

# Child Protective Services Update

February 3, 2025



# Overview

Child Protective Services 101

Safe Kids

Focus on Foster Care

Supporting Safe Kids

Completed Initiatives

# The Three Cs

The victim is a  
**child**

The person  
alleged  
responsible is a  
**caretaker**

The child is  
subjected to  
one or more of  
the 11  
**categories of  
abuse** defined  
in Iowa Code §  
232.68

# Categories of Abuse

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Physical Abuse

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Sexual Abuse

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Denial of Critical Care

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Presence of Illegal Drugs

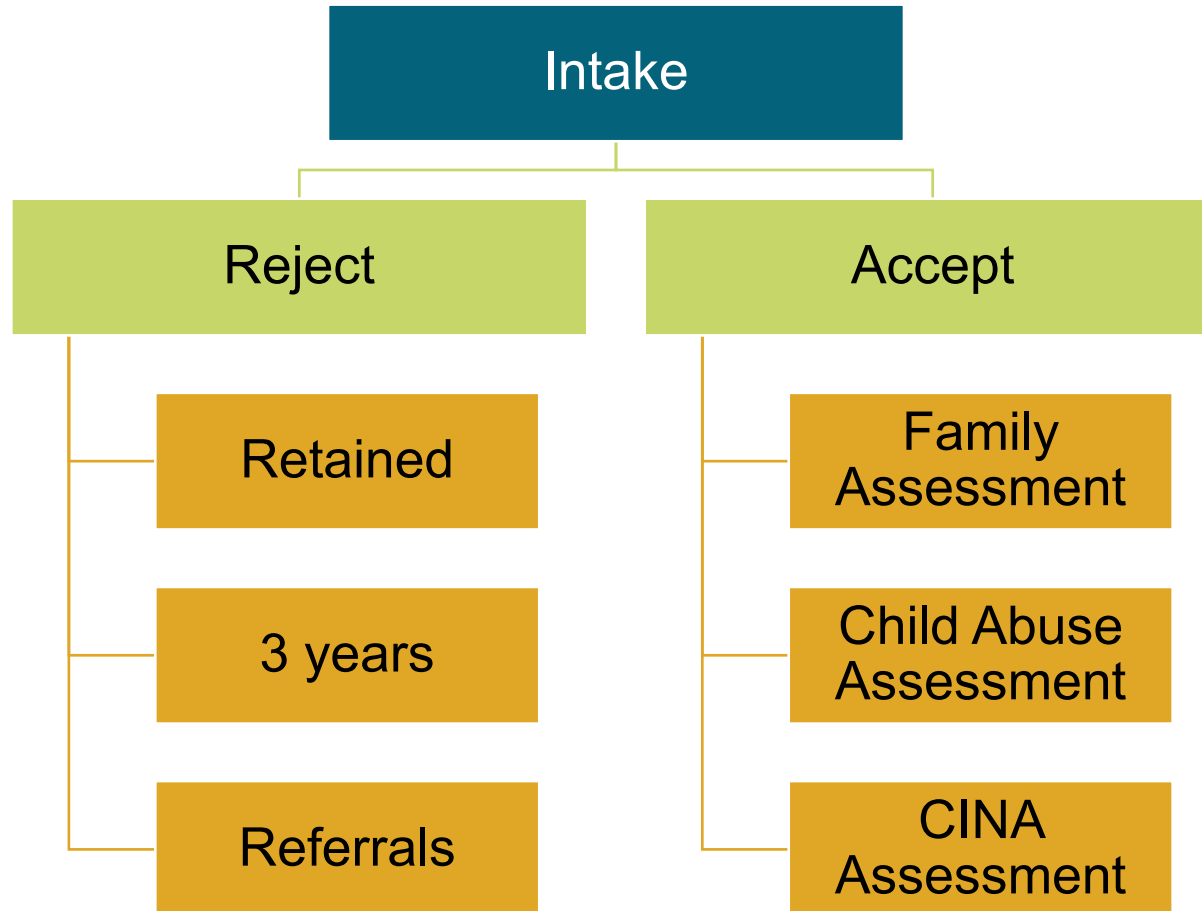
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Dangerous Substance

