



Presentation to the 2025 Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services

# Child Welfare Overview and Budget Review

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March 17, 2025

# Agenda

- I. Who we are
- II. Budget overview
  - I. Design
  - II. Delivery
  - III. Safety
- III. Tracking our progress
- IV. Key issues and budget drivers
- V. Policy option packages
- VI. Closing

# Our mission

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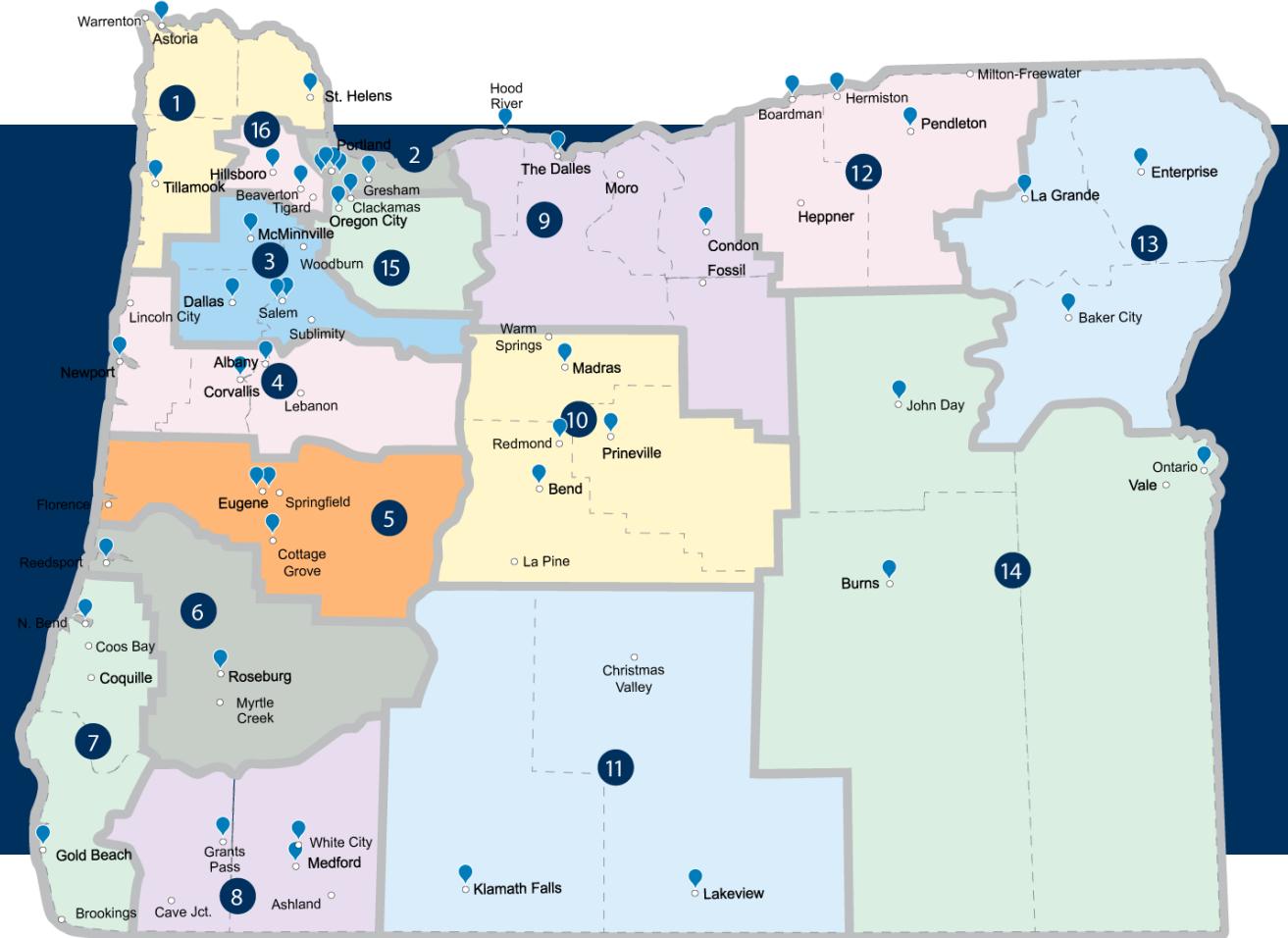
- Serving children, young adults and families facing challenges that can affect child safety.
- Responding to reports of child abuse and neglect.
- Assessing whether supports or services can support remaining together and coordinating foster care placement when a child cannot remain at home safely.

