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**Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson**

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**AT A GLANCE**

- The Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson was created in 2022
- The Office is tasked with supporting and advocating for youth in the foster care system

**PURPOSE**

The Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson was created during the 2022 legislative session. The authorizing legislation created an Ombudsperson appointed by the Governor, and created a board of stakeholders, including youth currently in the foster care system to oversee the work of the Ombudsperson. This law also specifies the Ombudsperson “may investigate decisions, acts, and other matters related to the health, safety, and welfare of youth in foster care to promote the highest attainable standards of competence, efficiency, and justice for youth who are in the care of the state.” The law also directs the office “shall provide outreach, resources, and assistance to youth in foster care by directly engaging with youth in residential treatment facilities, group homes, and family foster homes.”

**BUDGET**

As a newly established office, the Ombudsperson does not have historical spending. They do have a general fund appropriation of \$775 thousand in fiscal year 2023, and \$726 thousand general fund base in fiscal year 2024 and beyond. Currently, the only funds available to the agency are general fund appropriations, however, the Ombudsperson has statutory authority to seek public grants and accept private awards to carry out the duties of this office.

**STRATEGIES**

Strategies for the new office will be determined by the new Ombudsperson and board overseeing the work of the ombudsperson.

**RESULTS**

The results for the new office will be determined by the new Ombudsperson and board overseeing the work of the ombudsperson.

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Minnesota Laws 2022, Chapter 63 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2022/0/Session+Law/Chapter/63/>) established the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson.

# Foster Youth Ombudsperson

# Agency Expenditure Overview

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25

## Expenditures by Fund

1000 - General				775	726	726
<b>Total</b>				<b>775</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>
Biennial Change				775		677
Biennial % Change						

## Expenditures by Program

Foster Youth Ombudsperson				775	726	726
<b>Total</b>				<b>775</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>

## Expenditures by Category

Compensation				405	405	405
Operating Expenses				350	301	301
Other Financial Transaction				20	20	20
<b>Total</b>				<b>775</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>

## Full-Time Equivalents

				4.00	4.00	4.00
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY20	Actual FY21	Actual FY22	Estimate FY23	Forecast Base	
					FY24	FY25
<b>1000 - General</b>						
Direct Appropriation				775	726	726
<b>Expenditures</b>				<b>775</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>
Biennial Change in Expenditures				775		677
Biennial % Change in Expenditures						
Full-Time Equivalents				4.00	4.00	4.00

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	Biennium 2024-25
<b>Direct</b>				
<b>Fund: 1000 - General</b>				
FY2023 Appropriations	775	775	775	1,550
<b>Base Adjustments</b>				
Current Law Base Change		(49)	(49)	(98)
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>1,452</b>