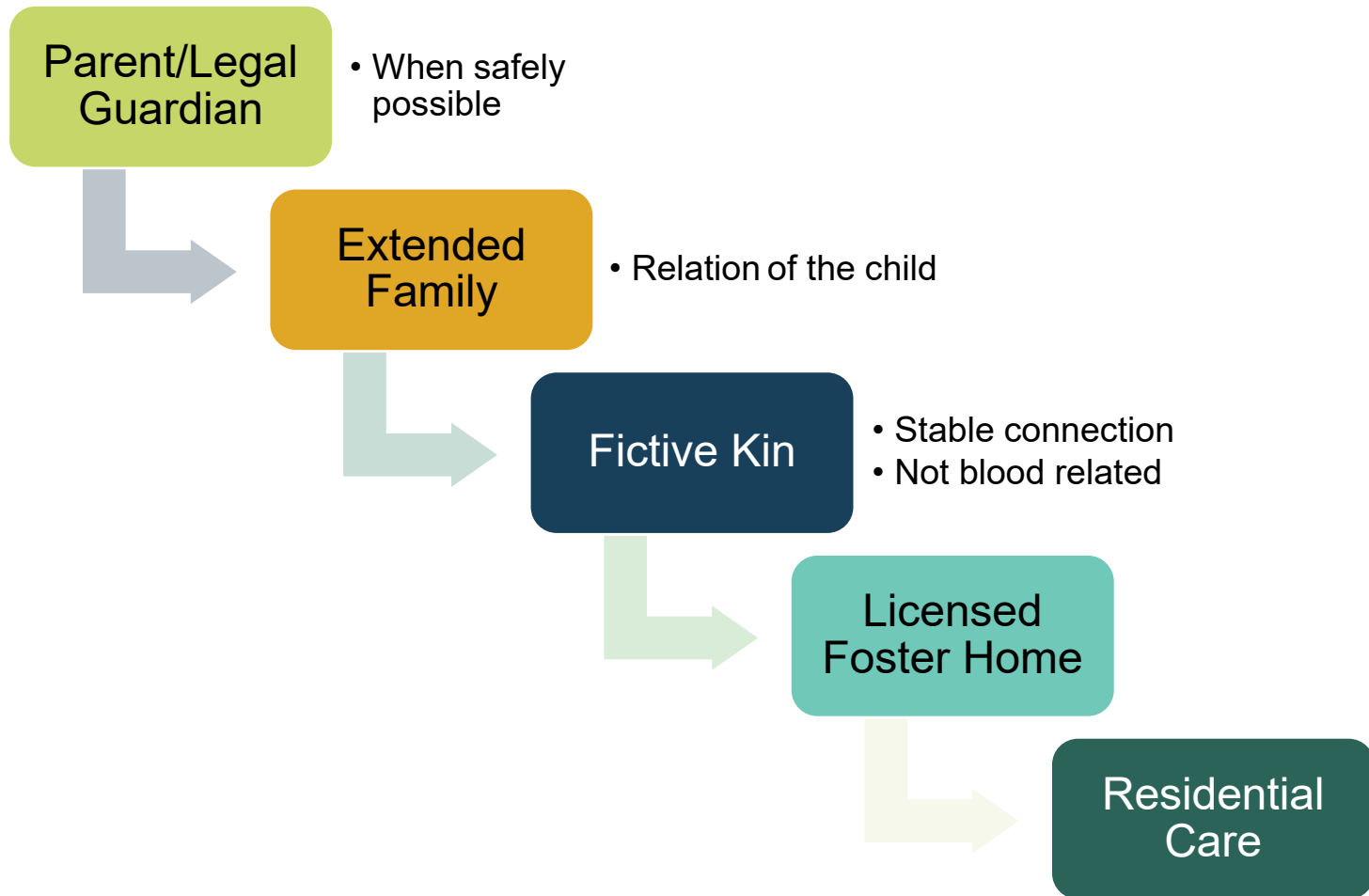
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# Abuse Hotline

