

## **Department for Children, Youth and Families**

### **Request to Amend the 2023 budget and to accept funding from the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for a Domestic Violence Advocate providing services through the OCFS Mobile Response project**

The Department respectfully requests Legislative authorization to amend the 2023 budget to accept funding from the Office of Children and Family Services for a Domestic Violence Advocate providing services through the OCFS Mobile Response project in the amount of \$60,000 for the term September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023

The Domestic Violence Advocate will provide services through the OCFS Mobile Response project, which was created in response to the Family First Prevention Services Act. It is intended to develop and operate coordinated programs of community-based family support and family preservation services, in order to provide goods and resources for families in need and at risk of contact with the child welfare system.

The Mobile Response van is staffed with a licensed clinician, a behavioral health specialist, a family and/or peer advocate, a service navigation specialist, or a domestic violence advocate. Services are available during both business hours and after hours. Services are available to be responsive to immediate needs such as at the time a placement occurs. Services will be available for ongoing needs for families identified as high risk and in receipt of preventive services. The mobile response van must respond to a request for assistance by going to the home where the child is residing or at a location in the community at a mutually agreed upon time. The mobile response unit must be able to be responsive when families call for help when a child is involved in an emotional or behavioral health need that could lead to a disruption in the home.

Mobile response units work with the parent or caregiver and child to reduce or de-escalate identified behaviors and may provide intervention services to address any immediate concerns identified as well as ongoing needs.