



Virginia Department of Social Services

people helping people

Division of Family Services: Foster Care, Family First and
Guardianship

October 16, 2020

Permanency



Permanency for children means establishing family connections and placement options for children in order to provide a lifetime of commitment, continuity of care, a sense of belonging, and a legal and social status that goes beyond the child's temporary foster care placement.



Permanency Strategies CFSP 2020-2024

Virginia's children in foster care will have improved permanency outcomes.

Increase family engagement and placements based on individual needs for children/youth.

Partner with the CIP to identify and improve court processes to expedite permanency for children and youth in foster care.

Increase the number of children in family-based settings by strengthening Diligent Recruitment of foster families.

Increase availability, accessibility and effectiveness of Independent Living (IL) services to support successful transition to adulthood

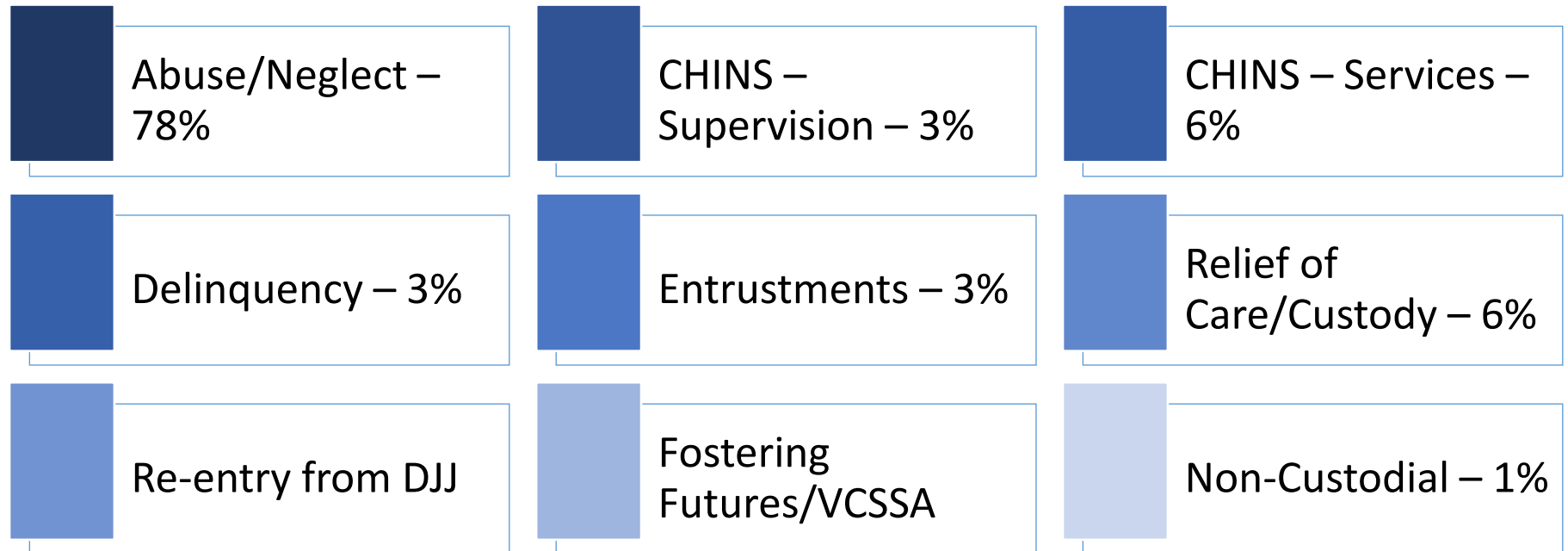
Increase the well-being of children in foster care.

Collaborate with Leadership from Tribes to ensure VDSS support.

A man with dark hair, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt and dark pants, is seen from behind, walking through a field of tall green grass and red poppies. He is carrying two young girls on his back. The girl on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a light blue shirt and pink leggings with colorful patterns. The girl on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a pink and white striped shirt and pink leggings with purple patterns. They are walking away from the camera towards a line of trees in the background under a cloudy sky.