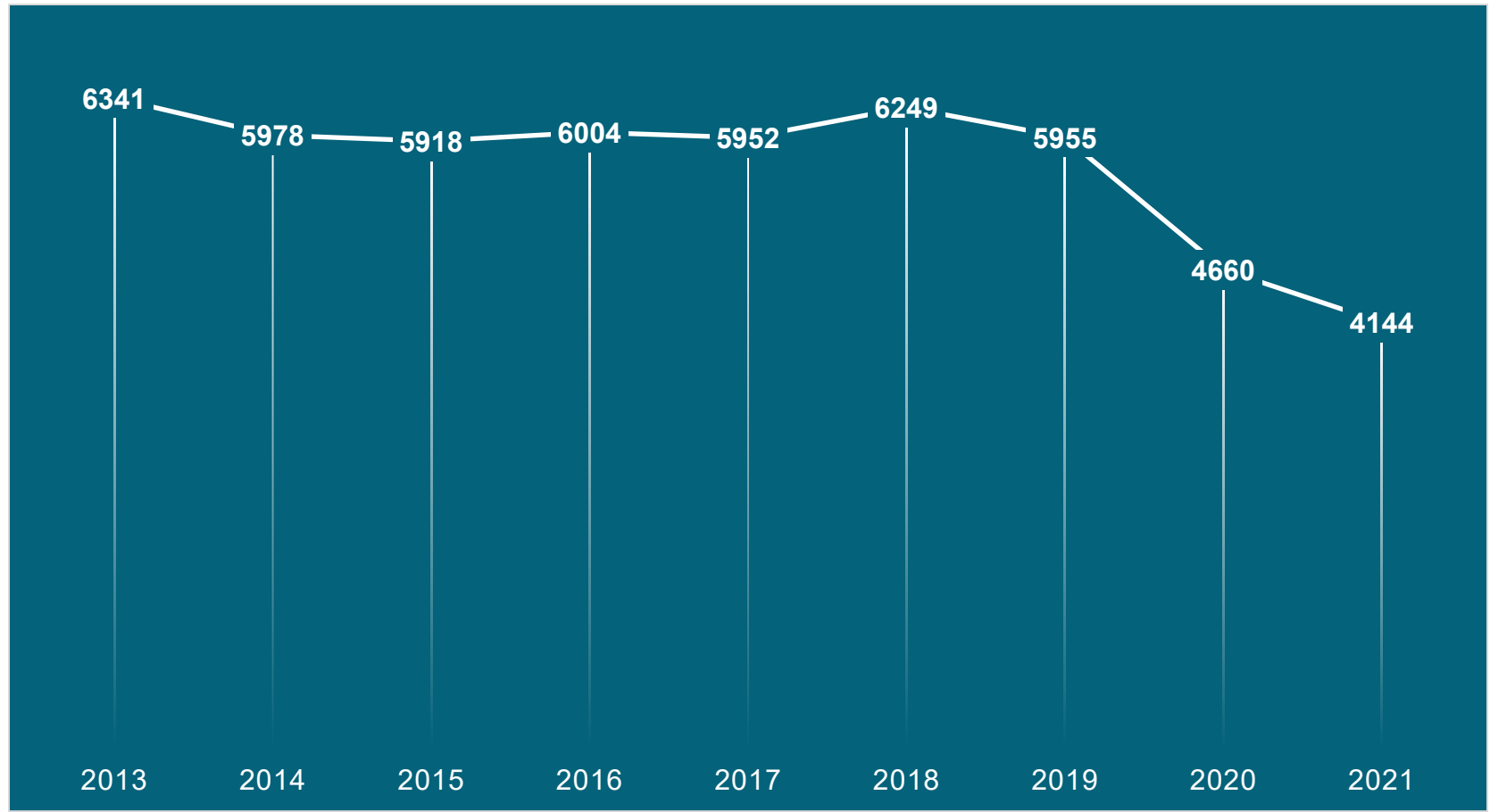
## 1-800-362-2178



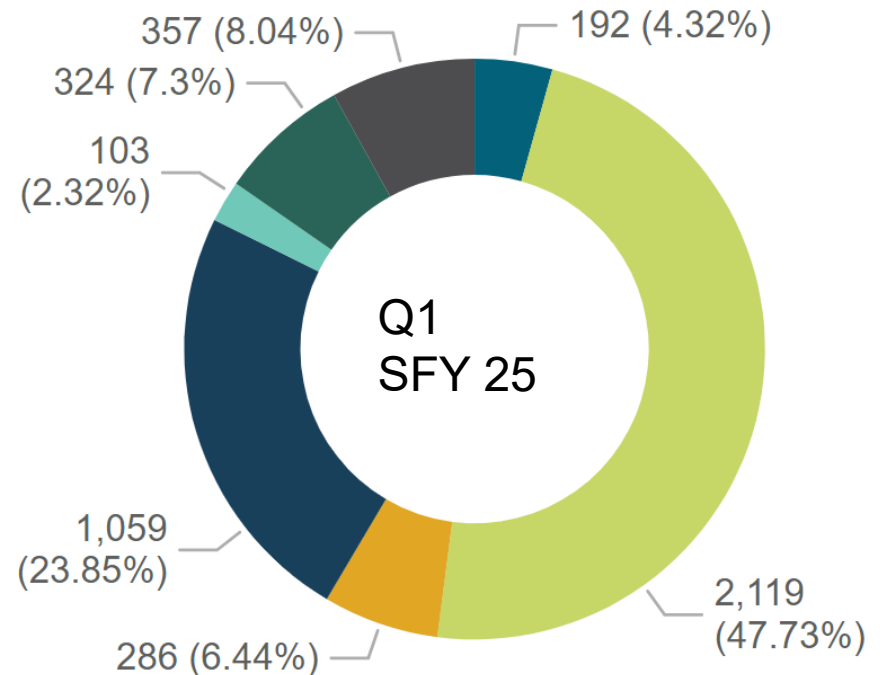
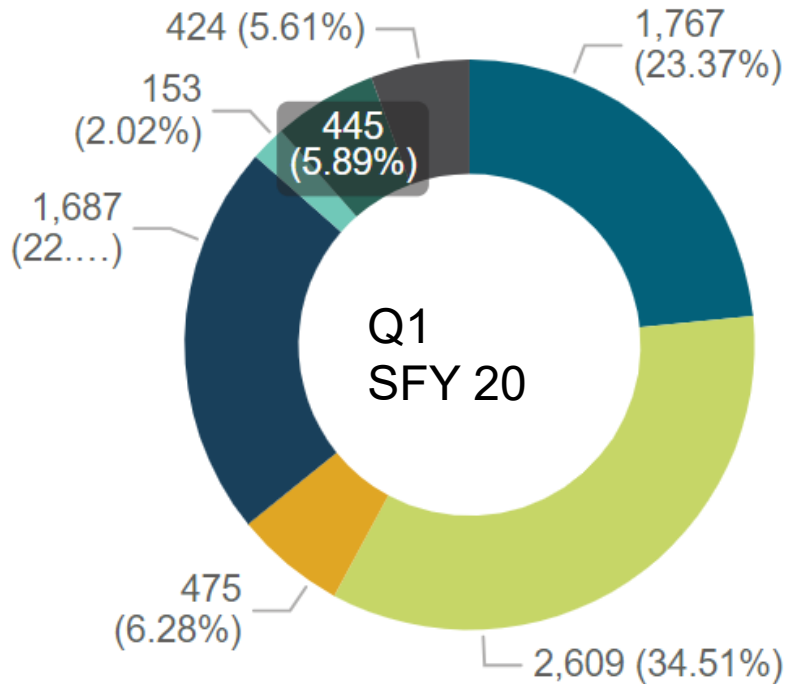
# Placement Options



# Children in Foster Care



# Kinship Placements



● Trial Home Visit

● Relative/Fictive Kin

● Adoption Presubsidy

● Licensed Substitute Caregiver

● Shelter Care

● Qualified Residential Treatment Program

● Other Care



# Safe Kids

Transforming Child Protective Services in Iowa

# Collecting Feedback Over Time

## 2022

### July

HHS Director Kelly Garcia, Division Director Janee Harvey and Chief Justice Christiansen began court listening sessions.

### December

Change and Innovation Agency (C!A) began initial steps of their assessment of Iowa's child welfare system.

