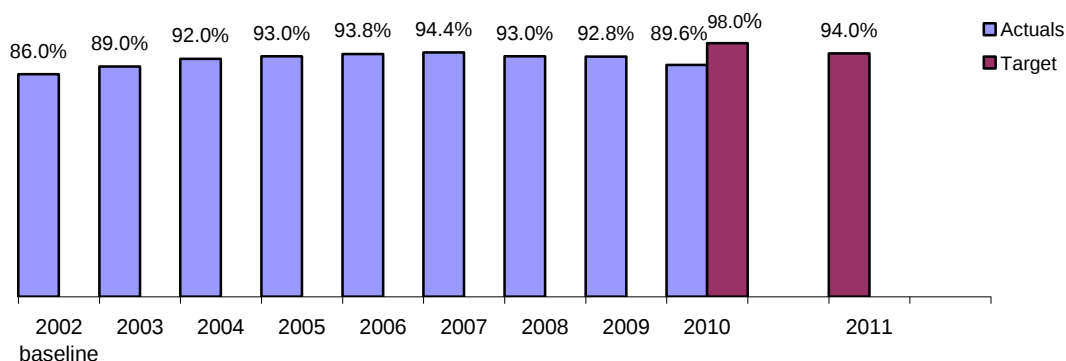
Preschool Speech and Language identifies children with speech and language disorders as early as possible and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills so they are ready to learn when they start school. In 2010-11, the program provided service to 52,227 children and their families and assessed 22,404 new children.

The **Infant Hearing Program** provides newborn hearing screening in hospitals and community settings, audiology assessment and hearing aid selection, monitoring for babies born at risk of early childhood hearing loss and services to support language development in infants and preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2010-11, the program provided hearing screening for 130,826 newborns, which is approximately 98 percent of all live births in Ontario.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

Healthy Babies Healthy Children provides screening for pregnant women and every new baby and mother. It is designed to help families promote healthy child development and help their children reach their full potential. In 2011 the program provided prenatal screening to 26,700 pregnant women and screened 116,800 live births to identify risk factors.

Performance Measure: Number of children screened at birth through Healthy Babies Healthy Children



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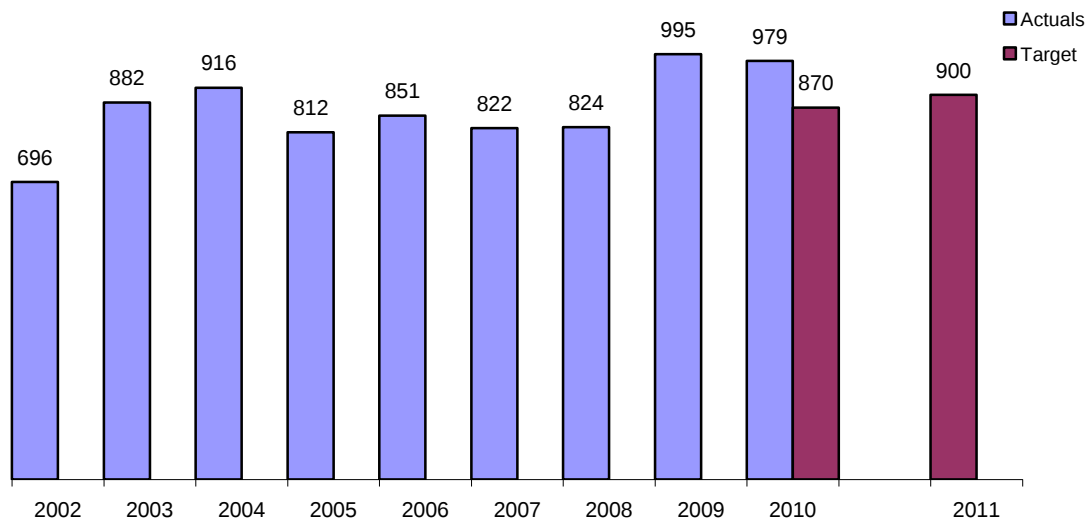
Children and Youth At Risk

Child Protection Services

The ministry is working with Ontario's 47 children's aid societies and community partners to make the child protection system more accountable, flexible and responsive to the needs of children, youth and their families. Changes to the *Child and Family Services Act* since 2006 have created more permanency options for children and youth in care. These changes make it easier for relatives or community members to provide permanent homes for children and youth. They also allow more children to be adopted, while still maintaining ties to their birth family and to their community.

In 2011, further amendments to the *CFSA* came into force through the *Building Families and Supporting Youth to be Successful Act, 2011*. This Act is intended to improve outcomes for children and youth in care by removing legislative barriers to Crown wards being placed for adoption. Prior to proclamation, Crown wards could not be placed for adoption if they were subject to an access order. Under the new scheme, all access orders will now automatically terminate at adoption placement.

Performance Measure: Number of completed children's aid society adoptions.



The performance target for child welfare adoption reflects the ministry's emphasis on adoption as one of the permanency options as part of Child Protection Transformation.

