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2016-17 Biennial Budget – Guardian ad Litem Board

Agency Profile – Guardian ad Litem Board 1

<http://mn.gov/guardian-ad-litem/>

AT A GLANCE

- 20,075 children served by the program in 2013
- 6,620 new cases filed in 2013
- Two year general fund budget of \$25,512,000
- 235 employees with a total FTE complement of 170.57 and 353 volunteers
- 100% coverage on mandated cases alleging a child is abused or neglected
- Guardian ad Litem program in each of the judicial districts

PURPOSE

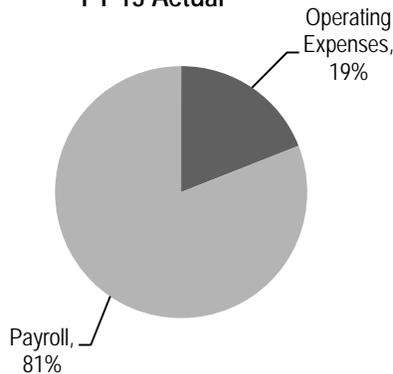
The State Guardian ad Litem Board contributes to the statewide outcome of **strong and stable families and communities** by giving abused and neglected children a voice to be heard throughout court proceedings

The guardian ad litem in each case works to ensure better outcomes for children are achieved.

- 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 the child.
- 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.
- If reunification with parents is not in the best interest of the child, adoption is the preferred option.
- Children do not re-enter the child protection system.

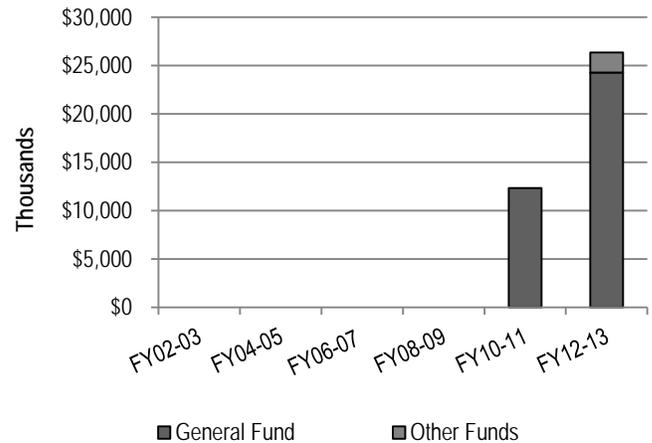
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 13 Actual**



Source: BPAS

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

In 2010, the Legislature created the State Guardian ad Litem Board to move the State 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 general biennial budget of \$25,512,000 with payroll consisting of 81% and operating expenses 19%. The total budget is funded by general fund appropriations and fees received for certain court appointments to represent children.

STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the mission, the Guardian ad Litem Board utilizes the following strategies:

- A guardian ad litem is appointed for every child alleged to be abused or neglected as required by law.
- The program accommodates as resources permit the unmet and critical need to assist the court with custody 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 and what permanent plans are in the best interest of the child.
 - The guardian ad litem advocates for the child so the child obtains a safe, nurturing and permanent home as quickly as possible.
 - A guardian ad litem is given the necessary training and tools to perform their statutory duties.
 - A database is created to measure outcomes for children and program performance.
 - The guardian ad litem works as part of the Children's Justice Initiative Team.

RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i> <i>Children Reaching Permanency</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of children returned home or reached permanency within 7-12 months	2,346	2,395	2012, 2013
Results	Percentage of children returned home or reached permanency within 7-12 months	74%	72%	2012, 2013

Minnesota Judicial Analytical Database Report – 4/10/14

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i> <i>Foster Care Re-entry</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of children who re-entered foster care within 12 months	1,050	1,083	2012, 2013
Results	Percentage of children who re-entered foster care within 12 months	25.3%	25.8%	2012, 2013

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)/Children and Family Services (CFS)/Children's Research Unit (CRU)/4-24-2014

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i> <i>Time to Reunification</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Percentage of children who leave foster care to return to their family within 12 months	85.1%	85.9%	2012, 2013

DHS/CFS/CRU/4-24-2014

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i> <i>Appointment of Guardian ad Litem</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Number of new cases filed each year	6,654	6,620	2012, 2013
Results	Percentage of guardian ad litem appointed within 3 days	83.4%	86%	2012, 2013

Guardian ad Litem Galaxy Case Management System 8/22/14

[M.S. 480.35](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=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) <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=260C.163> provides for the appointment and statutory duties of a guardian ad litem in juvenile court proceedings and [M.S. 518.165](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=518.165) <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=518.165> for family court.