## 2023

### February

Director Harvey and Director Frick began listening sessions with CPS staff and leadership.

### March

Director Harvey began quarterly town halls.

HHS distributed Employee Engagement Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed Service Area Realignment Survey.

### August

SBT began prioritization and workgroups.

## 2024

### March

CPS Leadership distributed Policy and Practice Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed FWBP Who We Are Survey.

Final C!A report was received by HHS.

### April

Director Harvey began external town halls.

### June

Assistant Attorney General conducted culture assessment.

### August

Director Frick, Bureau Chief Konchalski began feedback meetings with CPS Supervisors.

# How We Will Improve Outcomes



# Safe Kids Advisory Panel

Judge Forker-Parry,  
Woodbury County

Andrea Vitzthum, Polk County  
Attorney's Office

Kevin Brownell, Polk County  
Attorney's Office

Josh Sienkiewicz, Law  
Enforcement

Veronica Russell, HHS

Kelly Erickson, Parent

Shane Morgan, Parent

Alexis McQuown, Foster  
Parent

Eric Grundfast, Foster Parent

Kayla Powell, Youth Advocate

Zoie Points, Youth

Monica Malek, Youth

# Recruitment and Retention Payments

## **Retention Payments**

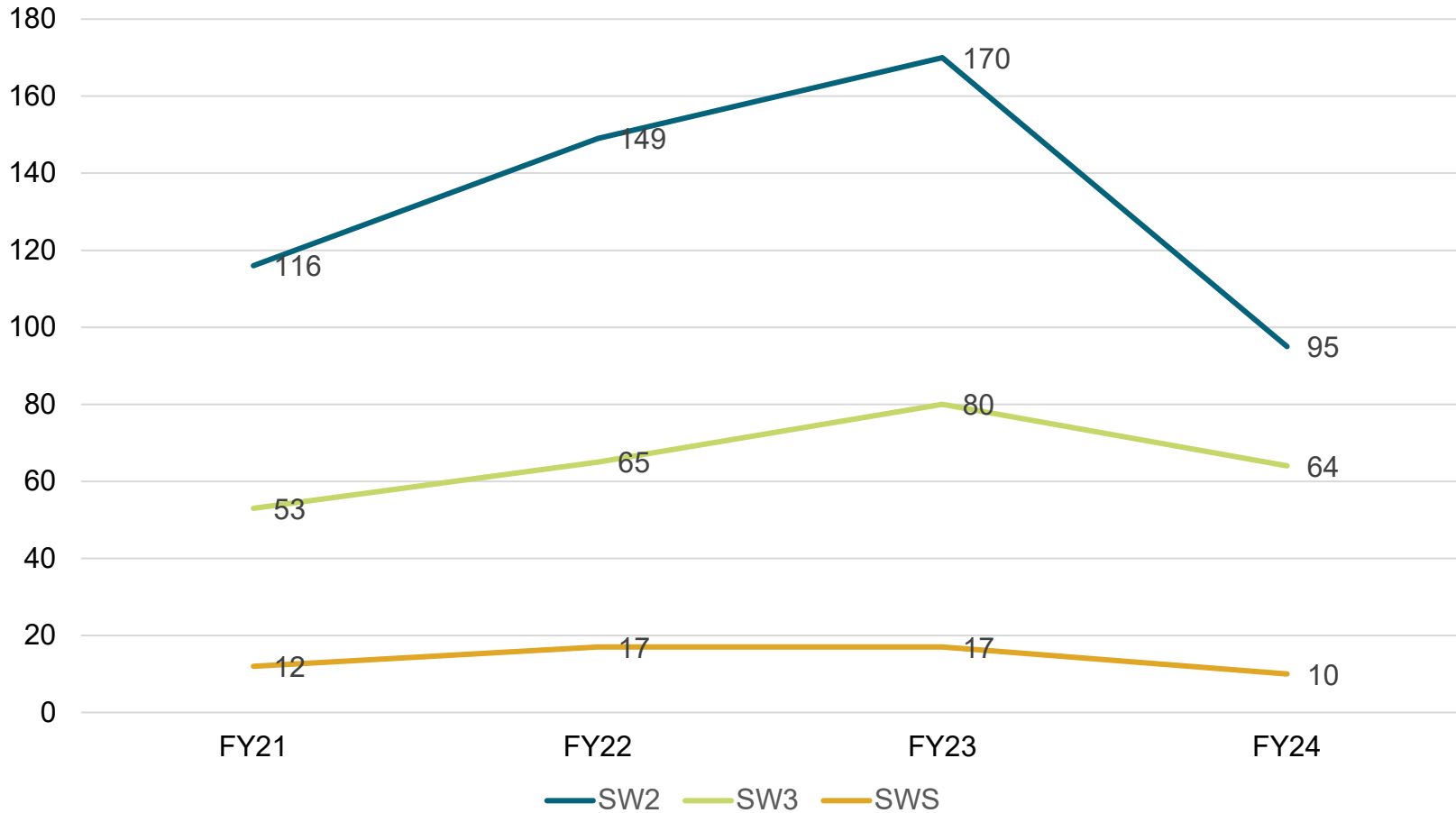
- ▶ Two payments of \$2,500
- ▶ Required to work in role for 12 months

## **Recruitment Payments**

- ▶ Recruit qualified staff
- ▶ One payment of \$2,500
- ▶ Required to work in role for 12 months