Foster Care

How Children Enter Foster Care



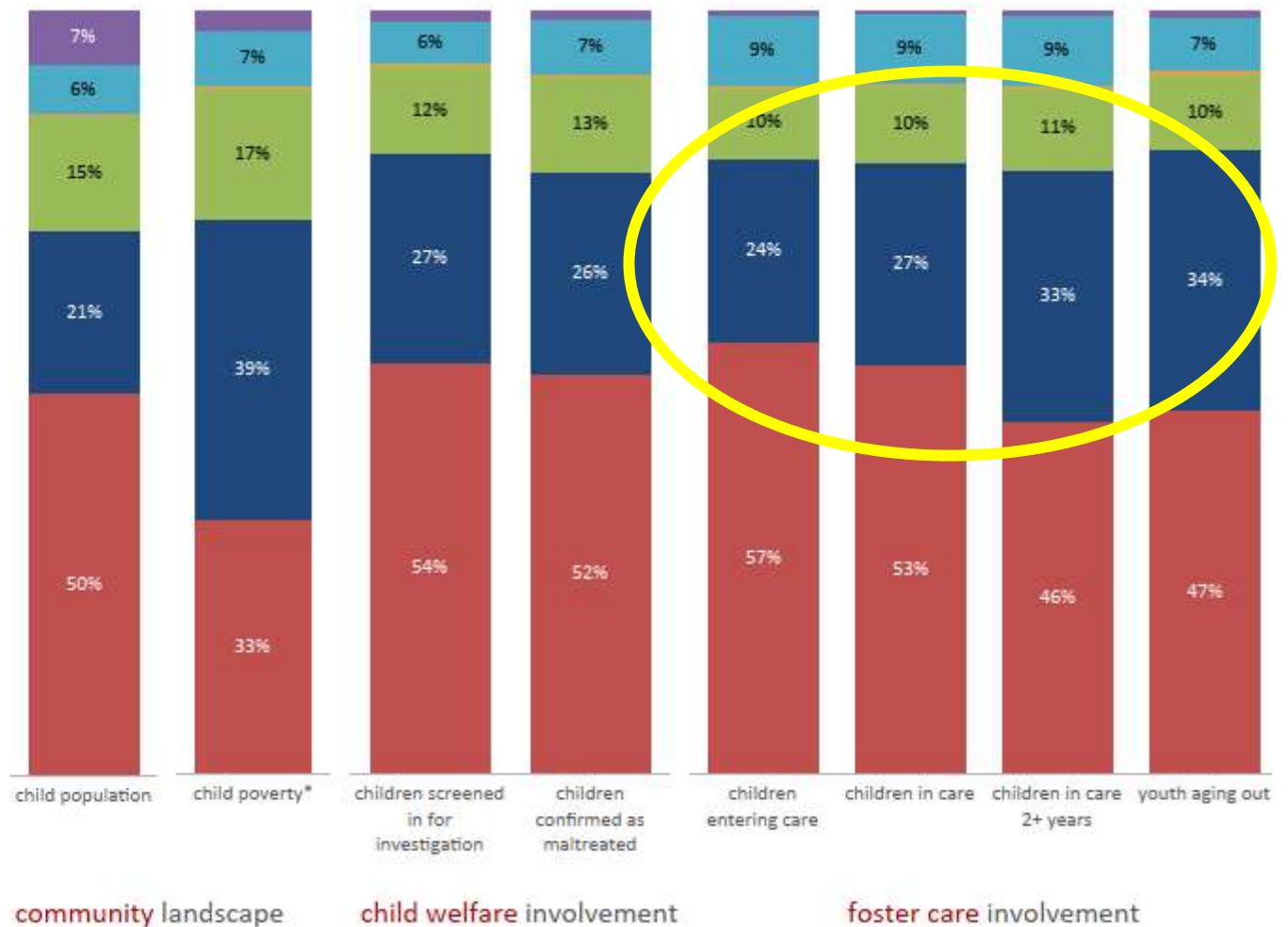
Virginia Disparity

a decision point analysis is a useful way to see where children are over-represented relative to their proportion in the base population

*data on poverty by race/ethnicity may not be available for all racial/ethnic groups. Percentages based on available data only.

children with an unknown race/ethnicity are excluded

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Multi-racial
- American Indian/Alaska Native
- Latinx
- Black/African American
- White



Foster Care

Definition

- Foster care services are the provision of a full range of casework, treatment, and community services, including but not limited to independent living services, for a planned period of time to children, and their families, who are abused or neglected as defined in § 63.2-100 or in need of services as defined in § 16.1-228 (§63.2-905).

Temporary

- Foster care is intended to be a **temporary** rather than a long-term solution for children who have been removed from their birth family homes for reasons of neglect, abuse, abandonment, or other issues endangering their health and/or safety.

Family Placement

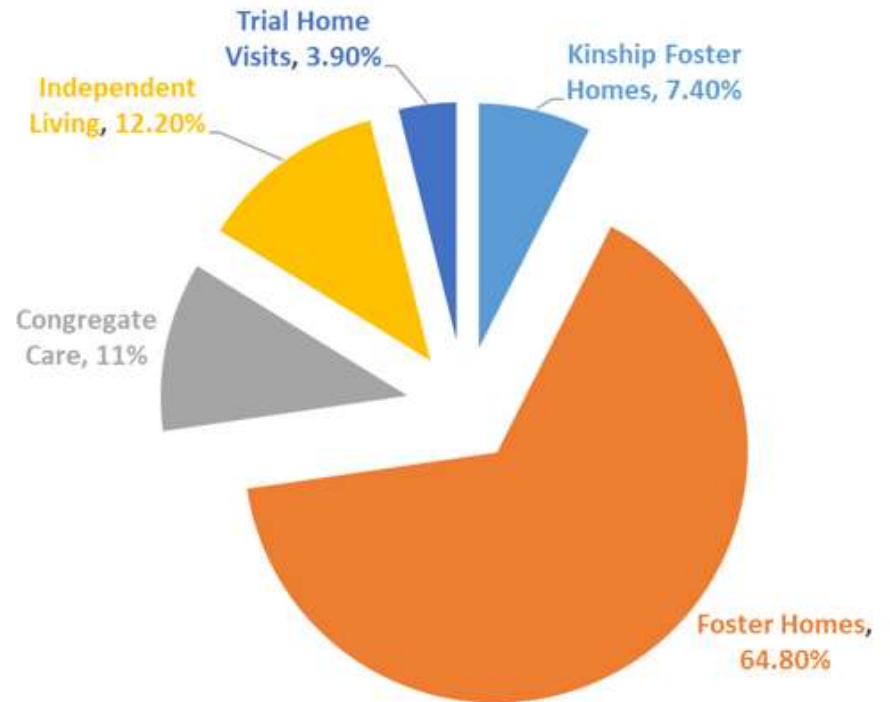
- Every effort is made to help the child remain with his or her family, including exploration of relatives as placement options.



