

LD 1923 Child Welfare Legislation

Updated as of 2/22/19

LD 1923 of the 128th Legislature, “An Act to Improve the Child Welfare System” involved several initiatives:

- **Establishment of a Human Services Investigator job classification. Individuals in this position would have investigative experience and serve as a liaison for caseworkers as they complete casework activities. LD 1923 only directed the establishment of this job classification, it did not establish or provide funding for any Investigator lines.**
 - OCFS is drafting the job description with Human Resources.
- **Funds to pilot a new supportive visitation model that would utilize visits to assist in evaluating parent’s capacity to safely and appropriately parent their children.**
 - OCFS will begin the Pilot by summer 2019.
- **Funds to expand clinical consultation services available to caseworkers. This includes case-specific consultation in the form of both one-on-one and group consultation, as well as training regarding effective caseworker practice. In addition, this program includes clinical consultation for staff to debrief deaths, serious injuries, and other critical case situations within or related to cases they have been involved with.**
 - OCFS will release an RFP for this service by summer 2019.
- **Funds for the development of a new information technology system to replace the current Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System (MACWIS).**
 - OCFS will release an RFP by summer 2019 for this new system.
- **Funds to increase the reimbursement rates for foster families.**
 - OCFS implemented the increased reimbursement rate for foster families in September 2018. The rate increase covered all foster families, including unlicensed, licensed, and treatment foster care providers.
- **Funds and positions to hire 8 Case Aides, 16 Caseworkers, 16 Supervisors, and 2 additional Regional Associate Directors.**
 - To date, OCFS has successfully hired all Regional Associate Directors, Supervisors, Caseworkers, and 5 of the 8 Case Aides and are posting the remaining positions for hire.
- **Funds to provide a \$5 per hour stipend to Caseworkers, Supervisors, Assistant Program Administrators, and Program Administrators.**
 - OCFS implemented the pay increase for all child welfare workers in these job classifications in September 2018.
- **Funds to provide a \$1 per hour stipend to Caseworkers, Supervisors, Assistant Program Administrators, and Program Administrators who obtain a relevant Master’s Degree.**
 - OCFS worked with HR to establish a process for determining eligibility for this stipend. These stipends will be fully implemented by May 2019.