



DCS State Budget Committee Presentation

Dec. 16, 2024



MISSION + VISION



VALUES



**TRUST-BASED
RELATIONSHIPS**



SKILLS: TEAPI

DCS Practice Model

DCS Priorities



Child safety



Child permanency



Foster and adoptive
family support

Accomplishments

→ Improved time to permanency

- Main paths to permanency are reunification, adoption or guardianship
- Reducing time to permanency is a top priority for DCS
- Average time to permanency decreased from 685 days to 549 days, a 20% improvement over a 3-year period (Sept. 2021-Sept. 2024)
- We recently saw our lowest average of 473 days in October of this year
- HEA 1369-2024 impact

→ Adoption subsidy improvements

- On July 1, 2024, DCS raised the floor for both eligible adoption and guardianship subsidies to ensure that families who provide permanency to a child previously in Indiana's foster care system receive at least 100% of the amount the child was eligible for while in foster care.
- As a result, time to permanency for DCS youth will improve, the process for eligible adoptive parents and guardians has been streamlined, and support for youth is consistently maintained throughout permanency.



Accomplishments

→ Safety Quality Assurance Team

- Launched in mid-2024 to review unsubstantiated assessments to assess the quality of decision-making in real-time and implement quick changes and identify opportunities for additional education and training.
- Since inception in Q2, team has reviewed 1,250 assessments, and changes or recommendations have been made to Policy, Practice and Field based on findings.

→ Intensive foster care services

- Launched 11/1 following RFP that selected 13 providers across state
- Goal is to deliver services to youth with high-acuity needs in home settings, improve stability, help with permanency
- More than four dozen youth either in program or in process awaiting caregivers

→ Leader visits with foster parents

- Division managers, local office directors and regional managers are asked to meet with one foster parent per month as part of DCS' strategic goal of improving relationships with foster parents.