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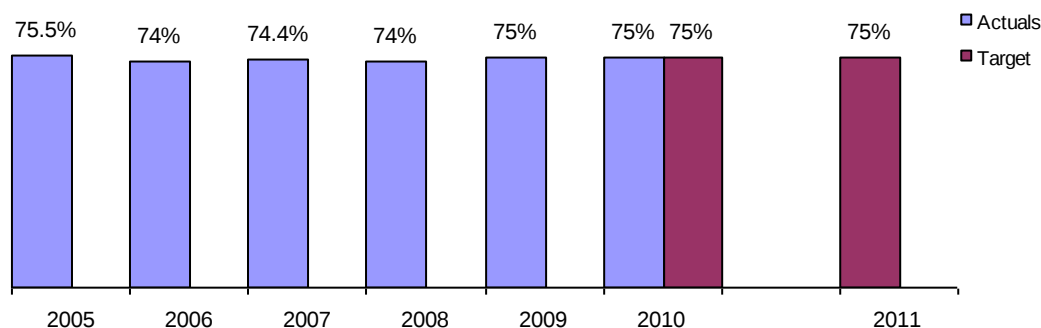
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Child and Youth Mental Health

The ministry invested \$530.4 million in 2010-11, which included directly operated facilities, to provide mental health services to children and youth in Ontario. Through this funding, the ministry is building on its previous investments in more than 260 agencies which provide child and youth mental health programs and services and 17 hospital-based outpatient programs.

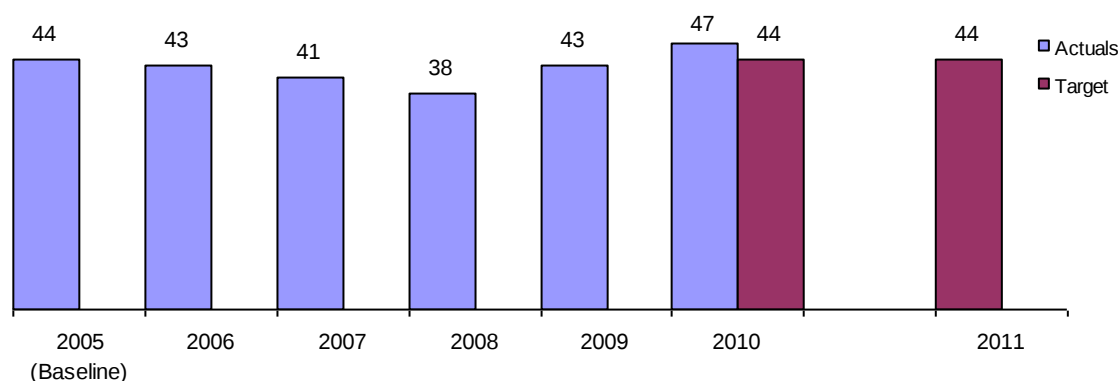
By continuing to reduce overlap and delays within the system, the ministry is committed to reducing wait times for children and youth requiring mental health services, while also improving outcomes for those who access these services.

Performance Measure: 1. Percentage of children and youth showing improved functioning at exit from Child and Youth Mental Health services



Source: Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) Annual Reports 2005-2010.

Performance Measure: 2. Average wait time (number of days) from referral to receipt of "regular ongoing" Child and Youth Mental Health Services



Source: Brief Child and Family Phone Interview (BCFPI) appearing in BCFPI Annual Reports 2005-2010.

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Youth Justice Services

The ministry provides evidence-informed programs and services that adhere to the research and evidence of effective interventions to reduce re-offending and address the needs and risks of special populations. Programs and services specifically target needs associated with re-offending; focus on the strengths of youth, increasing youth academic and/or vocational achievements, and holding youth accountable; and recognize the developmental stages of youth.

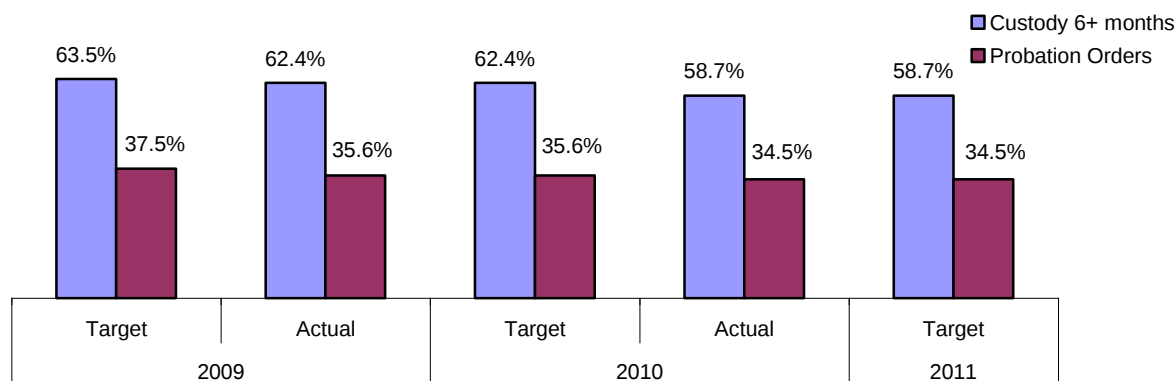
Integration of youth justice within the broader children and youth system responds to research about building foundations for healthy child and youth development.

Some examples of activities that support effective programming include:

- implementation of a Probation Strategy with activities focused on: confirming divisional expectations for probation services; strengthening evidence-based case management; and accountability and effectiveness;
- providing a continuum of evidence-informed programs and services that address prevention, diversion, reintegration, rehabilitation for youth in, or at risk of, conflict with the law;
- continuation of the re-offending study; and
- using research about the effectiveness of positive and professional staff/youth interactions to implement a Relationship Custody Framework and introducing training for staff in custody/detention facilities and probation that supports, assessing and using a youth's strengths as an effective way of working with youth.

In 2010-11, the average daily count in Youth Justice was 10,641 (10,009 community/probation caseload, 244 in open custody/detention and 388 in secure custody/detention).

