



Results-based Plan Briefing Book 2013-14

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

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**Ministry of Children and Youth Services
The Estimates, 2013-14**

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Part I: Results-based Plan 2013-14

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

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Ministry of Children and Youth Services Overview

Introduction

Ontario is home to more than 2.8 million children and youth. This highly diverse and talented group of young people are the key to Ontario's future success and prosperity. They all deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential and become active, productive members of our communities. The Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) is committed to improving how services are provided to Ontario's young people and their families by focusing on improving outcomes and supporting a better service experience.

The majority of ministry funding flows as transfer payments to community agencies to provide services on behalf of the government. The ministry also directly operates facilities in the child and youth mental health sector and the youth justice system, as well as youth probation offices across Ontario.

Ministry Vision

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services' vision is an Ontario where all children and youth have the best opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

Ministry Mandate

The ministry works with community partners, other ministries, agencies, and municipalities to fund and / or provide:

- early identification and intervention services for young children and their families;
- financial support for families through the Ontario Child Benefit, Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families and the Children's Activity Tax Credit;
- intensive behavioural intervention services and applied behaviour analysis-based services and supports for children and youth with autism spectrum disorder and respite, residential, rehabilitative and transition supports to children with special needs including autism;
- child and youth mental health services;
- opportunities and supports to facilitate the successful achievement of key youth development outcomes needed for life success, through programs such as jobs for youth and youth outreach workers to help at-risk youth;
- protection services and support for children who have been, or are at risk of being abused or neglected, including placement for adoption; and
- a continuum of community and custodial programs for youth in, or at risk of, conflict with the law, aged 12 to 17 at the time of the offence.

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In 2013-14, the ministry's key priorities include:

Healthy Child Development:

- integration of early identification and intervention supports and services for parents, infants and young children so they can access them in a more co-ordinated, timely and efficient way.

Children and Youth at Risk

- developing an Ontario Youth Strategy that will articulate the government's priorities for all youth and provide an indicator framework that will give a picture of overall wellbeing of youth in Ontario;
- provision of opportunities for at-risk youth such as employment and outreach services to support positive youth development and help youth make positive choices;
- implementation of the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, focusing on children and youth in the key areas of: fast access to high-quality services, early identification and support, and helping vulnerable kids with unique needs;
- transforming the delivery of the community-based child and youth mental health system;
- delivery of mandated services including child protection to help children and youth who have been, or are at risk of being, abused or neglected, grow up in safer, more stable, caring environments;
- guided by the recommendations from the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, the ministry is implementing a new approach to funding and accountability in 2013-14 that is responsive to the needs of children and families and that will better position the child welfare system to achieve improved outcomes for children and youth;
- developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy to transform the way in which service supports for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban /Aboriginal children and youth are designed and delivered;
- delivery of mandated community and custodial youth justice services, including responses to special populations (Aboriginal, youth with mental health issues and gender);
- preventing youth from coming in conflict with the law and reducing the number of youth who re-offend.

Specialized Services

- delivery of a range of services and supports to children with autism spectrum disorder, and their families;
- delivery of programs and services to help children with special needs and their families.

Ontario Child Benefit

- policies and programs to meet the government's commitment to reducing child poverty, including the Ontario Child Benefit.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services
The Estimates, 2013-14

Ministry Programs and Services: Summary

The following programs and services are delivered through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services:

Healthy Child Development

- Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Early Years Community Support
- Children's Activity Tax Credit

Children and Youth at Risk

- Child Protection Services
- Child Protection Transformation Fund
- Child and Youth Mental Health
- Youth Justice Services

Specialized Services

- Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services
- Autism
- Complex Special Needs

Ontario Child Benefit

- Ontario Child Benefit
- Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent
- Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families

Infrastructure Program

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Key Activities

Healthy Child Development

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program will continue to screen pregnant women, new mothers and their babies; offer information on child development and parenting to families with newborns; and provide extra support to those families who need it.

Recent changes to the program will continue to help vulnerable families. These include an additional 36 public health nurse positions, an enhanced universal screening tool, a streamlined screening process, and new best practice guidelines for the home visiting component of the program.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$86.5 million in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program which includes funding for the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (AHBHC) Program.

Early Years Community Support

The ministry will continue to support healthy child development through the:

- *Infant Hearing Program*, which identifies babies born deaf or hard of hearing and provides services to these children and their families to support language and early literacy development;
- *Blind-Low Vision Program*, which provides specialized early intervention and parent education services needed by families of children born blind or with low vision to help them achieve healthy development;
- *Preschool Speech and Language Program*, which identifies children with a speech and language disorder as early as possible through targeted and universal services and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills;
- *Infant Development Program*, which provides early intervention services for children up to age five with, or at risk of, developmental delays; and
- *Enhanced 18-Month Well-Baby Visit*, which provides an opportunity for all children in the province to receive a developmental evaluation and review at 18 months of age completed by the primary health care provider in collaboration with parents.

To support the development of Best Start Child and Family Centres, the ministry will begin transferring family support programs to the Ministry of Education (EDU) in 2013-14. The ministry will also continue to partner with EDU through the Community Action Research Initiative to develop and test strategies and processes for integrating child and family services.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

The ministry will continue to work with partners across ministries and in communities to redesign speech and language services to positively impact child outcomes, parent satisfaction and cost-effectiveness of services.

The government will establish an inter-ministerial working group, co-chaired by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Minister of Children and Youth Services, to inform government action on implementing the recommendations made by the Healthy Kids Panel.

The Student Nutrition Program will continue to provide healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches in schools and community settings so elementary and secondary school students are better prepared to learn.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$193.5 million in Early Years Community Support.

Children and Youth at Risk

Child Protection Services

Child protection services help children and youth who have been, or are at risk of being, abused or neglected, grow up in safer, more stable, caring environments. Forty-six Children's Aid Societies (CASs), including seven Aboriginal CASs, perform the following functions: investigate allegations of child abuse and/or neglect; provide services designed to strengthen the ability of families to safely care for their children; provide and supervise alternate living arrangements when children cannot remain safely at home; and facilitate adoptions for Crown wards or other permanent living arrangements for children who are receiving child protection services.

The Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare submitted its final report to the ministry in September 2012. In 2013-14, the ministry will take action on some of the Commission's key recommendations including:

- Implementing a new funding model for child welfare that takes into account the recommendations of the Commission in the development of an alternative approach to funding child welfare;
- Implementing a new approach to accountability for the child welfare sector by incorporating public reporting on performance indicators;
- Supporting a sector-led initiative to develop and implement a program of shared services for the sector, including back-office and service delivery functions; and
- Exploring the feasibility of amalgamating additional CASs.

The ministry released '*Formal Customary Care: A Practice Guide to Principles, Processes and Best Practices*', a tool for CAS workers to help increase the uptake of customary care among First Nations communities. The guide will help CAS workers understand the importance of First Nations children and youth maintaining strong connections to their culture and communities through formal customary care arrangements.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

The ministry will continue to work with CASs and community partners to roll-out a suite of supports for youth leaving care, including mentoring, kin searching, youth transition workers, and new supports for youth in post-secondary education and training.

Work will continue on the development of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) to modernize the province's child protection system. The new information system will help agencies more easily manage case files and finances, share information with each other, make decisions for the children they serve, and make it possible to track and report on outcomes.

CPIN will address the shortcomings of the current child welfare data holdings, support the development and implementation of future policy changes, and meet the CAS requirements for province-wide comprehensive case management support and financial data systems that will inform the best decisions for the children they serve. The implementation of CPIN will support the achievement of key ministry outcomes, including: improved ministry oversight, child welfare sustainability, and enhanced child safety.

CPIN will be deployed in two stages. In the first stage, CPIN will be implemented to 14 CASs, followed by the remaining 32 agencies. It is anticipated that the initial roll out of CPIN will be completed by June 2014.

The ministry will continue working with the child protection sector to develop tools and initiatives to help achieve the goals of prevention, permanency and preparation for life for all children and youth receiving child protection services.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$1.6 billion in Child Protection Services.

