

OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Budget Summary – Agency Request

Executive Summary

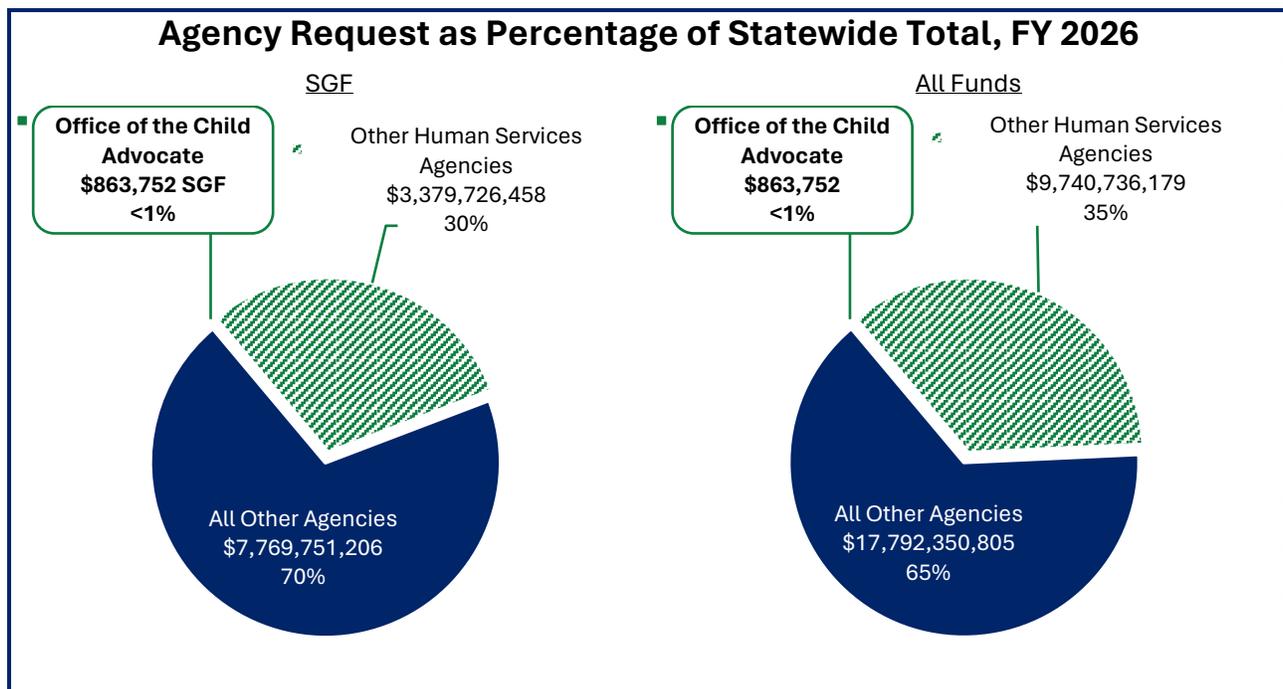
The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) acts as a neutral, independent agency to ensure Kansas children and families receive adequate coordination of services for child safety and well-being.

The 2024 Legislature passed the Child Advocate Act¹, which established the OCA as an independent state agency. The Act requires the OCA ensure adequate coordination of child welfare services offered by the Department for Children and Families (DCF), DCF’s contracting entities, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), the Kansas Department of Corrections, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the juvenile courts. This is accomplished by OCA receiving and responding to complaints regarding these entities.

Prior to becoming an independent state agency, the OCA existed through [Executive Order 21-28](#) as the Division of the Child Advocate within the Department of Administration’s Office of Public Advocates. Legislation previously considered would have established the OCA within the Legislative Branch or the Office of the Attorney General.

Expenditures by Fiscal Year and Version				
	SGF		All Funds	Note
FY 2024 Actual	\$	474,225	\$	474,225 Actual expenditures*
FY 2025 Actual		561,283		561,283 Actual expenditures
FY 2026 Approved		863,752		863,752 2025 SB 125
FY 2026 Agency		863,752		863,752 Revised estimate, submitted September 2025
FY 2027 Agency		851,351		851,351 Agency request, submitted September 2025

* Note: Expenditures for FY 2024 are when the agency existed as a Division within the Department of Administration. FY 2025 is the first year of actuals as a standalone agency.