Performance Measure: Number of youth who re-offend as a percentage of all youth tracked



Parameters for the Performance Measure have remained the same year over year. Content above for this year provides clarification that the custody is for a period of 6 months or more and that Probation Orders are the community-based sentence used.

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Youth Opportunities Strategy

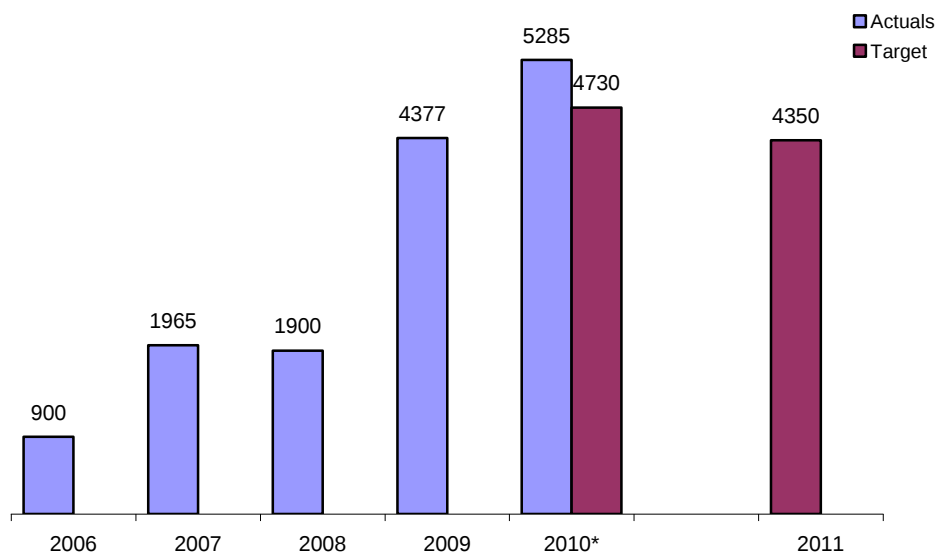
In 2010-11, at-risk youth received summer employment experience and year-round support from the youth outreach workers program. In 2010-11, a total of 5,285 summer jobs across 32 communities were provided through the Strategy. The data includes:

- 4,916 youth were placed in summer jobs with local employers through the Summer Jobs for Youth Program (SJFY);
- 369 youth worked with their local police service in the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI); and
- 62 year-round outreach workers provided advice to hard-to-reach youth and connected them to appropriate services through the Youth Outreach Worker Program.

The Youth Opportunities Strategy gives at-risk youth valuable work experience that will contribute to their future success and build a strong workforce for Ontario. In 2010-11, \$24 million was invested in the program.

Interim data from 2011-12 indicates 4,830 youth found summer jobs through SJFY and YIPI. In summer 2011, 383 youth worked with local police services through the Youth in Policing Initiative and preliminary numbers for SJFY indicate 4,447 youth were placed in summer jobs through the program. The decline in youth served between 2010 and 2011 is a result of a decrease in program funding due to federal stimulus investments that ended in 2010.

Performance Measure: Summer job and training opportunities for vulnerable youth



* 2010 actuals updated (preliminary numbers given in last year's report).

Note: The decline in youth served between 2010 and 2011 is a result of a decrease in program funding due to federal stimulus investments that ended in 2010.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13

Specialized Services

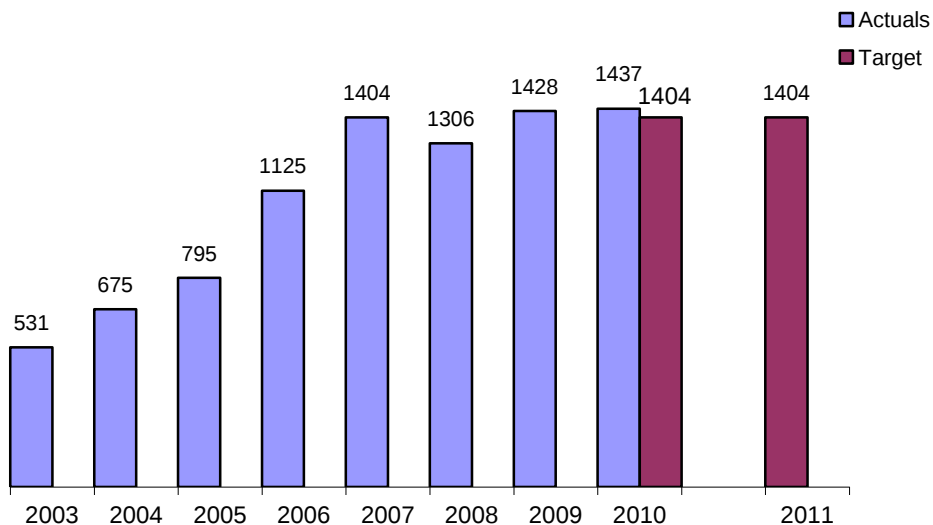
Autism Spectrum Disorders

In 2011-12, the ministry invested over \$180 million in services to children with ASD.

The number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) has increased from 531 in 2003-04 to 1,437 in 2010-11. The ministry is also responding to calls for transparency and consistency in decisions related to IBI therapy by making improvements to the Autism Intervention Program. This includes establishing an independent review mechanism for families who are not satisfied with a decision related to their child's eligibility or to their child's discharge from IBI services, and establishing an ASD clinical expert committee that will advise the government on emerging research and best clinical practices.