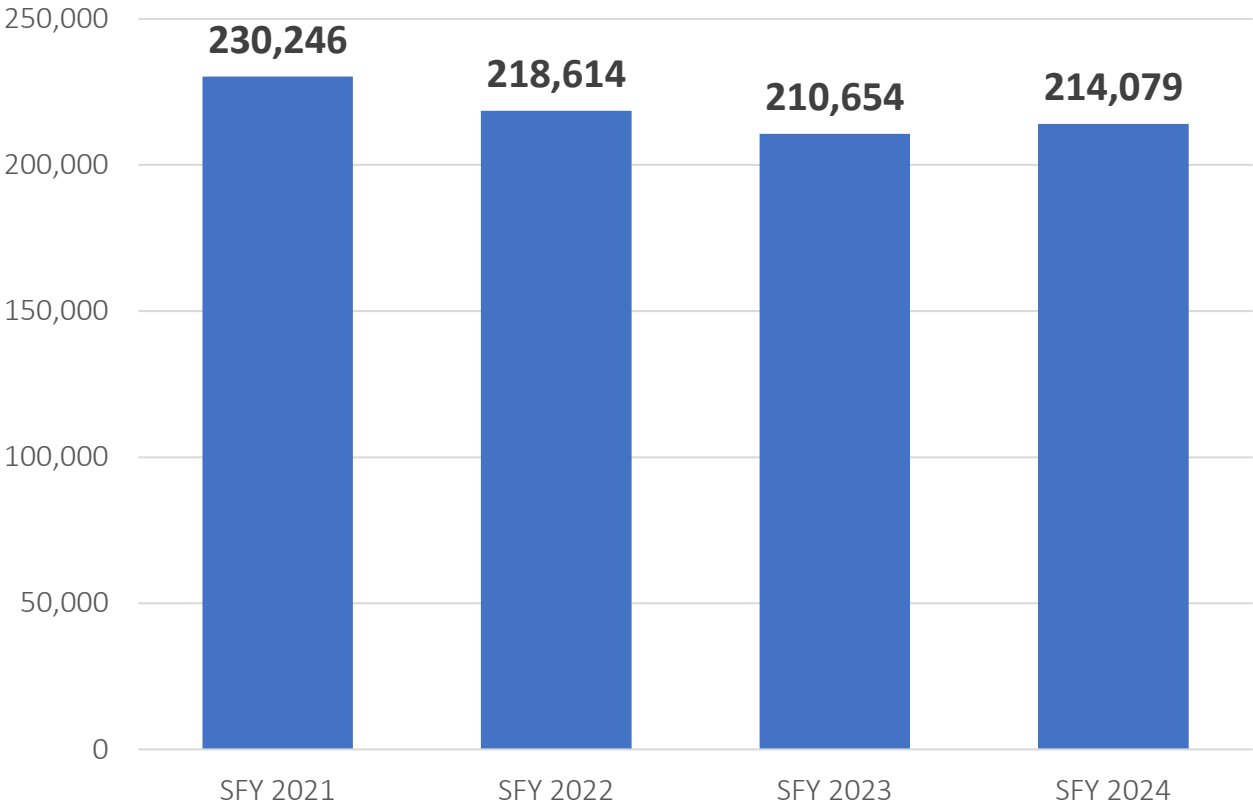


Key Metrics



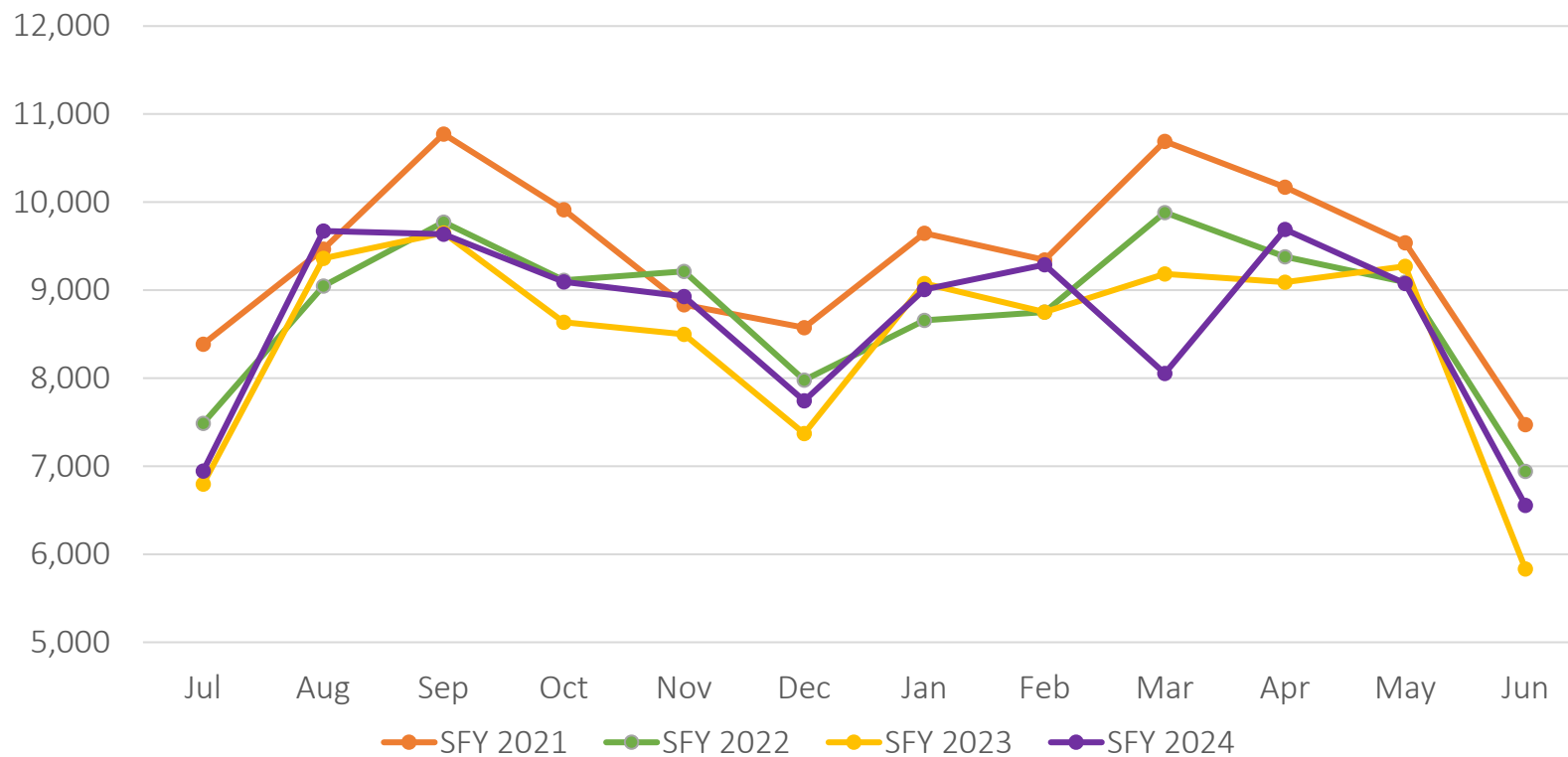
Hotline Reports

SFY 2021 to SFY 2024



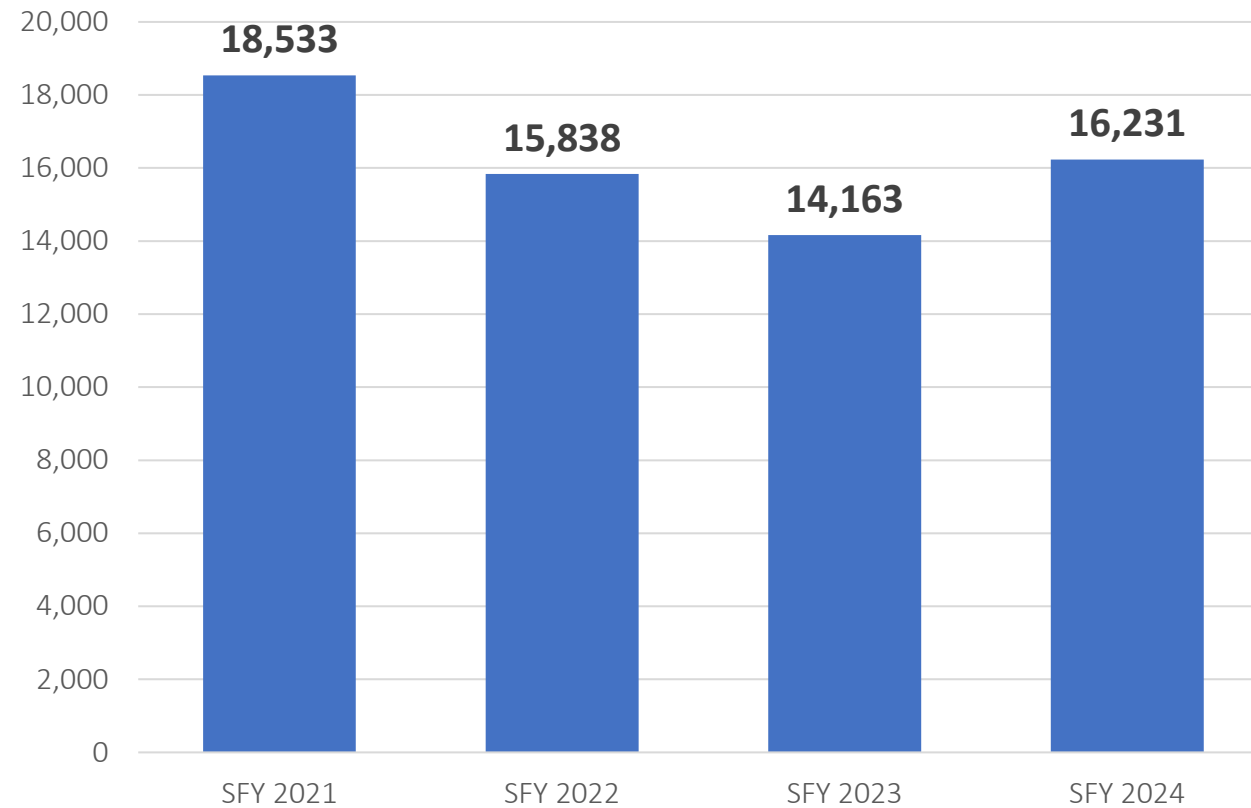
Assessments Opened Each Month

- DCS opens more assessments during the school year
- Overall assessments decreased by 8% from SFY 2021 to SFY 2024