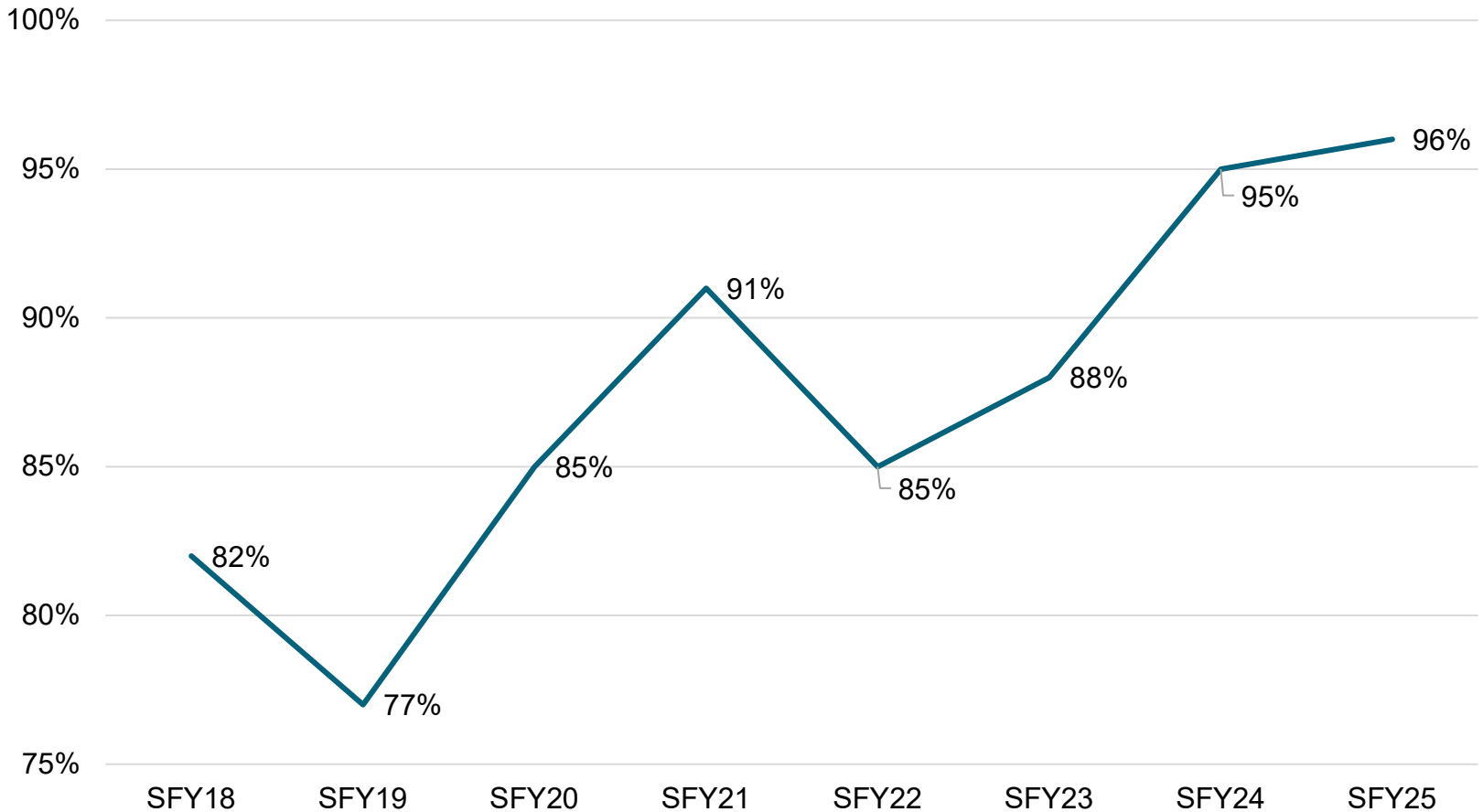
# Workforce Retention

Vacancies Over Time



# Monthly Visits Made with HHS Involved Children

Averages by State Fiscal Year



# Therapeutic Foster Homes

- ▶ Four Licensed TFC homes – six youth placed in the homes
- ▶ Five Respite TFC homes
- ▶ Five youth on a waiting list
- ▶ Two discharges – 1 successful to a relative and 1 to a higher level of care
- ▶ Actively recruiting in the Cedar Rapids service area
- ▶ We currently have 13 youth 12-years-old or younger in shelter waiting for placement.





# Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)

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Reduce worker  
documentation

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Increase time with  
families

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Support family finding  
efforts



# Foster Parent Town Halls

- ▶ Foster parent town halls every other month
- ▶ Engage with and support foster parents
- ▶ Therapeutic foster parent recruitment



# Supporting Safe Kids

## Develop Expedited and Separate Licensing Standards for Relative and Fictive Kin

- Children do better when they are with **their** families
- Allow the child(ren) to maintain:
  - A sense of place and belonging
  - Their cultural identity
  - Connection to their own community
- Current foster care licensure standards are the same for general foster homes and kin/fictive kin placements
  - Delays in permanency
  - Placement disruptions
  - Increased financial burdens on kin/fictive kin families
- Streamlined approval process
  - More timely financial assistance for kin/fictive kin placements
  - Provide supportive services for the placement family and child(ren)

# Safety and Security Enhanced Funding to QRTP

Promote safety  
and security for  
QRTPs

One-time,  
\$1,000,000  
investment

Consulted with  
each location to  
understand the  
need

## Examples of funding uses:

- Doors with delayed locks
- Motion activated security cameras
- Privacy fences
- Updated windows

