

AGENCY SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES (DFS)

Agency Links:

Department of Family Services (DFS): [Website](#)

DFS: [FY 2025 Approved Operating Budget](#)

DFS: [FY 2025 Budget Review Report](#)

DFS: [FY 2026 Budget Review Report](#)

DFS: [FY 2026 Budget Review PowerPoint](#)

Budget & Policy Analyst: David Noto

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Schedule of Legislation, [Section 8](#) of the County Charter, the Department of Family Services was established. It provides that the Department will be headed by the Director of Family Services, who shall be responsible for developing, conducting, and administering a comprehensive Countywide program to serve the needs of families residing in Prince George's County, including a special focus on the needs of senior citizens, women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.

The Department seeks to improve the quality of life and overall well-being of the communities by providing information, assistance, and referrals, as well as promoting and developing high-quality, innovative programs that educate, empower, respect choice, and preserve dignity. The department is responsible for aiding the County's children, victims of domestic violence, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, veterans, and seniors.

Leadership

Elana Belon-Butler, Director

Core Services

- Information and referral assistance
- Intervention services
- Case management services
- Home and community-based services
- Community outreach and advocacy
- Provision of senior meals and food security education

Organizational Structure

- Office of the Director
- Management Services Division
- Aging and Disability Services Division
- Child, Youth, and Families Division
- Domestic Violence/ Human Trafficking Division
- Office of Veteran Affairs

FY 2026 Top Priorities

- Increase the percentage of individuals linked to care through information assistance and referral services.
- Increase the number of individuals and families who have access to nutritious meals and childhood hunger programs to enhance food security.
- Reduce the percentage of at-risk older adults entering long-term care facilities after one year of receiving community-based services.
- Increase access to intervention programs and services for at-risk youth and families via the administration of disconnected youth, childhood hunger, and home visiting programs.
- Increase supportive services to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking and assist domestic violence survivors with resources that promote self-sufficiency.
- Enhance communications and outreach to the over 100,000 veterans and family members in Prince George's County, to ensure that all eligible Prince Georgians receive information on services and benefits available to them.

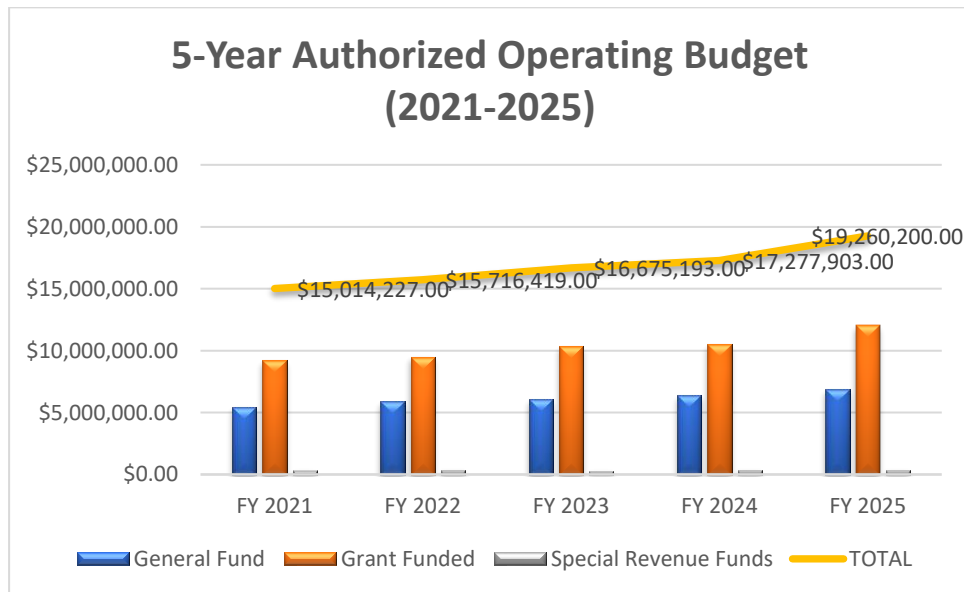
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FY 2025 Key Accomplishments

- Hosted more than 800 attendees with 50 vendors providing information and resources on programs and services available to older adults and their caregivers at the Annual Senior Fun Fest and Picnic.
- Hosted the first hybrid conference for family caregivers with approximately 200 in-person guests and additional virtual attendees participating in various workshops designed to enhance caregiver knowledge and skills.
- Contracted with George Washington University to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of older adults in Prince George's County, completed in January 2025. In preparation, the University conducted over 20 focus groups, distributed an electronic survey and participated in canvassing in neighborhoods.
- Facilitated a Safe Dates Provider training for community stakeholders, County agencies and other providers, using lessons learned from the evidence based Healthy Relationships Dating Curriculum for Teens.

Operating Budgetary Resources - Below is the 5-year overview of resources allocated to the Department of Family Services from FY 2021-2025.



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