# Where we serve

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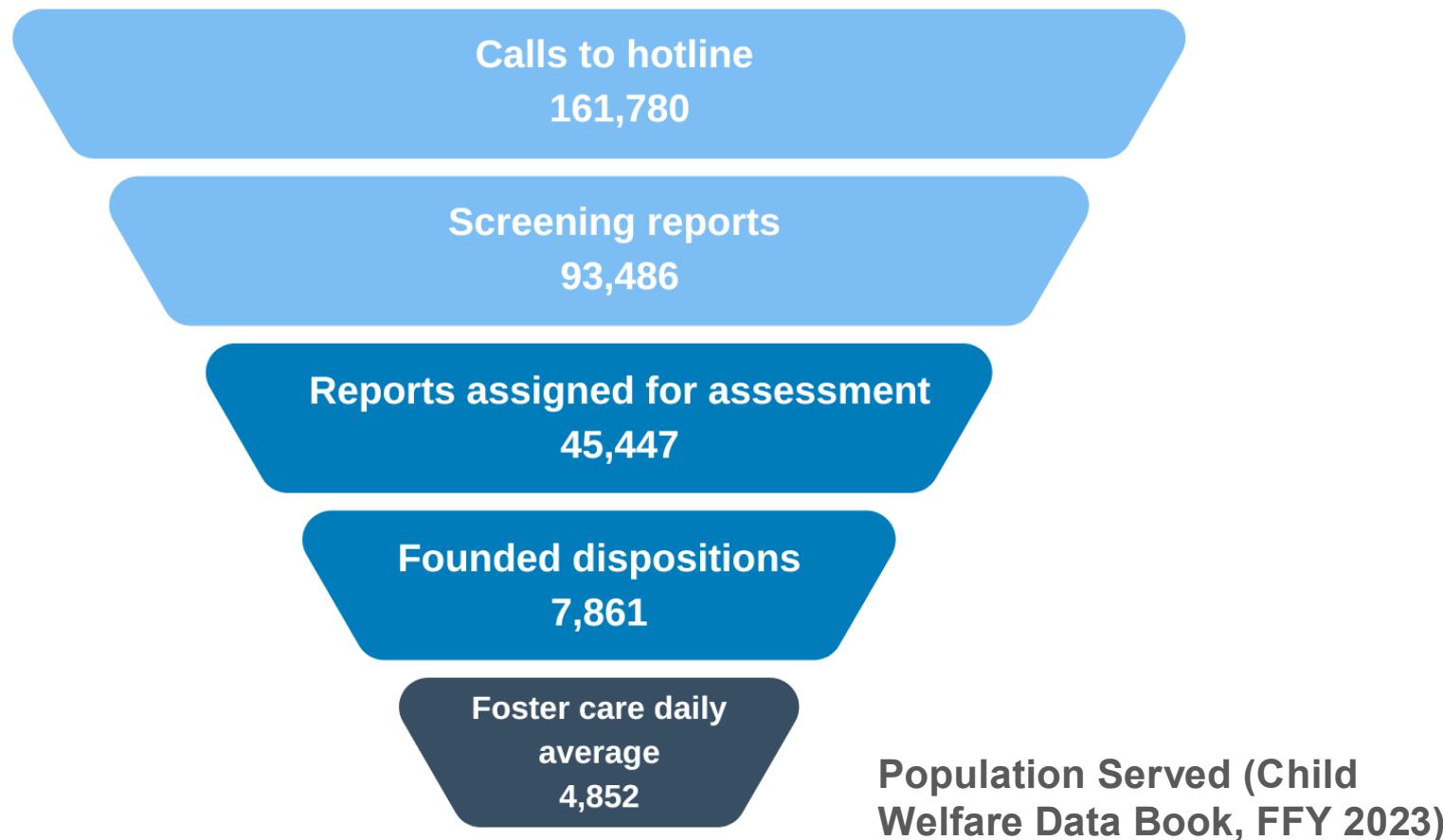
36  
counties