# Update on Completed Initiatives

# Thank you for your support on last year's initiatives

\$334,500  
Increase in  
PALS stipend  
to match the  
SAL payment

5% (\$308,765)  
increase in  
foster parent  
payments

- Average  
payment  
increase

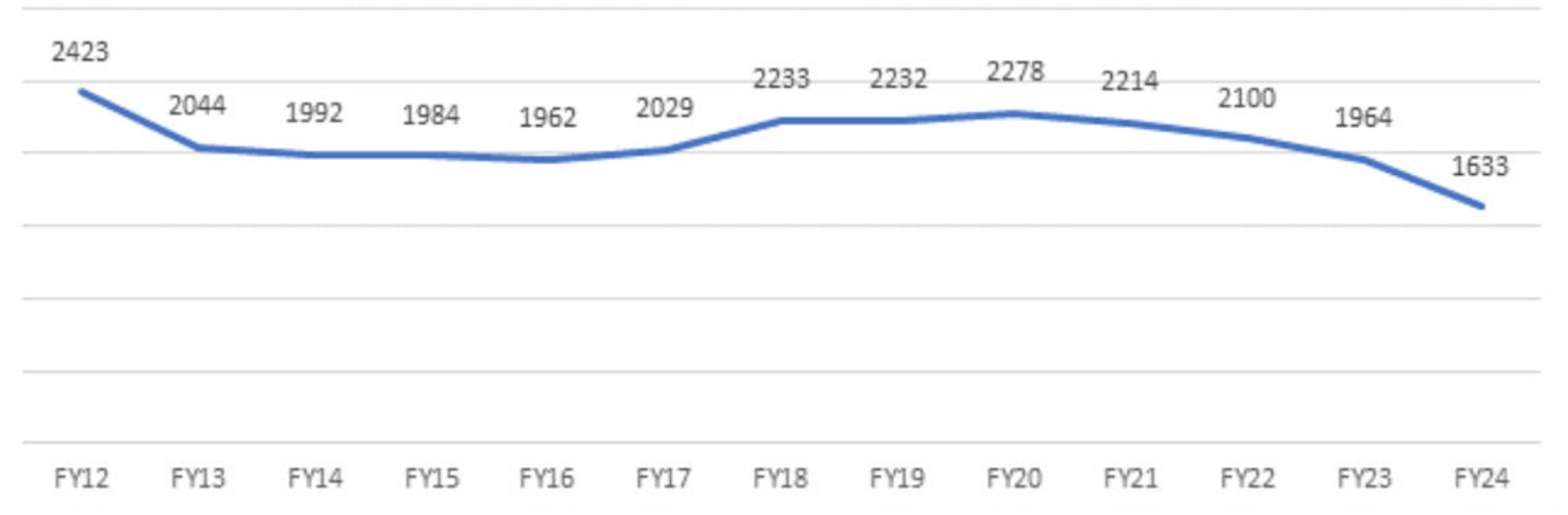
\$1,000,000 to  
add one  
trainer to each  
service area

# Foster Care and Adoption Basic Daily Rate Increase

| Age of Child | SFY24 Basic Daily Rate | SFY25 Basic Daily Rate | Total Daily Increase |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 0-5          | \$16.78                | \$17.62                | \$0.84               |
| 6-11         | \$17.45                | \$18.32                | \$0.87               |
| 12-15        | \$19.10                | \$20.06                | \$0.96               |
| 16-20        | \$19.35                | \$20.32                | \$0.97               |

