

2017 Budget Implications

- The cut to General Funds would eliminate the additional request for 60 new positions in FY18. The threatened positions are necessary to comply with *Olivia Y.* caseload standards and provide the rising number of children entering foster care with the proper care and services.
- The provisions of the *Olivia Y.* 2nd Modified Settlement Agreement requires implementation of Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) by FY2020. MDCPS' FY18 budget request included the \$13,436,099 in Capital Expense Funds which were appropriated for FY17. These funds were appropriated to procure one-time equipment and contractual needs of the new agency, and continuing the development of a new CCWIS which was previously referred to as the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).
- MDCPS projects an increase of \$6,761,700 in foster care maintenance payments during FY18. MDCPS is working diligently to license relatives of children in custody and to recruit and license new foster families. This work is required by the *Olivia Y.* 2nd Modified Settlement Agreement, but is also needed to ensure children are cared for safely and adequately.
- MDCPS is planning to implement a statewide 'In-Home Services' program to prevent the unnecessary placement of children away from their families. Services will be aimed at assisting families in crisis to prevent removal of children from their homes. By reducing the number of children entering custody and increasing the number of children exiting custody to permanency, MDCPS will provide better services to the families and children of Mississippi while reducing the growing number of foster care caseloads.
- MDCPS will need to maintain funding for vacant positions moving forward.

It is vital to MDCPS to maintain its current level of funding and the 1.5% increase in General Funds requested for FY18.