Child Poverty

Ontario's first-ever poverty reduction strategy, 'Breaking the Cycle', is focused on improving opportunities for children and their families. In 2013-14:

- The Ontario Child Benefit will provide direct financial support to more than one million children in almost 530,000 low income families;
- Approximately 74 per cent of kindergarten students will benefit from [full-day kindergarten in September 2013](#);
- The 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant Program for full time undergraduate college and university students will help families that earn less than \$160,000 per year;
- The Student Nutrition Program will continue to be universally available where offered so that all children and youth will have access to healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches so that they are better prepared to learn; and

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- Children and youth, who do not have access to any form of dental coverage and who will otherwise go untreated, will continue to receive [free dental care](#) through Healthy Smiles Ontario

The *Poverty Reduction Act, 2009* requires the government to develop a new strategy and set a specific poverty reduction target at least every five years. In 2013-14, the Province, under the leadership of a new Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion, will be consulting with stakeholders, including those living in poverty to develop the second Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Measuring progress and communicating results to Ontarians is an important part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The government is required to report annually on initiatives to reduce poverty and on key indicators of opportunity.

Child and Youth Mental Health

Mental health services for children and youth are currently delivered through more than 260 child and youth mental health agencies, 17 hospital-based outpatient programs, two directly-operated child and youth mental health centres and on-site clinical supports at six directly-operated youth justice secure custody/detention facilities.

Through Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, the ministry will continue to build a system that delivers what children and youth need, when they need it, as close to home as possible. The strategy is strengthening services for children and youth, creating a more integrated and responsive system, and building awareness and capacity within the education system to support students and their families. Over 50,000 Ontario kids and their families are expected to benefit from quicker and easier access to the right mental health supports.

New supports and services across Ontario will continue to focus on three key areas:

- Faster access to high quality services so kids with mental health needs receive the right type of services, at the right time, when they need it;
- Identifying kids with mental health needs earlier and getting them the right help sooner so they can stay in school, graduate and lead fulfilling and productive lives; and
- More services and supports to meet the unique needs of vulnerable kids, Aboriginal children and youth, and those living in remote communities.

Building on the Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, *'Moving on Mental Health – a system that makes sense for children and youth'*, is the next step in transforming the child and youth mental health system.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

Moving on Mental Health will transform the experience of children and youth with mental health problems and their families so that, regardless of where they live in Ontario, they will know what mental health services are available in their communities and how to access mental health services and supports that meet their needs.

The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health will continue its work to improve the quality and effectiveness of child and youth mental health services through the promotion of evidence-based practices and knowledge transfer with front-line service providers.

With the phased closure of Thistleton Regional Centre (TRC) by March 2014, the ministry will continue the two-year process of transferring programs and services from TRC to community-based agencies. The ministry will continue to work with families and community agencies to provide a seamless transition for TRC clients during the phased closure. Youth, residents and families will continue to receive coordinated and comprehensive services.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$517.2 million in Child and Youth Mental Health.

Youth Justice Service

In 2013-14, the ministry will continue to provide evidence-informed community and custodial programs, ranging from diversion to reintegration of youth after detention or custody. Fewer youth continue to come into custody, with the majority of youth receiving service/supervision in the community including diversion, rehabilitation, probation and supports for youth with mental health issues.

Youth who are placed in custody and detention facilities are given the opportunity to participate in educational and rehabilitative programs that help them develop the skills they need to achieve success in the community. Programs include skills development, substance abuse counselling, life skills and anger management. Probation officers will continue to provide case management support to youth who have been sentenced by the courts and will work with youth in detention to enhance the transition to community supports and services.

The ministry will build on its achievements to strengthen the youth justice service system. Priorities include continuous improvement through evidence-informed programs and services, responding to special populations (Aboriginal, mental health, gender), extending probation officer support to youth in detention by providing an individualized community release plan to support a youth's transition to the community, using a strengths-based approach to probation case management, improving educational outcomes for youth in the youth justice system, developing a multi-year strategy to work with gang-involved youth residing in identified custody facilities, optimizing the use of youth justice facilities and improving capacity to report on outcomes for youth as a result of service.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$352.2 million in Youth Justice Services.

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Youth Action Plan

The government's Youth Action Plan, released in August 2012, builds on investments and supports for youth at risk under Ontario's Youth Opportunities Strategy, and on the research and recommendations in the [Review of the Roots of Youth Violence](#) report released in 2008. The plan will benefit 13,000 more young people each year, in addition those already benefiting from government programs for children and youth.

In 2013-14, 3,980 full-time job placements will help young people gain valuable work skills and experience through the Jobs for Youth Program in 19 communities. An additional 440 after-school jobs will be available to youth in Toronto's priority neighbourhoods and in Peel, Durham and York regions.

Through the Youth in Policing Initiative, approximately 370 youth will get summer jobs with their local police service and an additional 270 young people will get year-round after-school jobs.

Ninety-seven youth outreach workers across Ontario will work with local agencies to connect hard-to-reach youth to needed services and supports. This includes a total of 35 new youth outreach workers in Toronto, Peel, York, Durham, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

The new \$5 million per year Youth Opportunities Fund will be available to support community initiatives in priority and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The ministry will continue to work with a permanent Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities and with the Strategic Advisor on Youth Opportunities to better target existing youth programs and find new ways to support at-risk youth.

The ministry will continue working on a long-term Youth Strategy that aligns programs and supports for young people around a common set of outcomes. The strategy will focus on youth opportunities and positive development and will consider targeted initiatives that will help Ontario's youth succeed.

The ministry will continue to promote 'Stepping Stones – a Resource on Youth Development' with individuals who work with and support youth in their daily lives. It describes the stages of development that a young person goes through and provides tips from young people on how the adult allies in their lives can help them stay on track.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest nearly \$12.0 million in the Youth Action Plan and more than \$22.0 million in the Youth Opportunities Strategy.

Residential Services

Children and youth may come into residential care through a court order for child protection, a temporary care agreement, or as a result of being in conflict with the law. Other children may come into residential care as a result of treatment needs associated with developmental and physical challenges, medically-fragile conditions, behavioural difficulties, psychiatric disorders or substance abuse.

Residential services are provided through group homes or foster care settings or youth justice custody/detention facilities. In 2013-14, the ministry will fund approximately 3,870 beds in 504 group homes, approximately 11,900 beds in more than 8,000 foster homes, and more than 1,000 beds in youth justice dedicated residential settings.

Services and Supports for Aboriginal Children and Youth

The ministry will continue to meet the unique needs of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal young people across Ontario in 2013-14. It will continue to fund the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, the Aboriginal Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Child Nutrition Program, Aboriginal child protection services and prevention initiatives, the Akwe:go and Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Programs and community-based programs for Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law.

As the ministry implements Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, it remains committed to providing culturally appropriate mental health services as close to home as possible. Investments in Aboriginal mental health workers, a new Aboriginal training program for mental health workers, and a new Telemental Health service will help meet the needs of Aboriginal children and youth.

The ministry will engage with First Nations, Métis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal partners to develop an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy so that programs and services better meet the needs of Aboriginal children and youth. The Strategy will identify principles, objectives and distinct actions over the short, medium and longer-term for improving the way child and youth services are delivered to these populations. The former Aboriginal Advisor and the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare, Aboriginal partners and other experts have provided the ministry with important recommendations that will inform the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy that takes action to enable Aboriginal-led solutions to the delivery of the range of services that their children and youth need.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

The ministry will continue working with a number of Aboriginal service providers seeking designation as Aboriginal Children's Aid Societies.

Specialized Services

Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

The ministry will continue to fund Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) to provide core rehabilitation services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy, to children and youth up to 19 years of age with physical and/or developmental disabilities, chronic illness and/or communication disorders. These include cerebral palsy, brain injuries, developmental and learning disabilities, Down syndrome, spina bifida, autism spectrum disorder and pervasive developmental disorders.

CTCs may also offer a variety of other services and clinics – such as autism, preschool speech and language, school health support services, respite and developmental programs – depending on local needs and the mix of providers in each community.

Twenty of Ontario's twenty-one CTCs are funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care because it provides in-patient services.

The ministry will continue to fund respite services for families with children who are medically-fragile, technology- dependent or who have multiple special needs. Services are provided in the family home or in a setting outside the home, such as a group home.

The ministry will provide \$5 million annually towards targeted investments in children's treatment centres, support a pilot program to help young children across the province transition into school, and expand the family-centered Children's Rehabilitation Information System to five children's treatment centres in northern Ontario.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$114.3 million in Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services, including respite.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

Transition Planning

The ministry will continue working with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Education to implement integrated transition planning processes for young people with developmental disabilities. This work is aimed at ensuring that every young person with a developmental disability has a single integrated transition plan. The integrated transition planning process involves parents, service providers, school boards, school authorities and schools to help smooth the transition to work, further education and into the community. Implementation of integrated, tri-sector transition planning will begin in September 2013.

Services and Supports for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The ministry provides services through the Autism Intervention Program, including Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) services, family and child supports, and transition supports to children diagnosed with autism or an autism spectrum disorder considered to be toward the severe end of the autism spectrum.