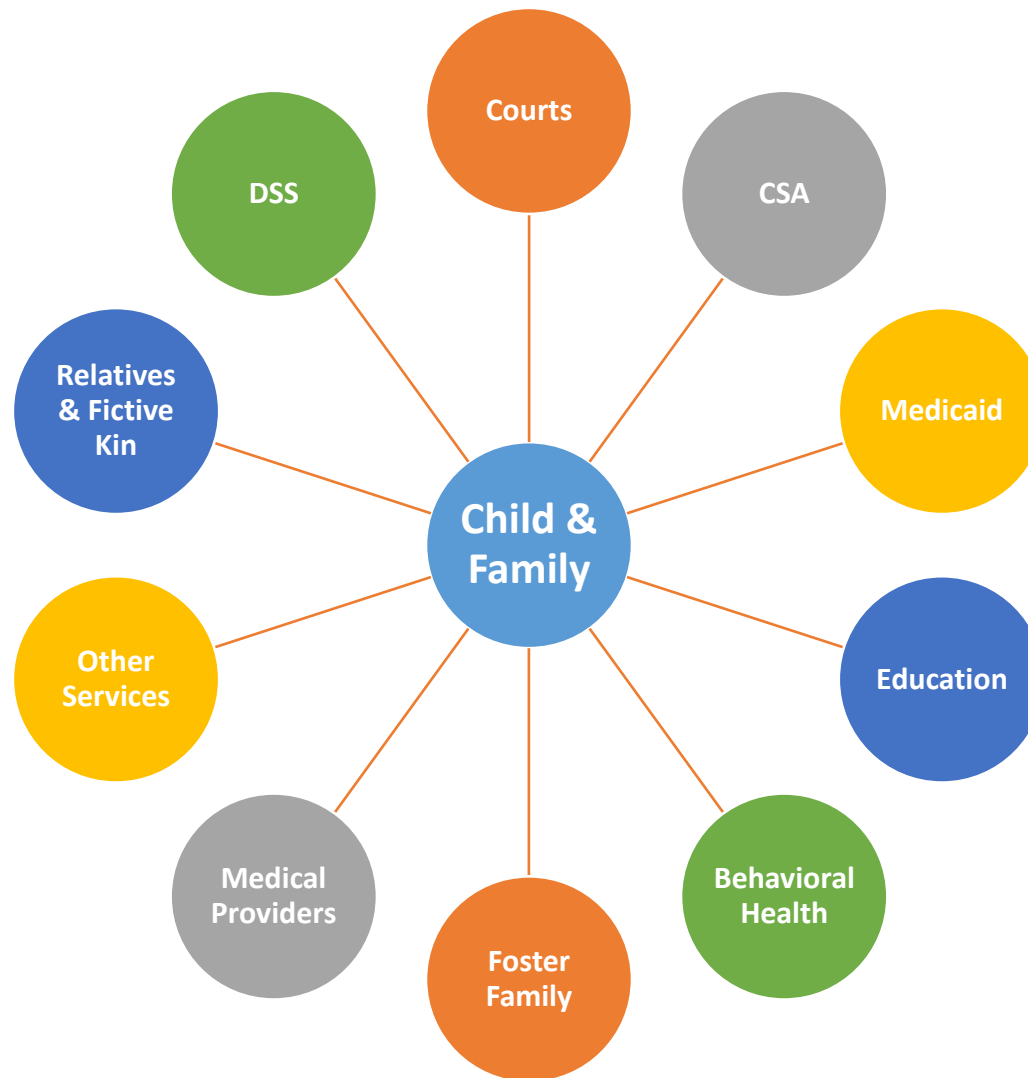
Types of Placements

- Kinship Foster Homes
(relatives & fictive kin)
- Foster Homes
- Congregate Care
(e.g. group homes, residential facilities)
- Independent Living
- Trial Home Visits

Placement Types of All Children/Youth in Foster Care*



System Complexity for Children in Foster Care



Foster Care Services

- Services provided during the course of foster care are targeted to address a child's safety, permanency, and well-being needs.

