The Child Welfare Decategorization Program is an effort to change the child welfare system to one that is need-based, family-focused, easily accessible, more intensive, less restrictive, and cost effective by “decategorizing” services from a State level to a local level. Decategorization is designed to redirect child welfare and juvenile justice funding to services that are more preventive, family-centered, and neighborhood-based and community-focused to reduce the use of restrictive approaches that rely on institutional, out-of-home, and out-of-community placements.

The following map shows the highest expenditure by category for each service cluster. Each service cluster is designated by a white border.