A range of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services will continue to benefit approximately 8,000 children and youth with ASD in 2013-14. These services help young people with ASD become more independent, develop communication, social, behaviour management and daily living skills, and cope better in school.

Training and support will continue to be offered to parents so they can incorporate strategies into daily activities at home and further develop the skills their kids are learning at school and/or in a program delivered by an autism service provider. This training and support helps parents better address the needs of their children and build their own skills.

In 2013-14, the ministry will continue to:

- support the Potential Program (formerly known as Realize Community Potential), which helps reduce the stress on families by providing supports like parent networking opportunities, training and access to ASD experts and resources;
- provide funding to help children and youth with autism attend March break programs and summer camps, where kids enjoy making new friends, learning new skills and participating in activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, bowling, skating and music;
- fund respite services for families caring for a child with autism; and
- work with the Ministry of Education to help children leaving the Autism Intervention Program and starting or continuing in a publicly-funded school through the Connections for Students collaborative service delivery model. This model provides multi-disciplinary transition teams for children in all 72 school boards across the province.

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The ASD Clinical Expert Committee will continue to provide the ministry with expert advice on up-to-date and evidence-based research to help inform policy and program development.

The recently-established independent review mechanism (IRM) will continue allowing families to request an independent review of decisions about their child's eligibility for, or discharge from, IBI services provided through the Autism Intervention Program. This enhances consistency, transparency and fairness in clinical decision-making. The IRM applies to all MCYS-funded IBI service providers in the province.

The ministry will re-launch the Grant Assistance Program (GAP). This program offers tuition reimbursement to currently employed staff of the Autism Intervention Program and Applied Behaviour Analysis-based services and supports for professional development for qualifying academic programs in exchange for continuous employment.

The ministry will release a Parent Resource Kit for families with children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The kit will provide families with helpful information and resources following a diagnosis of ASD.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest \$191.7 million in services for children and youth with ASD.

Complex Special Needs

Through the Complex Special Needs Funding Envelope, the ministry will continue to fund time-limited specialized supports to children and youth with complex and/or multiple needs when existing local and regional services and resources are not able to address the immediate health and safety of the child.

Children and youth receiving complex special needs funded supports include children and youth who:

- Require specialized services and supports to participate in daily living activities, on a long-term, continuous and/or intermittent basis (e.g. residential services);
- Have two or more special needs requiring integrated service approaches that cross sectors (e.g. health, education, and social services) with services often being provided at a number of different locations; and
- Have needs associated with a variety of conditions (e.g. physical, intellectual, emotional, and developmental disabilities and chronic, severe and/or terminal illness) including those who are medically fragile and/or technologically dependent.

Ontario Child Benefit and Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is a non-taxable, income-tested financial benefit that helps with the cost of raising children. In 2013-14, approximately 530,000 low income families with more than one million children will receive up to a maximum of \$1,210 per child, an increase of \$110 from 2012-13. In July 2014 the maximum will increase to \$1,310 per child, an increase of \$210 from 2012-13. To be considered for the benefit, individuals need to file their annual income taxes and register their child for the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

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The ministry will also provide funding equivalent to the maximum OCB for children and youth in the care of Children's Aid Societies and in formal customary care. This funding helps provide supports such as tutoring, skills building and recreational programs to all children and youth in care. Older youth in care also participate in a savings program to help them prepare for independence and the transition to adulthood. These youth gain access to their savings when they leave care.

In 2013-14, the ministry will invest over \$1.0 billion in the Ontario Child Benefit and \$19.7 million in the Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent.

Infrastructure Program

Capital Investments in Social Service Facilities

Investing in infrastructure is critical to helping vulnerable Ontarians and building strong communities.

In 2013-14, the ministry will continue helping social service agencies better serve children, youth and their families through new construction or upgrades to existing facilities. Plans will proceed towards constructing new buildings to replace existing children's treatment centres with sites in Hamilton, Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville.

The ministry will finalize the capital policy framework and develop the overall implementation plan to help manage strategic infrastructure investments.

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Ministry Contribution to Priorities and Results

With its community partners, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services is developing and tracking outcomes for children and youth to help the ministry determine how programs are working and if young people are getting the services that they need.

Healthy Child Development

Preschool Speech and Language identifies children with speech and language disorders as early as possible and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills so they are ready to learn when they start school. In 2011-12, the program provided service to 54,914 children and their families and assessed 24,032 new children.

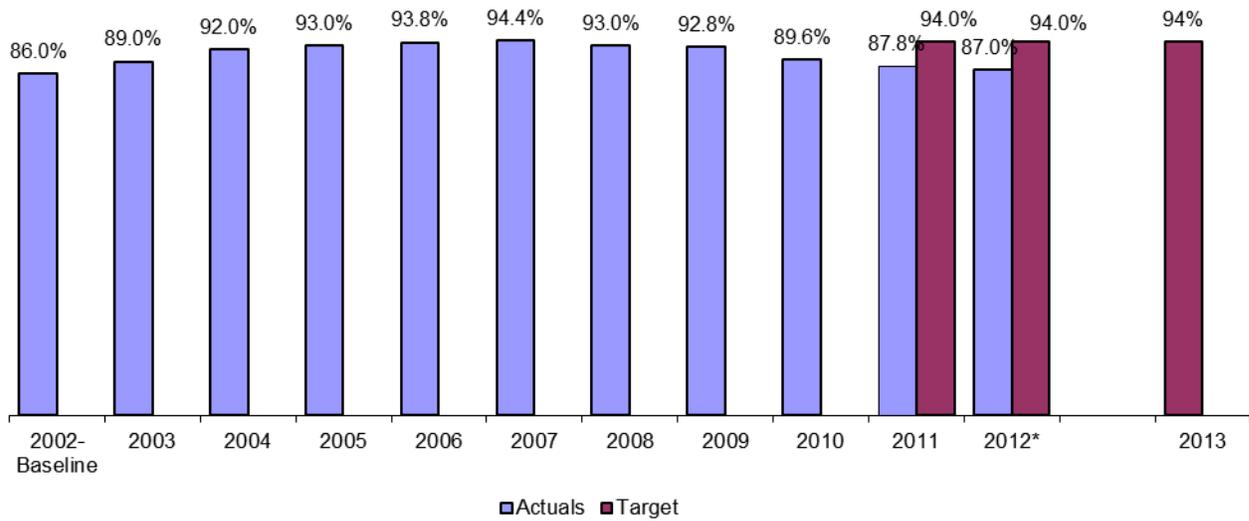
The **Infant Hearing Program** provides newborn hearing screening in hospitals and community settings, audiology assessment and hearing aid selection, monitoring for babies born at risk of early childhood hearing loss and services to support language development in infants and preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing. In 2011-12, the program provided hearing screening for 135,958 newborns, which is approximately 98 percent of all live births in Ontario.

The **Blind-Low Vision Program** provides specialized early intervention and parent education services needed by families of children born blind or with low vision to help them achieve healthy development. In 2011-12, there were 862 children and families receiving intervention services.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children provides screening for pregnant women and every new baby and mother. It is designed to help families promote healthy child development and help their children reach their full potential. In 2012, the program provided prenatal screening to 23,103 pregnant women and screened 115,700 live births to identify risk factors.

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Performance Measure: Percentage of children screened at birth through Healthy Babies Healthy Children risk factors (Calendar Year).



2012 reflects preliminary figures. Final data available June 2013
Source: Healthy Babies Healthy Children - Integrated Services for Children Information System

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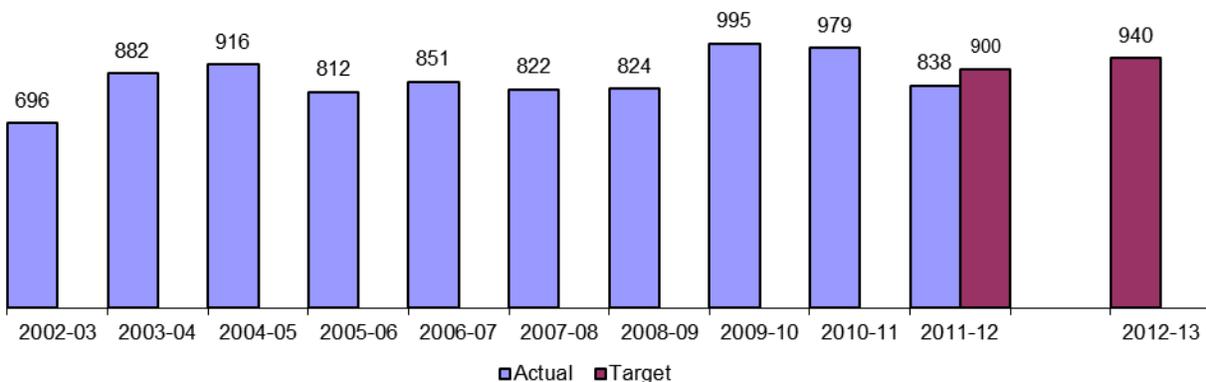
Children and Youth At Risk

Child Protection Services

The ministry is working with Ontario's 46 Children's Aid Societies to make the child protection system more accountable, flexible and responsive to the needs of children, youth and their families. Changes to the *Child and Family Services Act* since 2006 have created more permanency options for children and youth in care. These changes make it easier for relatives or community members to provide permanent homes for children and youth. They also allow more children to be adopted, while still maintaining ties to their birth family and to their community.