Some Examples of Foster Care Services

Safety

- Safety services

Permanency

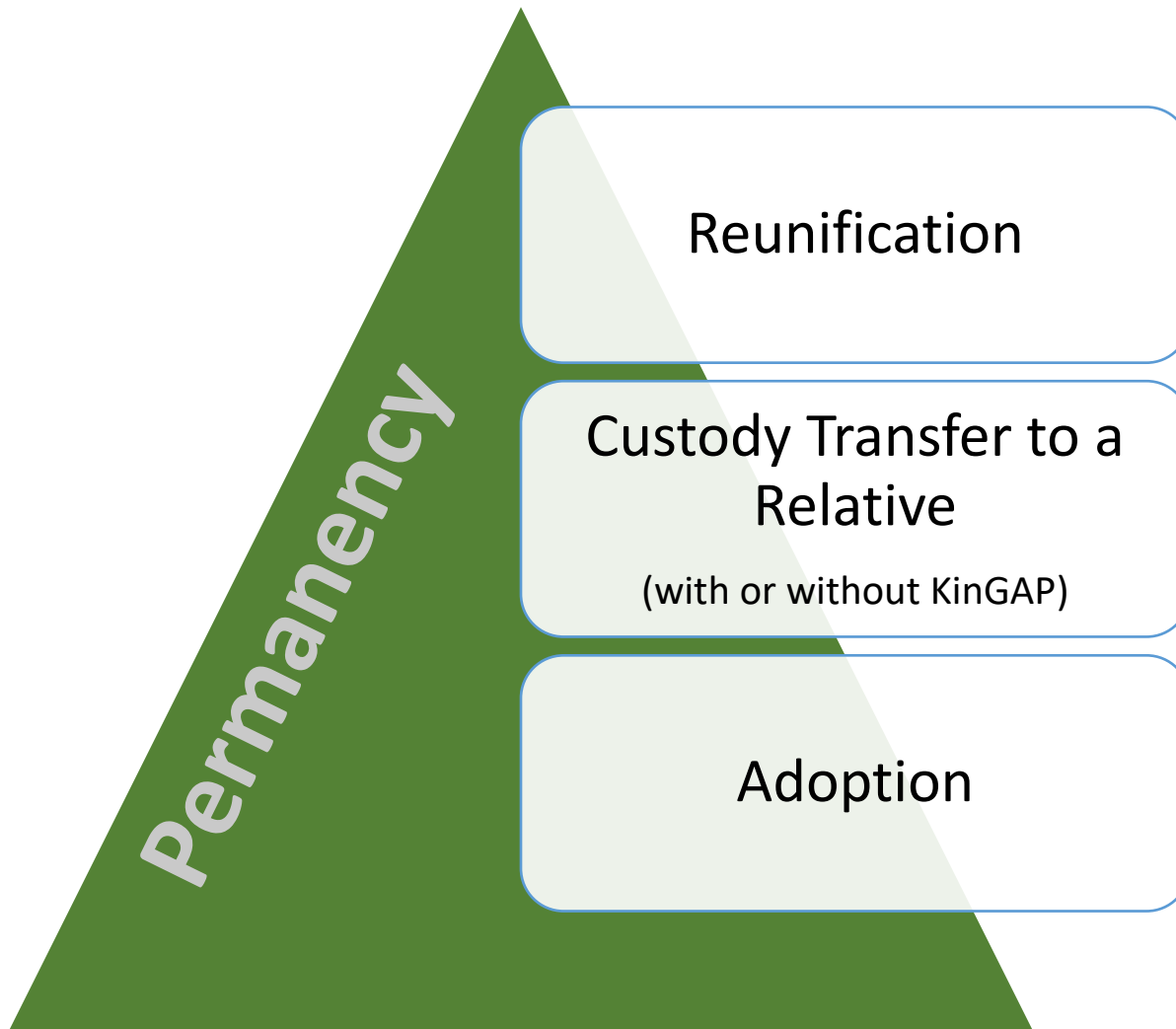
- Reunification services
- Family Time

Well-being

- Educational Stability/strategies
- Mental health/behavioral



Foster Care Goals



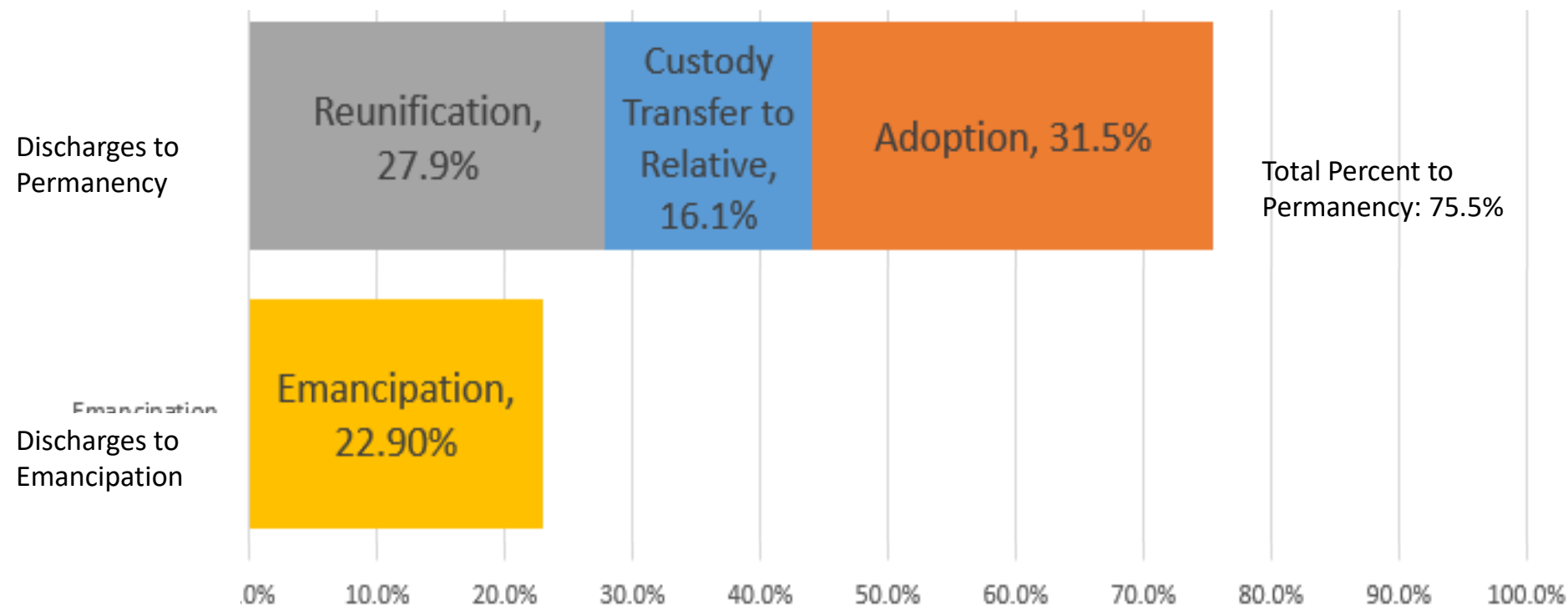
Other non-permanency goals:

- Permanent Foster Care (16+)
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) (16+)
- Independent Living (18+)

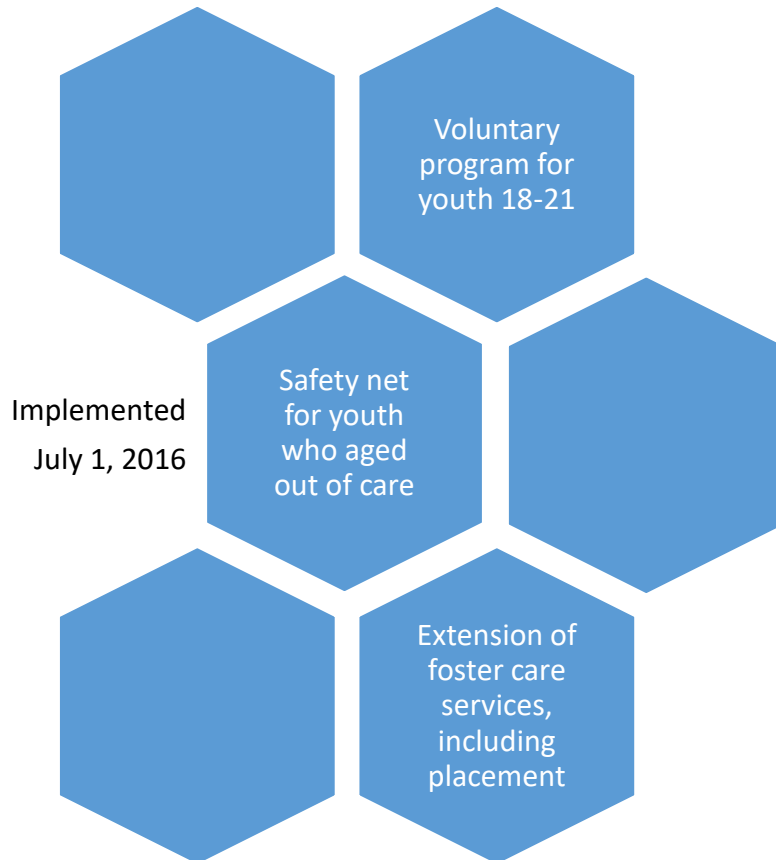


Discharges from Foster Care

Exits from Foster Care (July 2019 - June 2020)



Fostering Futures



Participation Conditions:

In order to maintain eligibility in Fostering Futures, participants must meet 1 of the 5 participation conditions:

