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[mn.gov/guardian-ad-litem/](http://mn.gov/guardian-ad-litem/)

### AT A GLANCE

- 15,899 children served by the program in FY19
- 8,077 active cases on July 1, 2019
- Two year budget of \$44,000,000
- 247 total employee/220.73 FTE's and 187 volunteers

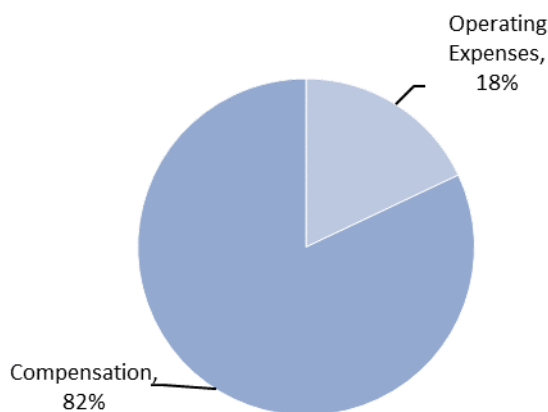
### PURPOSE

The State Guardian ad Litem Board (GALB) administers the Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Program which exists so that all children with a court-appointed Guardian ad Litem have their primary needs met and that each judicial officer is equipped to make informed decisions for each child within the confines of available resources. The GALB gives abused and neglected children a strong and consistent voice in which to be heard throughout child protection and family court proceedings.

- Children are safe
- Permanency planning begins on Day 1
- Children spend the least amount of time under court jurisdiction
- Children receive appropriate services including trauma informed care
- Parents participate in services that reflect the best interests of children
- Physical and mental health, educational and cultural needs of children are met
- Children are reunited with parents if it is in the best interests of the child
- Children do not re-enter the child protection system

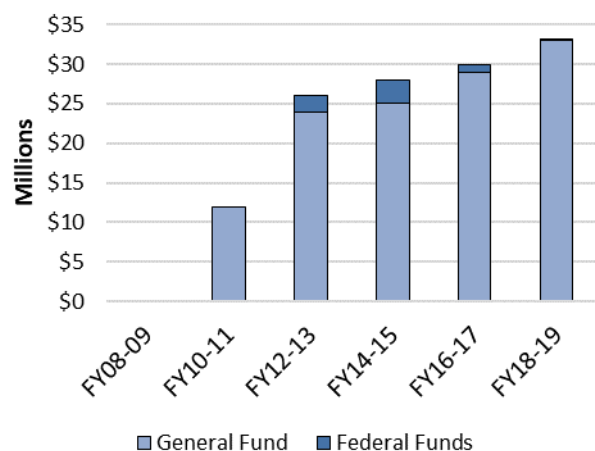
### BUDGET

**Spending by Category  
FY 2019 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

In 2010, the Legislature created the State Guardian ad Litem Board to move and transition the Guardian ad Litem Program out of the state court system and establish an independent guardian ad litem program. Historical spending begins in FY11. The State Guardian ad Litem Board has a total biennial base budget of \$44,000,000

payroll consisting of 82% and operating expenses 18%. The budget is funded primarily by general fund appropriations.

## STRATEGIES

In order to achieve the mission, the following strategies are utilized:

- The Board complies with mandated appointments for every child alleged to be abused or neglected.
- The Board accommodates as resources permit the unmet and critical need to assist the court with custody and parenting time cases.
- The guardian ad litem provides information to the court through investigation, report writing and testimony about the child's current situation and what has happened to the child.
- The guardian ad litem makes recommendations to the court about what the child needs to be safe, what permanent plans are in the best interest of the child and how the child's well-being should be addressed.
- The guardian ad litem advocates for the child so the child obtains a safe, nurturing and permanent home as quickly as possible.
- The Board and program staff utilize the case management system to measure outcomes for children and program performance.
- Program staff work as part of the Children's Justice Initiative Team in each of the judicial districts.