In 2011-12, the ministry invested \$25 million in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services and supports to help children and youth with ASD improve behaviour management or emotional regulation, communication, social/interpersonal and daily living skills. Approximately 8,000 kids with ASD will benefit annually from these services which began in communities across Ontario starting in summer 2011.

Performance Measure: Autism Intervention Program – Number of children receiving IBI



Ministry of Children and Youth Services

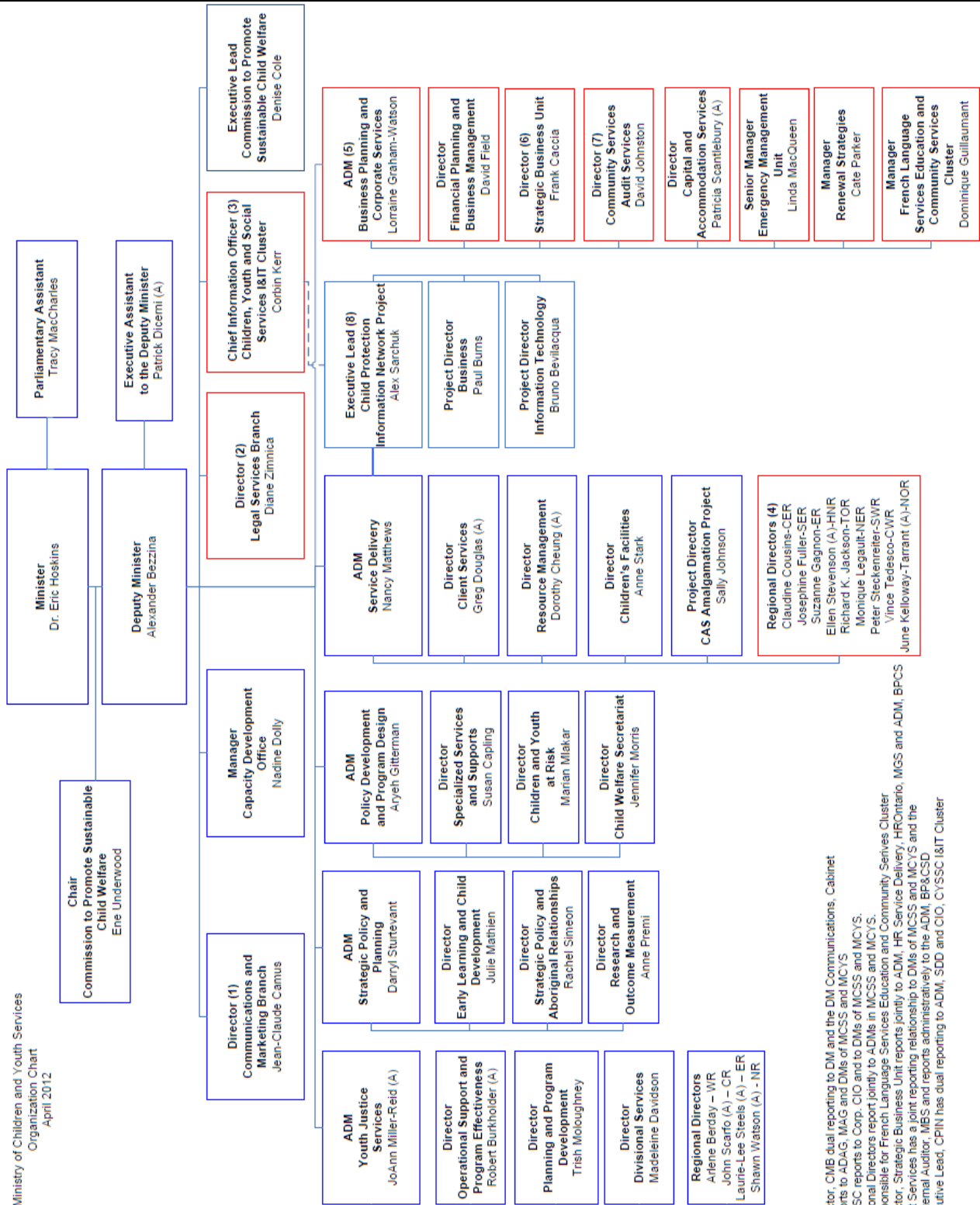
The Estimates, 2012-13

Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) gives low-income families financial support that they need to provide for their children. The OCB helps build a stronger economy by making it easier for parents to leave social assistance for work. In July 2007, eligible families received a one-time OCB down payment of up to \$250 for each dependent child under age 18 and in July 2008, monthly payments began. In July 2009, the OCB increased the maximum annual payment to its current level of \$1,100 per child, or almost \$92 per child, per month – two years ahead of schedule.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13



- (1) Director, CMB dual reporting to DM and the DM Communications, Cabinet
- (2) Reports to ADAG, IMAG and DMS of MCSS and MCYS
- (3) CYSSC reports to Corp. CIO and to DMS of MCSS and MCYS.
- (4) Regional Directors report jointly to ADMs in MCSS and MCYS.
- (5) Responsible for French Language Services Education and Community Services Cluster
- (6) Director, Strategic Business Unit reports jointly to ADM, HR Service Delivery, HROntario, MGS and ADM, BPCS
- (7) Audit Services has a joint reporting relationship to DMS of MCSS and MCYS and the Chief Internal Auditor, MBS and reports administratively to the ADM, BP&CSD
- (8) Executive Lead, CPIN has dual reporting to ADM, SDD and CIO, CYSSC I&IT Cluster

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13

Cost Sharing with the Federal Government

Independent of block funding received by the province under the Canada Social Transfer (CST), the province receives federal funding under the following cost-sharing agreements:

- Indian Welfare Services Agreement; and
- Memorandum of Agreement and Supplementary Agreement Respecting Federal Contributions to Youth Justice Services and Programs.