- Completing secondary education or a program leading to a General Education Diploma (GED).
- Enrolled full-time or part-time (at least half-time) in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education.
- Participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment.
- Employed at least 80 hours per month.
- Incapable of engaging in any of the above activities due to a medical condition



Resource Families and Foster Care

- DSS Approved Homes
- LCPA (Licensed Child Placing Agency) Homes
- Support Reunification
- Foster/Adoptive Homes



Kin-First Culture

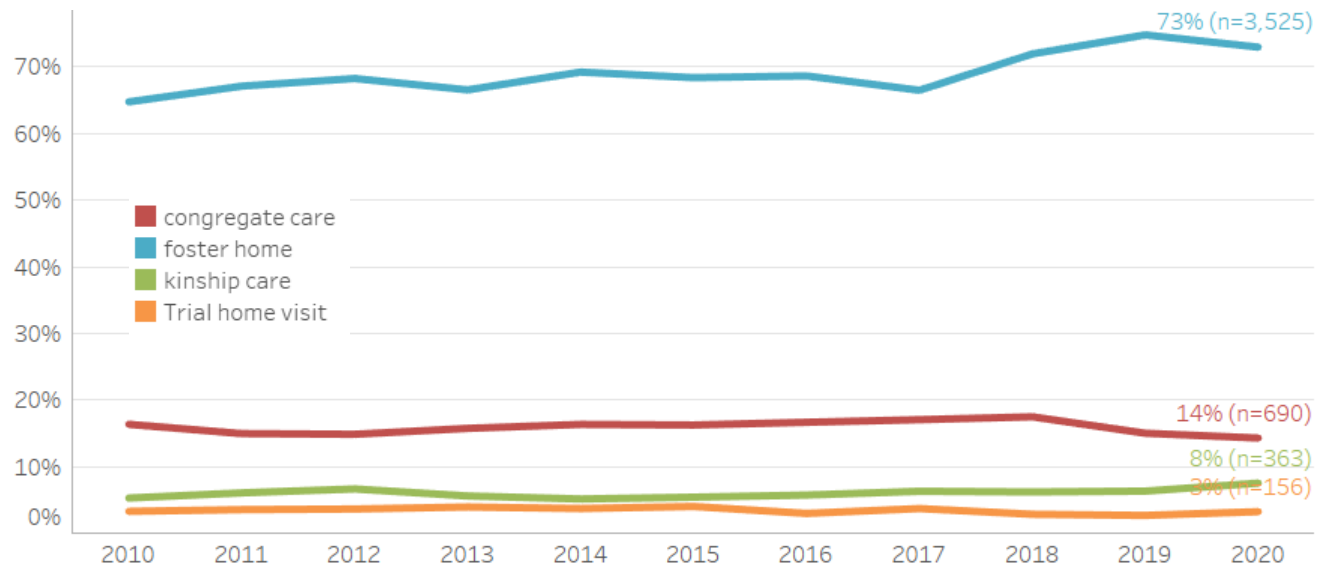
- Families are the experts
- Driving and included in all decisions
- Given the opportunity to rely on one another for support