In 2011 the *Building Families and Supporting Youth to be Successful Act* was passed. Along with other reforms, this Act amended the *Child and Family Services Act* to make it easier for prospective parents to adopt a child, provide permanent homes for more Crown wards and better prepare youth for adulthood. In addition, as of June 15, 2012, eligible families who adopt or take legal custody of two or more Crown wards who are siblings, or Crown wards who are ten years old or more will receive subsidies from CASs to help with the cost of caring for their children.

Performance Measure: Number of completed children's aid societies adoptions (Fiscal Year).



The performance target for child welfare adoption reflects the ministry's emphasis on adoption as one of the permanency options as part of Child Protection Transformation.

Actuals for 2012/13 are not available until November 2013.

Source: Children's Aid Societies quarterly reporting.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

Child and Youth Mental Health

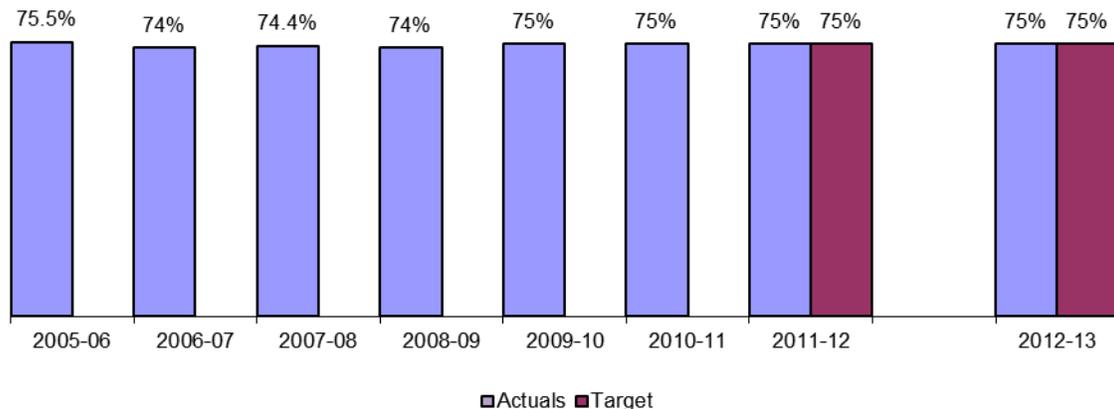
The ministry invested \$597.3 million in 2012-13, which included directly operated facilities, to provide mental health services to children and youth in Ontario. Through this funding, the ministry is building on its previous investments in more than 260 agencies which provide child and youth mental health programs and services and 17 hospital-based outpatient programs.

The next step in transformation of the child and youth mental health system – *Moving on Mental Health* – will transform the experience of children and youth with mental health problems and their families, so that regardless of where they live in Ontario they will know:

- What mental health services are available in their communities; and
- How to access mental health services and supports that meet their needs

By continuing to reduce overlap and delays within the system, the ministry is committed to reducing wait times for children and youth requiring mental health services, while also improving outcomes for those who access these services.

Performance Measure: 1. Percentage of children and youth showing improved functioning at exit from Child and Youth Mental Health services (Calendar

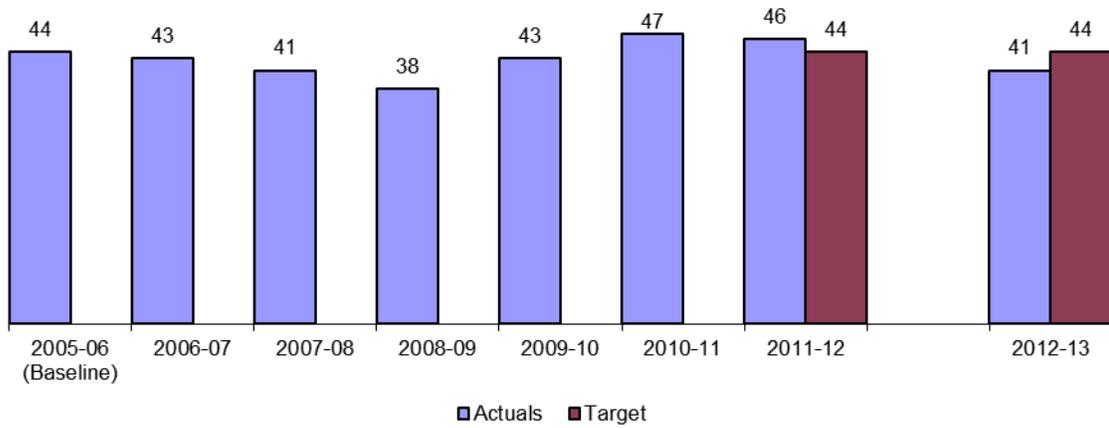


Year).

Source: *Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) Annual Reports 2005-2012.*

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services
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Performance Measure: 2. Average wait time (number of days) from referral to receipt of "regular ongoing" Child and Youth Mental Health Services (Calendar Year).



Source: Brief Child and Family Phone Interview (BCFPI) appearing in BCFPI Annual Reports 2005-2012.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

Youth Justice Services

The ministry provides evidence-informed programs and services that adhere to the research and evidence of effective interventions to reduce re-offending and address the needs and risks of special populations. Programs and services specifically target needs associated with re-offending; focus on the strengths of youth, increasing youth academic and/or vocational achievements, and holding youth accountable; and recognize the developmental stages of youth.

Integration of youth justice within the broader children and youth system responds to research about building foundations for healthy child and youth development.

Some examples of activities that support effective programming include:

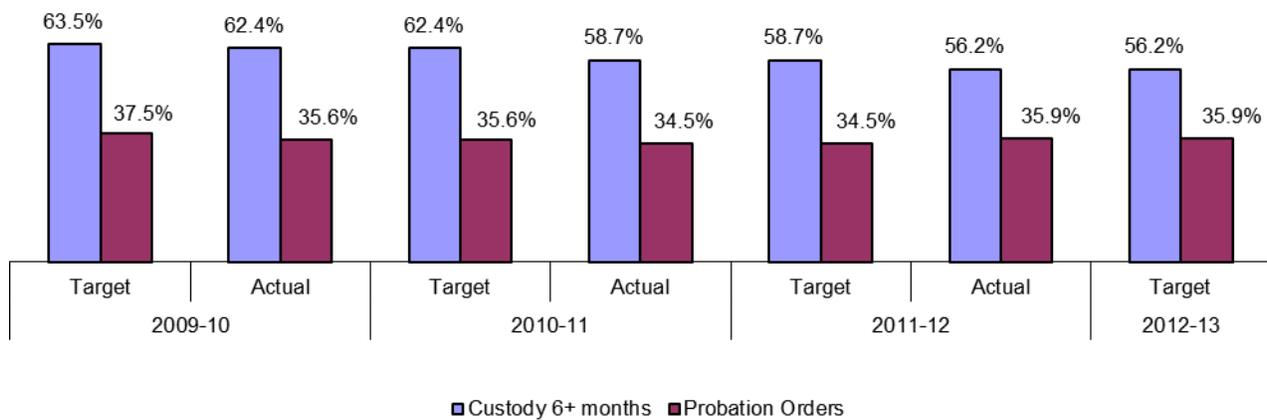
- implementation of a Probation Strategy with activities focused on: confirming divisional expectations for probation services; strengthening evidence-based case management; and accountability and effectiveness;
- providing a continuum of evidence-informed programs and services that address prevention, diversion, reintegration, rehabilitation for youth in, or at risk of, conflict with the law;
- continuation of the re-offending study; and
- using research about the effectiveness of positive and professional staff/youth interactions to support a Relationship Custody approach in youth centres and deliver training for staff in custody/detention facilities and probation that supports assessing and using a youth's strengths as an effective way of working with youth.