For the 2012-13 fiscal year, federal contributions are estimated at:

	Cash	Accrual
<i>Indian Welfare Services Agreement</i>		
Children and Youth at Risk	<u>\$108,402,000</u>	<u>\$109,233,000</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$108,402,000</u>	<u>\$109,233,000</u>
 <i>Agreement re: Youth Justice Services</i>		
Youth Justice Services	<u>\$64,934,000</u>	<u>\$64,934,000</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$64,934,000</u>	<u>\$64,934,000</u>
Total	<u>\$173,336,000</u>	<u>\$174,167,000</u>

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13

Statutes Administered by the Ministry

- **British Home Child Day Act, 2011**, S.O. 2011, c.14
- **Child and Family Services Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.11
(except for sections 162 – 165 inclusive and section 176.1, and clauses 217(k), 220(c.1) - (c.6) and 222(k))
- **Day Nurseries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. D.2
(Note: Responsibility for administration of this Act is shared between MCYS and MEDU)
- **Health Protection and Promotion Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7
(section 7 in so far as it relates to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program as described in guidelines published under section 7)
- **Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998**, S.O. 1998, c. 29
- **Ministry of Community and Social Services Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.20
(in so far as it relates to activities and programs respecting children and youth services, subject to the sharing with the Minister of Education of responsibility for the administration of the Act in so far as it relates to child care services and programs, and except for sections 11.1 and 12 in so far as those sections relate to Long-Term Care Programs and Services)
- **Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent Act, 2009**, S.O. 2009, c.18, Schedule 19
- **Poverty Reduction Act, 2009**, S.O. 2009, c.10
- **Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007**, S.O. 2007, c. 9
- **Rescuing Children from Sexual Exploitation Act, 2002**, S.O. 2002, c. 5
(Note: This Act has not been proclaimed. The Ministry is responsible for Parts I and II and section 31 of the Act in so far as that section relates to activities and programs under those Parts).

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

The Estimates, 2012-13

Ministry Financial Information

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2012-13

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2012-13
Operating	\$4,144.7
Infrastructure	\$35.4
BPS Consolidation	(\$97.0)
Total including Consolidation	\$4,083.1

Table 2: Overall Summary (Operating and Capital)

Votes/Programs	Estimates 2012-13	Change from Estimates 2011-12		Estimates 2011-12 ^{1 2}	Interim Actuals 2011-12 ¹	Actuals 2010-11 ^{1 3}
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL						
Ministry Administration	14,253,400	615,500	4.5%	13,637,900	10,081,352	11,643,708
Children and Youth Services	4,130,351,400	44,649,700	1.1%	4,085,701,700	4,067,304,015	3,953,219,337
Infrastructure	35,269,100	19,790,900	127.9%	15,478,200	13,453,065	14,397,316
Total Including Special Warrants	4,179,873,900	65,056,100	1.6%	4,114,817,800	4,090,838,432	3,979,260,361
Less: Special Warrants	0	0	-	0	0	0
Total to be Voted	4,179,873,900	65,056,100	1.6%	4,114,817,800	4,090,838,432	3,979,260,361
Special Warrants	0	0	-	0	0	0
Statutory Appropriations	202,514	45,100	28.7%	157,414	161,160	127,577
Ministry Total Operating and Capital	4,180,076,414	65,101,200	1.6%	4,114,975,214	4,090,999,592	3,979,387,938
Consolidation	(97,000,000)	(2,271,800)	2.4%	(94,728,200)	(96,818,212)	(96,932,671)
Ministry Total Operating and Capital including Consolidation	4,083,076,414	62,829,400	1.6%	4,020,247,014	3,994,181,380	3,882,455,267

Assets (Operating and Capital)

Votes/Programs	Estimates 2012-13	Change from Estimates 2011-12		Estimates 2011-12 □	Interim Actuals 2011-12 □	Actuals 2010-11 □
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
Children and Youth Services	4,726,000	(600,000)	(11.3%)	5,326,000	454,302	1,461,289
Total Ministry Assets	4,726,000	(600,000)	(11.3%)	5,326,000	454,302	1,461,289
Less: Special Warrants	0	0	-	0	0	0
Total Assets to be Voted	4,726,000	(600,000)	(11.3%)	5,326,000	454,302	1,461,289

¹ Amounts have been restated for transfers of funding to Ministry of Education and the accounting change related to Children's Activity Tax Credit and Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families.

² Amounts have been restated for transfers of funding regarding Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

³ Amounts have been restated for transfer of funding to Ministry of Attorney General.

□ Amounts have been restated for the accounting change related to Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families.



Appendix 1: Annual Report 2011-12

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Annual Report, 2011-12

Ministry Achievements in 2011-12

Healthy Child Development

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program continued to screen pregnant women, new mothers and their babies; offer information on child development and parenting to families with newborns; and provide extra support to those families who need it.

The ministry worked with its partners to strengthen the program in 2011-12 by developing an enhanced screening tool and best practice guidelines for the home visiting component of the program.

Early Years Community Support

The ministry continued to support early healthy child development through:

- the Infant Hearing Program, that identifies babies born deaf or hard of hearing and provides services to these children and their families to support language and early literacy development so they are ready to start school;
- the Preschool Speech and Language Program, which identifies children with speech and language disorders as early as possible through targeted and universal services and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills so they are ready to start school;
- the Blind-Low Vision program, that provides critical early intervention and parent education services needed by families of children born blind or with low vision to help them achieve healthy development; and
- the Infant Development Program, which provides early intervention services for children up to age five with, or at risk of, developmental delays.

