



ILLINOIS FAMILIES

Now and Forever

Families by Foster Care, Adoption and Guardianship®

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services®



From the DCFS Director

Bryan Samuels

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget of \$1.4 billion is \$23 million less than Fiscal Year 2004 budget. However, with reduced caseloads, the Department will be able to concentrate on the quality of care rather than the quantity.

The Integrated Assessment Program received \$8 million to identify a youth's needs and make appropriate matches to resources at the start of a case. Additionally, DCFS will be responsible for \$123 million previously administered by the State Board of Education to work directly with all school districts on improving educational outcomes for DCFS students.

Other highlights include:

- \$15 million increase in funding for adoption subsidies
- \$3 million to create a monitoring unit for residential treatment programs
- \$20 million for enhanced services DCFS will include in its program improvement plan to the federal government.

In this tough fiscal climate, DCFS will allocate resources to programs and services that support our mission and demand more accountability.

Integrated Assessment aims to find solutions on the front-end

The Integrated Assessment Program is a bold move to change the way DCFS helps children from the time they first come into care. Under the new program, each child that comes into DCFS custody will have a thorough set of clinical and functional screenings done by a licensed clinical professional working with the permanency worker. The results will provide necessary information to identify the child's needs early in the case and develop a comprehensive service plan to address those needs.

The assessment covers many areas of a child's and his family's life, including medical, developmental and behavioral/mental

health needs. Additionally, birth parents, caregivers and other relevant individuals will be interviewed to determine the types of community and social supports they need to bring about the appropriate permanency outcomes. The screenings include the following assessments:

- Safety/risk assessment
- Initial Health Screening and Comprehensive Health Evaluation for children
- Adult substance abuse screens
- Domestic violence
- Early childhood developmental screens for children five years old or younger
- Clinical/behavioral health screens for children over age six

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