In 2011-12, the average daily count in Youth Justice was 9,229 (8,643-community/probation caseload, 216 in open custody/detention and 370 in secure custody/detention).

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Performance Measure: Number of youth who re-offend as a percentage of all youths tracked (Fiscal Year)

The re-offending data presented below is based on a 24-month tracking of two cohorts of youth. The cohorts include: youth who completed an open and/or secure custody order of six months or more and youth who completed a probation order. The number of youth in each cohort may fluctuate.



Parameters for the Performance Measure have remained the same year over year. Content above for this year provides clarification that the custody is for a period of 6 months or more and that Probation Orders are the community-based sentence used.

Source: Youth- Offender Tracking and Information System

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Youth Opportunities Strategy

In 2011-12, at-risk youth received summer employment experience and year-round support from the youth outreach workers program. In 2011-12, a total of 4,904 summer jobs across 33 communities were provided through the Strategy. The data includes:

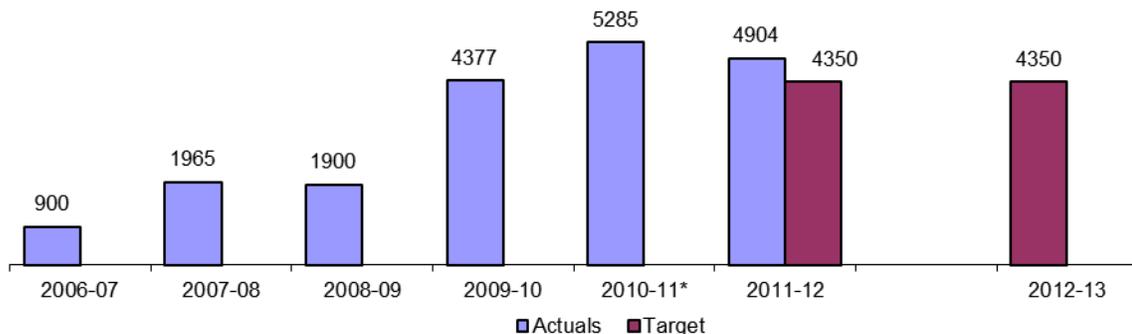
- 4,521 youth were placed in summer jobs with local employers through the Summer Jobs for Youth Program (SJFY) – program renamed Jobs for Youth (JFY) in 2013;
- 383 youth successfully completed their placements with their local police service in the Youth in Policing Initiative (YIPI); and
- 62 year-round outreach workers provided advice to hard-to-reach youth and connected them to appropriate services through the Youth Outreach Worker Program.

The Youth Opportunities Strategy gives at-risk youth valuable work experience that will contribute to their future success and build a strong workforce for Ontario. In 2011-12, \$22.0 million was invested in the program.

Through the Youth Action Plan:

- The Jobs for Youth Program is being expanded to provide youth 440 new, part-time after school jobs in the Greater Toronto Area in 2013-14.
- The Youth in Policing Initiative is being expanded to provide youth over 200 new, part-time after school jobs in 2012-13.
- The Youth Outreach Worker Program is being expanded to include an additional 35 outreach workers in high-needs communities across Ontario in 2013-14.

Performance Measure: Summer job and training opportunities for vulnerable youth - Number of Youth Served (Fiscal Year)



Actuals for 2012/13 are not available until June 2013

Source: Service Management Information System

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14

Specialized Services

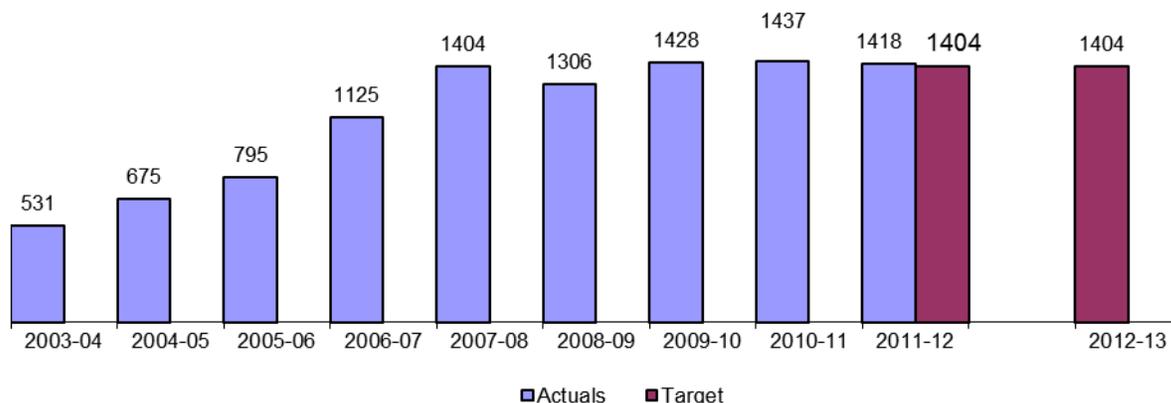
Autism Spectrum Disorders

In 2012-13, the ministry invested over \$192 million in services to children with ASD.

The number of children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) receiving Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) has increased from 531 in 2003-04 to an estimated 1,851 in 2012-13. The ministry is also responding to calls for transparency and consistency in decisions related to IBI therapy by making improvements to the Autism Intervention Program (AIP). The ministry has established an independent review mechanism to allow families to request an independent review of decisions related to their child's eligibility or to their child's discharge from IBI services provided through AIP. The ministry has also established an ASD clinical expert committee that will advise government on emerging research and best clinical practices. This includes establishing an independent review mechanism for families who are not satisfied with a decision related to their child's eligibility or to their child's discharge from IBI services, and establishing an ASD clinical expert committee that will advise the government on emerging research and best clinical practices.

In 2012-13, the ministry invested \$25 million in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services and supports to help children and youth with ASD improve behaviour management or emotional regulation, communication, social/interpersonal and daily living skills. Approximately 8,000 kids with ASD will benefit annually from these services which began in communities across Ontario.

Performance Measure: Autism Intervention Program – Number of children receiving IBI (Fiscal Year)



Actuals for 2012/13 are not available until June 2013

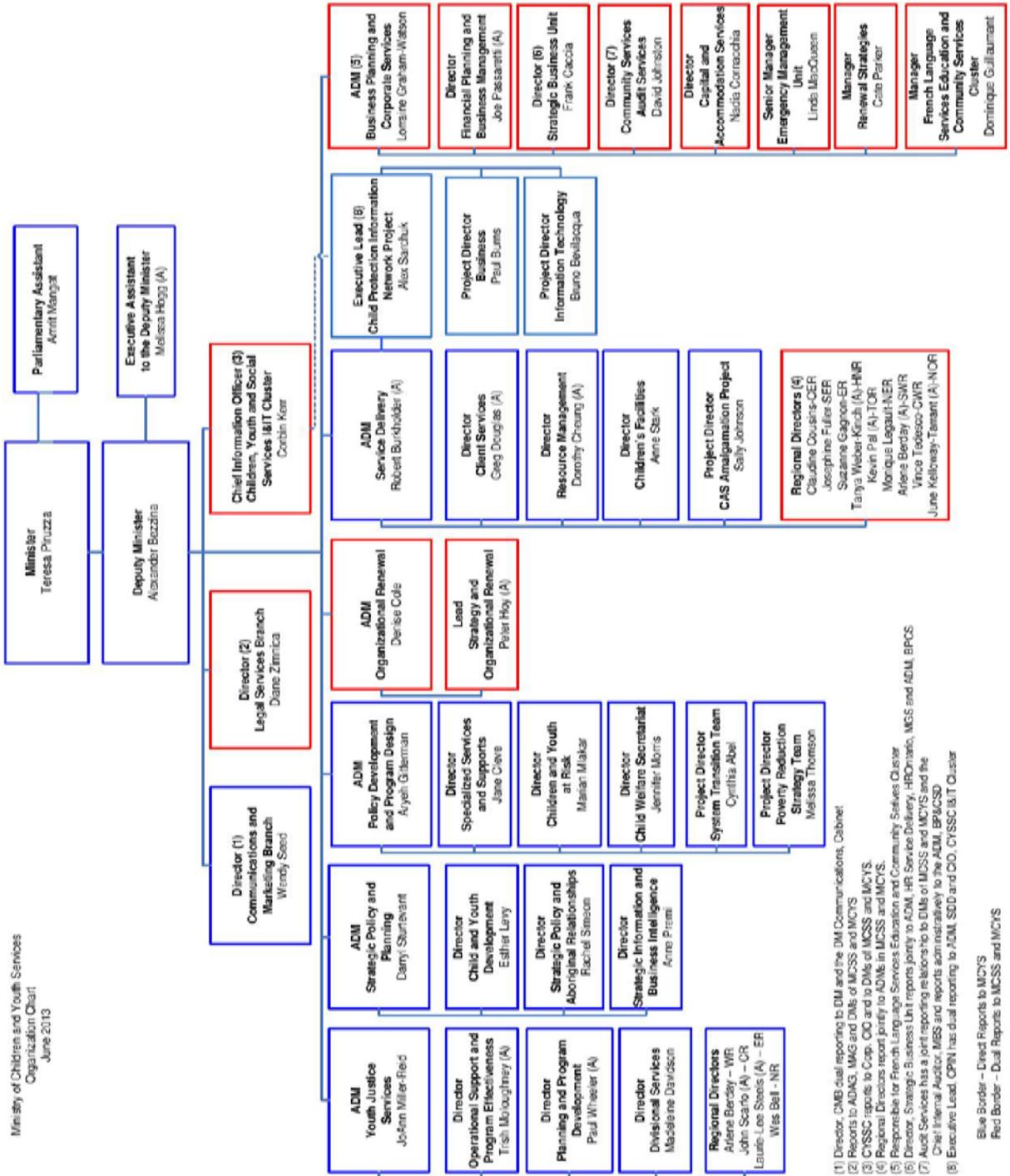
Source: Consolidated Autism Reporting Template