In 2011-12, the ministry worked with the Ministries of Education and Health and Long-Term Care to improve speech and language services for children and youth. Seven demonstration sites were funded to test different approaches to examine ways to better integrate speech and language services for children from birth through Grade Three.

To develop the Best Start Child and Family Centres concept, the ministry supported research projects in a number of communities across the province. These projects demonstrate innovative approaches to integrating child and family services. Under a Best Start Child and Family Centre system, parents across Ontario will know where to go for information, supports and services related to their child's early development.

The Student Nutrition Program continued to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth – especially those in high-needs neighbourhoods – so they are ready to learn in school. In 2010-11, the program served approximately 660,000 kids across the province.

Annual Report, 2011-12

The ministry continued supporting over 100 Ontario Early Years Centres and a number of satellite centres in 2011-12. These centres offer informal and formal programs and services, such as parenting and nutrition workshops.

Children and Youth at Risk

Child Protection Services

Ontario's child protection services help children and youth who have been, or are at risk of being, abused or neglected, grow up in safer, more stable, caring environments. Fifty-two Children's aid societies (CASs), including seven Aboriginal CASs, protect children, provide for their care and supervision when necessary, and help place them for adoption.

The ministry provides children's aid societies with standards and tools to assess the risk to a child's safety and match their response to the needs of the child and family. An emphasis is placed on resolving child protection cases outside the courtroom through alternative dispute resolution and permanency planning for children and youth.

Thousands more Ontario children and youth became eligible for adoption and other supports in 2011, thanks to amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* made by the *Building Families and Supporting Youth To Be Successful Act, 2011*. Proclaimed in September 2011, the amendments removes barriers so more kids in the care of CASs can be adopted. The changes also help older youth whose care ended at ages 16 or 17 transition to adulthood by allowing them to return to their CAS and receive financial and other supports until the age of 21.

In 2011-12, the ministry continued working with CASs and the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare to find creative solutions that will help the child protection system remain sustainable and best meet the needs of the children, youth, and families it serves. The ministry worked with CASs to help them manage within their budgets, find ways to reduce administrative demands and operate more efficiently. The ministry also began consulting with the child welfare sector on the Commission's proposed funding approach and started an independent third-party review to examine the mechanics and validity of the Commission's proposed funding model.

The Commission also recommended the amalgamation of 13 children's aid societies. In 2011-12, the ministry worked with the Commission and the 13 children's aid societies towards amalgamation to create six new CASs by the end of the fiscal year. In 2011-12, 4 of the 13 CASs amalgamated to form 2 newly amalgamated societies. The number of children's aid societies in Ontario was reduced from 53 to 52, as the ministry designated a new aboriginal child welfare agency in 2011-12. Nine additional CASs began the amalgamation process to form 4 new amalgamated CASs. Once the amalgamation process is completed in April 2012, there will be 47 children's aid societies in Ontario.

Work continued on the development of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN), part of the ministry's plan to modernize the child protection information system. In December 2011, CPIN launched its first phase. CPIN will help agencies more easily manage case files and finances, share information with each other and make decisions for the children they serve. As a result, the ministry will have better access to data collected from agencies and more accurate aggregate figures which can be used to inform analysis and decision-making.

Annual Report, 2011-12

Child Poverty

Ontario's poverty reduction strategy, 'Breaking the Cycle', is focused on improving opportunities for children and their families. The strategy, released in December 2008, sets a target of reducing child poverty by 25 per cent over five years.

In December 2011, the government released the third annual report on its strategy. The report details progress made over the last year. Highlights include:

- Ontario Child Benefit provided direct financial support to over one million children in almost 530,000 low-income families;
- Full Day Kindergarten expanded to nearly 800 schools and approximately 50,000 students;
- Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy launched with a focus, in the first three years, on helping young people get the help they need, when they need it, as close to home as possible;
- Thirty per cent tuition rebate announced for full time undergraduate college and university students whose families earn less than \$160,000 per year;
- Social Assistance Review started, with a final report expected in June 2012;
- Agreement reached with the federal government to provide combined funding of \$481 million to create affordable housing and over 5,000 jobs for Ontario; and
- Student Nutrition Program provided healthy snacks and meals to approximately 660,000 students so they are ready to learn and succeed at school.

Because Statistics Canada data lags by 18 months, 2011 was the first year that progress could be reported on income-based poverty indicators set in 2008. Statistics show that the poverty rate for children in Ontario declined from 15.2 per cent in 2008 to 14.6 per cent in 2009 - meaning 20,000 children and their families were lifted out of poverty. The rate for children in single mom-led families dropped dramatically from 43.2 per cent in 2008 to 35.2 per cent in 2009.

Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a non-taxable benefit that helps low-income families provide for their children. In 2011-12, more than one million children in almost 530,000 low-income families received up to a maximum of \$1,100 per child. To be considered for the benefit, individuals need to file their annual income taxes and register their child for the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

The ministry also provided funding equivalent to the maximum OCB to children and youth in the care of children's aid societies. This funding helped provide supports such as tutoring, skills building and recreational programs to all children and youth in care. Older youth also participated in a savings program to help them prepare for independence and the transition to adulthood. These youth will have access to their savings when they leave care.

Annual Report, 2011-12

Child and Youth Mental Health

Mental health services for children and youth are delivered through more than 260 child and youth mental health agencies, 17 hospital-based outpatient programs, two directly-operated child and youth mental health centres and on-site clinical supports at six directly-operated secure custody/detention facilities.