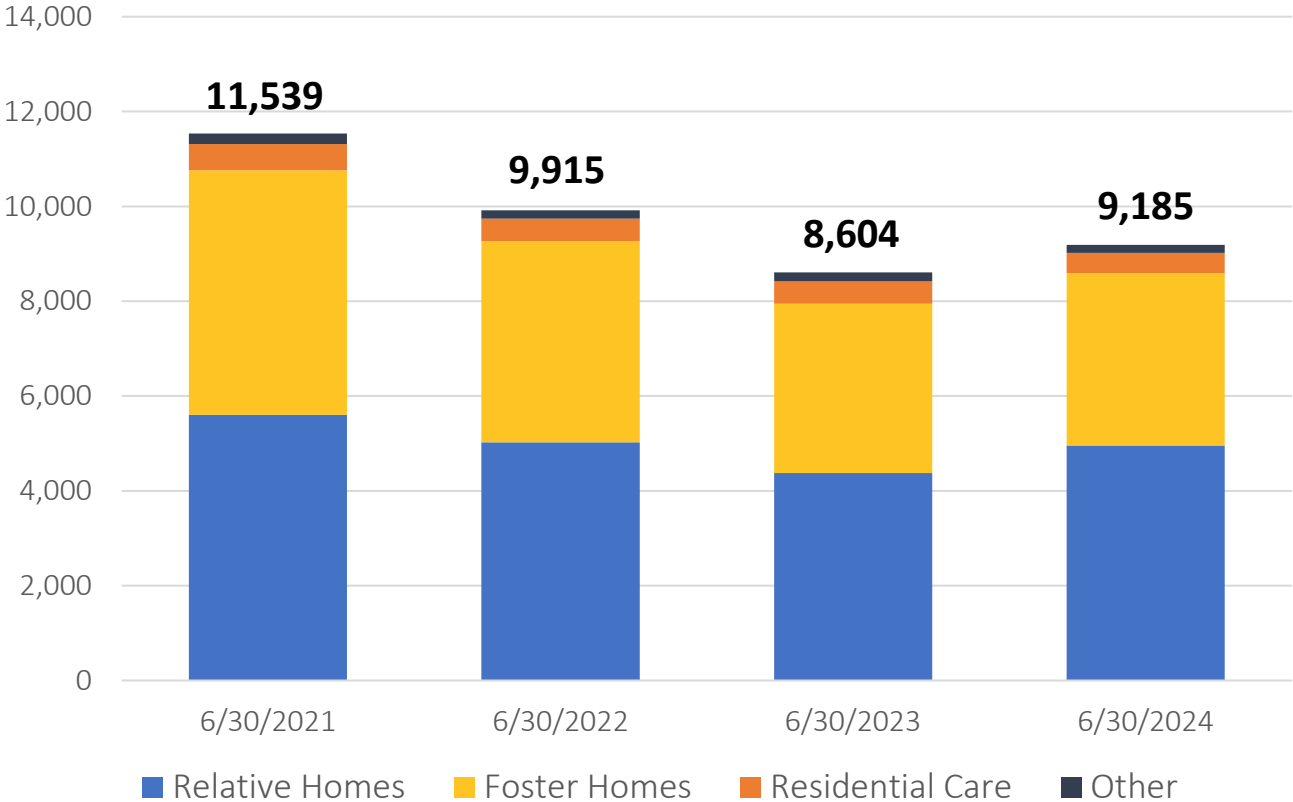
Total Number of Children in DCS Care

CHINS, Informal Adjustments, and Older Youth – Close of SFY 2021 to SFY 2024



