

Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Current as of February 2014

Terms in blue ink (other than hyperlinks) are defined in Glossary

CYF 018 – Child Welfare Services Administration in Allegheny County

In Pennsylvania, child welfare services are administered at the county level. DHS has assumed the lead role in the administration of fiscal and most contractual responsibilities for child welfare services in Allegheny County.

Allegheny County has divided the provision of child welfare services between three distinct entities that provide three distinct types of services:

- The DHS [Office of Children, Youth and Families](#) (CYF) provides a wide range of preventive, protection, and supportive services for children and families who are at risk for or experiencing [child abuse](#) or neglect. CYF provides direct services through caseworkers, case aides, and a network of contracted agencies with emphasis on child safety, family preservation, and (when necessary) finding legally-permanent homes for children who cannot be reunified with their family.
- The [Allegheny County Juvenile Probation Office](#) (JPO) provides community-based supervision and services through Juvenile Probation Officers and other organizations, implementing the principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice: Community Protection, Victim Awareness and Youth Competencies. Juvenile offenders are held accountable to repair the harm they have caused to individual victims and the community at large through restitution, victim awareness classes, community service, electronic monitoring, placement, etc.
- [Allegheny County Shuman Juvenile Detention Center](#) provides secure (physically restricted) custody and temporary shelter for some youths over 10 years of age who are alleged or adjudicated [delinquent](#), while they await court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction or agency.

Fiscal

Funding for all services for children, youth and young adults is allotted from the State in one sum to the County child welfare system (CYF, JPO and Shuman Center) in accordance with the annual Allegheny County DHS [CYF and Juvenile Justice Needs-Based Plan and Budget](#). All child welfare reimbursement invoices are filed with the State by CYF and all child welfare reimbursements flow back to CYF. CYF then reimburses the joint child welfare account based on actual costs incurred at the level of the individual child for any services received through CYF, JPO, or Shuman Center.

Consolidated and centralized financial accounting of all aspects of child welfare services in Allegheny County allows for more accurate and timely reporting. It also enables the improved coordination of county-delivered services.

Contracts

The DHS Office of Administration is the repository for all contracts for CYF and JPO, while Shuman Center administers its own contracts. DHS acts as the administrative agent of CYF and JPO, assuming the responsibility for establishing contracts and submitting financial and program reports on behalf of both. In addition, DHS has the responsibility to select, evaluate and monitor contracted providers of CYF-related services.

DHS worked with Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to develop a performance-based contracting model. In its trial year (FY 13/14), the overarching goals of the model for CYF are to improve outcomes (reduce re-entries to foster care, etc.), align incentives with outcomes, and provide greater flexibility for providers to achieve positive outcomes.