

Updates from the Division of Family Well-Being and Protection

Janée Harvey, Family Well-Being
and Protection Division Director

February 9, 2026



Janee Harvey
FWBP Director

Ryan Page
Child Care



Lori Frick
Child Protective Services

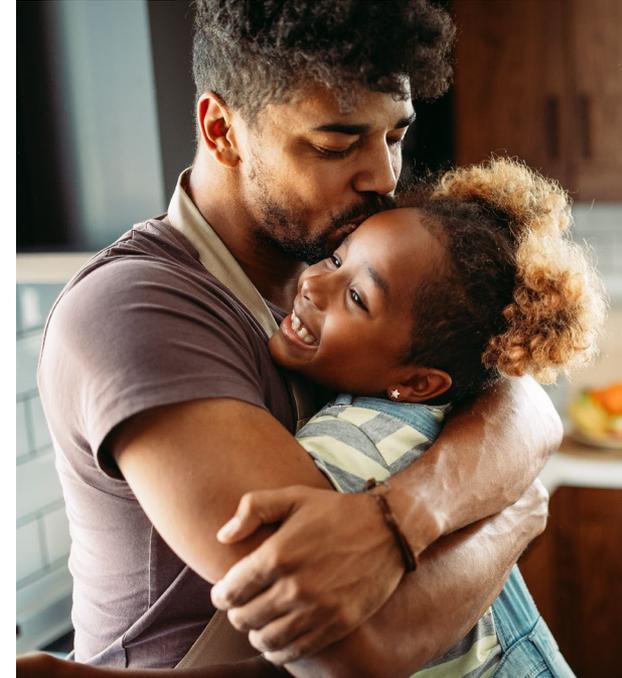


Shelley Horak
Early Intervention and Support

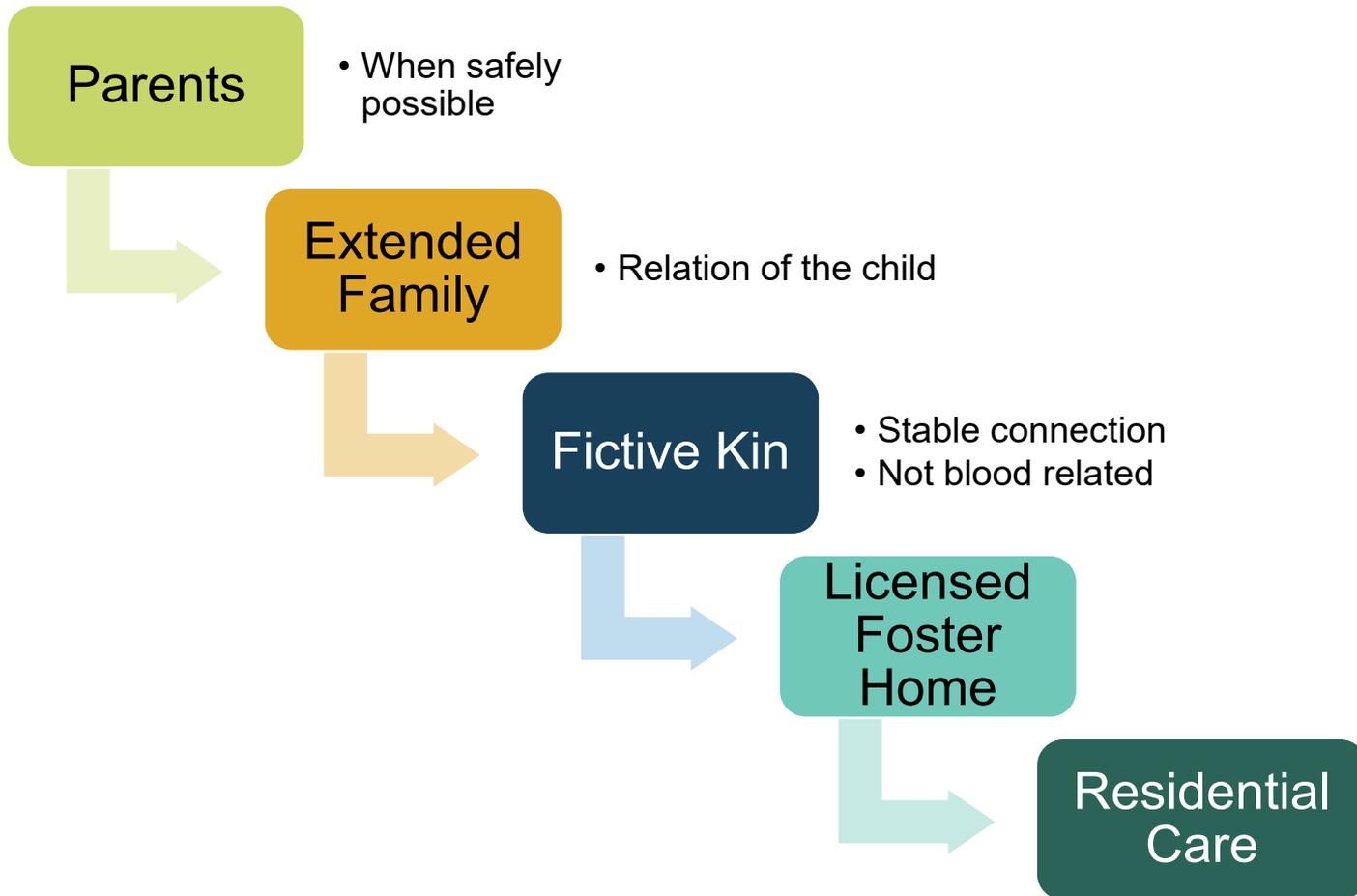


Family First

- Children do best in families
- Family First restructures how the federal government spends money on child welfare
 - Prevent the need for removal through evidence-based family preservation services
 - If removal is necessary, placement in this order:
 - Relative or fictive kin
 - Licensed Foster Family
 - Institutional care (for treatment only)
 - All possible strategies for keeping children with their families, or in family settings, must be explored.



Placement Options



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 (CIA) 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.

August

SBT began prioritization and workgroups.

March

Director Harvey began quarterly town halls.

HHS distributed Employee Engagement Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed Service Area Realignment Survey.

2024

March

CPS Leadership distributed Policy and Practice Survey.

CPS Leadership distributed FWBP Who We Are Survey.

Final CIA 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.

Collecting Feedback by the Numbers

36 Listening Sessions

3 Assessments

4 Staff Surveys

12 Town Halls

11 Court Listening Sessions

Conducted by HHS Director Garcia, Director Harvey and Chief Justice Christensen

800 Participants

25 Staff Listening Sessions

Conducted by Director Harvey and Director Frick

85 Participants

22

Recommendations from the Change and Innovation Agency (CIA) Report

14

Recommendations from the AAG Report

6

Recommendations from the Sivic Solutions Group, LLC (SSG) Report

798 Respondents

HHS Employee Engagement Survey

223 Respondents

Service Area Realignment Survey

528 Respondents

FWBP Who We Are Survey

67 Respondents

Policy and Practice Survey

6 Internal

Town Halls for Child Protective Services (CPS) staff members

6 External

Town Halls held for:

- Foster parents
- Adoptive parents
- Individuals who support foster and adoptive parents
- Legal partners

How We Will Improve Outcomes



Workforce

Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS)

- Entered into a contract with Google
- Revolutionize child welfare work, saving time and money
- Social workers can spend more time with families
- New system will be called VISION

Embedded Social Work Associate Expansion

- Staff member available to support youth placed in shelter
- Available in all shelter locations

Family Settings

Kinship Care Payment

- Implemented April 1, 2025
- Daily rate equivalent to base foster care maintenance payment

Expedited licensing for Relative/Fictive Kin

- Implemented July 1, 2025
- 674 referrals

Thank you for passing Senate File 641 in 2025

Elevate Quality Care

START Implementation

- Evidence-based model
- Child welfare involved families with at least one child, age 5 or younger, and at least one parent diagnosed with a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
- Utilizes a team approach, with one HHS social worker and one family mentor working together

Therapeutic foster care expansion

- Cedar Rapids Service Area and Des Moines Service Area
- Uses Medicaid services to provide increased care
- Children stay in a home-like setting and prepare for permanency