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Ontario Child Benefit

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) gives low-income families financial support that they need to provide for their children. In July 2007, eligible families received a one-time OCB down payment of up to \$250 for each dependent child under age 18 and in July 2008, monthly payments began. In July 2009, the OCB increased the maximum annual payment to its current level of \$1,100 per child, or almost \$92 per child, per month – two years ahead of schedule. As part of the 2012 Budget, the government committed to a staged increase to the maximum annual payment from the current rate of \$1,100 to \$1,210 per child in 2013 and \$1,310 per child in July 2014.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services The Estimates, 2013-14



(1) Director, CMB dual reporting to DM and the DM Communications, Cabinet
 (2) Reports to ADAG, MAG and DMs of MCSS and MCYS
 (3) CYSSC reports to Corp, CIO and to DMs of MCSS and MCYS.
 (4) Regional Directors report jointly to ADMs in MCSS and MCYS.
 (5) Responsible for French Language Services Education and Community Services Cluster
 (6) Director, Strategic Business Unit reports jointly to ADM, HR Service Delivery, HR/Info, MGS and ADM, BPCS
 (7) Audit Services has a joint reporting relationship to DMs of MCSS and MCYS and the Chief Internal Auditor, MBS and reports administratively to the ADM, BPA/CSD
 (8) Executive Lead, CPN has dual reporting to ADM, SDD and CIO, CYSSC I&IT Cluster

Blue Border – Direct Reports to MCYS
 Red Border – Dual Reports to MCSS and MCYS

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services
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Cost Sharing with the Federal Government

Independent of block funding received by the province under the Canada Social Transfer (CST), the province receives federal funding under the following cost-sharing agreements:

- Indian Welfare Services Agreement;
- Memorandum of Agreement and Supplementary Agreement Respecting Federal Contributions to Youth Justice Services and Programs.

For the 2013-14 fiscal year, federal contributions are estimated at:

	Cash	Accrual
<i>Indian Welfare Services Agreement</i>		
Children and Youth at Risk	<u>\$109,616,000</u>	<u>\$109,616,000</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$109,616,000</u>	<u>\$109,616,000</u>
<i>Youth Justice Services Agreements</i>		
Youth Justice Services	<u>\$55,507,085</u>	<u>\$52,303,195</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	<u>\$55,507,085</u>	<u>\$52,303,195</u>
Total	<u>\$165,123,085</u>	<u>\$161,919,195</u>

**Ministry of Children and Youth Services
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Statutes Administered by the Ministry

- *British Home Child Day Act, 2011*, S.O. 2011, c.14
- *Child and Family Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.11
(Except for sections 162 – 165 inclusive and section 176.1, sections 96 and 207 and clauses 217(1) (k) and 222(k))
- *Day Nurseries Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. D.2
(Note: Responsibility for administration of this Act is shared between MCYS and MEDU)
- *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7
(In so far as it relates to the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program as described in guidelines published under section 7)
- *Intercountry Adoption Act, 1998*, S.O. 1998, c. 29
- *Ministry of Community and Social Services Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.20
(In so far as it relates to activities and programs respecting children and youth services, subject to the sharing with the Minister of Education of responsibility for the administration of the Act as it relates to child care services and programs, and except for sections 11.1 and 12 in so far as those sections relate to Long-Term Care Programs and Services)
- *Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent Act, 2009*, S.O. 2009, c.18, Schedule 19
- *Poverty Reduction Act, 2009*, S.O. 2009, c.10
- *Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007*, S.O. 2007, c. 9

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Ministry Financial Information

Table 1: Ministry Planned Expenditures 2013-14

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M) 2013-14
Operating	\$4,235.1
Infrastructure	\$25.3
BPS Consolidation	(\$99.4)
Total including Consolidation	\$4,161.0



Appendix I: Annual Report 2012-13

Ministry of Children and Youth Services

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

Ministry Achievements in 2012-13

Healthy Child Development

Healthy Babies Healthy Children

The Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) Program continued to screen pregnant women, new mothers and their babies; offer information on child development and parenting to families with newborns; and provide extra support through home visiting interventions to vulnerable families.

Changes introduced in 2012-13 to better serve vulnerable families included an additional 36 public health nurses, an enhanced universal screening tool, a streamlined screening process, and new best practice guidelines for the home visiting component of the program. These changes will be fully implemented by summer 2013.

Early Years Community Support

The ministry continued to support healthy child development through the:

- *Infant Hearing Program*, which identifies babies born deaf or hard of hearing and provides services to these children and their families to support language and early literacy development;
- *Blind-Low Vision Program*, which provides specialized early intervention and parent education services needed by families of children born blind or with low vision to help them achieve healthy development;
- *Preschool Speech and Language Program*, which identifies children with a speech and language disorder as early as possible through targeted and universal services and provides these children with services to enable them to develop communication and early literacy skills; and
- *Infant Development Program*, which provides early intervention services for children up to age five with, or at risk of, developmental delays.

The ministry continued to work with the Ministries of Education and Health and Long-Term Care to improve speech and language services for children and youth. Seven demonstration sites continued testing different models to better integrate speech and language services for children from birth through Grade Three. This testing has been extended until August 2013 to increase the depth of information collected on child outcomes, transition points, service integration and the costs of each model.

To help develop the Best Start Child and Family Centres concept, the ministry continued supporting research projects in a number of communities across the province. These projects demonstrate innovative approaches to community integration. Building on this work, in early 2013 the Ministry of Education

released the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework, which sets out an approach for implementing Best Start Child and Family Centres.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

The Student Nutrition Program continued to provide nutritious meals and snacks to children and youth – especially those in high-needs neighbourhoods – so they are ready to learn in school. In 2011-12, the Student Nutrition Program provided nutritious breakfasts, snacks and lunches to over 690,000 elementary and secondary school students.

2012-13, marked the 10th year since the establishment of Ontario Early Years Centres in over 100 locations with a number of satellite centres. These centres offer informal and formal programs and services, such as parenting and nutrition workshops.

Children and Youth at Risk

Child Protection Services

Child protection services help children and youth who have been, or are at risk of being, abused or neglected, grow up in safer, more stable, caring environments. Forty-seven Children's Aid Societies (CASs), including seven Aboriginal CASs, perform the following functions: investigate allegations of child abuse and/or neglect; provide services designed to strengthen families' abilities to safely care for their children; provide and supervise alternate living arrangements when children cannot remain safely at home; and facilitate adoptions or other permanent living arrangements for children who are Crown wards.

The *Child and Family Services Act* gives CASs their mandate and legislates standards and requirements that support child safety and quality, timely service. Standards provide CASs with tools to assess risk to a child's safety along with family strengths and needs. This helps CASs address the specific needs of the child and family. Emphasis is placed on resolving child protection cases outside the courtroom through alternative dispute resolution and on permanency planning for children and youth.

In 2012-13, the ministry continued working with CASs to find creative solutions that will help the child protection system remain sustainable and best meet the needs of the children, youth and families it serves, while being fiscally responsible.

The Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare submitted its final report to the ministry in September 2012. Among the Commission's recommendations were:

- The need for further reconfiguration of the child welfare system, to ensure all CASs have the capability to deliver consistent, high-quality and cost-effective services;
- The need to strengthen family-based care in a sustainable child welfare system; and
- The need for a new child welfare funding model that is aligned with an accountability framework that measures client outcomes and value for money, and includes public reporting of key performance measures.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

The ministry is taking action on some of these key recommendations including:

- Implementing a new funding model for child welfare that takes into account the principles recommended by the Commission in the development of an alternative approach to funding child welfare;
- Implementing a new approach to accountability for the child welfare sector that incorporates the Commission's recommendations on public reporting of a set of performance indicators, a program of agency reviews to monitor how well CASs are serving children and families and their prospects for continuing to improve, and the implementation of a detailed set of provisions for recognizing CASs' successes and addressing weaknesses;
- Supporting a sector-led initiative to develop and implement a program of shared services for the sector that includes back-office and service delivery functions; and
- Exploring the feasibility of amalgamating additional CASs. The ministry supported the amalgamation of 13 CASs into six new organizations during 2011-12 and 2012-13.

The ministry's future work will continue to be guided by the former Commission's informed advice and recommendations.

Work continued on the development of the Child Protection Information Network (CPIN) to modernize the province's child protection system. The new information system will help agencies more easily manage case files and finances, share information with each other, make decisions for the children they serve, and make it possible to track and report on outcomes.

As an early preview to CPIN, a new version of the FastTrack Information System was launched in all CASs on December 13, 2011. The new FastTrack provides the same functions as the current FastTrack system, with improved search results. It operates using the same technology as the future information system; giving users an early preview of the CPIN "look and feel".

To help more kids find permanent homes, the ministry implemented a policy directive that enables CASs to provide subsidies for eligible parents who adopt or take legal custody of Crown wards who are 10 years and older, or who are siblings. CASs will provide subsidies of \$950 per month, per child, or \$11,400 per year, per child, to families with a net annual income of up to \$85,000. The new funding is in addition to existing subsidies that most CASs already provides to some adoptive families.

The ministry launched an enhanced adoption section on its website to support prospective adoptive parents and those already in the adoption process. New website content provides easy-to-understand, trustworthy information about the three types of adoption processes in Ontario – public, private and international - and information about government services and programs.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

In May 2012, young people previously in the care of CASs submitted a report to the ministry containing recommendations on how to improve the lives of young people leaving care. The report, *'My REAL Life Book'*, was based on the experiences shared at the Youth Leaving Care Hearings held at Queen's Park in late 2011.

In July 2012, the government established the Youth Leaving Care Working Group. Its mandate was to act on the first recommendation of *'My REAL Life Book'* — completing an action plan for fundamental change of the child welfare system. The working group included young people previously in care and community members from a wide range of youth serving organizations.

In January 2013, the working group submitted their action plan, *'Blueprint for Fundamental Change to Ontario's Child Welfare System'* to the Minister of Children and Youth Services. Soon after, Ontario announced that it is taking a number of steps to improve the lives of children and youth in and leaving care. These include providing young people with access to a range of new resources and supports that will help them stay in school, pursue postsecondary education, maintain strong relationships, and better prepare them for leaving care.

New resources and supports include increasing the minimum monthly financial support to youth aged 18 to 21 receiving Continued Care and Support for Youth; providing \$500 per month during the school year to youth aged 21 to 25 enrolled in OSAP-eligible postsecondary education and training programs; introducing new mentorship opportunities for young people in care; enhancing training for caregivers; and funding up to 50 new youth in transition workers to support young people leaving care.

Child Poverty

Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy, *'Breaking the Cycle'*, is focused on improving opportunities for children and their families. The strategy, released in December 2008, set a target of reducing child poverty by 25 per cent over five years.

In December 2012, the government released the fourth progress report on the strategy. The report details progress made over the last year and since 2008. Highlights include:

- 40,000 children and their families have been lifted out of poverty in the first two years of the strategy.
- The Ontario Child Benefit provided support to over 950,000 children in 510,000 low-income families. Families received up to a maximum of \$1,100 per child up to 17 years old.
- Almost 122,000 kids in approximately 1,700 schools benefitted from [full-day kindergarten](#).
- Nearly 33,000 children and youth, who may have otherwise gone untreated, received [free dental care](#) through Healthy Smiles Ontario.

- An additional 13,000 young people will be getting help finding jobs and opportunities through the [Youth Action Plan](#).

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

- An estimated 20,000 more children and youth got faster and easier access to the right mental health supports through [600 new mental health workers](#) in schools, communities and the courts.
- The 30 % off Tuition Grant helped low- to middle-income families that earn less than \$160,000 per year pay for postsecondary education.
- The Student Nutrition Program continued providing healthy snacks and meals to students so they are ready to learn and succeed at school.

Measuring progress and communicating results to Ontarians is an important part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Government of Ontario is required to report annually on initiatives to reduce poverty and on key indicators of opportunity. The next progress report is expected to be released before March 2014.

Ontario Child Benefit and Ontario Child Benefit Equivalent

The Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) is an income-tested, non-taxable benefit that helps low-income families provide for their children. In 2012-13, the OCB provided support to over 950,000 children in 510,000 low-income families. Families received up to a maximum of \$1,100 per child under the age of 18. To be considered for the benefit, individuals need to file their annual income taxes and register their child for the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

The ministry also provided funding equivalent to the maximum OCB to children and youth in the care of Children's Aid Societies and in formal customary care. This funding helps provide supports such as tutoring, skills building and recreational programs to all children and youth in care. Older youth also participate in a savings program to help them prepare for independence and the transition to adulthood. These youth gain access to their savings when they leave care.

Child and Youth Mental Health

Mental health services for children and youth are delivered through more than 260 child and youth mental health agencies, 17 hospital-based outpatient programs, two directly-operated child and youth mental health centres and on-site clinical supports at six directly-operated youth justice secure custody/detention facilities.

Through Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, which is focussed on children and youth in the first three years, the ministry continued working in 2012-13 to build a mental health system that delivers what children and youth need, when they need it, as close to home as possible. The strategy is a joint initiative of the Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-Term Care, Education and Training and Colleges and Universities.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

New services, supports and initiatives in 2012-13 included:

- 456 mental health workers in communities, schools and courts helping to provide more timely access to services;
- 144 nurses working in schools to support early identification and intervention of students with potential mental health and/or addiction issues;
- expanded eating disorders services for severely ill children and youth; and
- more than 80 Aboriginal mental health and addictions workers to provide culturally-appropriate services in high-needs Aboriginal communities.

Building on the success of the strategy, in November 2012 the government released the action plan *'Moving on Mental Health – a system that makes sense for children and youth'*. *Moving on Mental Health* will transform the experience of children and youth with mental health problems and their families, so that regardless of where they live in Ontario they will know what mental health services are available in their communities and how to access mental health services and supports that meet their needs.

The Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health continued its work to improve the quality and effectiveness of child and youth mental health services through the promotion of evidence-based practices and knowledge transfer with front-line service providers.

The ministry continued the two-year process of closing Thistleton Regional Centre and transferring programs and services to community-based agencies. The ministry continued to work with families and community agencies to provide a seamless transition for clients during the phased closure.

Youth Justice Services

The ministry has successfully repositioned youth justice programs and services to create a system that reduces re-offending, contributes to community safety, and prevents youth crime through rehabilitative programming, while holding youth accountable and creating opportunities for youth at risk. By helping youth make better choices and lessening the likelihood they will re-offend, the ministry is making communities safer while giving youth a better opportunity to succeed.

In 2012-13, the ministry continued to provide evidence-informed community and custodial programs, ranging from diversion to reintegration of youth from custody. Fewer youth continue to come into custody, with the majority of youth receiving services/supervision in the community, including diversion, rehabilitation, probation and supports for youth with mental health issues. Youth who are placed in custody and detention facilities are given the opportunity to participate in programs that help them develop the skills they need to achieve success in the community. Programs include skills development, substance abuse counselling, life skills and anger management.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

The Ministry also expanded the role of Probation Officers beyond youth who have been sentenced by the courts to work with youth in detention to enhance the transition to community supports and services.

Continuous improvement of the youth justice service system is focused on strengthening evidence-informed programs and services and responses to special populations (Aboriginal, youth with mental health issues, gender); improved educational outcomes for youth in the justice system; using a strengths-based approach to probation case management; continued optimization of the custody system; strengthening external multi-disciplinary advice; and improving capacity to report on outcomes for youth as a result of service.

