



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #126

### Child Advocacy Centers (DOA -- Justice Information System Surcharge)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 36, #1 and Page 41, #7]

#### CURRENT LAW

The Department of Administration's Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) is required to provide 14 annual grants of \$20,000 each to specified child advocacy centers for education, training, medical advice, and quality assurance activities. Child advocacy centers are intended to provide comprehensive services for child victims and their families by coordinating services from law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, child protective services, victim advocacy agencies, and health care providers. Due to funding reductions under the 2009-11 biennial budget, base funding for grant awards was reduced from \$280,000 GPR annually to \$264,900 GPR annually.

#### GOVERNOR

Delete the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation and its base funding of \$264,900 GPR annually. Instead, create a PR annual child advocacy centers appropriation funded from justice information system surcharge revenues, and initially provide \$264,900 PR annually in expenditure authority to this appropriation.

Reduce expenditure authority to the new PR annual child advocacy centers appropriation by \$26,500 PR annually associated with a 10% budget reduction. As a result, the child advocacy centers grant program would have net available funding of \$238,100 PR annually for grants to child advocacy centers.

Amend current law to provide that OJA provide individual grants of \$17,000 annually to 14 child advocacy centers located in specified counties for education, training, medical advice, and quality assurance activities. [This would represent a 15% reduction from the \$20,000 annual awards that are currently provided for in statute. This would account for reductions under 2009

Act 28, and recommended reductions under the budget bill.] As a result, grants to the 14 child advocacy centers would total \$238,000 PR annually.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Child advocacy centers are intended to provide comprehensive services for child victims and their families by coordinating services from law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, child protective services, victim advocacy agencies, and health care providers. Grants awarded under the program typically fund multi-disciplinary teams of law enforcement, nurses, and victim advocates to record victim interviews and collect evidence in child sexual assault and child abuses cases. The following table identifies the allocation of these grants during the current biennium.

### 2009-11 Annual Child Advocacy Center Grant Awards

<u>County</u>	<u>Child Advocacy Center</u>	<u>2009-11 Annual Award Amounts</u>
Brown	Sexual Assault Center of Family Services of Northeast WI	\$18,921
Chippewa	Chippewa Valley Child Advocacy Center*	18,921
Dane	Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center	18,921
Green	CHAT Room	18,921
Kenosha	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin	18,926
La Crosse	Family and Children's Center-Stepping Stones	18,922
Marathon	Child Advocacy Center of Northeastern WI*	18,921
Milwaukee	Children's Service Society of Wisconsin-Milwaukee	18,921
Racine	Children's Service Society of Wisconsin-Racine*	18,921
Rock	YWCA on behalf of Care House	18,921
Walworth	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin--Kenosha	18,921
Waukesha	Family Service of Waukesha on behalf of C.A.R.E. Center	18,921
Winnebago	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Fox Valley Child Advocacy Center	18,921
Wood	Marshfield Child Advocacy Center	<u>18,921</u>
Total		\$264,900

\*The Children's Service Society of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which is affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has been awarded the grant funds on behalf of the identified recipient.

2. Under the budget bill, the child advocacy centers grant program would be transferred from the general fund to the justice information system surcharge fund. The grant program would then be subject to a 10% budget reduction which would reduce available grant funding from \$264,900 GPR annually under current law, to \$238,100 PR annually. Administration staff indicates that it is the intent of DOA to lapse \$23,300 annually in revenues associated with this 10% budget reduction to the general fund. As a result, these measures would improve the general fund balance by \$576,400 GPR over the biennium due to: (a) annual GPR expenditure reductions of \$264,900 GPR associated with moving the child advocacy centers grant program from the general fund to the justice information system surcharge fund; and (b) lapsing \$23,300 PR annually in justice information system surcharge revenue associated with the 10% budget reduction to the general fund. In order to improve the general fund balance and maintain the program with a 10%

annual reduction in grant funding, the Committee could consider approving the Governor's recommendation. [Alternative 1]

3. The Committee could also conclude under Alternative 2 in the *Justice Information System Surcharge Overview Paper #120*, that it wishes to restore the justice information system surcharge to its historical function. This alternative would delete the recommendation in the bill to alter the allocation mechanism for justice information system surcharge revenue, reduce the surcharge from \$21.50 to \$14.50, and would again limit the functions funded from the surcharge to justice information systems at DOA and the courts, and deposit \$1 from every assessed surcharge to the general fund.

4. If the Committee wished to again limit the justice information system surcharge to funding justice information systems, the Committee could delete the Governor's recommendation related to child advocacy centers. This would maintain the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation and its base funding of \$264,900 GPR annually. At this funding level, each child advocacy center would receive an annual grant totaling \$18,921. If the Committee were to instead provide \$264,600 GPR annually to this appropriation, the Committee could also amend current law to provide that every child advocacy center receive an annual grant totaling \$18,900 under the program. [Alternative 2] Finally, the Committee could consider deleting the bill provisions but provide \$238,000 GPR annually to the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation. Under this alternative, the Committee could also amend current law to provide that every child advocacy center receive an annual grant totaling \$17,000 under the program. This last alternative would continue the program as a GPR funded program but maintain the 10% reduction under the bill to available grant funding.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to delete the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation and its base funding of \$264,900 GPR annually. Instead, create a PR annual child advocacy centers appropriation funded from justice information system surcharge revenues, and initially provide \$264,900 PR annually in expenditure authority to this appropriation.

Reduce expenditure authority to the new PR annual child advocacy centers appropriation by \$26,500 PR annually associated with a 10% budget reduction. As a result, the child advocacy centers grant program would have net available funding of \$238,100 PR annually for grants to child advocacy centers.

Amend current law to provide that OJA provide individual grants of \$17,000 annually to 14 child advocacy centers located in specified counties for education, training, medical advice, and quality assurance activities. [This would represent a 15% reduction from the \$20,000 annual awards that are currently provided for in statute. This would account for reductions under 2009 Act 28, and recommended reductions under the budget bill.] As a result, grants to the 14 child advocacy centers would total \$238,000 PR annually.

2. Delete provision. In addition, reduce GPR grant funding under the child advocacy

centers grant program by \$300 GPR annually. [This alternative would retain the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation but provide grant funding of \$264,600 GPR annually.] Amend current law to provide that every child advocacy center receive an annual grant totaling \$18,900 under the program.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$529,200
PR	<u>- 476,200</u>
Total	\$53,000

3. Delete provision. In addition, reduce GPR grant funding under the child advocacy centers grant program by \$26,900 GPR annually. [This alternative would maintain the 10% reduction under the bill, retain the GPR annual child advocacy centers appropriation, and provide grant funding of \$238,000 GPR annually.] Amend current law to provide that every child advocacy center receive an annual grant totaling \$17,000 under the program.

<b>ALT 3</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$476,000
PR	<u>- 476,200</u>
Total	-\$200

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