Communication

CPS staff town halls

- Quarterly calls with staff
- Required monthly refresher meetings

Safe Kids Advisory Council

- Met from December 2024-November 2025
- Provided feedback on the Safe Kids Portfolio

Performance Captured in Data

Foster Care Population

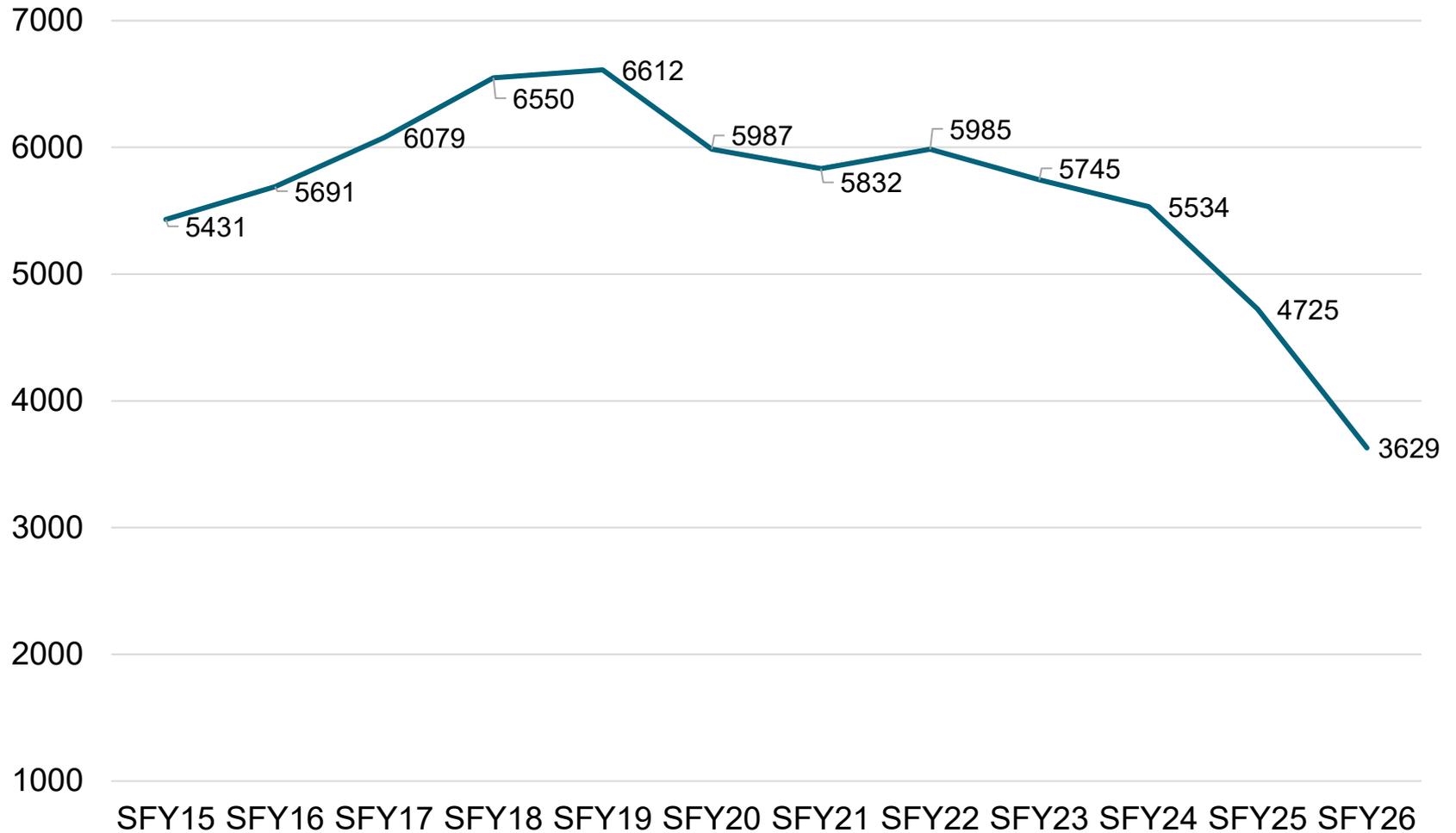
Children Ages Birth to 17 in Foster Care (Number & Rate Per 1,000)

Location	Data Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
United States	Number	420,798	427,221	424,099	413,153	394,554	376,926	353,627	333,663
	Rate Per 1,000	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.1	4.8	4.6
Iowa	Number	5,528	5,916	6,213	5,922	4,620	4,102	3,971	3,871
	Rate Per 1,000	7.6	8.1	8.5	8.1	6.4	5.6	5.4	5.3

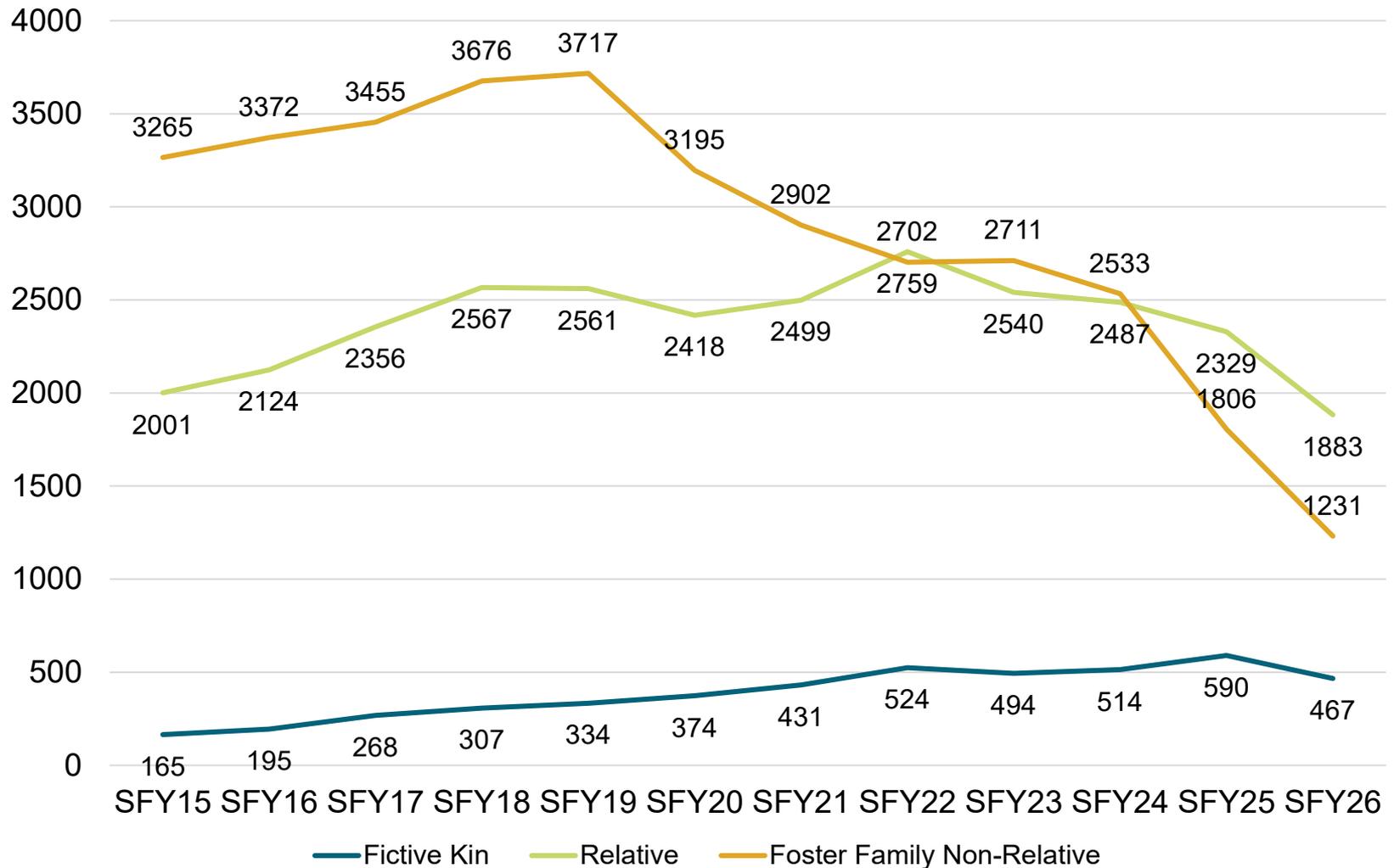
Children Entering Foster Care (Number)