¹ [2024 SB 115, KSA 75-7601 et seq.](#)

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Budget and Policy Snapshot

The tables below provide a selection of items that inform the agency budget request. These items include **supplemental and enhancement requests** () , adjustments related to **reappropriated funds** () , **language-only policy changes** requested for inclusion in legislation, changes in **federal or state policy** that impact agency funding, and other budgetary items.

These tables are not intended to be a comprehensive list of changes in the agency budget request. For more detail on individual fiscal year requests, please refer to the [FY 2026 Analysis](#) and [FY 2027 Analysis](#) sections later in this document.

FY 2026

Item	Amount	Source	Note
 SGF Reappropriation	\$ 119,647	SGF	

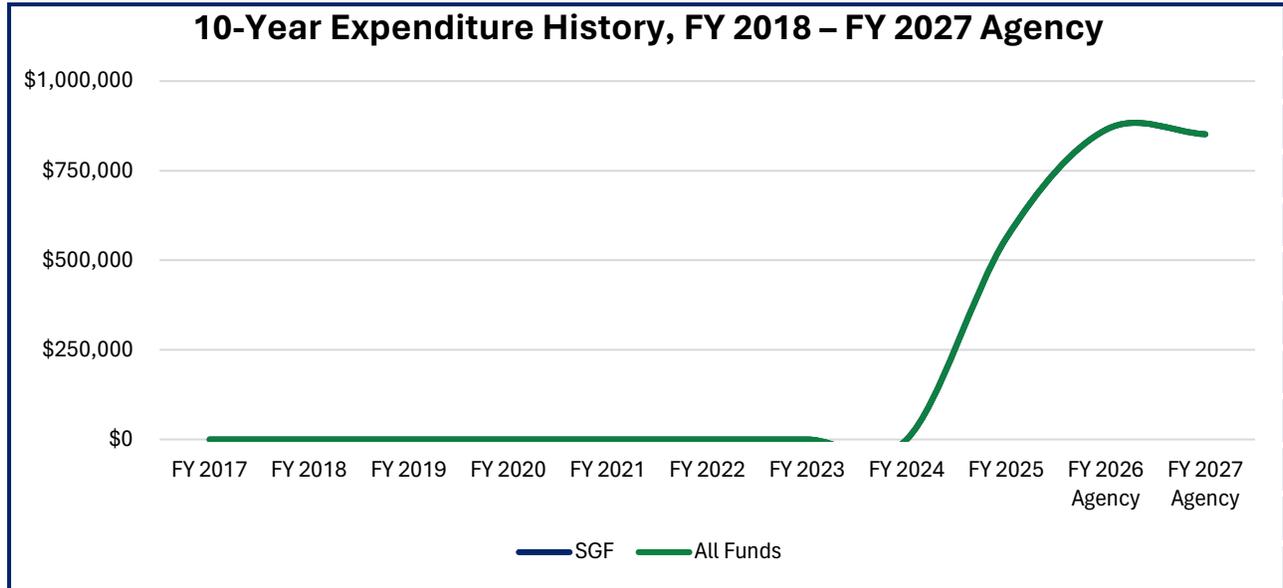
FY 2027

Item	Amount	Source	Note
 Rent and Services for New Positions	\$ 99,701	SGF	

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Summary of Expenditures



Fiscal Year***	SGF		All Funds		FTE	CPI-U* Change(%)
	Amount	Change (%)	Amount	Change (%)		
FY 2018	\$ -	--	\$ -	--	-	0.4
FY 2019	-	--	-	--	-	--
FY 2020	-	--	-	--	-	1.6
FY 2021	-	--	-	--	-	4.8
FY 2022	-	--	-	--	-	18.4
FY 2023	441,004	--	441,004	--	-	11.6
FY 2024	474,225	7.5	474,225	7.5	-	6.0
FY 2025	561,283	18.4	561,283	18.4	6.00	3.0
FY 2026 Agency	863,752	53.9	863,752	53.9	7.00	2.8
FY 2027 Agency	851,351	(1.4)	851,351	(1.4)	7.00	2.4