In June 2011, the ministry and its partners – the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care, Education and Training, Colleges and Universities, jointly launched Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which focuses on children and youth in the first three years. The strategy will strengthen services for children and youth, create a more integrated and responsive system, and build awareness and capacity within the education system to support students and their families. Over 50,000 Ontario kids and their families are expected to benefit from quicker and easier access to the right mental health supports.

New supports and services across Ontario communities focus on three key areas:

- faster access to high quality services so kids with mental health needs receive the right type of services, at the right time, when they need it. In 2011-12, more than 400 new mental health workers began providing supports to over 20,000 kids in communities, schools and youth courts;
- identifying kids with mental health needs earlier and getting them the right help sooner, so they can stay in school, graduate and lead fulfilling and productive lives; and
- more services and supports to meet the unique needs of vulnerable kids, Aboriginal children and youth, and those living in remote communities.

Investments made as part of Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy have provided immediate on-the-ground supports and set the stage for the development of a plan for the long-term transformation of the child and youth mental health sector. Initiatives that were implemented in 2011-12 include:

- allocated targeted funding to community-based child and youth mental health agencies to hire new community-based workers and workers to support students in schools;
- provided funding to hire new mental health court workers;
- Expanded *Working Together for Kids Mental Health* to seven additional communities - Hamilton, Frontenac, Lennox-Addington, Peel, Lambton, Ottawa, Simcoe;
- provided funding for the hiring of 144 nurses with mental health and addictions expertise to support students in schools;
- allocated resources to develop a family support provision model to support families to navigate the child and youth mental health service system;
- provided funding to implement the School Mental Health ASSIST program and for 15 school boards to recruit mental health leaders; and
- expanded services for eating disorders and provided funding to hire 14 Nurse Practitioners to help meet the needs of kids requiring specialized expertise.

Annual Report, 2011-12

Aboriginal children and youth in urban and off-reserve communities across Ontario continued to benefit from programs that help them build confidence and make healthy choices. Two examples are the Akwe:go Urban Aboriginal Children's Program, which helps kids seven to 12 and the Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Youth Program, which benefits youth 13 to 18.

The Nishnawbe-Aski Nation (NAN) Youth Resiliency Program, a youth development / suicide prevention program, continued to provide culture-based, community-driven mental health and community capacity building activities for children and youth nine to 16 years of age in ten NAN First Nations. The program is offered in two streams: Girl Power for females; and Wolf Spirit for males.

The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health continued its work to improve the quality and effectiveness of child and youth mental health services through the promotion of evidence-based practices and knowledge transfer with front-line service providers.

The Child and Youth Telepsychiatry Program continued providing clinical consultations (psychiatric assessments and treatment recommendations) through video-conferencing to a range of designated child and youth mental health agencies and to children and youth in rural, remote and under-served areas of the province.

The ministry began the two-year process of closing the Thistlethorn Regional Centre (TRC) in Etobicoke and transferring mental health services for children and youth from TRC to local mental health agencies in the community. With the closure of TRC by March 2014, young people, residents and families will be able to access services from community-based agencies.

Youth Justice Services

The ministry has successfully repositioned youth justice programs and services to create a system that reduces re-offending, contributes to community safety and prevents youth crime through rehabilitative programming, while holding youth accountable and creating opportunities for youth at risk. By helping youth make better choices and lessening the likelihood they will re-offend, the ministry is making communities safer while giving youth a better opportunity to succeed.

In 2011-12, the ministry continued to provide evidence-informed community and custodial programs, ranging from diversion to reintegration of youth from custody. Fewer youth continue to come into custody, with the majority of youth receiving services/supervision in the community, including diversion, rehabilitation, probation and supports for youth with mental health issues. Youth who are placed in custody and detention facilities are given the opportunity to participate in programs that help them develop the skills they need to achieve success in the community. Programs include skills development, substance abuse counselling, life skills and anger management.

The ministry continued to strengthen its youth justice service system by expanding evidence-informed programming in custody/detention, using a strengths-based approach to probation case management and improving capacity to report on outcomes for youth as a result of service.

Annual Report, 2011-12

To operate more efficiently, in March 2012 the ministry announced the closure of the Bluewater Youth Centre near Goderich - a directly-operated secure custody facility for youth that was operating for some time at less than 42 per cent capacity. Affected youth at Bluewater were relocated to other secure custody facilities as close to their families as possible. The ministry also reduced the number of beds at Brookside Youth Centre in Cobourg and at Cecil Facer Youth Centre in Sudbury - facilities that were operating at less than 60 per cent capacity.

Youth Opportunities Strategy

The Youth Opportunities Strategy, part of Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, helps at-risk youth ages 15 to 18 reach their full potential and achieve individual success. The strategy includes the Summer Jobs for Youth Program, the Youth in Policing Initiative and the Youth Outreach Worker Program.

In 2011-12, more than 4,400 young people gained valuable work skills and experience through the Summer Jobs for Youth Program in 19 communities. More than 380 youth benefited from summer jobs with local police services through the Youth in Policing Initiative. Sixty-two youth outreach workers across Ontario worked with local agencies to connect hard-to-reach youth to needed services and supports.

Youthconnect.ca, the ministry's website targeted to young people, continued to provide information about these programs and other resources available to youth in Ontario.

Youth Resource Tool

In 2011-12, the ministry completed its discussions with youth, researchers and youth experts to help produce an evidence-based resource on youth development. Through May and June 2011, over 600 youth across Ontario participated in dialogues on how youth can be supported to promote their healthy development. This included a partnership with the Ontario First Nations Youth People's Council.