Location	Data Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
United States	Number	273,539	269,775	262,956	252,312	216,838	206,867	186,602	179,985
Iowa	Number	4,189	4,129	4,181	3,769	2,628	2,904	2,699	2,857

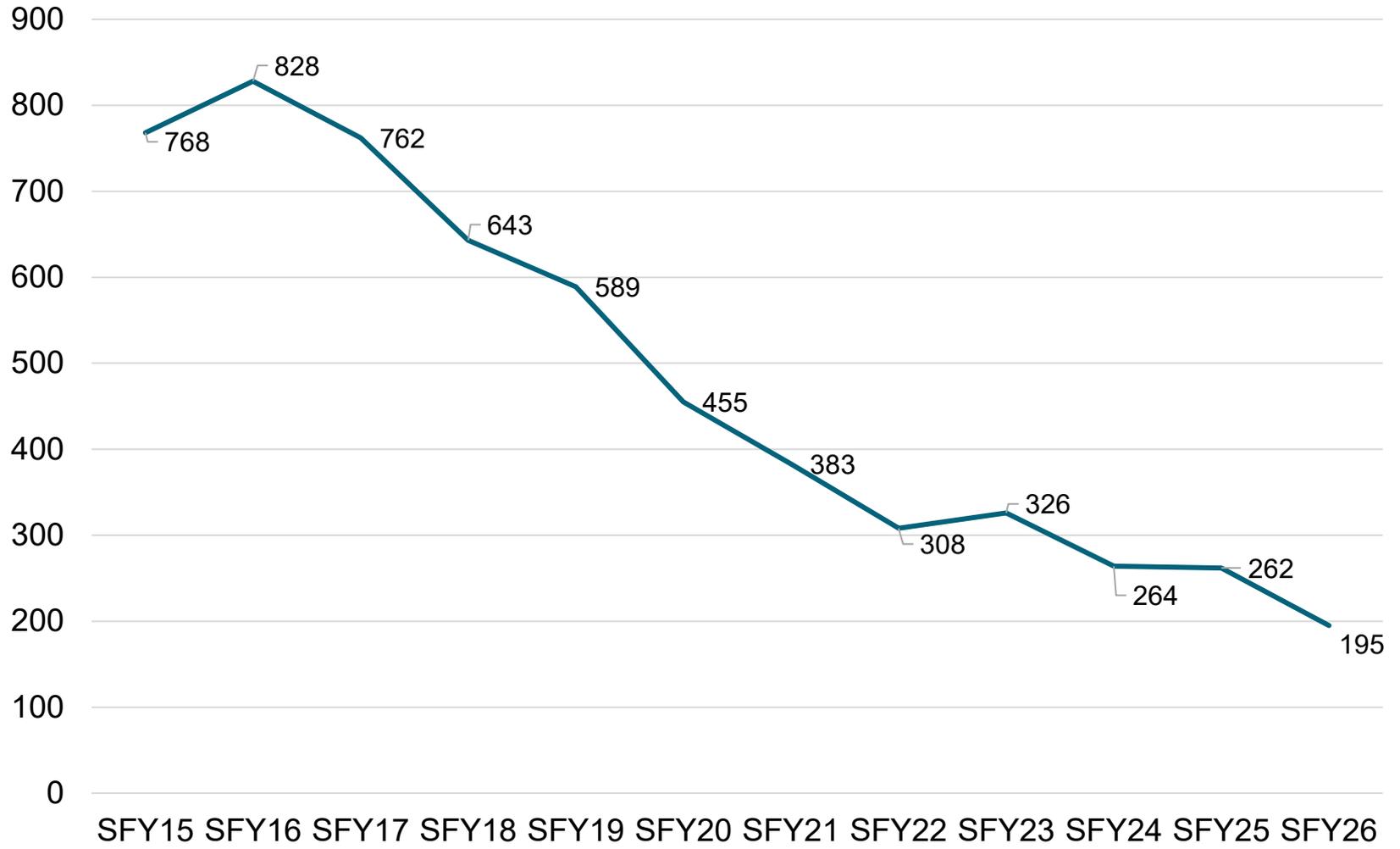
Number of Children in Foster Care



