

Request for Appropriation

Representative Judkins

Funding Request Name: **Child and Family Services Caseworker Salary Increase**

Description: Caseworkers for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) are paid \$32,000 per year on average and have an annual turnover rate of 30%. DCFS estimates that when one case has multiple caseworkers due to turnover, the case closes two months later on average than a case with a single caseworker. DCFS states that longer cases lead to higher costs for DCFS, the Courts, and other state agencies, and reduced engagement with the caseworker and worse outcomes for families. This request would raise the salaries of caseworkers. For example, it would increase the starting hourly wage for a licensed social service worker from \$17.25 to \$24.98 and address some compression for senior workers.

Agency: Human Services

Statewide Public Purpose: Caseworkers serve youth and families statewide.

Performance Measures:

(1) Reduced turnover rate, (2) Reduced change in workers (over 30% of ongoing cases have had more three or more workers which is directly related to retention) (3) Improved Safety Decision Making (SDM) timeliness

Project Contact Information:

Diane Moore  
Director  
Division of Child and Family Services  
(801) 755-7302  
dmoore@utah.gov