5-Year Change (FY 2023–2027)	\$ 410,347	93.0	\$ 410,347	93.0	7.00	11.6
10-Year Change (FY 2018–2027)	851,351	--	851,351	--	7.00	33.1
3-Year Average** (FY 2023–2025)	492,171	N/A	492,171	N/A	2.00	N/A

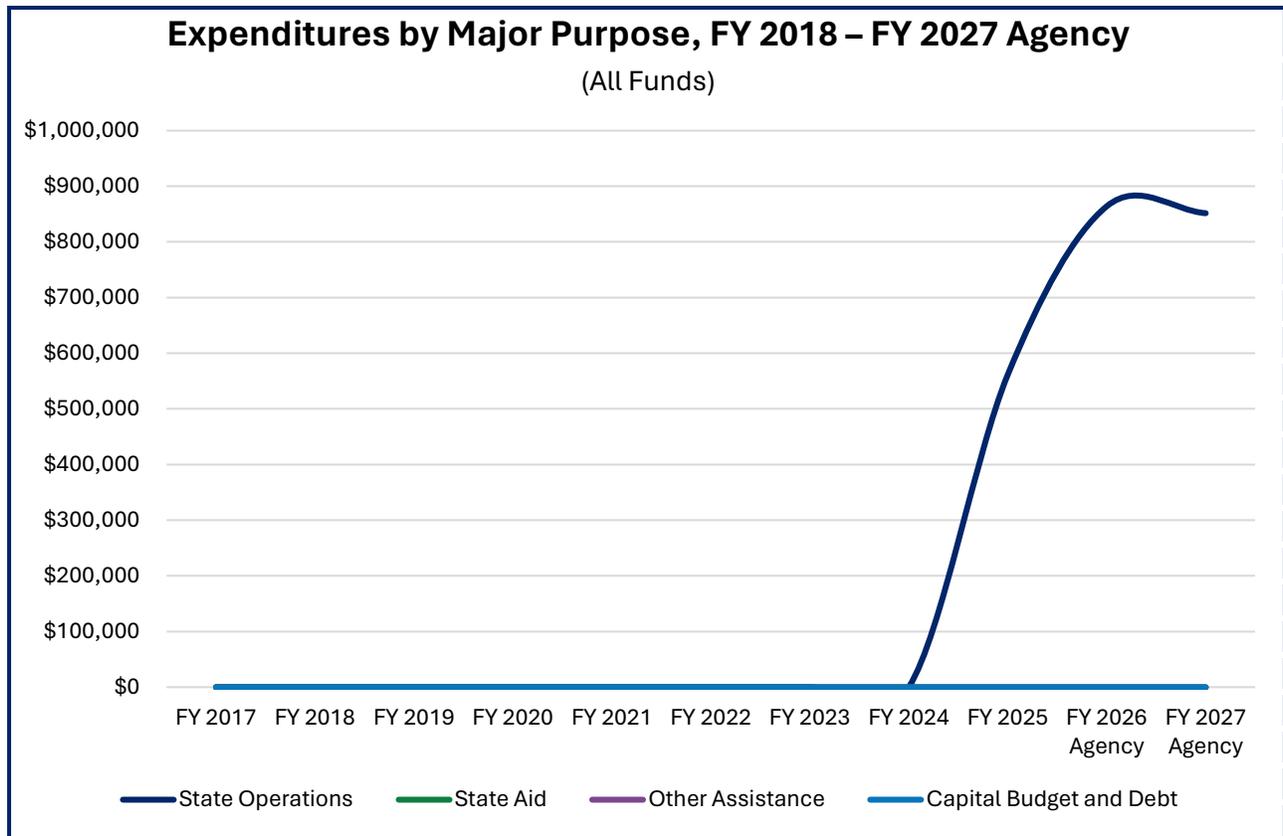
* Note : Consumer Price Index estimate for FY 2026 and FY 2027 is from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group. FY 2025–2027 figures will not be available until after fall Consensus Revenue Estimates are completed.

** Note : Reflects the three most recent years of actuals data.

*** Note : Executive Order 21-28, issued October 2021, created the Division of the Child Advocate within the Department of Administration's Office of Public Advocates. Expenditures for FY 2022–2024 are reported within the previously published Budget Analysis for the Department of Administration in those years.