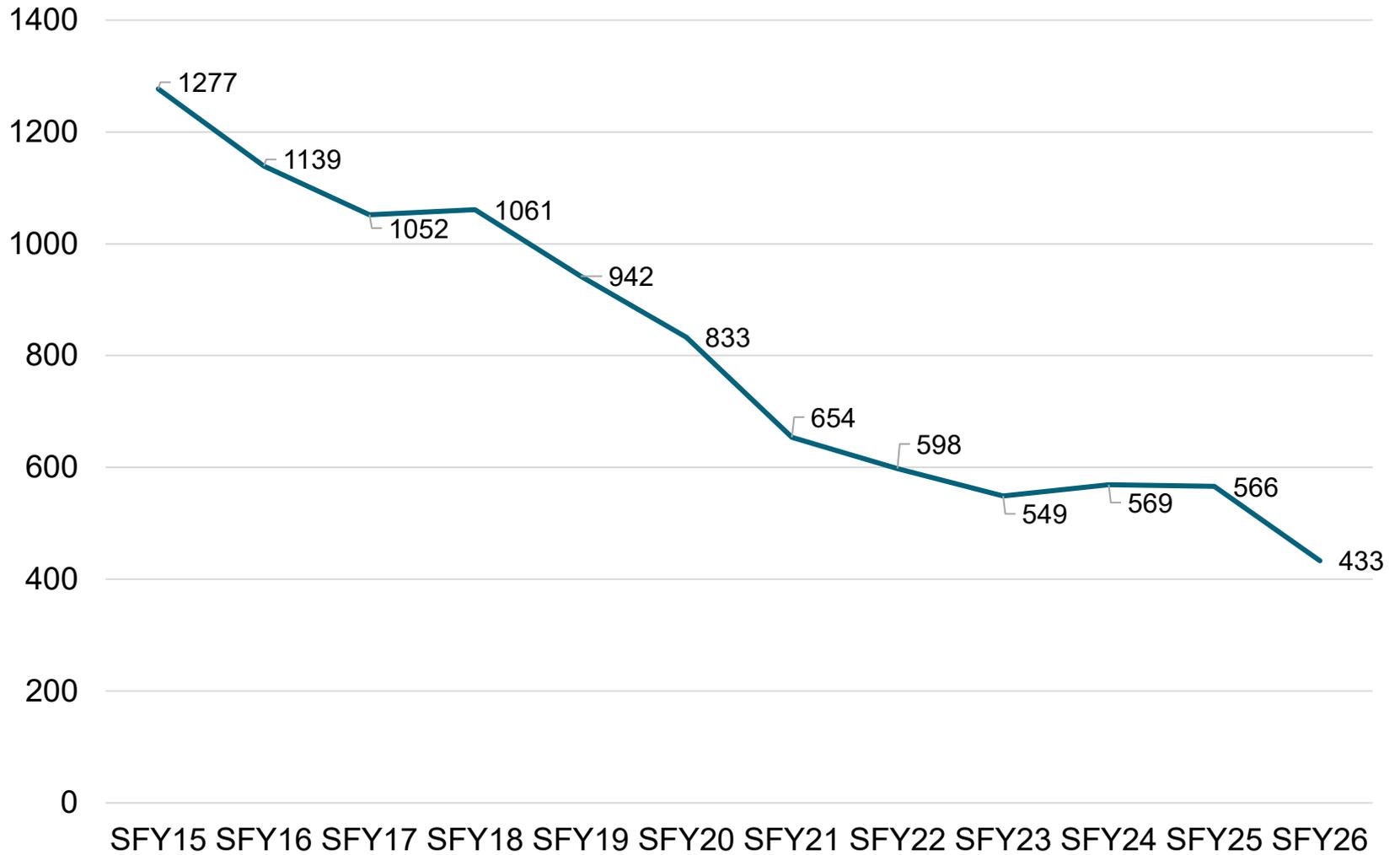
Placement Type



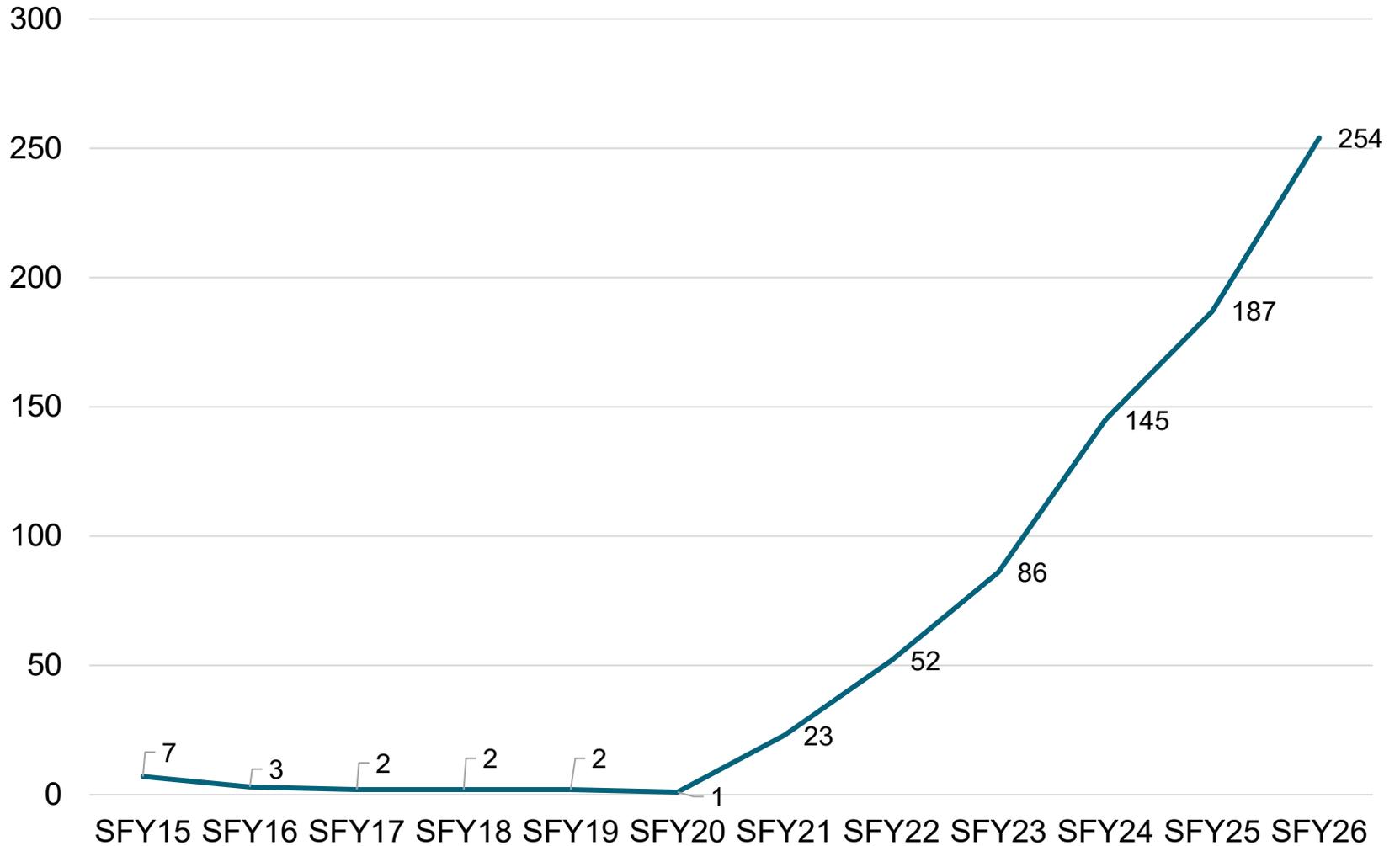
Shelter Care



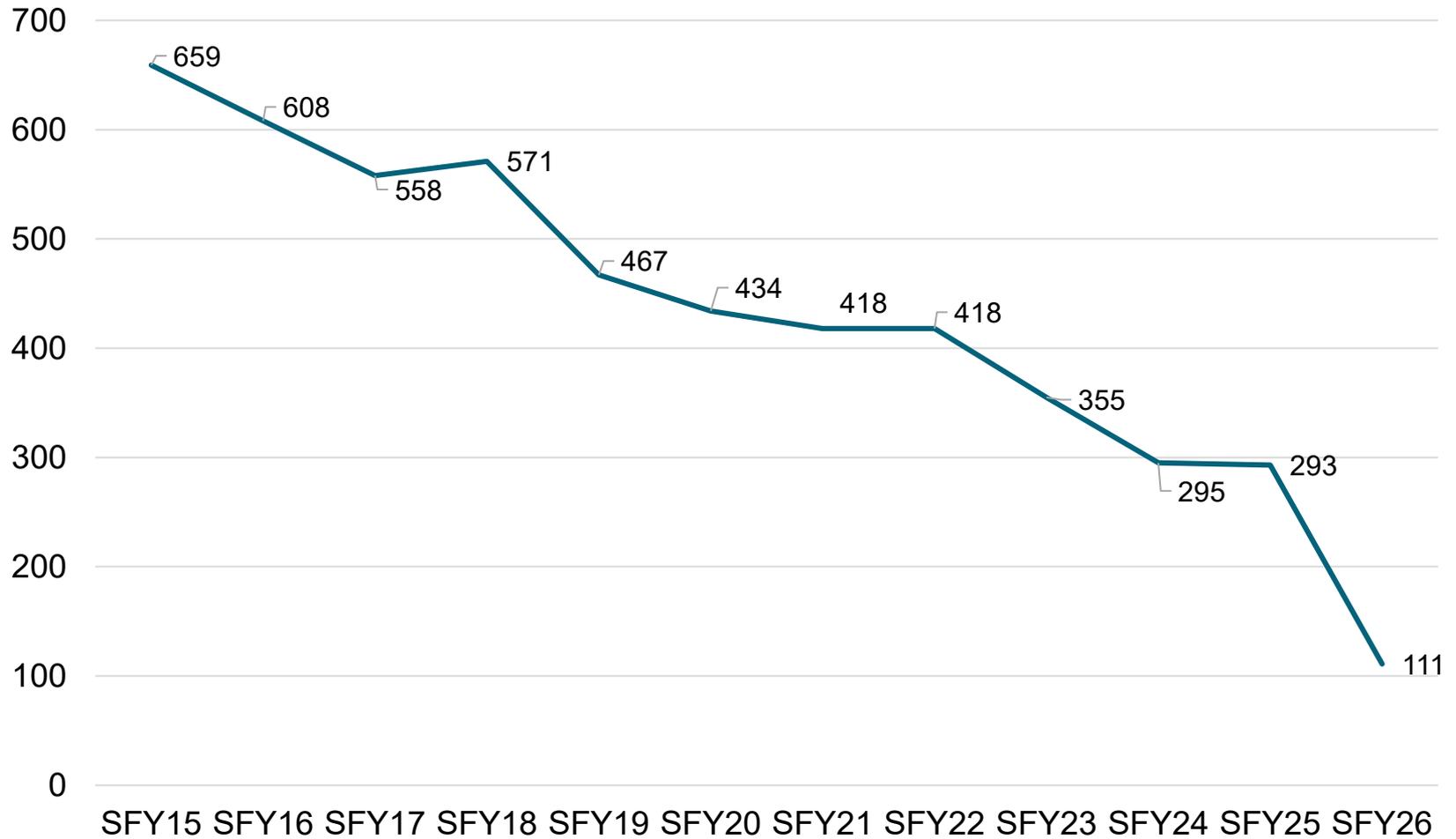
Group Care



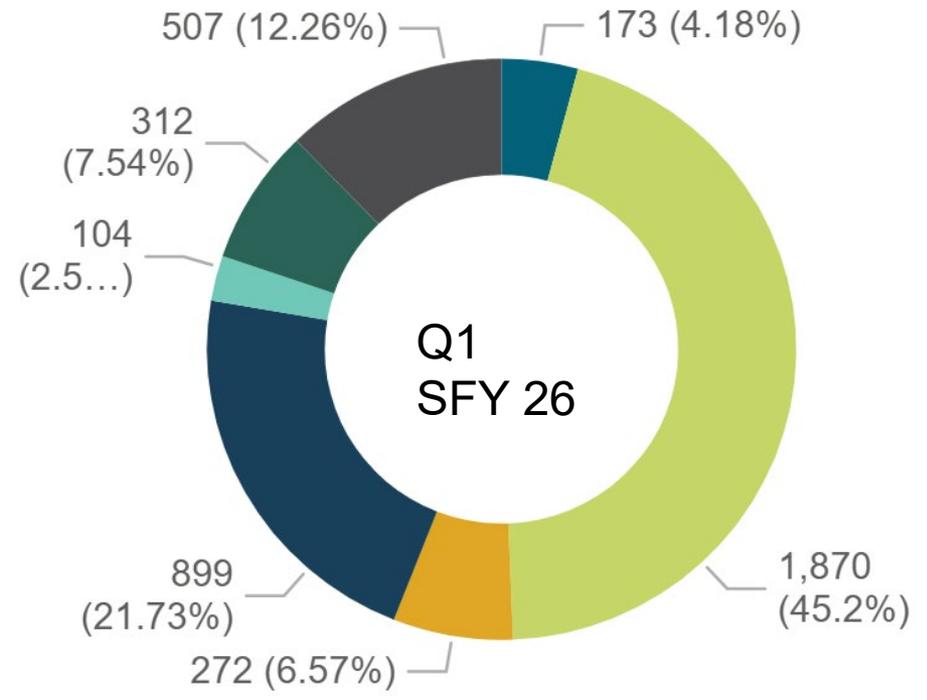
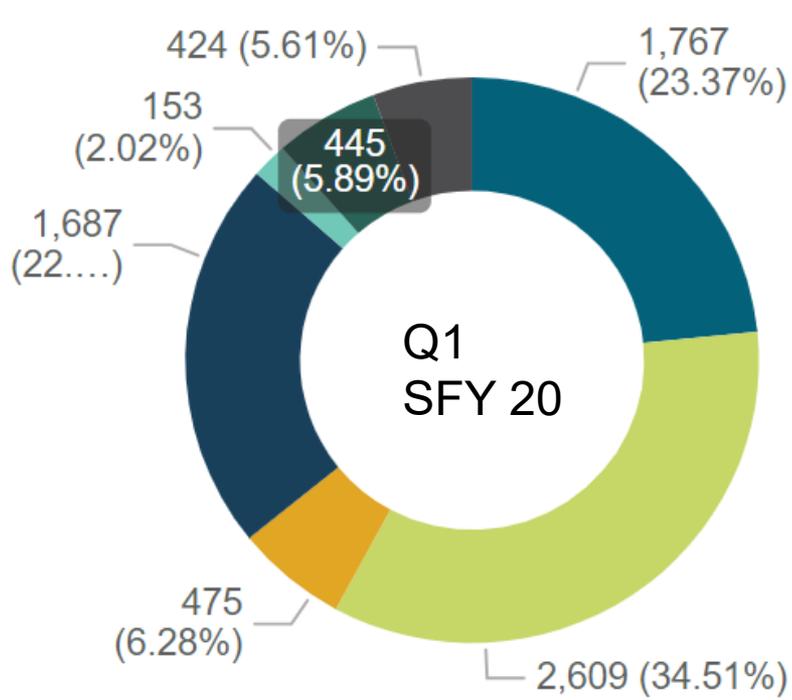