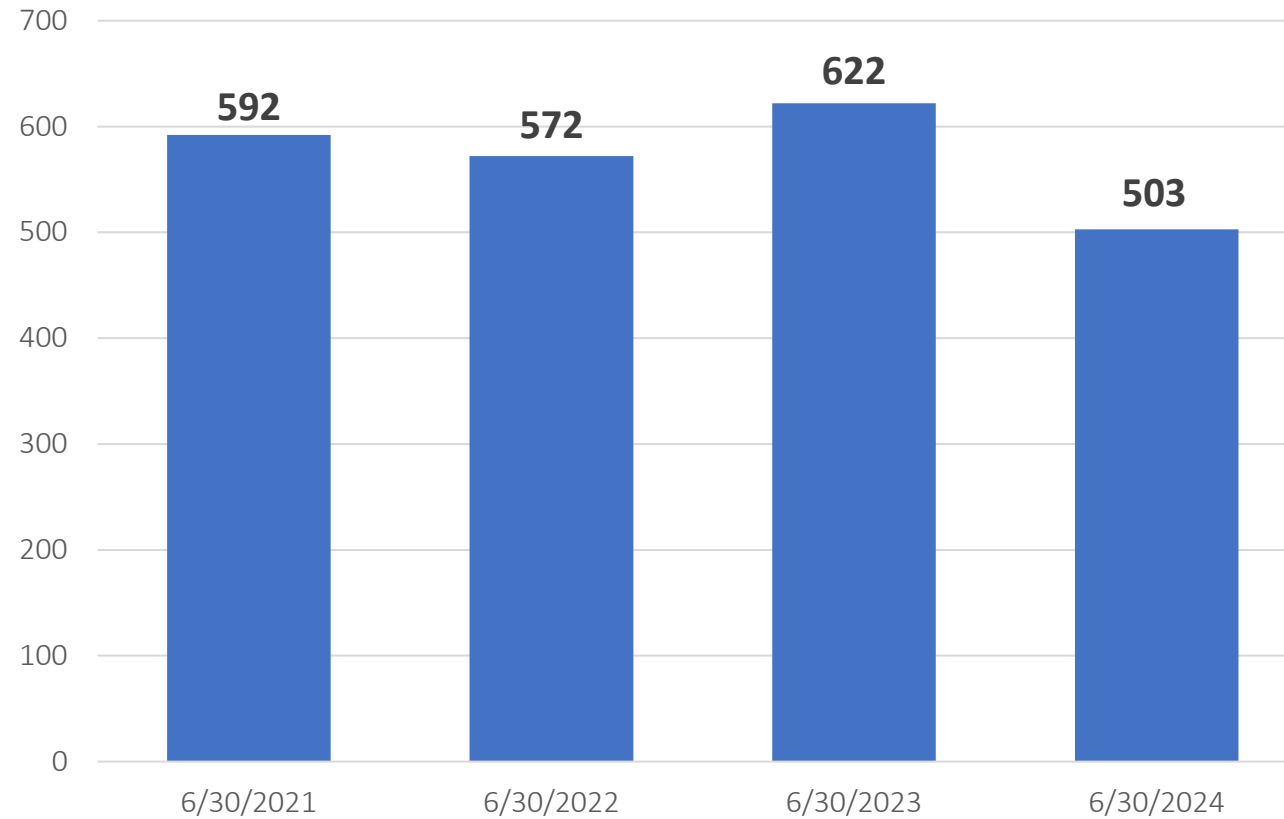
Children in Foster Care

Relative Homes, Foster Homes, Residential Care, Other – Close of SFY 2021 to 2024