Youth Action Plan

In response to gun violence in Toronto, young people and their families, community organizations that serve and support youth, representatives of the social services, education, justice and business sectors and members of the public were asked to provide input towards the development of a balanced plan that focuses on giving young people the support they need to succeed and keep communities safe.

The government's Youth Action Plan, released in August 2012, builds on investments and supports for youth at risk under Ontario's Youth Opportunities Strategy, and on the research and recommendations in the [Review of the Roots of Youth Violence](#) report released in 2008. The plan will benefit an additional 13,000 young people each year. In 2012-13, the ministry:

- Launched an Expression of Interest process inviting agencies with the capacity and expertise in providing supports to under-served youth to submit applications to deliver after-school jobs for youth in Greater Toronto Area priority neighbourhoods. More than 3,980 youth already get full-time summer jobs each summer in disadvantaged communities across Ontario.
- Began expanding the Youth in Policing Initiative to provide 270 new after-school jobs for youth with police services during the school year. This program already provides funding for 370 full-time summer job placements for youth with local police services across the province.
- Launched an Expression of Interest process inviting agencies with the capacity and expertise in providing supports to under-served youth to submit applications for 35 new Youth Outreach Workers in communities across Ontario. Currently, 62 Youth Outreach Workers help young people find opportunities, solutions and resources to address their social, behavioural and educational needs.
- Began developing a long-term Youth Strategy that aligns programs and supports for young people around a common set of outcomes. Building on the seminal documents – Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development – released by the Ministry in June 2012, the strategy will focus on youth outcomes and positive development.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

- Established the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities – a new permanent advisory body consisting of youth (ages 16-25) as well as young professionals, front-line workers and other leaders from the youth-serving sector. Committee members will provide advice government on issues relating to youth, including how to enhance existing youth-oriented programs, policies, strategies and resources.

The province continues to develop and implement other Youth Action Plan initiatives, including a private sector jobs initiative led by a council of community and business leaders to create additional job opportunities for disadvantaged young people; a new \$5 million per year Youth Opportunities Fund that will support community initiatives in priority neighbourhoods; and establishing local youth planning tables to reduce duplication and better coordinate community programs for young people across the province.

In June 2012, the ministry released *Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development*. It describes the stages of development that a young person goes through and provides tips from young people on how the adult allies in their lives can help them stay on track. The ministry shared this useful resource with government partners, service providers, funders and community leaders. *Stepping Stones* is the first step towards the creation of the Youth Strategy.

The ministry also provided a one-time investment to develop and deliver a province-wide Social Impact Academy for youth, leveraging Ontario's world-leading social innovation infrastructure. This program will help selected cohorts of youth build critical leadership and social innovation skills to achieve improved and social outcomes for Ontario.

Youthconnect.ca, the ministry's website targeted to young people, continued to provide information about programs and resources available to youth in Ontario.

Residential Services

Children and youth may come into residential care through a court order for child protection or as a result of being in conflict with the law. Other children may require residential care due to developmental and physical challenges, medically-fragile conditions, behavioural difficulties, psychiatric disorders or substance abuse.

Residential care is provided through group or foster care settings or youth justice custody/detention facilities. As of March 31, 2012, the ministry funded more than 4,100 beds in 533 group homes, approximately 12,000 beds in more than 8,000 foster homes, and more than 1,017 beds in youth justice dedicated residential settings.

The ministry also rolled out an updated Foster Care Licensing Manual for regional offices and licensed foster care service providers. The manual refines, clarifies, and updates the previous manual and removes requirements that are redundant, out-dated and unnecessary.

Ministry of Children and Youth Services Annual Report 2012-13

Services and Supports for Aboriginal Children and Youth

The ministry continued to meet the unique needs of First Nations (on and off reserve), Métis, and Inuit young people across Ontario in 2012-13. It continued to fund the Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, the Aboriginal Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and Child Nutrition Program, Aboriginal child protection services and prevention initiatives, the Akwe:go and Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Programs and community-based programs for Aboriginal youth in conflict with the law.

As part of Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy, funding was provided to hire more than 80 new Aboriginal mental health and addictions workers across the province to help almost 4,000 Aboriginal children and young people get better access to culturally-appropriate mental health and addiction services. These new workers provide counselling, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention and a range of traditional health services, including traditional teachings and ceremonies. Year-end funding for training needs was made available to Aboriginal agencies that provide child and youth mental health services.

In April 2012, MCYS launched the Aboriginal Strategy Unit within its Strategic Policy and Planning Division. The new unit's focus is on developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy and improving the ministry's relationships with First Nations, Metis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal partners.

In January 2013, Ontario announced that it will work with Aboriginal partners to develop a multi-year Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. Responding to the recommendations from the Commission to Promote Sustainable Child Welfare and the former Aboriginal Advisor the Strategy will focus on building community-driven, integrated and culturally-appropriate supports to help Aboriginal children and young people grow up healthy and reach their full potential.

The ministry continued working with a number of Aboriginal service providers seeking designation as Aboriginal Children's Aid Societies.

Specialized Services

Children's Treatment and Rehabilitation Services

Children's Treatment Centres (CTCs) provide rehabilitation services to children and youth up to 19 years of age with physical and/or developmental disabilities, chronic illness and/or communication disorders. CTCs provide core rehabilitation services including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. A variety of other services and clinics – such as autism, preschool speech and language, respite and developmental programs – are offered depending on local needs and the mix of providers in each community.

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Twenty of Ontario's twenty-one CTCs are funded by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care because it provides in-patient services.

The ministry continued to fund respite services for families with children who are medically-fragile, technology- dependent or who have multiple special needs. Services are provided in the family home or in a setting outside the home, such as a group home.

Services and Supports for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The ministry provides services through the Autism Intervention Program, including Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI) services, family and child supports, and transition supports to children diagnosed with autism or an autism spectrum disorder considered to be toward the severe end of the autism spectrum.

Recently-introduced Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)-based services help young people with ASD become more independent, develop communication, social, behaviour management and daily living skills, and cope better in school.

Training and support continued to be offered to parents so they can incorporate strategies into daily activities at home and further develop the skills their kids are learning at school and/or in a program delivered by an autism service provider. This training and support helps parents better address the needs of their children and build their own skills.

Parents want to know how their children with ASD are progressing and that they are receiving the treatment and services that best meet their needs. In December 2012, the ministry announced the establishment of an ASD Clinical Expert Committee to provide ongoing clinical guidance, offer advice on how autism services are delivered, and help ensure children and youth receive the most effective treatment based on emerging research and best clinical practices.

The ministry also established a new independent review mechanism (IRM). The IRM allows families to request an independent review of decisions about their child's eligibility for, or discharge from, IBI services provided through the Autism Intervention Program. This enhances consistency, transparency and fairness in clinical decision-making. The IRM applies to all MCYS-funded IBI service providers in the province.

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In 2012-13, the ministry continued to:

- support the Potential Program (formerly known as Realize Community Potential), which helps reduce the stress on families by providing supports like parent networking opportunities, training and access to ASD experts and resources;
- provide funding to help children and youth with autism attend March break programs and summer camps, where kids enjoy making new friends, learning new skills and participating in activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, bowling, skating and music;
- fund respite services for families caring for a child with autism; and
- work with the Ministry of Education to help children leaving the Autism Intervention Program and starting or continuing in a publicly-funded school through the Connections for Students collaborative service delivery model. This model provides multi-disciplinary transition teams, including parents, for children in all 72 school boards across the province.

Integrated Transition Planning for Young People with Developmental Disabilities

After issuing a Provincial Transition Planning Framework in 2011, the Ministries of Children and Youth Services and Community and Social Services introduced joint regional protocols in December 2012 to support transition planning for young people with developmental disabilities who are preparing to transition to adulthood.

MCYS continued working with the Ministries of Community and Social Services and Education to jointly implement integrated transition planning processes which will lead to the development of a single integrated transition plan for young people with a developmental disability.

Infrastructure Program

Capital Investments in Social Service Facilities

Investing in infrastructure is critical to helping vulnerable Ontarians and building strong communities.

In 2012-13, the ministry invested over \$33.0 million to help social service agencies better serve children, youth and their families through new construction or upgrades to existing facilities. Plans proceeded towards constructing new buildings to replace existing children's treatment centres in with sites in Hamilton, Brampton, Mississauga and Oakville.

The ministry also developed a capital policy framework to help manage strategic infrastructure investments.

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	Ministry Interim Expenditures (\$M) 2012-13
Operating	4,082.1
Capital	33.0
BPS Consolidation	(107.9)
TOTAL	4,007.2
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2013)	2,259 Full-time equivalents