Subsidized Guardianship



Aged Out

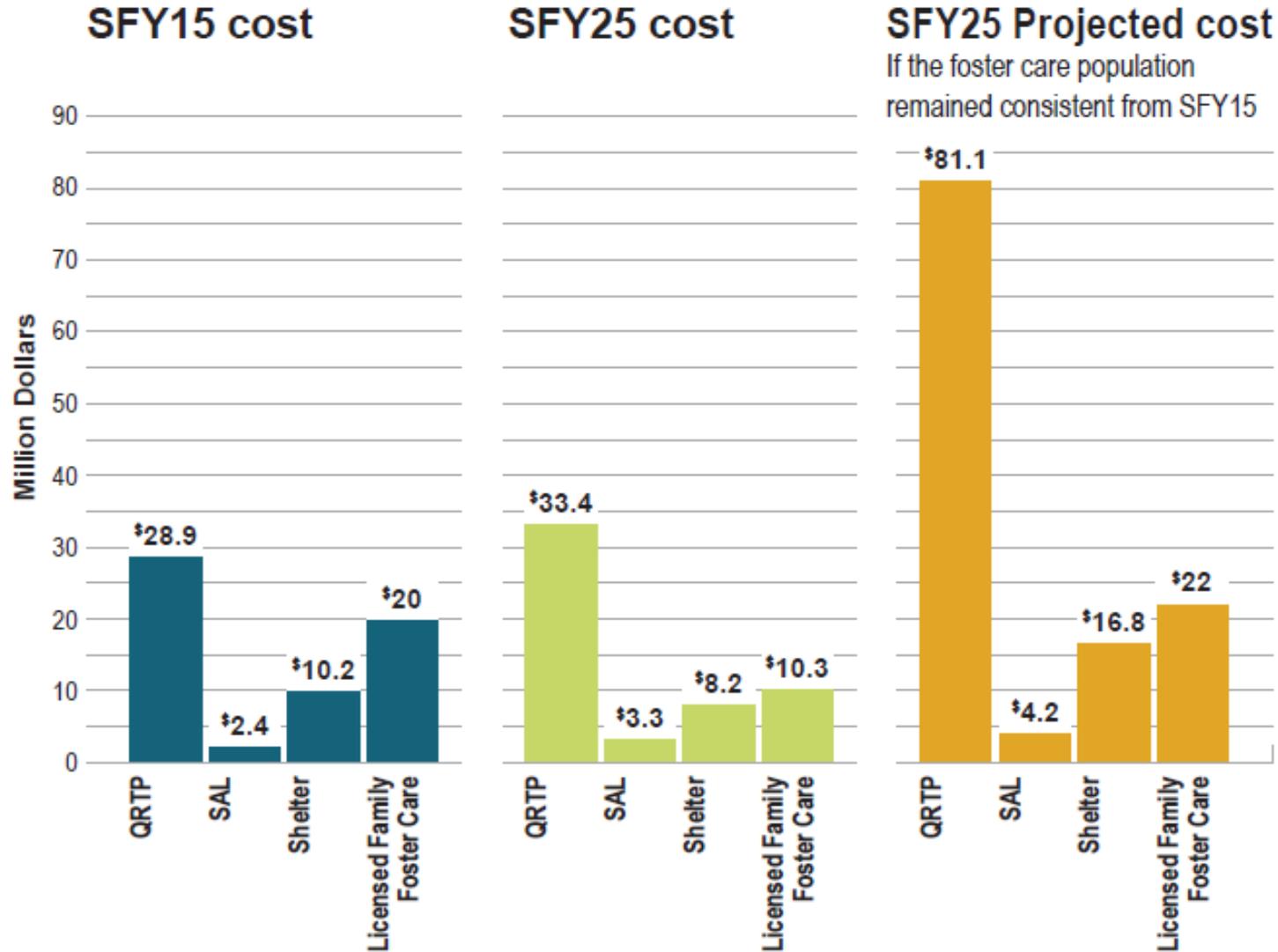


Kinship Placements



- Trial Home Visit
- Relative/Fictive Kin
- Adoption Presubsidy
- Licensed Substitute Caregiver
- Shelter Care
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program
- Other Care