3,400  
Employees



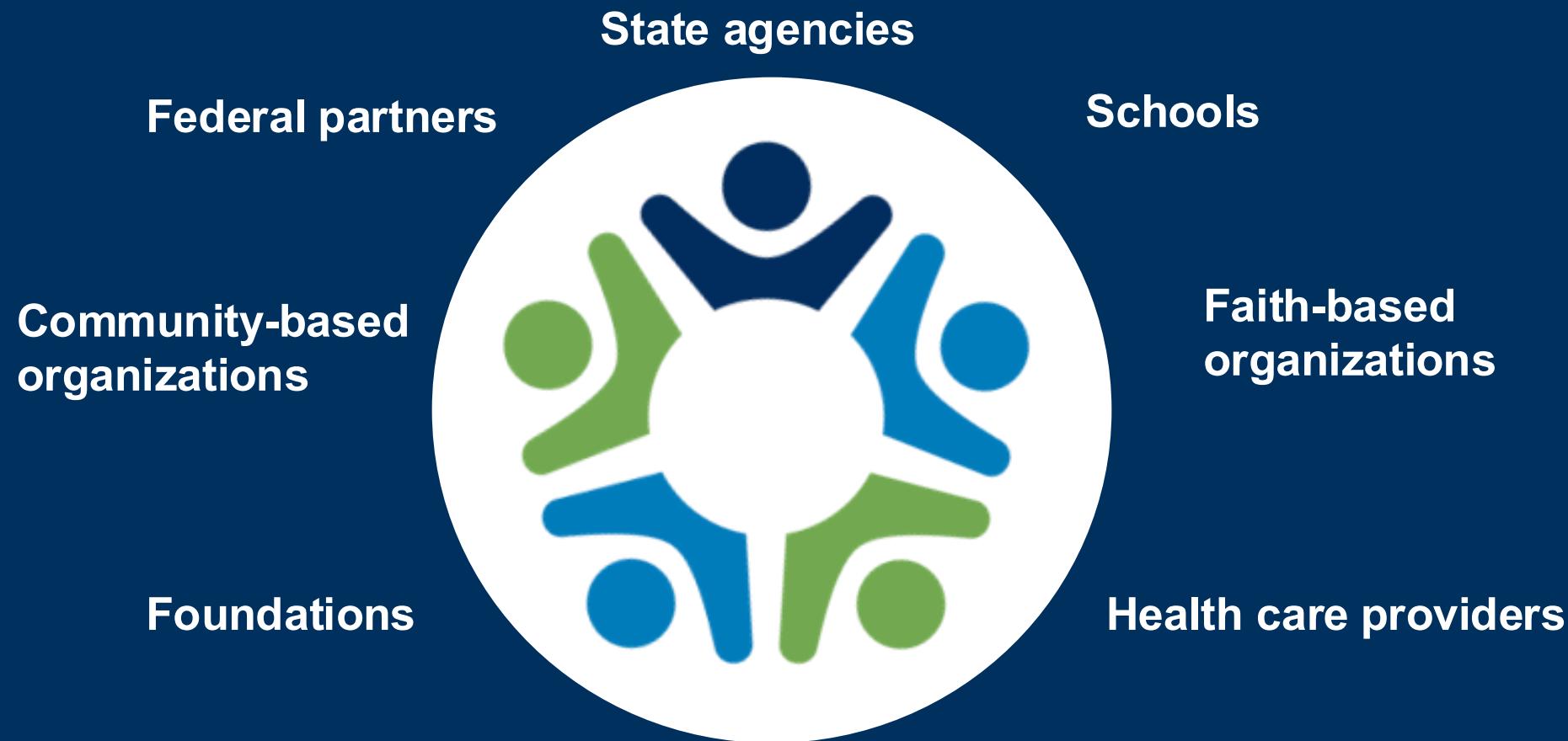
# Who we serve: Oregon Child Abuse Hotline

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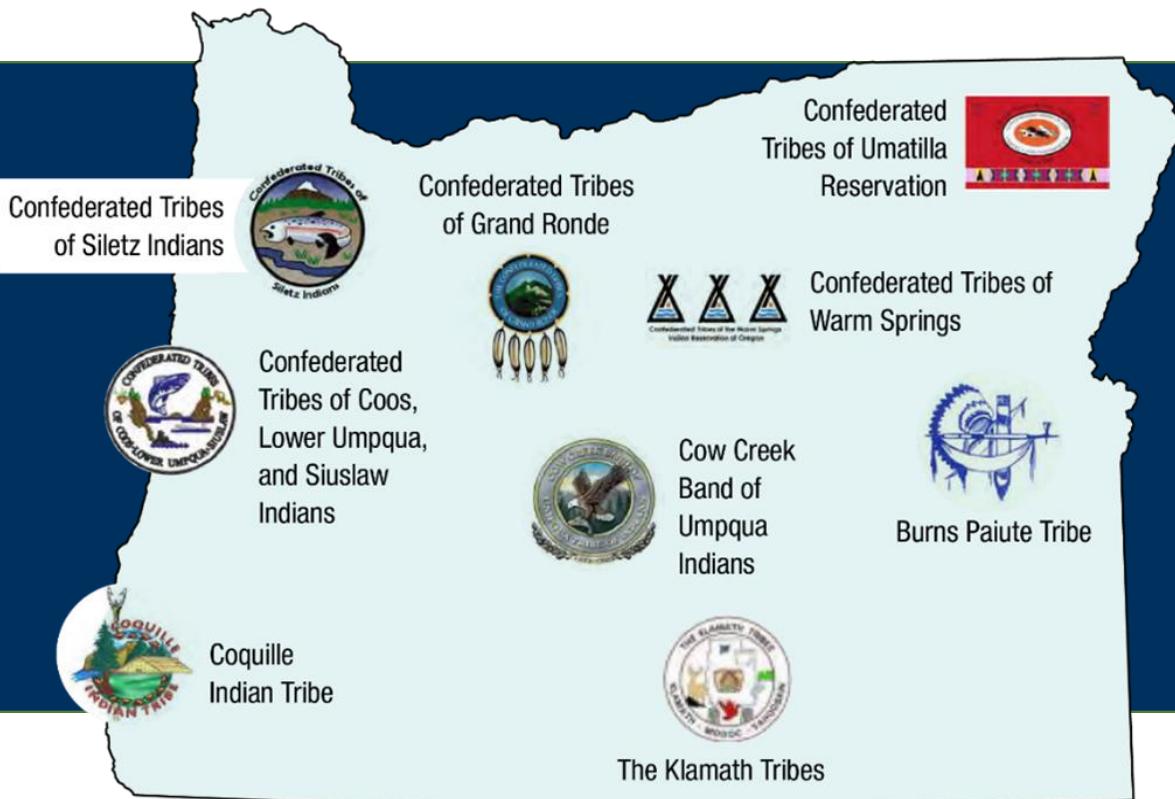
# Key partners