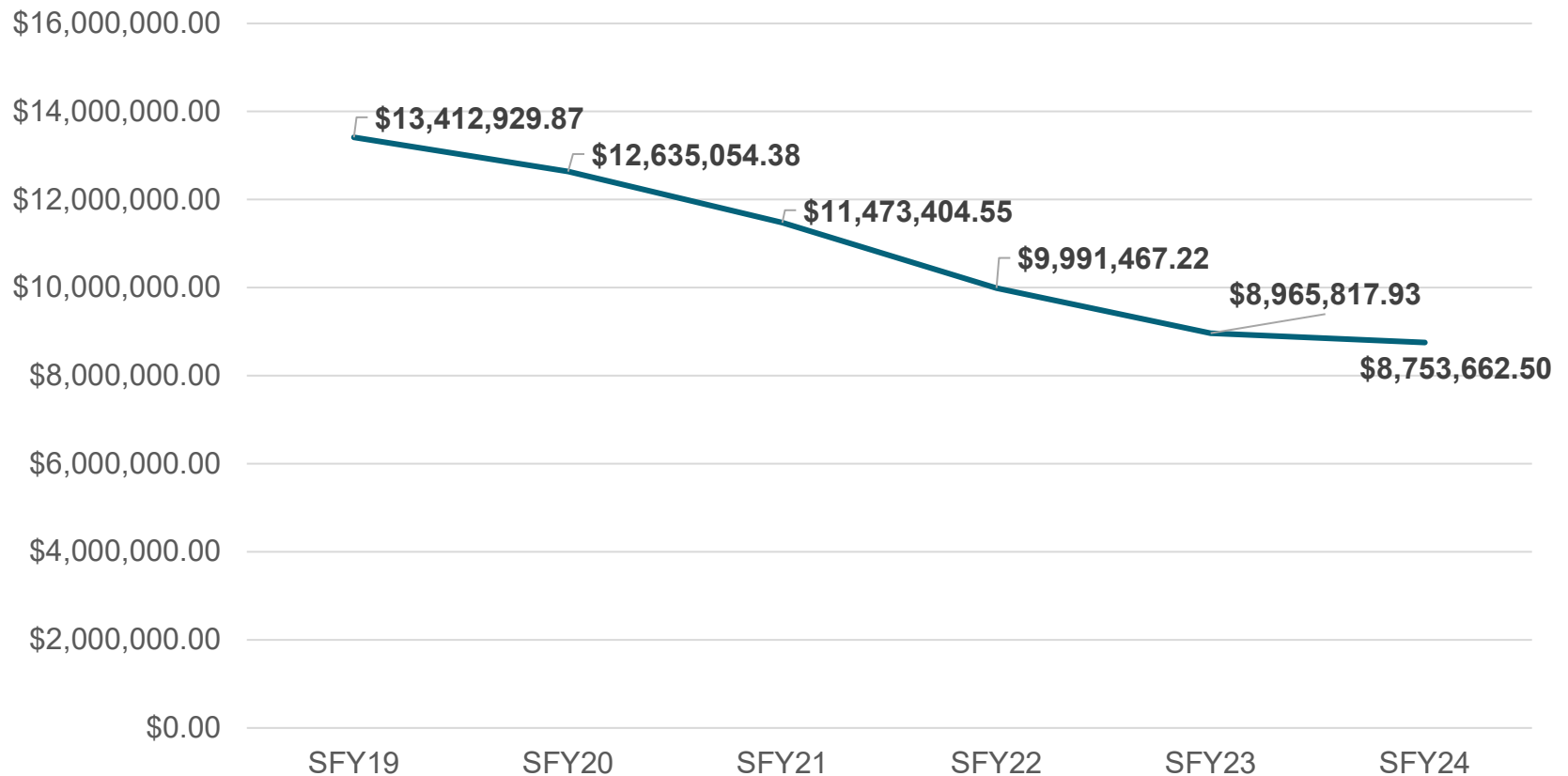


# Statewide Foster Family Totals From FY12-24\*



\*Data was pulled each year on December 31.

# IV-E Funding Received



# Questions

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Nick Crawford

Legislative Liaison

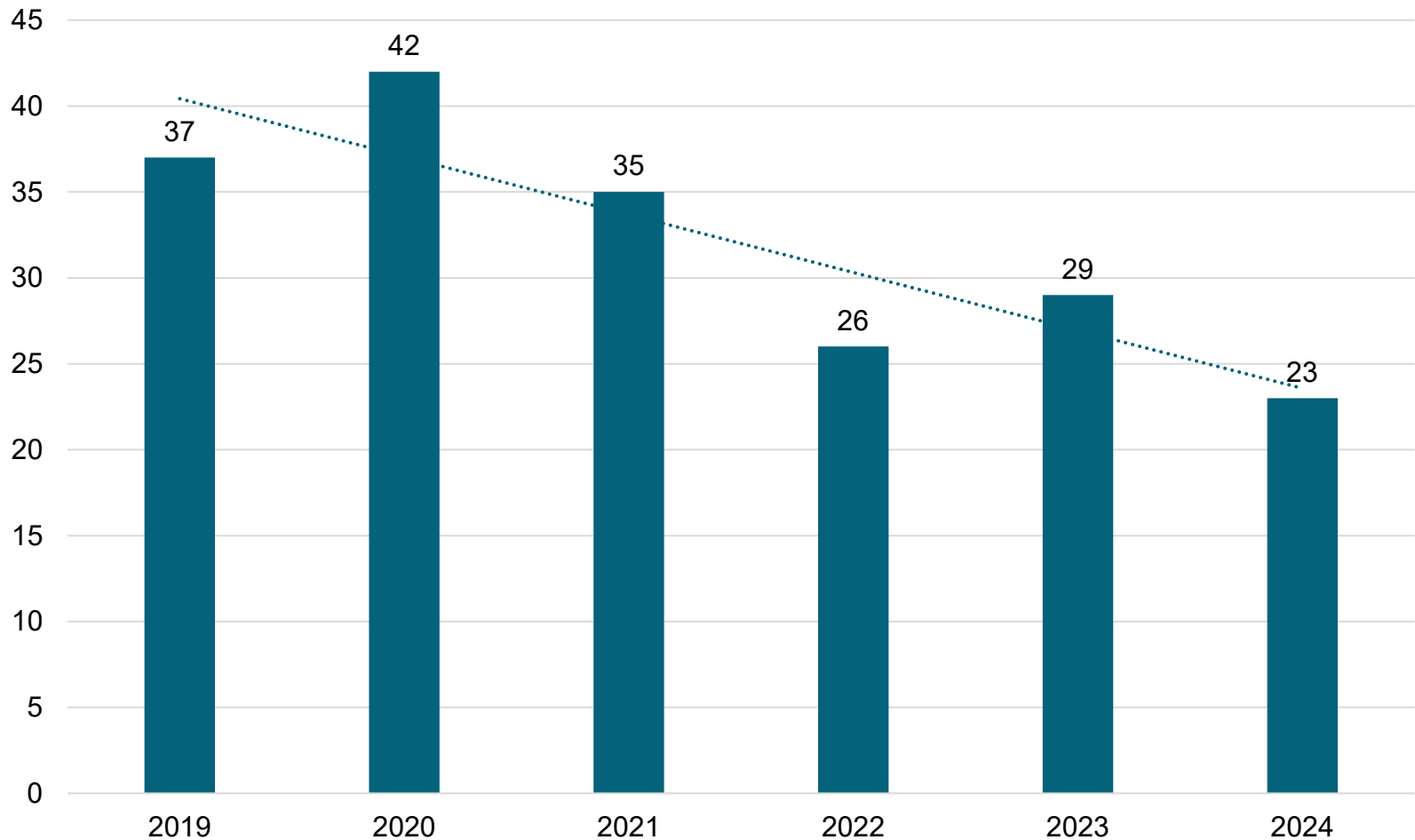
[Nicholas.Crawford@hhs.iowa.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Crawford@hhs.iowa.gov)