the children that are in care are not placed with relatives at a high rate...

How many children are in care, by placement setting?

(ages < 18)



Overview of VDSS Child Welfare Spending (SFY19)

17

Foster Care
\$353M

Prevention
\$66M

Title IV-E \$60M

CSA \$213M

Medicaid \$80M

IV-B, PSSF, CAPTA, DV
Grants, Contracts
\$40M

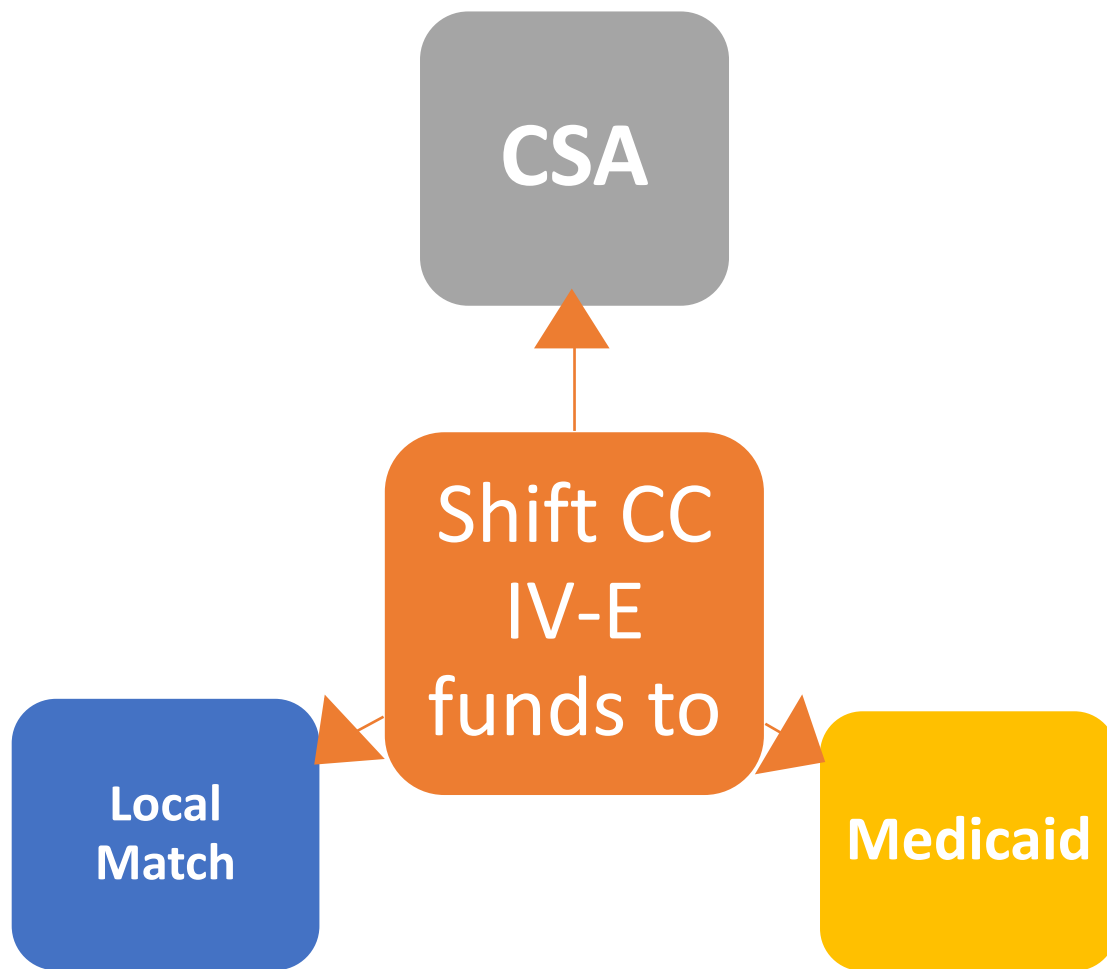
CSA
(CA/N, CHINS)
\$26M

*Annual Foster Care
Expenditures per
Child \$46,861*



Impact of QRTP Implementation

18



Adoption

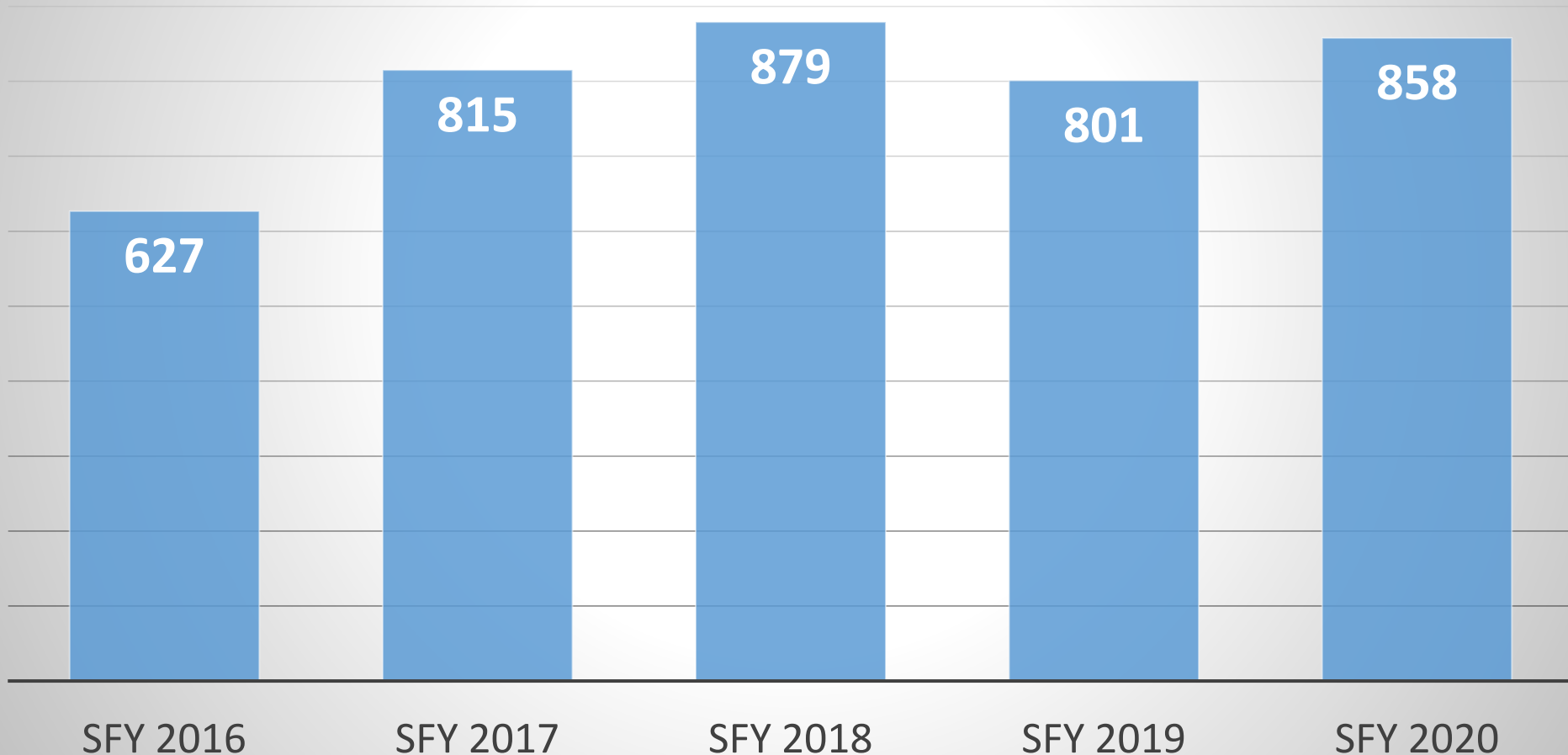


The legal process that entitles the person being adopted to all of the rights and privileges, and subjects the person to all the obligations of a birth child.

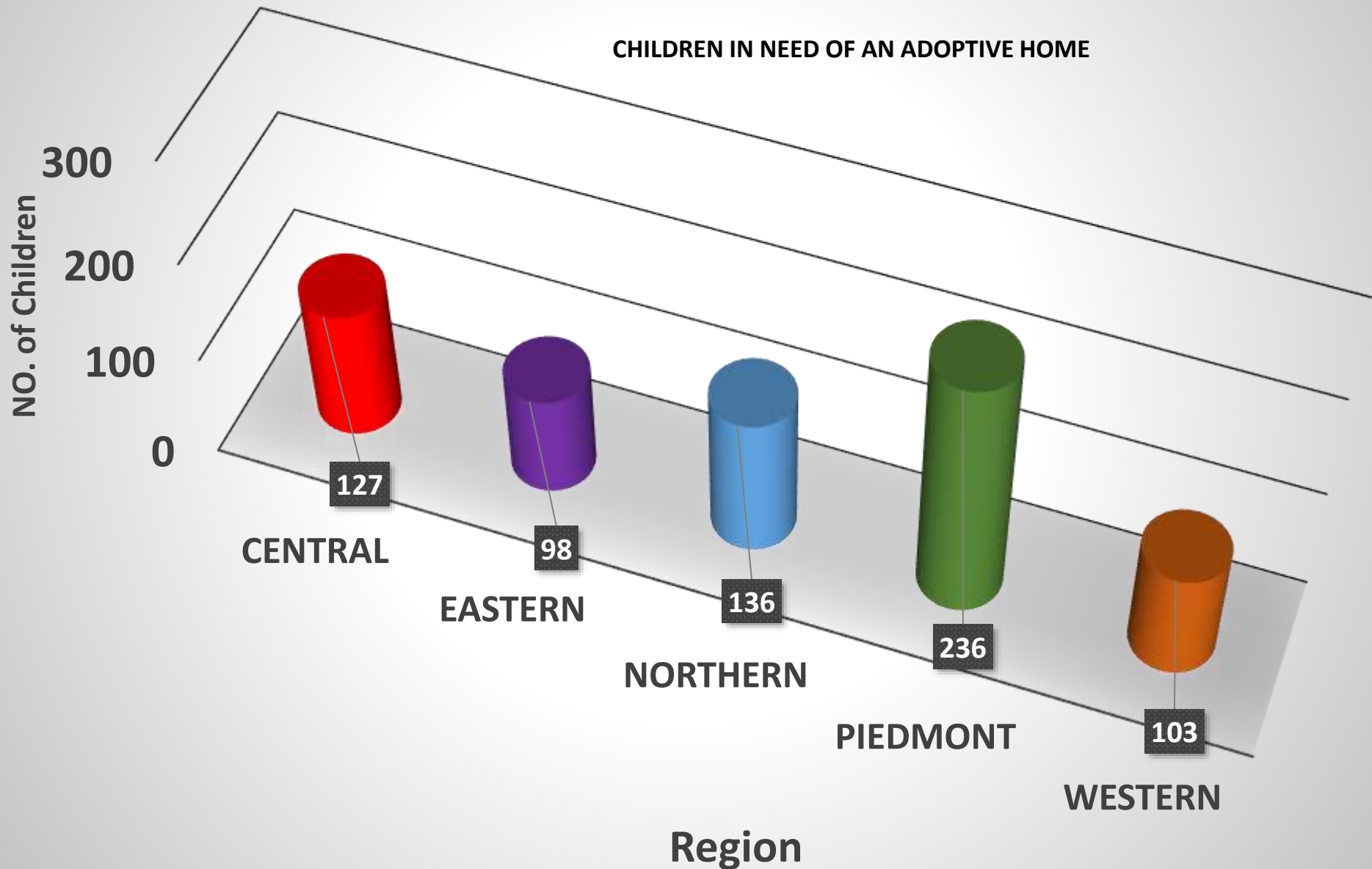


Finalized Adoptions

Number of Finalized Adoptions
State Fiscal Year 2016 to 2020



No. of Available Children By Region



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Prevention Services: Target resources and services that **prevent foster care placements** and help children remain safely in their home.

Family-Based Placements: Ensure children maintain family connections needed for healthy development and emotional well-being while finding safe, permanent homes for children as quickly as possible.