The resource will help those who support youth in their daily lives - including government, service providers, community leaders, decision-makers and parents - better understand what young people need to reach their full potential at each stage of their development.

Residential Services

Children and youth may come into residential care through a court order for child protection or as a result of being in conflict with the law. Other children may require residential care due to developmental and physical challenges, medically-fragile conditions, behavioural difficulties, psychiatric disorders or substance abuse.

Residential care is provided through group or foster care settings or open custody/detention facilities. In 2011-12, the ministry funded more than 4,100 beds in 533 group homes, approximately 12,000 beds in more than 8,000 foster homes, and 1,147 beds in youth justice dedicated residential settings.

Licensed residential service providers began implementing policies designed to increase the quality and safety of licensed residential settings for children and youth who are on psychotropic and other medications.

Annual Report, 2011-12

In 2011-12, ministry regional offices worked with community partners to develop transition planning protocols that will formalize transition planning responsibilities among community partners. The protocols follow the development of the Transition Planning Framework, a planning tool that helps young people with a developmental disability prepare for the transition to adulthood.

Services and Supports for Aboriginal Children and Youth

The ministry continued to meet the unique needs of Aboriginal young people living on- and off-reserve across Ontario in 2011-12. It continued to fund the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, the Aboriginal Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Child Nutrition Program, the Akwe:go and Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Programs and community-based programs for Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law.

In April 2011, a summit at the Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay, hosted by Minister Broten and John Beaucage - a former Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation and Aboriginal Advisor to the Minister of Children and Youth Services—brought together Aboriginal leaders from across the province to discuss child welfare and how to better support Aboriginal children, youth and their families.

Mr. Beaucage also helped guide discussions with Aboriginal leaders and front-line service providers on child welfare issues, provided advice to the Minister on Aboriginal child welfare policy matters, and submitted a report to the Minister in July 2011. The report includes recommendations to improve the delivery of child welfare services to Aboriginal children and youth and is being reviewed by the ministry.

In August 2011, the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare released its discussion paper '*Aboriginal Child Welfare in Ontario*' and invited stakeholders to submit feedback. The Commission is expected to publicly release its recommendations in spring 2012.

The ministry also continued working with a number of Aboriginal service providers seeking designation as Aboriginal Children's Aid Societies. The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Department of Community and Social Services, received its designation as a children's aid society, with conditions, effective in September 2011.

Specialized Services

Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) provide rehabilitation services to children and youth up to 19 years of age with physical and/or developmental disabilities, chronic illness and/or communication disorders. CTCs provide core rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. A variety of other services and clinics – such as autism, preschool speech and language, respite and developmental programs - are offered depending on local needs and the mix of providers in each community.

Twenty of Ontario's 21 CTCs are funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care because it provides in-patient services. CTCs served over 63,000 children and youth with special needs in 2010-11.

Annual Report, 2011-12

In 2011-12, the ministry continued to fund respite services for families with children who are medically-fragile, technology - dependent or who have multiple special needs. Services are provided in the family home or in a setting outside the home, such as a group home.

Services and Supports for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The ministry expanded existing supports for children with ASD and their parents in 2011-12.

A range of new Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services were introduced, which will benefit approximately 8,000 children and youth with ASD annually. These services and supports are helping young people with autism develop communication, social, behaviour management and daily living skills, learn better in school and become more independent.

In addition, more training and support is now offered to parents so they can incorporate strategies into daily activities at home and further develop the skills their kids are learning at school and/or in a program delivered by an autism service provider. This training and support helps parents better address the needs of their children and to reduce family stress. Parents also have more access to resource materials and information about the full range of services and supports for children and youth with ASD.

Parents want to know how their children with ASD are progressing and that they are receiving the treatment and services that best meet their needs. In 2011-12, the ministry continued with plans to establish an ASD Clinical Expert Committee to advise the government on effective interventions, emerging research and best clinical practices. The committee will promote transparency in clinical decision-making and will help ensure that kids with ASD get the right supports at the right time.

To promote more transparency, the ministry continued working on the development of an independent review process. Once this process is fully implemented, if a family is not satisfied with a decision related to their child's eligibility for, or discharge from, intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) services, they will be able to request an independent review. This will reassure parents that decisions affecting their children are fair and objective.

The Potential Program (formerly known as Realize Community Potential) was expanded to serve parents of children and youth with ASD across Ontario. The program helps reduce the stress on families by providing supports like parent networking opportunities, training and access to ASD experts and resources.

The ministry continued to provide funding to help children and youth with autism attend March break programs and summer camps. Kids enjoyed making new friends, learning new skills and participating in fun activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, bowling, skating and music. In 2011-12, the ministry also continued funding respite services for families caring for a child with autism.

The ministry continued to work with the Ministry of Education to implement Connections for Students, a program that establishes transition teams in all 72 school boards across the province to support children leaving the Autism Intervention Program and starting or continuing in a publicly-funded school.

Annual Report, 2011-12

Capital Investments in Social Service Facilities

Investing in infrastructure is critical to helping vulnerable Ontarians and building strong communities.

In 2011-12, the ministry invested over \$13 million to help agencies that deliver ministry services better serve children, youth and their families. Projects included expansions and renovations in Windsor, Halton-Peel Region, Hamilton and East Toronto.

Annual Report, 2011-12

	Ministry Interim Expenditures (\$M) 2011-12
Operating	4,077
Capital	14
BPS Consolidation	(97)
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2012)	2,543 Full-time equivalents