Child Welfare Placement Costs

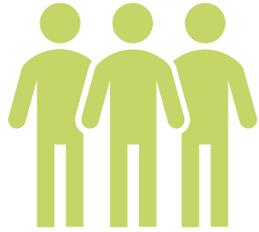


Supporting Iowa's Children



Health and
Human Services

IV-E Prevention Plan



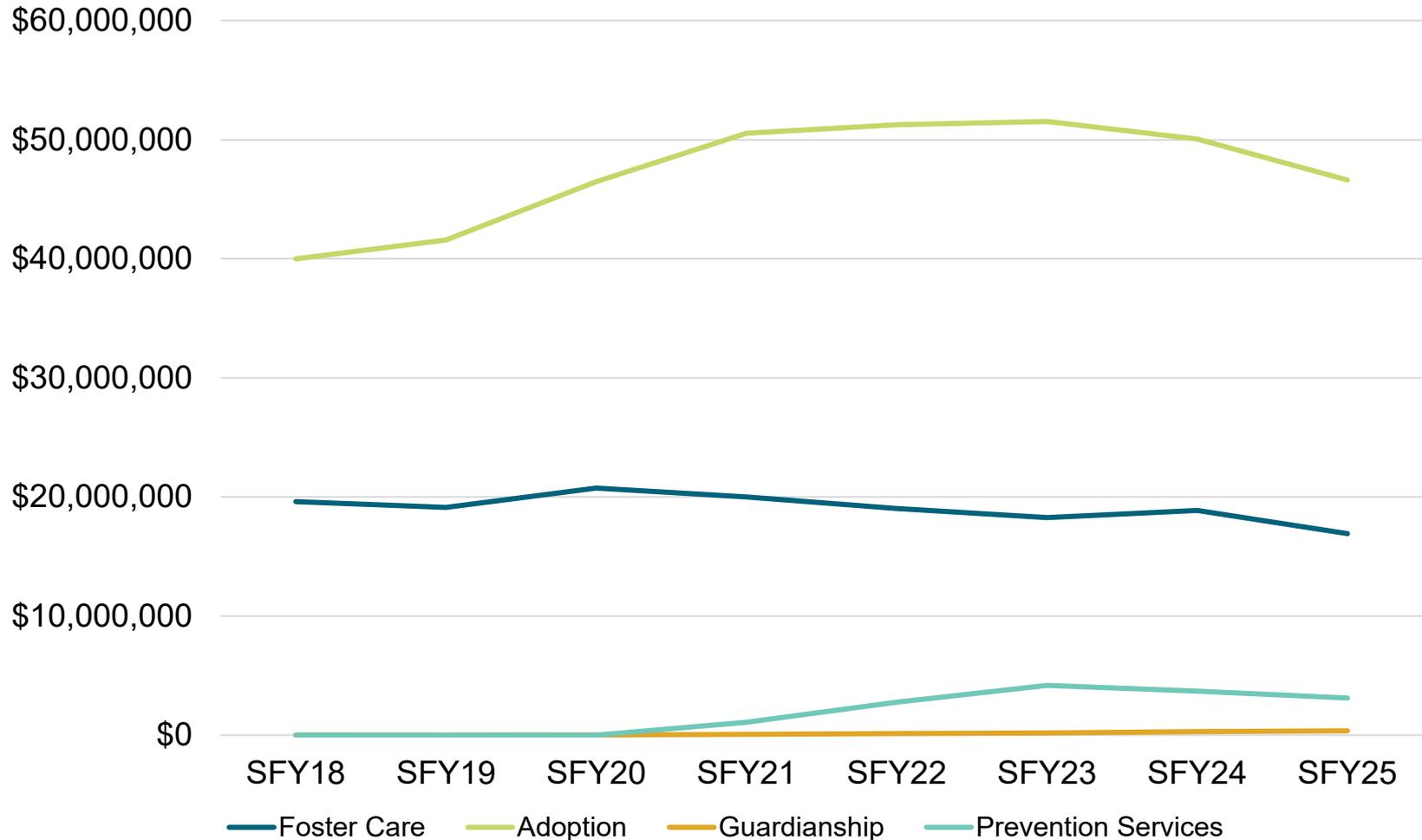
Efforts to build out
community pathway

Reduced IV-E draw
down in residential
spaces



Federal financial
support for relatives
and fictive kin

IV-E Funding Over Time



Early Intervention and Support

Early Intervention and Support Structure

Early Childhood Services

Early Childhood Iowa

Early ACCESS

Iowa's Child Abuse Prevention Program

Children at Home

Family Services

MIECHV Home Visiting

HOPES HFI

MOMS

Community Services

Thrive and 100 Families Navigation

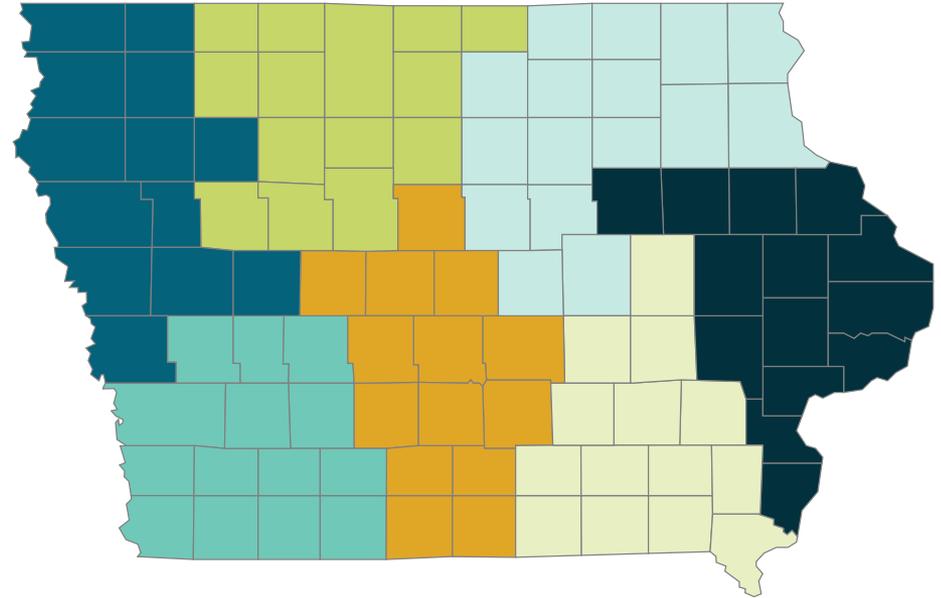
CPPC

FaDSS Home Visiting

JReS Navigation

Client Assistance Program

Core Services



Thrive Resource navigation



Family support and home visiting

MOMS (More Options for Maternal Support)

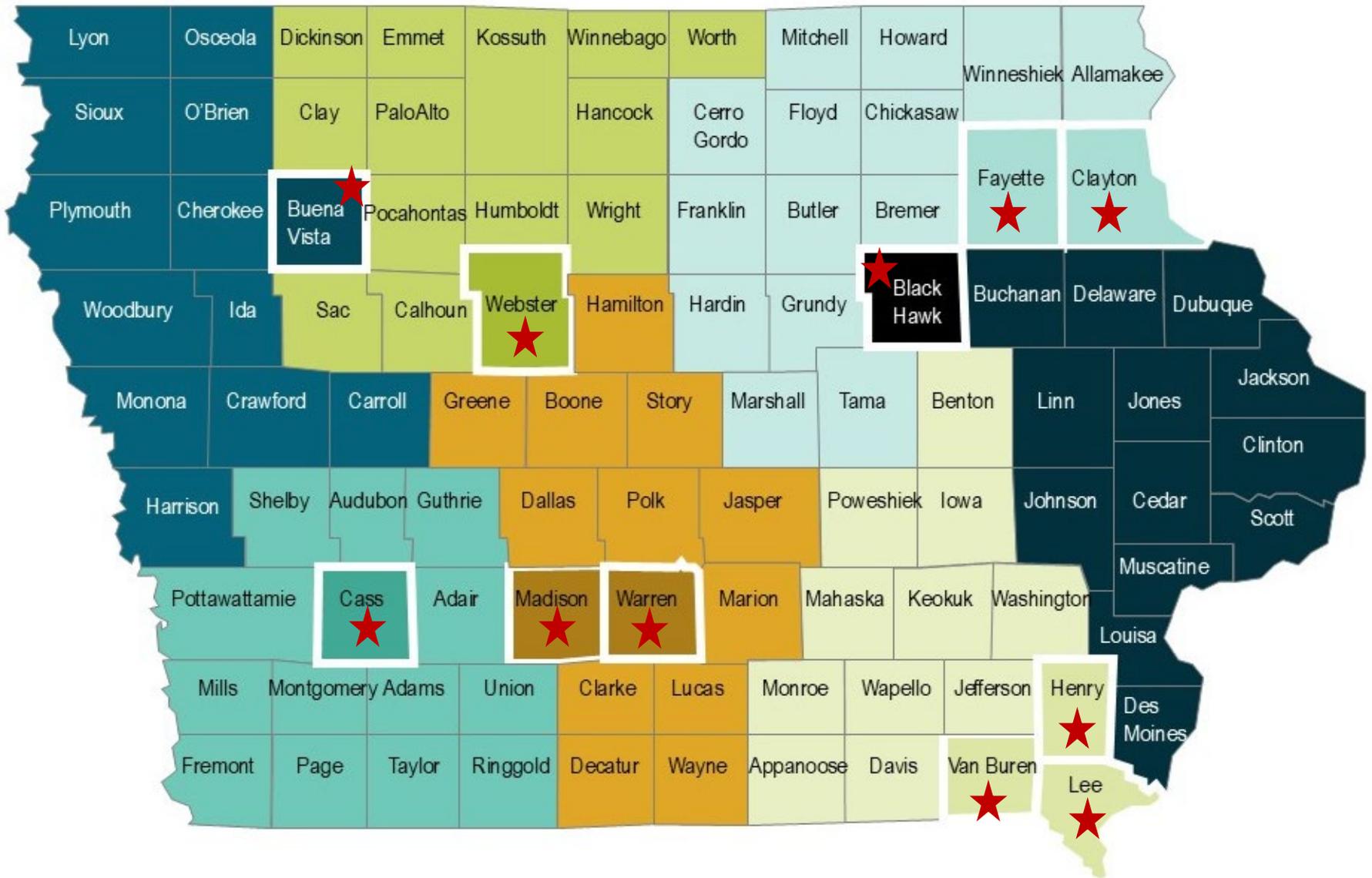
FaDSS (Family Development & Self-Sufficiency)