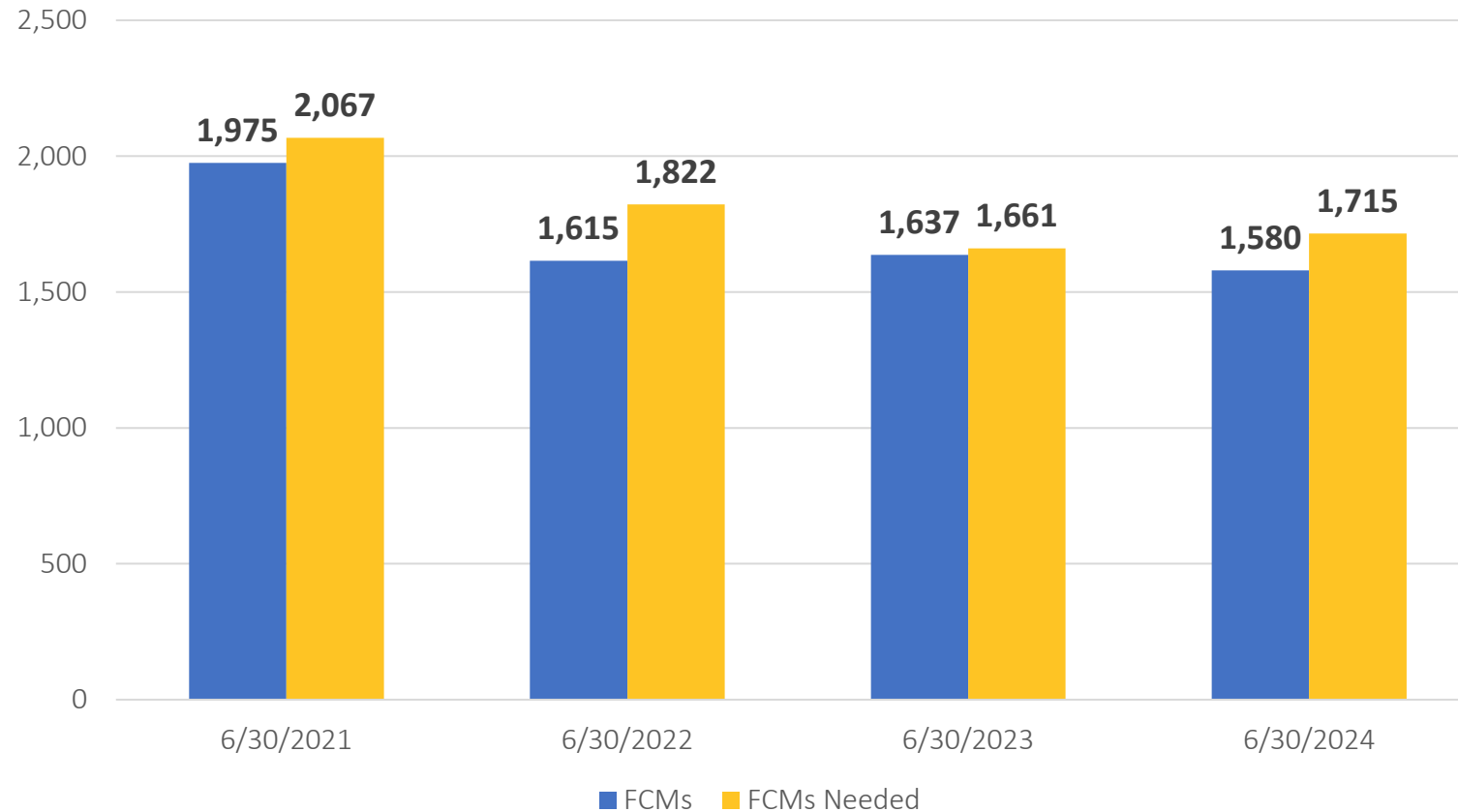
Average Days to Permanency

Close of SFY 2021 to 2024



Caseload-Carrying FCMs

Family case managers (FCMs) on staff at end of SFY vs number needed to meet 12/12/13 standard



Issues/Challenges

→ Agency turnover

- DCS lost 847 FCMs and gained 861 in SFY24
- Turnover rate was 37% for FCMs and 14% among FCM supervisors

→ Recruitment and retention of foster parents

- Agency requires diverse pool of foster homes to adequately meet unique needs of youth in DCS care
- Number of DCS-licensed foster homes fell nearly 13% between July 2023-July 2024

