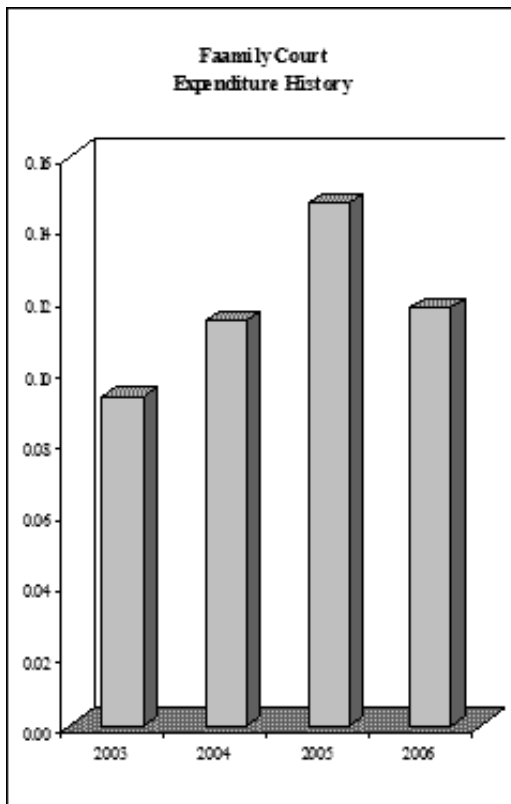




Family Court

Expenditures	2003	2004	2005	2006
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Salaries & Wages	66,659	84,254	99,353	72,485
Personnel Benefits	16,062	19,350	28,290	19,446
Supplies	3,107	2,788	10,000	15,000
Other Services & Charges	6,608	7,229	9,075	10,293
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	92,436	113,621	146,718	117,224
Ending Fund Balance	74,203	79,450	54,201	37,508
Total Budget			200,919	154,732
Staffing / FTE	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.50

[Revenues](#)
[Expenditures](#)

Program Description:

Family Court offers services to people going through Superior Court, typically in marriage dissolution, but has expanded its services to other case types and issues to serve the growing number of litigants who are not represented by attorneys. Information brochures are developed, printed and distributed. Parenting information is made available to families in crisis. An investigator is appointed in selected cases to review the case and make a recommendation to the judge.

Family Court does not supplant any existing services of the Superior Court. It enhances the work of the Superior Court. The program makes the court more accessible to the public, especially to the poor and saves limited court resources.

The facilitator provides assistance to pro se litigants in family law cases by; identifying and assessing their needs and assisting them in obtaining and completing the necessary forms, reviewing the forms before presentation to the court, and assisting the public in getting their cases before a judge. The facilitator provides basic dissolution group intake classes for pro se litigants prior to their dissolution filing. This class (in English and Spanish) promotes public education and assists in demystifying the complexities of court procedures. The facilitator also maintains and provides an inventory of informational and instructional brochures available to the public. The investigator appointed by the Court researches, interviews parties of the case, collects collateral documentation, testifies at trials, and submits reports with recommendations to the Family Court Judge.

Major Objectives:

- Continue to establish facilitator user fees at a reasonable scale that would help fund a part-time bilingual facilitator to provide comparable service for non-English speaking litigants.
- Continue providing a stable program foundation with reasonable caseload and revenue expectations for Investigator activities.

Revenue/Expenditure Comment:

Family Court will be supported by user fees and other dedicated funding sources. However, this essential program cannot continue to operate from user fees alone. The Court intends to pursue partnership and grants to fill the gap, but many have no choice but to turn to the County General Fund for support.

Facilitator services are available to the public on an appointment basis, but many emergency issues such as Orders of Protection require the facilitator to be immediately available. The Court is experiencing an increasing domestic caseload with pro se litigants who require extensive staffing assistance in processing their cases. The court has also seen a significant increase in monolingual litigants. In order to continue providing bilingual services to clients, it may be necessary to increase fees to clients.