Future state: Family Resource Centers

Elements of Thrive Iowa Navigation

Purpose of Thrive Iowa: Community collaboration between the public and private sectors, faith-based communities and nonprofits for families to achieve prosperity and economic self-sufficiency.





Child Care

Child Care Team

Division of Family
Well-Being and
Protection

Janee Harvey
Division Director

|

Child Care
Ryan Page

|

Centers
Todd Savage

|

Homes
Sheila Aunspach

|

Policy
Wendy Hoogeveen

|

**Registration and
Payments**
Emily McCollum

Funding Overview

- ▶ **Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)**
 - Block grant-style federal funding
 - 70% to direct services for eligible families and payments to providers
 - Remaining funds support infant/toddler, quality initiatives and administrative expenses
 - Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Appropriation: \$109,630,285
 - Continuing Resolution-anticipate slight increase from 2025 Appropriation

- ▶ **State General**
 - Supports state match for federal grants
 - State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 Appropriation: \$34,966,931

See Appendix A: Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Workforce Pilot

- ▶ 2,105 families have participated since July 2023
- ▶ Strong retention evidence
- ▶ 37% of families completed review process and were approved for the pilot a second time
- ▶ 16% of families were approved a third time
- ▶ Average FPL of 302%
- ▶ Estimated annual cost is \$11.4 million
 - Split between state and federal funding

Shared Services

▶ Child Care Management Systems

- 535 center subscriptions
- 242 home subscriptions
- Top 4 modules used:
 - Check in/out;
 - billing;
 - electronic paperwork;
 - parent communication
- SFY 26: \$1,191,070

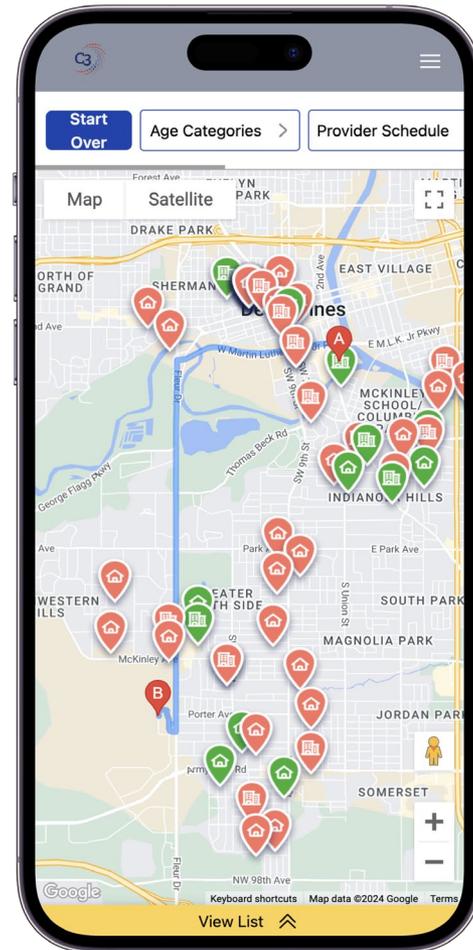
▶ Child Care Collaborative of Iowa

- Financial Management Consulting
 - Optimize use of CCMS
 - Improve financial business practices
- SFY 26: \$1,470,239

Child Care Search Tool (C3)

Filter results to meet each family's needs

- Ages of children needing child care
- Days and hours needing child care
- Providers accepting Child Care Assistance
- Provider participation in Iowa's voluntary quality rating and improvement system (Iowa Quality for Kids or IQ4K)
- Type of child care program (home-based or child care center)



C3 Data Dashboards

Current Vacancies

- ▶ Number of vacancies by age or program type
- ▶ Percentage of providers reporting timely vacancy data
- ▶ Trends in vacancies and reporting over time

Supply and Demand

- ▶ Available child care supply relative to potential supply
- ▶ Gaps between child care supply and demand
- ▶ Demand level using different assumptions

Continuum of Care

\$5 million CCDF Discretionary Funding allocated per round

Promotes partnership between Statewide Voluntary Preschool Programs and licensed child care centers to offer seamless, full-day care for 4-year-olds

3-year grant cycle, up to \$100,000 per year

Maximum \$300,000 award

Funding may be used for staffing or transportation

Focusing on the Future

2026 CCDF NPRM (rescinds 2024 Rules)

- Paying programs prospectively
- Paying programs based on enrollment
- Grants/Contracts
- Co-pay requirements

Completion of Administrative Rules Red Tape Reviews

- Licensed Child Care Center Regulatory Review and updates (7/1/25)
- Child Care Home Regulatory Review (in progress)
- Child Care Assistance (in progress)
- Quality Rating System (in progress)
- Child Care Resource and Referral (in progress)

2026 Market Rate Survey

- To be completed prior to 2027 Legislative Session
- Required to be used to inform provider rates

KinderTrack Replacement

- ▶ KinderTrack originally rolled out in 2008
- ▶ Rebuild will modernize the technology of the CCA program and allow
 - Faster, easier communication with families and child care providers
 - Less reliance on mail and paper-based documents
 - More efficient connections to other agency systems to reduce duplicate data entry

Questions

Nick Crawford
Legislative Liaison
Nicholas.Crawford@hhs.iowa.gov



Health and
Human Services

Appendix A: Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

Child Care Assistance Provider Rates Over Time

Centers

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School Age
7/2016	\$16.78	\$13.53	\$12.18
7/2019	\$17.00	\$14.75	\$12.18
7/2021	\$19.30	\$17.00	\$13.50
7/2023	\$23.21	\$18.98	\$15.00
7/2024	\$25.66	\$19.50	\$16.50