Evidence-Based Services: Advance the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based, trauma-informed services that appropriately and effectively improve child safety, ensure permanency, and promote child and family well-being.

Congregate Care Placements: Safely reduce the inappropriate use of non family-based placements; when non family-based placements are needed, ensure children are placed in the least restrictive, highest-quality setting appropriate to their individual needs.

Resources and Financial Accountability: Build capacity and leverage resources to provide effective services to prevent foster care placement while ensuring financial accountability.

The Children's Services Act and Foster Care in Virginia

Scott Reiner
Executive Director
Office of Children's Services

CSA: A very short history

Effective July 1, 1993

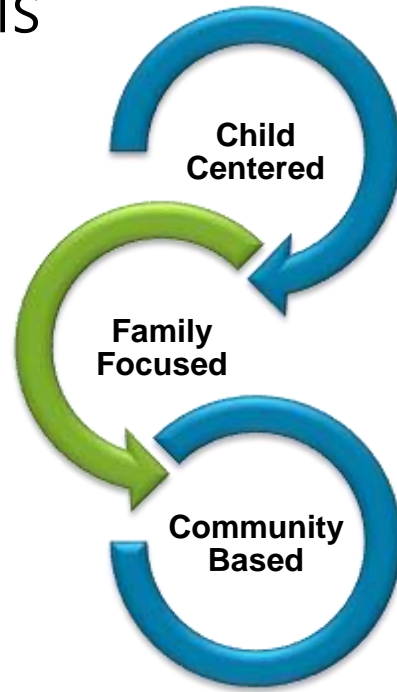
Consolidated funding from seven funding streams and four agencies (DSS, DOE, DBHDS, DJJ) into a single "state pool"

Established a state supervised, locally administered and operated system

Created the structures and functions to operate the program (SEC, OCS, FAPT, CPMT, etc.)

The CSA mission (§2.2-5200, COV)

" . . . to create a collaborative system of services and funding that is



... when addressing the strengths and needs of trouble and at-risk youths and their families . . ."

Structure of CSA

- A state supervised, locally administered system
- The CSA was designed to allow significant local flexibility within parameters established by law and by the policies adopted by the State Executive Council

State administration of CSA

State Executive Council for Children's Services (SEC) (§2.2-2648)

- CSA governing body, a supervisory board
- 21 members (including 5 from local government)
- A broad array of 22 responsibilities including:
 - Fiscal and programmatic policy development
 - Various oversight tasks
 - Denial of funding when localities are out of compliance with requirements

State administration of CSA

Office of Children's Services (OCS) (\$2.2-2649)

- Operational oversight and implementation of the CSA including:
 - Fiscal (oversight, reimbursement to localities, reporting)
 - Training and technical assistance to support local CSA programs
 - Audit
 - Program evaluation and reporting
 - Information technology (LEDRS, CANS, CSA website, ...)
 - Liaison to other state agencies and initiatives

A locally administered program

Community Policy and Management Team (§2.2-5206)

**Eighteen
statutory
powers and
duties
including:**

- planning and policy development
- fiscal and programmatic management
- data collection and reporting

CPMT membership

- elected or appointed official
- local agency heads or designees from the following:
 - **department of social services**
 - community services board/behavioral health authority
 - court service unit
 - school division
 - department of health
- representative of a private provider
- a parent representative

A locally administered program

Family Assessment and Planning Team (§2.2-5207)

**Nine
statutory
powers and
duties
including:**

- family engagement
- collaborative assessment to identify needs
- creation of an individual family service plan (IFSP)
- monitoring, review, adjustment of services

FAPT membership

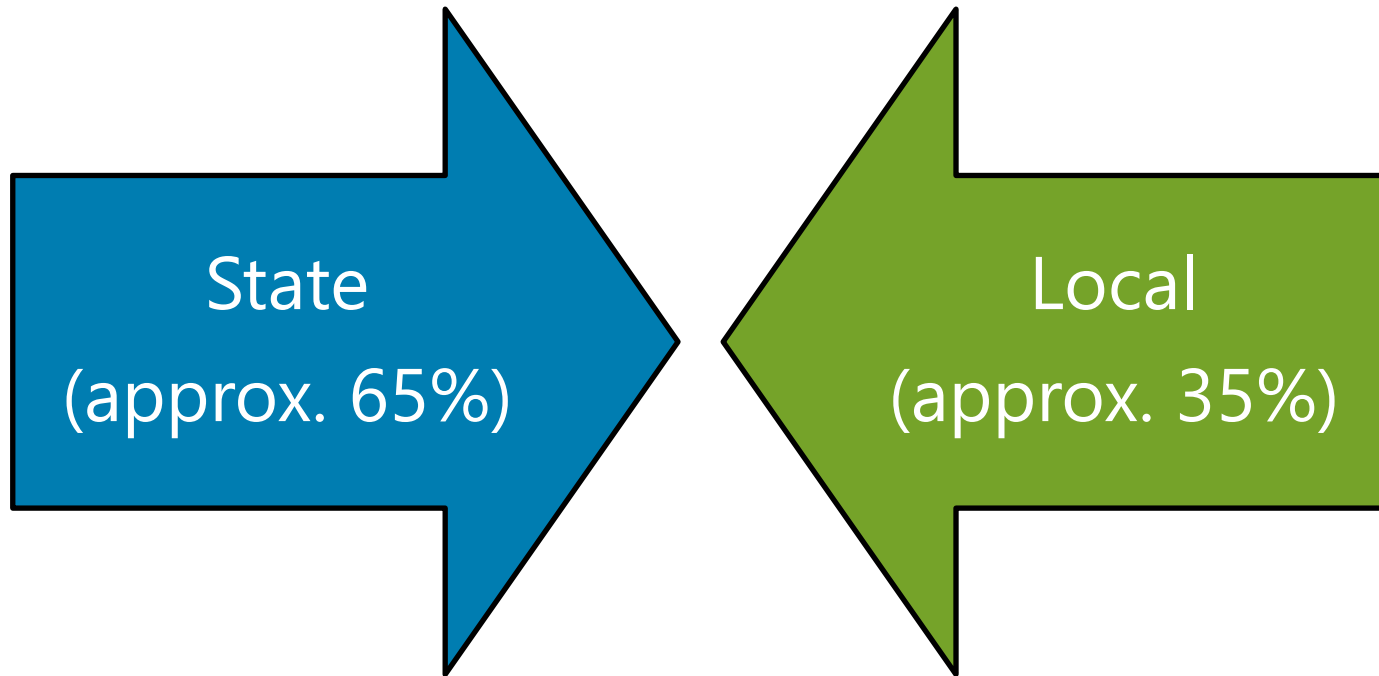
- Representatives from the primary community child-serving agencies
- Parent representative
- Additional members may be appointed (by policy of the CPMT):
 - Other public agencies (e.g., Health Department)
 - Private providers of children's services
- Good practice typically means that parents/guardians participate in the FAPT process for their child (ala Family Partnership Meetings).