→ Accessing residential treatment for youth with high-acuity and complex needs

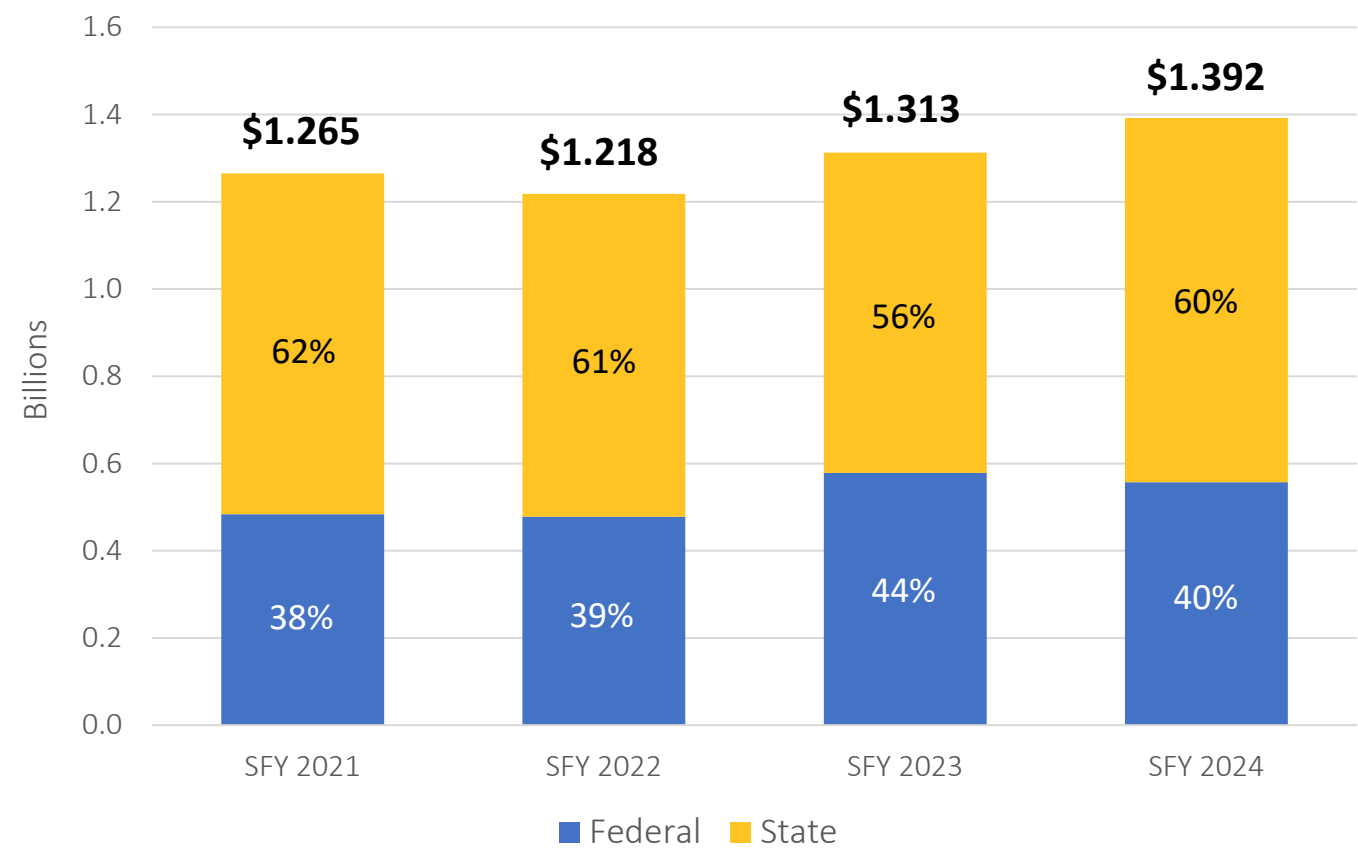
- Finding high-quality in-state residential treatment remains challenging
- Needs often better addressed by other state government programs and services before DCS intervention becomes necessary
- Collaboration among state agencies is essential