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Expenditures by Category, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency
(All Funds)

	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State Operations						
Salaries and Wages	80.3 %	\$ -	\$ 503,712	\$ 656,826	\$ 693,398	\$ 697,780
Contractual Services	18.5	-	48,616	97,333	159,609	142,871
Commodities	0.2	-	3,080	3,000	2,000	2,000
Capital Outlay	1.0	-	5,875	-	8,745	8,700
Operating Adjustments	--	-	-	(11,259)	-	-
Subtotal	100.0 %	\$ -	\$ 561,283	\$ 745,900	\$ 863,752	\$ 851,351
State Aid and Assistance						
Aid to Locals	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Assistance	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Budget and Debt						
Capital Improvements	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service Principal	--	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Interest	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Reappropriations	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 117,852	\$ -	\$ -
GRAND TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ -	\$ 561,283	\$ 863,752	\$ 863,752	\$ 851,351

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State Operations

Expenditures by Classification, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
(State Operations, All Funds)						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
Salaries and Wages						
Employee Pay	59.8 %	\$ -	\$ 379,015	\$ 477,899	\$ 516,127	\$ 516,126
Employee Benefits	20.5	-	124,697	178,927	177,271	181,654
Shrinkage	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	80.3 %	\$ -	\$ 503,712	\$ 656,826	\$ 693,398	\$ 697,780
Contractual Services						
Communication	0.8 %	\$ -	\$ 3,805	\$ 7,685	\$ 7,050	\$ 7,050
Fees (Professional)	5.1	-	1,260	38,833	44,353	44,353
Fees (Other Services)	1.6	-	16,182	18,380	14,000	-
Printing and Advert.	0.3	-	4,740	2,000	3,000	2,000
Rent	6.6	-	17,153	16,435	57,400	57,400
Travel and Subsist.	1.7	-	4,998	12,000	15,000	15,000
Utilities	--	-	-	-	-	-
Other	2.2	-	478	2,000	18,806	17,068
Subtotal	18.5 %	\$ -	\$ 48,616	\$ 97,333	\$ 159,609	\$ 142,871
Commodities						
Clothing	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Food	--	-	-	1,000	-	-
Motor Vehicle Parts	--	-	183	1,000	-	-
Supplies (Office)	0.2	-	801	1,000	2,000	2,000
Supplies (Prof.)	--	-	2,083	-	-	-
Other	--	-	13	-	-	-
Subtotal	0.2 %	\$ -	\$ 3,080	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Capital Outlay						
Books	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Computer Hardware	1.0	-	5,875	-	8,745	8,700
Computer Software	--	-	-	-	-	-
Telecommunications	--	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	1.0 %	\$ -	\$ 5,875	\$ -	\$ 8,745	\$ 8,700
Operating Adjustments	-- %	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (11,259)	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	100.0 %	\$ -	\$ 561,283	\$ 745,900	\$ 863,752	\$ 851,351

Expenditures by Fund

Expenditures by Fund, FY 2024 – FY 2027 Agency						
	FY 2026 Agency % of Total	FY 2024 Actual	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Approved	FY 2026 Agency	FY 2027 Agency
State General Fund	100.0 %	\$ -	\$ 561,283	\$ 863,752	\$ 863,752	\$ 851,351

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FY 2026 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2026					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, FY 2026					
1. 2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 745,900	\$ -	\$ 745,900	7.0	
Reappropriations					
2. State General Fund	\$ 119,647	\$ -	\$ 119,647	--	
3. 1.5 Percent Lapse of SGF Reappropriations	(1,795)	-	(1,795)	--	
Subtotal – Approved, with Reappropriations	\$ 117,852	\$ -	\$ 117,852	--	
Supplemental Requests					
No Supplemental Requests	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	--	
Other Changes					
4. All Other Adjustments	-	-	-	--	
TOTAL	\$ 863,752	\$ -	\$ 863,752	7.0	

Approved Budget

1. 2025 SB 125

The 2025 Legislature passed, and the Governor enacted, one bill appropriating and adjusting funding for state agencies. Select appropriations for this agency include:

- **Case Investigative Analysts:** The Legislature approved adding \$198,049 SGF and 2.0 FTE positions in FY 2026 for the agency to hire two Case Investigative Analysts. During the 2025 Session, the agency stated that with the passage of the Act, the agency’s scope was expanded to include working with youth currently receiving or who have received services from the Kansas Department of Corrections.
- **2025 Pay Plan:** The Legislature approved the 2025 Pay Plan to provide salary increases for most state employees based on the Department of Administration’s market survey, which included adding \$6,583 SGF for this agency for FY 2026.
- **Statewide SGF Operations Lapse:** The Legislature deleted \$11,259 SGF for FY 2026 to lapse 1.5 percent of SGF operating expenditures for this agency.