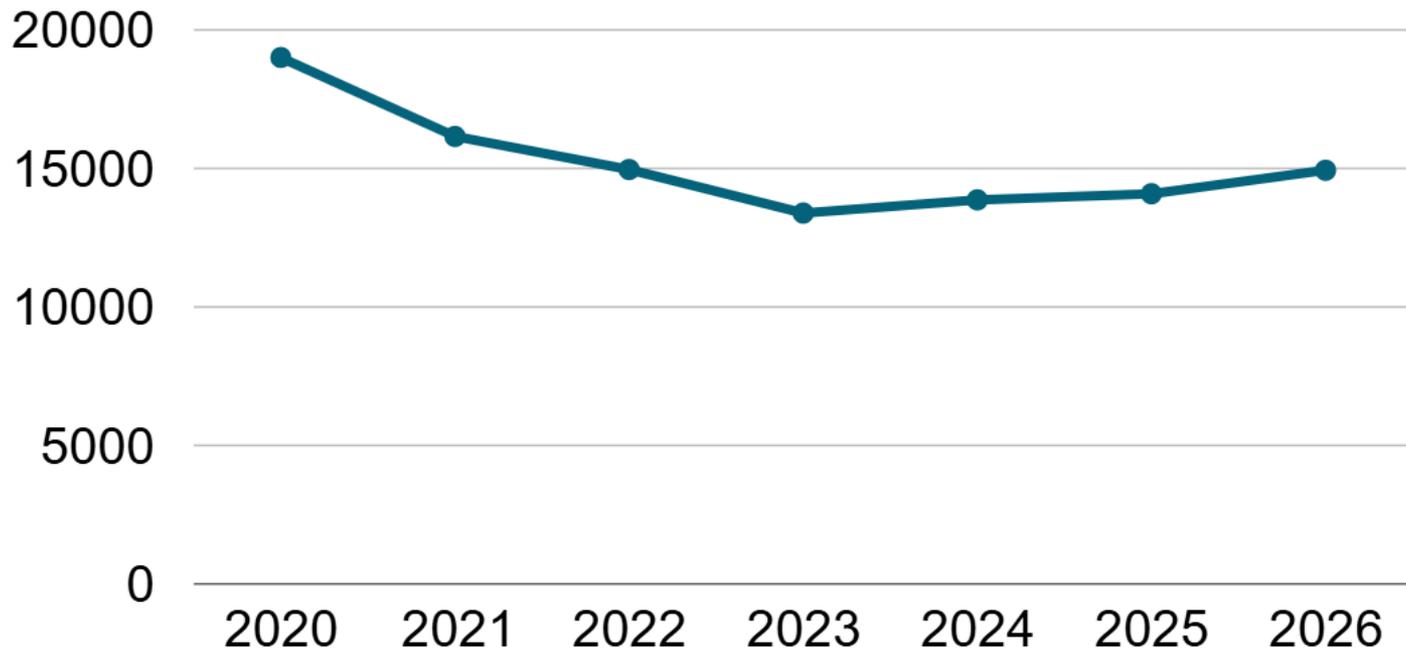
Child Development Homes

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool	School Age
7/2016	\$12.98	\$12.18	\$10.82
7/2019	\$12.98	\$12.50	\$10.82
7/2021	\$12.98	\$12.50	\$10.82
7/2023	\$14.00	\$12.75	\$11.25
7/2024	\$16.63	\$15.00	\$15.00

Appendix B: Child Care Assistance Enrollment Data

Data reflects the number of children enrolled in CCA programs over time

Child Care Assistance (CCA)



SFY **Count**

2020

19,003

2021

16,155

2022

14,960

2023

13,388

2024

13,866

2025

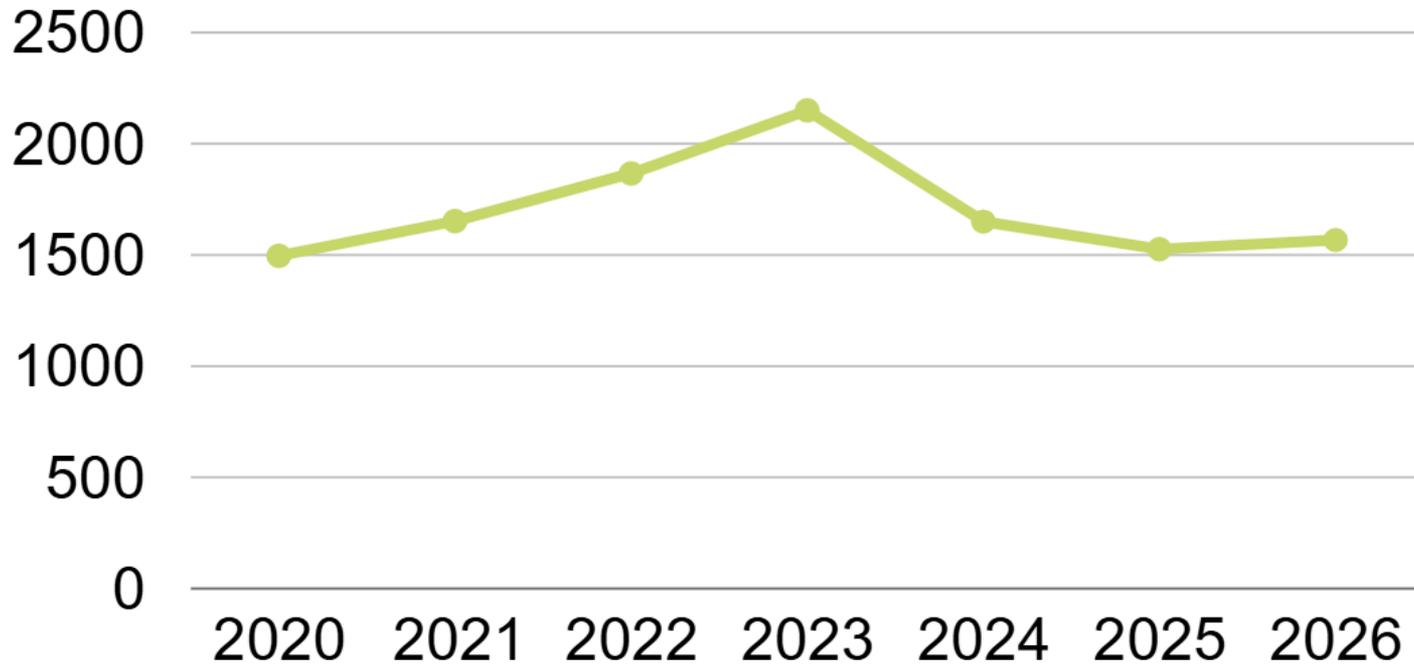
14,086

2026

14,933*

*Projected data

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Plus



SFY **Count**

2020 1,496

2021 1,652

2022 1,866

2023 2,150

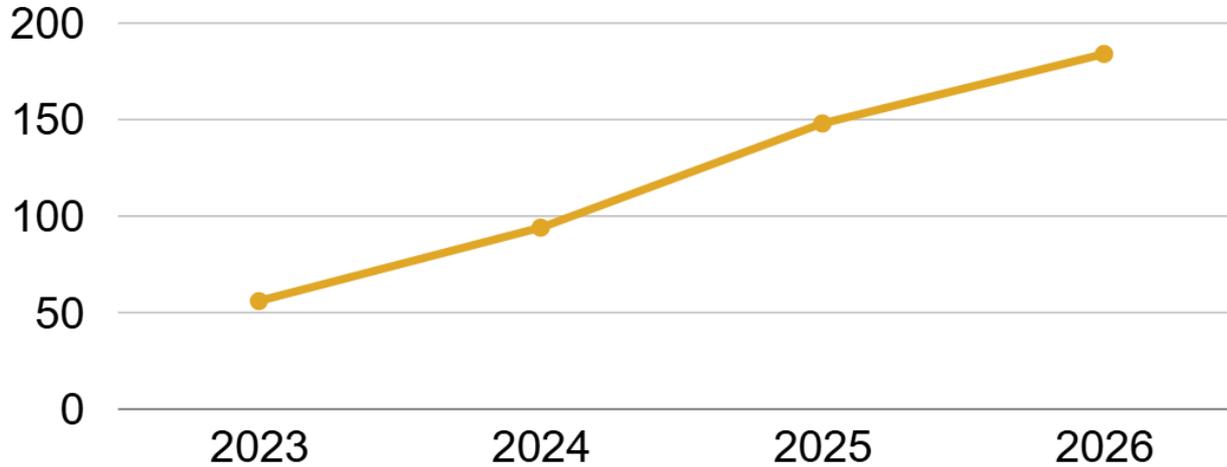
2024 1,650

2025 1,526

2026 1,567* *Projected data

Child Care Assistance (CCA) Exit

(Child care cliff protection)



SFY

Count

2023

56

2024

94

2025

159

2026

184*

*Projected data

Co-pay Structure

Parentheses indicate special needs rates.

Family Income	225-235% FPL (225-245%)	235-245% FPL (245-265%)	245-250% FPL (265-275%)
Co-pay	33%	45%	60%