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Appointment of a Guardian ad Litem</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Cases Assigned Per Fiscal Year	7,738	6,361	FY 18-20
Quality	Percentage of GAL assigned < 3 days of petition filing	39.05%	47.5%	FY18-20
Results	Compliance with federal and state mandates	92%	98%	FY18-20

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Reunification of Child with Parents</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quality	Percentage of Children reunified within 12 months	47.5%	49.5%	FY19

\*Minnesota Department of Human Services Dashboard at Tableau Public

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Time to Permanency</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Length of Time to Permanency at 18 Mos.	81%	56%	FY19

\*The 2019 data is reported as permanency within 12-23 months

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M.S 480.35 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/480.35> established the State Guardian ad Litem Board; M.S. 260C.163 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2015/cite/260C.163> provides for the appointment of a guardian ad litem in juvenile court proceedings and M.S. 518.165 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/518.165> for family court.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY18	Actual FY19	Actual FY20	Estimate FY21	Forecast Base	
					FY22	FY23
<b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>						
1000 - General	16,040	16,953	18,571	24,815	22,000	22,000
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	203		213	2,618	810	810
3010 - Coronavirus Relief			13			
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,242</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>18,797</b>	<b>27,433</b>	<b>22,810</b>	<b>22,810</b>
Biennial Change				13,035		(610)
Biennial % Change				39		(1)

**Expenditures by Program**

Guardian ad Litem	16,242	16,953	18,797	27,433	22,810	22,810
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,242</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>18,797</b>	<b>27,433</b>	<b>22,810</b>	<b>22,810</b>

**Expenditures by Category**

Compensation	13,541	13,934	16,082	19,252	19,252	19,252
Operating Expenses	2,686	2,952	2,690	6,429	3,403	3,403
Grants, Aids and Subsidies			1			
Capital Outlay-Real Property	12	20	10			
Other Financial Transaction	4	46	14	1,752	155	155
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,242</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>18,797</b>	<b>27,433</b>	<b>22,810</b>	<b>22,810</b>

**Full-Time Equivalents**

<b>195.91</b>	<b>199.71</b>	<b>223.90</b>	<b>233.29</b>	<b>228.29</b>	<b>222.39</b>
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base	
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
1000 - General						
Balance Forward In		204		2,815		
Direct Appropriation	16,157	16,749	21,386	22,000	22,000	22,000
Transfers In					4,000	4,000
Transfers Out					4,000	4,000
Balance Forward Out	117		2,815			
Expenditures	16,040	16,953	18,571	24,815	22,000	22,000
Biennial Change in Expenditures				10,394		614
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				32		1
Full-Time Equivalents	195.91	199.71	223.90	233.29	228.29	222.39

**2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue**

Balance Forward In	818	1,189	1,665	1,808		
Receipts	466	443	356	810	810	810
Balance Forward Out	1,081	1,633	1,807			
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>203</b>		<b>213</b>	<b>2,618</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>810</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				2,628		(1,211)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						(43)

**2403 - Gift**

Balance Forward In	5	5	5	6	6	6
Balance Forward Out	5	5	5	6	6	6

**3010 - Coronavirus Relief**

Direct Appropriation			13			
<b>Expenditures</b>			<b>13</b>			
Biennial Change in Expenditures				13		(13)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY21	FY22	FY23	Biennium 2022-23
<b><i>Direct</i></b>				
<b>Fund: 1000 - General</b>				
FY2021 Appropriations	22,000	22,000	22,000	44,000
Forecast Base	22,000	22,000	22,000	44,000
<b><i>Dedicated</i></b>				
<b>Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue</b>				
Planned Spending	2,618	810	810	1,620
Forecast Base	2,618	810	810	1,620
<b><i>Revenue Change Summary</i></b>				
<b><i>Dedicated</i></b>				
<b>Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue</b>				
Forecast Revenues	810	810	810	1,620

***Board Members***

Crysta Parkin, Chair  
Hon. Terrence Conkel, Co-Chair  
Thomas Brooks  
Sharon Chadwick  
Angela Lallemond  
Patty Moses  
Emelie Rivera

***Program Administrator***

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10/15/20

Governor Tim Walz  
Office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor  
130 State Capital  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Commissioner Jim Schowalter  
Minnesota Management and Budget  
658 Cedar Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lieutenant Governor Flannigan and Commissioner Showalter,

On Behalf of the Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board, and the employees of the program, I transmit the Board's FY2022-23 biennial budget request. In total, the Board is seeking \$1,095,000 for the upcoming biennium, to increase compensation for employees by 0.0% in FY2022 and 3.0% in FY2023, and to fund unavoidable health insurance premium increases. The request represents a 2.49% increase in the Guardian ad Litem Boards biennial base budget.