Health and  
Human Services

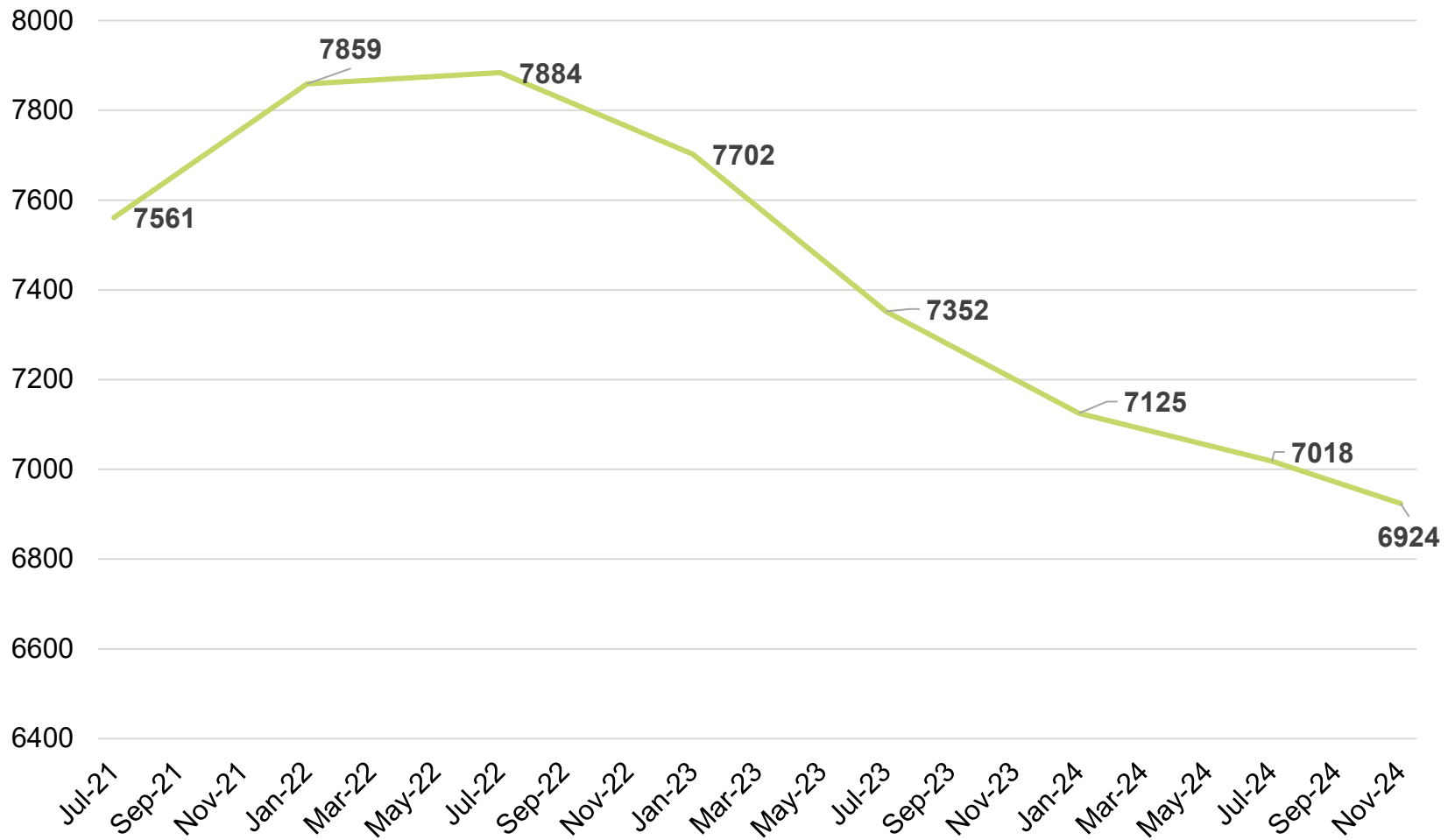
# Appendix

# Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) Assessment due to Behavioral Health Needs



Data was pulled by calendar year.

# Statewide Caseload Data



## Second Finding of Abuse

Initial Finding of Abuse

|                           | Denial of Critical Care | Dangerous Substances | Presence of Illegal Drugs |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Denial of Critical Care   | <b>32.1%</b>            | <b>12.3%</b>         | <b>3.3%</b>               |
| Dangerous Substances      | <b>8.4%</b>             | <b>13%</b>           | <b>2.3%</b>               |
| Presence of Illegal Drugs | <b>4.9%</b>             | <b>2.9%</b>          | <b>1%</b>                 |



# Sobriety, Treatment and Recovery Teams (START)

**An evidence-based approach to child welfare delivery**

**Improves outcomes for both children and families when implemented with fidelity**

- ▶ Serves families involved in child welfare with at least one child, age 5 or younger, and at least one parent diagnosed with a SUD
- ▶ Utilizes a team approach, with one HHS Social Worker and one Family Mentor working together
- ▶ Will be piloted in 2 sites in Iowa
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance will be provided by Child and Family Futures