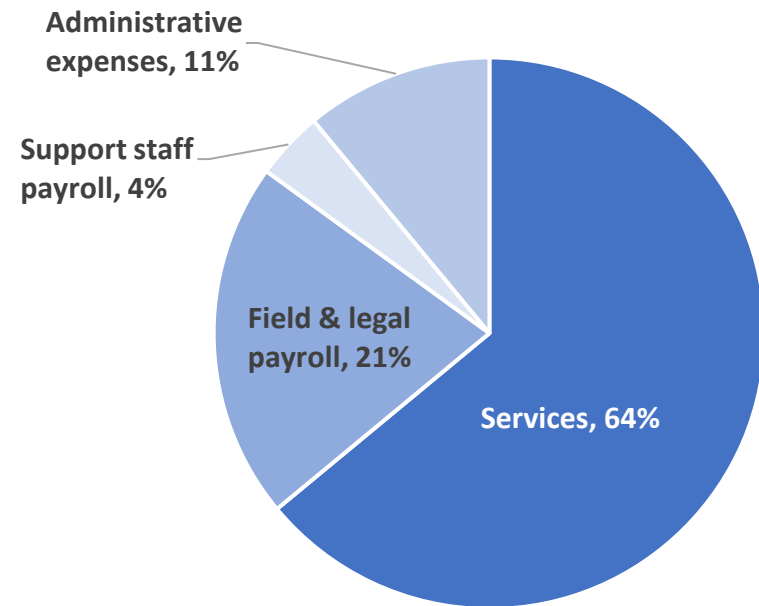
Fiscal Overview



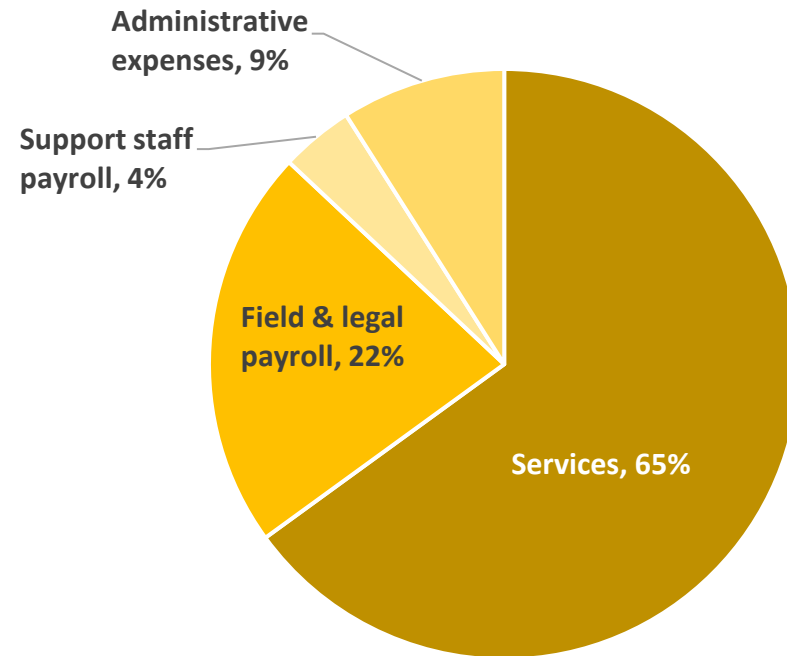
DCS Funding Sources



DCS Expenses by Type



SFY 2023: \$1.313B



SFY 2024: \$1.392B



DCS SFY 2025 Budget Overview

- Number of children in care increased 15% SFY 2023 to SFY 2024
- Out-of-home services increased by \$54M
 - Residential, foster care, and community-based services
- DCS received a \$38M augmentation in SFY 2024
- Projected augmentation for SFY 2025 is \$70M



Main Program Spend Categories	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	Difference	% Change
Out-of-Home Care	\$350,016,705	\$403,930,555	+\$53,913,850	+15%
In-Home Care	\$69,590,767	\$72,941,444	+\$3,350,677	+5%
Probation	\$110,497,578	\$131,592,958	+\$21,095,380	+19%
Permanency (Adoption/Guardianship)	\$122,827,189	\$128,341,619	+\$5,514,430	+4%
Prevention	\$58,569,585	\$57,087,122	-\$1,482,463	-3%
Older Youth Services	\$11,484,201	\$14,568,148	+\$3,083,947	+27%
Children’s Mental Health Initiative	\$16,977,798	\$19,193,457	+2,215,659	+13%





Questions?