How is CSA funded?

Blended funds and the CSA State Pool

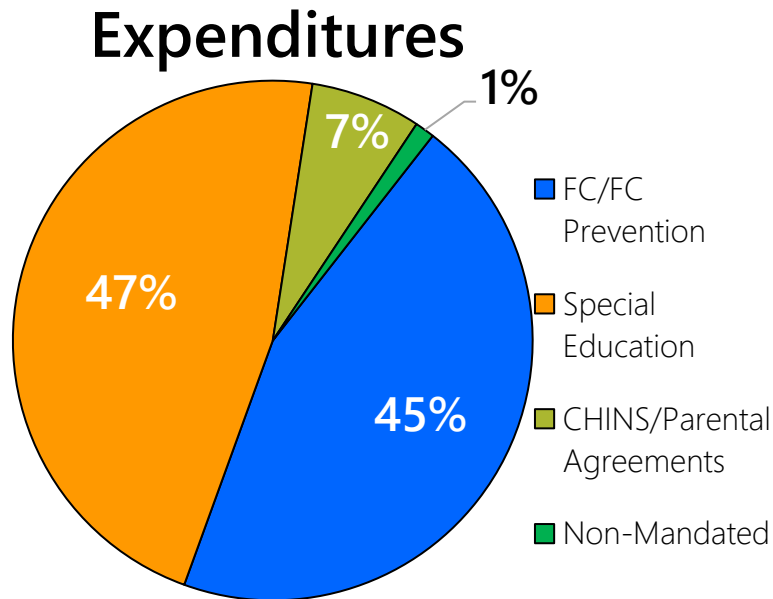


CSA funding: A shared responsibility

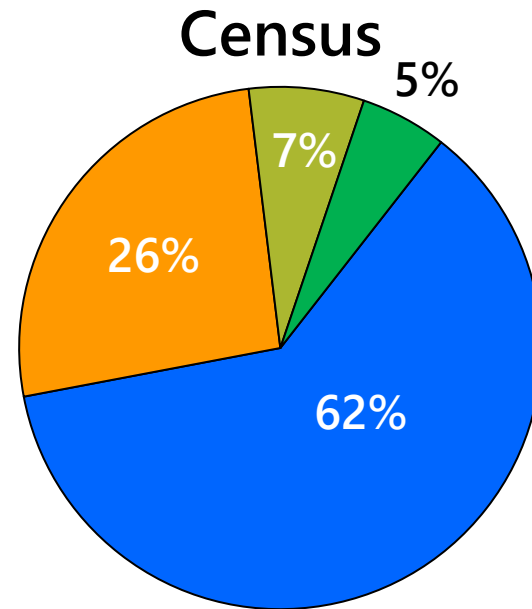


****Almost all funds requiring local match had local matching requirements prior to the CSA****

Census vs. Expenditures (FY2019)



Total State and Local Expenditures = \$418,208,262



Total Children Served = 15,645

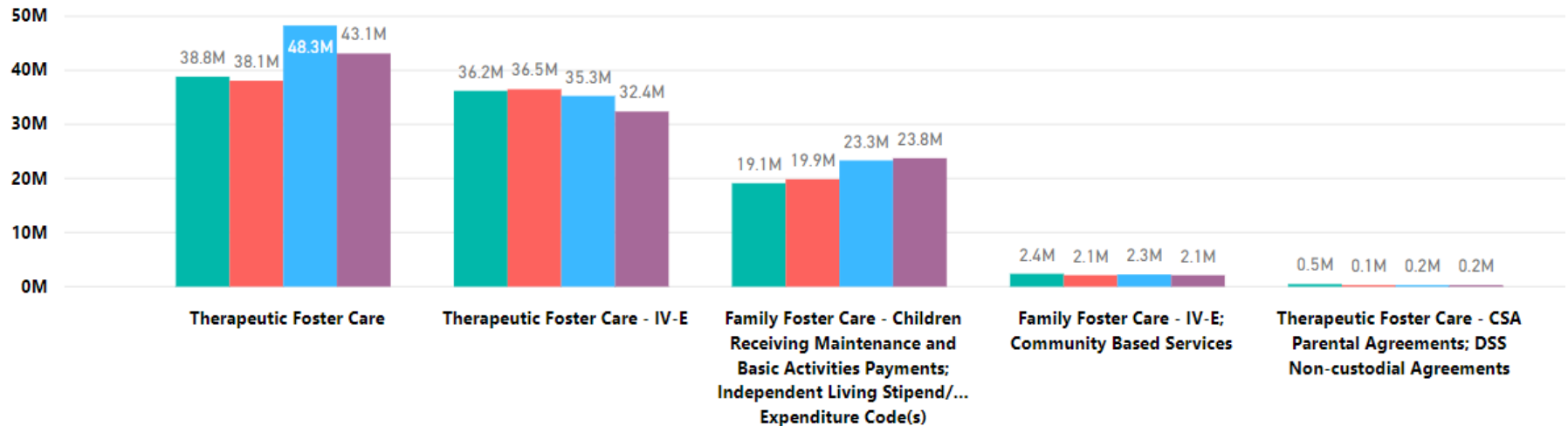
Source: CSA Local Expenditure and Data Reimbursement System (LEDRS)

CSA funded services for foster care and foster care prevention (FY17 – FY20 YTD as of 8/10)

Total Net Expenditures By Expenditure Code



ProgramYear ● 2017 ● 2018 ● 2019 ● 2020



Interface of CSA and VDSS/LDSS

- COV establishes children in foster care and foster care prevention as populations for which CSA funding is "sum-sufficient"
- All service expenditures are handled through the CSA (FAPT/CPMT) process (some exceptions are allowed)
 - VDSS retains control over federal Title IV-E allowable costs
- Federal requirements and VDSS regulations and policies govern the provision of services and CSA follows these requirements (e.g., approval of foster homes, licensure)
- CSA statutes and policies (e.g., CANS) govern use of pool funds
- Many changes in child welfare policy have an impact on CSA

Common Ground

CSA Mission:

A collaborative system of services and funding that is child-centered, family-focused and community-based when addressing the strengths and needs of troubled and at-risk youth and their families in the Commonwealth.

DSS Practice Model: *(selected items)*

- We believe in family, child, and youth-driven practice.
- We believe in partnering with others to support child and family success in a system that is family-focused, child-centered, and community-based.

*Thank you for
your time.*

Any questions?

