

Rep. Nuccio Requests for Information for the Subcommittee Work Sessions – OEC Responses
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 1:30- 2:30 p.m. via Zoom

Headcount questions:

- 1. What is the authorized headcount, the funded headcount and the filled headcount for your area?**

The OEC authorized head count is 118. We currently have 80 full time permanent positions and 3 Temporary Worker Retiree (TWR) General Fund positions filled. We intend to hire 18 additional General Fund positions in Fiscal Year 2023. With the projections for next year and all things remaining the same, we would have about 20 unfunded positions, meaning we have the positions, but the average salary will not support adding those 20 positions.

- 2. If there is change in headcount (either up or down) please provide an explanation of the change.**

We have had some changes in our headcount due to expected attrition (retirements, employees taking promotions at other agencies, etc.), new hires, and realigning current staff with appropriate funding sources due to changes in our organizational chart. The net change in our filled headcount from Fiscal Year ending 6/30/22 to now is essentially zero.

- a. If there is a positive change in headcount, please explain why these positions are needed.**

Not applicable.

- b. If these adds are legislatively driven, what piece of legislation is driving the increase?**

The midterm 2022-2023 budget added funding for 7 positions and for newly legislated programs (ex. Child Day Care Infant Toddler Expansion slots). However, we also saw a reduction of 8 in our authorized position count that corresponded with the Statewide Information Technology consolidation efforts. Therefore, our authorized position count reduced by a net of 1.

- 3. Are there any vacant positions in your headcount?**

We currently have 35 vacancies in our authorized position count.

- a. If yes, how are they budgeted into your plan? (as a full year FTE or partial? Are they fulltime or part time?)**

We have plans to hire 18 full time positions this fiscal year.

- b. What is the anticipated start date of your vacancies? Are they staggered throughout the year, or all anticipated to start on July 1?**

They are staggered leading through the end of this fiscal year, and some will likely carry over into the next fiscal year.

- 4. How many vacancies did you have at year end on 06/30?**

We had 32 vacancies in our authorized position count at the end of 6/30/22.

- a. **How many vacancies did you have throughout the year last fiscal year?**
It has varied due to retirements, people leaving the agency, people transition to new positions within the agency, and new people joining the agency.
- b. **How many new hires did you have in the same time period?**
(Waiting for info)
- c. **What is the average fringe cost of an FTE in the comptroller's area?**
Fringe benefits costs are based on the retirement plan in which each employee is enrolled. Average rates, as a percentage of payroll, for FY 2023 are as follows:

	Retirement Plans				
	SERS Reg	SERS HD	ARP	Judges	TRS
SERS Regular	67.40%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SERS HD	n/a	91.49%	n/a	n/a	n/a
ARP	n/a	n/a	14.60%	n/a	n/a
Judges	n/a	n/a	n/a	111.34%	n/a
TRS	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.89%
Unemployment Comp	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%	0.18%
Group Life	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%	0.23%
Social Security FICA	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%	6.20%
Social Security					
Medicare	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%	1.45%
Active Health	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>	<u>22.00%</u>
		121.55		141.40	
TOTAL FRINGE RATE	97.46%	%	44.66%	%	68.95%

Lapse Questions:

1. **Were there any lapsing accounts on 06/30?**
 - a. **If yes, what were the accounts?**
 - b. **If yes, what was the lapse balance?**
 - c. **If yes, what drove the lapse? What spending didn't occur that was planned to occur?**

Please refer to the Office of the *State Comptroller's Budgetary/Statutory Basis (GAAP Based Budgeting)* Annual Report: [Budgetar 2022.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#).

General Fund agencies: Exhibit B-3 shows, in the right-hand column, FY 2022 appropriations that were continued to FY 2023 for the General Fund.

STF agencies: Schedule C-5 shows the same information for the Special Transportation Fund.

Other Budgeted funds: Schedule C-6.

2. **If there is a lapsing balance, do you anticipate it carrying forward?**
 - a. **If yes, how do you propose to use that lapse?**
 - b. **Will it be for one-time expenses?**
 - i. **If so, what are those one-time expenses?**
 - c. **If ongoing expense is that expense built into this budget in FY 25?**

While it is inevitable that there will be some slippage in completing certain activities that will result in a need to carry-forward certain funds to complete projects begun in the current fiscal year, the Governor's proposed FY 2024-2025 budget does not rely on any carryforwards of FY 2023 appropriations to fund ongoing operations, with the exception of OPM's Reserve for Salary Adjustment account.

APRA

1. Did you receive any ARPA funding in your department?

The Governor's Budget provides OEC with a new ARPA SFRF allocation of \$35 million in FY 24 to support additional enrollment in the Care 4 Kids program as OEC implements an enrollment management strategy to gradually reduce enrollment to a sustainable level.

a. If yes, have you assumed the programs/staffing established with the ARPA funding is now in your General Fund budget as an ongoing expense?

i. If not all, how much?

No. The OEC has not assumed this, however, the pandemic relief dollars have been a significant help to the agency and to the early childhood field. However, as mentioned above, to reduce cliff effects for Care 4 Kids, the Governor's budget does include \$35 million for FY24 in one-time State Fiscal Relief funding to implement a Care 4 Kids enrollment management system to proactively manage a waitlist and the caseload for the subsidy program.

b. Are there still ARPA funds included in this budget?

i. If yes, how much of this budget is continuation of ARPA funding?

There are no additional SFRF ARPA funds, over and above the \$35M in ARPA SFRS reference above, in the Governor's budget for the Office of Early Childhood.

ii. How much ARPA do you still have in the budget that may need to be picked up as ongoing expenses in out years?

This is a policy decision to be addressed by the Governor and Legislature as part of a future budget.

General Questions:

- 1. Is there anything you would change about this budget?**
- 2. Is there anything you would add to this budget?**
- 3. Is there anything you would remove from this budget?**

The Office of Early Childhood supports the Governor's FY24-25 budget proposal.

- 4. Is there any legislation that was passed you feel you are not adequately prepared to enforce?**
 - a. If so, what would we need to change to make it administer-able?**

No, there is no legislation that passed that the agency is unable to administer. The agency has been under significant staffing pressure during the COVID-19 pandemic to administer and deliver federal ARPA and CRRSA funding to the early childhood field. Our agency is proud of the dedication and hard work of the OEC staff to quickly get federal funds out the door to support early care and education programs and their staff.