The Guardian ad Litem Board have implemented the many recommendations made by the Office of the Legislative Auditor's March, 2018 report. The realized changes include compliance with federal and state mandates as well as a 3.5% increase in staff salaries, both the direct result of an increase in the GALB FY2021-22 budget. We are grateful for the ongoing support from the Legislature, as it has afforded all Minnesota children in need of protection and services a court appointed GAL.

The continued support has enabled the program to invest in the development of an independent Family Court Division, as recommended in a 2017 evaluation by the National Center for State Courts, as well as the 2019 State Guardian ad Litem Board, Child Advocacy in Family Court Advisory committee. This support has also provided us an opportunity to establish the GAL Program's Indian Child Welfare Initiative. A renewed, formal commitment to advocating for the best interests of American Indian Children, by persistently applying the Indian Child Welfare Act and Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act to preserve American Indian Families and culture.

We respectfully request your support of this modest budget request in recognition of the difficult budget decisions ahead. The best interests and well-being of Minnesota's children are of the utmost importance and our program will continue to vigorously advocate on their behalf.

Sincerely,



Crysta Parkin

Guardian ad Litem Program Board Chair



## State Guardian ad Litem Board (GALB)

### FY 2022-23 Biennial Budget Change Item

#### Change Item Title: Maintain Core Operations

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Fund				
Expenditures	206	889	889	889
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Other Funds				
Expenditures	0	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact = (Expenditures – Revenues)	206	889	889	889
FTEs	5.0	10.9	10.9	10.9

#### Request:

Maintain Core Guardian ad Litem Operations.

The Guardian ad Litem Board seeks \$1,095,000 in the FY2022-2023 biennium to increase compensation for employees by 0.0% in FY2022 and 3.0% in FY2023, and to fund unavoidable health insurance premium increases in each year. The request represents a 2.49% increase in the Guardian ad Litem Boards biennial base budget. The request maintains the current complement of employees.

#### Rationale/Background:

The Guardian ad Litem Board needs to continue to attract and retain skilled and knowledgeable employees who can ensure competent and effective advocacy will be provided for the children that we serve.

The Guardian ad Litem Board is facing a significant retirement wave in the near future. Nearly 37% of current staff will be 65 years old or older in the next 10 years. The Guardian ad Litem Board will be losing a highly skilled workforce with an incredible knowledge base. Additionally, the Guardian ad Litem Board is committed to recruiting, hiring and retaining culturally diverse staff to represent the best interests of Minnesota's children.

#### Proposal:

This change level request is not a new initiative. The Guardian ad Litem Board seeks \$1,095,000 in the FY2022-2023 biennium to increase compensation for employees by 0.0% in FY2022 and 3.0% in FY2023, and to fund unavoidable health insurance premium increases. The request represents a 2.49% increase in the Guardian ad Litem Boards biennial base budget. The request maintains the current complement of employees

#### Impact on Children and Families:

The children that our staff serve are the most vulnerable population served by the state. Guardian's ad Litem are assigned when a finding has been made by the Court that a child has been abused or neglected. Guardians ad Litem work every day to ensure that Minnesota children have their primary needs met and that the Court has the information necessary to rule confidently.

#### Equity and Inclusion:

- The change level request assists in ensuring a competent, and diverse workforce.
- It is imperative salaries remain competitive to ensure that the Guardian ad Litem Board can recruit and retain employees from minority, ethnic and racial groups.

**IT Related Proposals:**

The Guardian ad Litem Board is not seeking I.T. related funding in the FY2022-2023 biennium.

**Statutory Change(s):**

The request will not require statutory changes.