

mn.gov/guardian-ad-litem/

AT A GLANCE

- 17,421 children served by the program in FY16
- 7250 active cases on July 1, 2016
- Two year budget of \$30,578,000
- 252 employees with a total FTE complement of 203.86 and 365 volunteers
- Guardian ad litem program in each of the ten judicial districts

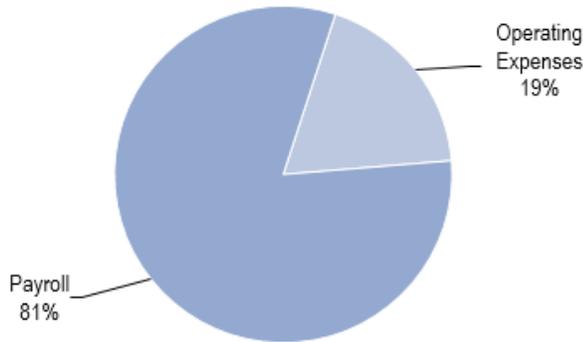
PURPOSE

The State Guardian ad Litem Board contributes to the statewide outcome of strong and stable families and communities by giving abused and neglected children a strong and consistent voice in which to be heard throughout child protection and family court proceedings. The guardian ad litem in each case works to ensure better outcomes for children served.

- 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.

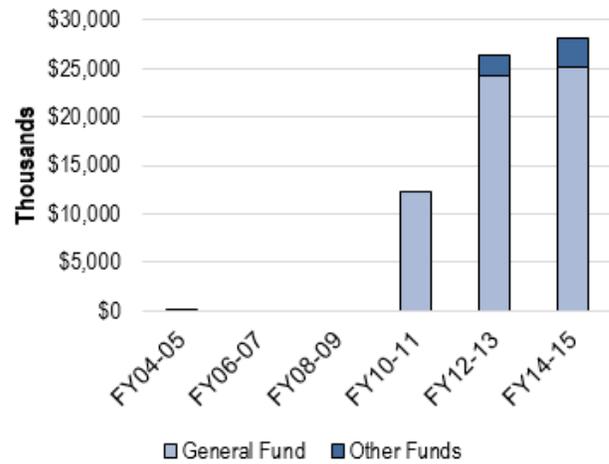
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 15 Actual**



Source: BPAS

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

In 2010, the Legislature created the State Guardian ad Litem Board to move the Guardian ad Litem Program out of the state court system and establish an independent guardian ad litem program. Historical spending begins with FY11. The State Guardian ad Litem Board has a total biennial budget of \$30,578,000 with payroll consisting of 81% and operating expenses 19%. 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 (GAL)</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Cases Assigned Per Fiscal Year	6,486	7,998	FY 2014-16*
Quality	Percentage of GAL assigned < 3 days of petition filing	83.4%	40.25%	FY 2014-16
Results	Compliance with federal and state mandates	99.99%	90%	FY 2014-16

* Guardian ad Litem Case Management System Cosmos

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Time to Permanency</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of children returned home or reached permanency within 7-12 months	2,395	2,865	FY 2013-16*
Results	Percentage of children returned home or reached permanency within 7-12 months	72%	66%	FY 2013-16

* Minnesota Judicial Analytical Database Report

<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	86.7%	83.9%	FY 2013-15*

* Minnesota Department of Human Services Dashboard at Tableau Public

M.S. 480.35 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=480.35> established the State Guardian ad Litem Board; M.S. 260C.163 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=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/?id=518.165> for family court.