Reappropriations

2. SGF Reappropriation

In the agency’s revised estimate, the agency carried forward \$119,647 in unspent SGF moneys from FY 2025 into FY 2026. This primarily included unspent salaries and wages (\$25,877 SGF) and contractual services (\$99,725), offset by some smaller expenses for computers and office commodities. The agency states that the primary reason for the reappropriation is that an Investigator position was held vacant for half of FY 2025 and the agency did not finalize its case management system until the final month of FY 2025.

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3. 1.5 Percent Lapse of SGF Reappropriation

As part of the 1.5 percent lapse of state operations, the Legislature deleted \$1,795 SGF for FY 2026 to lapse 1.5 percent of funding that was unspent in FY 2025 and would have reappropriated into FY 2026.

Other Changes

4. All Other Adjustments

The agency's revised estimate includes a variety of other adjustments in salaries and wages and contractual services resulting in no net increase above the agency's approved budget for FY 2026. These adjustments are paid for with reappropriations.

The agency's revised estimate includes an increase of \$36,572 SGF for salary and wage expenditures in FY 2026. This is primarily driven by [KSA 75-7602\(b\)\(4\)](#). In addition to forming the agency, this statute provides that the Child Advocate receive an annual salary in an amount equal to the annual salary paid by the State to a district court judge.

The agency's revised estimate also includes an increase of \$54,965 SGF, for a total of \$57,400, in the amount budgeted for annual rent and monumental surcharge for FY 2026. The agency anticipates moving from the 10th floor to the 4th floor of the Landon State Office Building early in calendar year (CY) 2026.

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FY 2027 Analysis

Summary of Agency Budget Request, FY 2027					
	SGF	All Other Funds	Total	FTE Positions	
Approved, FY 2026					
2025 SB 125, without Reappropriations	\$ 745,900	\$ -	\$ 745,900	7.0	
Enhancement Requests					
1. Rent and Services for New Positions	\$ 99,701	\$ -	\$ 99,701	--	
Other Changes					
2. Employee Benefits	\$ 5,750	\$ -	\$ 5,750	--	
3. All Other Adjustments	-	-	-	--	
Subtotal – Other Changes	\$ 5,750	\$ -	\$ 5,750	--	
TOTAL	\$ 851,351	\$ -	\$ 851,351	7.0	

Enhancement Requests

1. Rent and Services for New Positions

The agency's request includes \$99,701 SGF to address the agency's underestimation of expenses for the two FTE positions approved by the 2025 Legislature. In the State's budgeting system, the enhancement is divided among other professional fees (\$44,353 SGF), building rent (\$41,348), and other contractual services (\$14,000):

- **Other Professional Fees (\$44,353):** The agency indicates this funding is used for case management software license and translation services.
- **Building Rent (\$41,348):** The agency is tentatively planning to move from the 10th floor to the 4th floor of the Landon State Office Building early in CY 2026 to accommodate staff growth.
- **Other Contractual Services (\$14,000):** The agency indicates this funding is used for a variety of contractual services, including the online employee training platform Kansas Learning & Performance Manage, paper shred services at TARC, and services and various software provided by the Office of Information Technology Services. Additionally, the agency states that this item includes an anticipated increase for the cost of a larger copier rental after the agency moves.

Other Changes

2. Employee Benefits

Absent the agency's enhancement requests, the agency's budget request includes an increase of \$5,750 SGF from the FY 2026 approved budget attributable to changes in employee benefits.

3. All Other Adjustments

The agency's request includes a variety of other adjustments in salaries and wages, contractual services, and commodities and capital outlay resulting in no net increase above the agency's approved budget for FY 2026. Many of these changes are continuations of adjustments in the FY 2026 revised

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estimate where the agency has indicated spending more on building rent and maintaining the Child Advocate’s pay-parity clause with district court judges.