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# Government-to-government relations

## Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes



- ICWA and ORICWA implementation
- Tribal consultation policy
- Tribal engagement on practice transformation

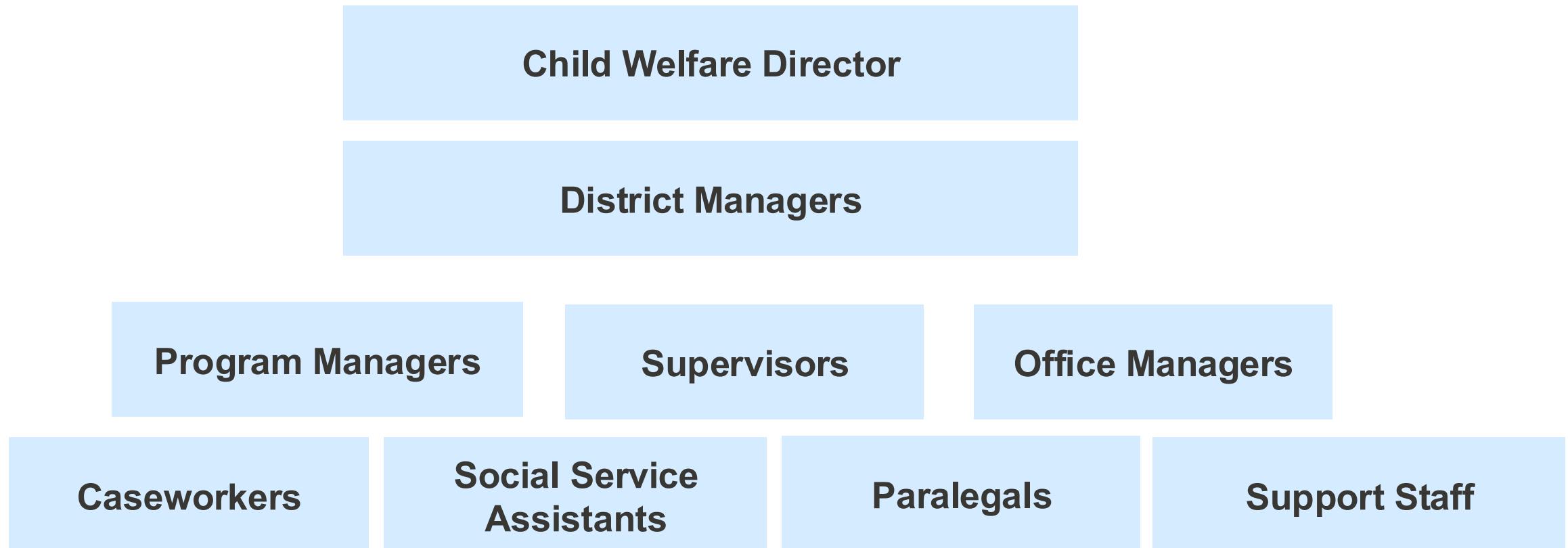
# Child Welfare Program Design Organizational Structure

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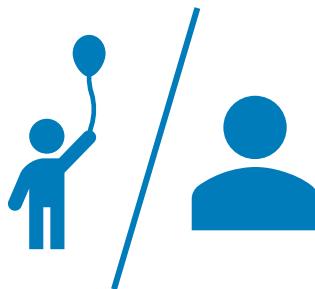
# Child Welfare Local Office Structure

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# Evolving our safety mission across the division

Move from



Family separation



Punish parents

To

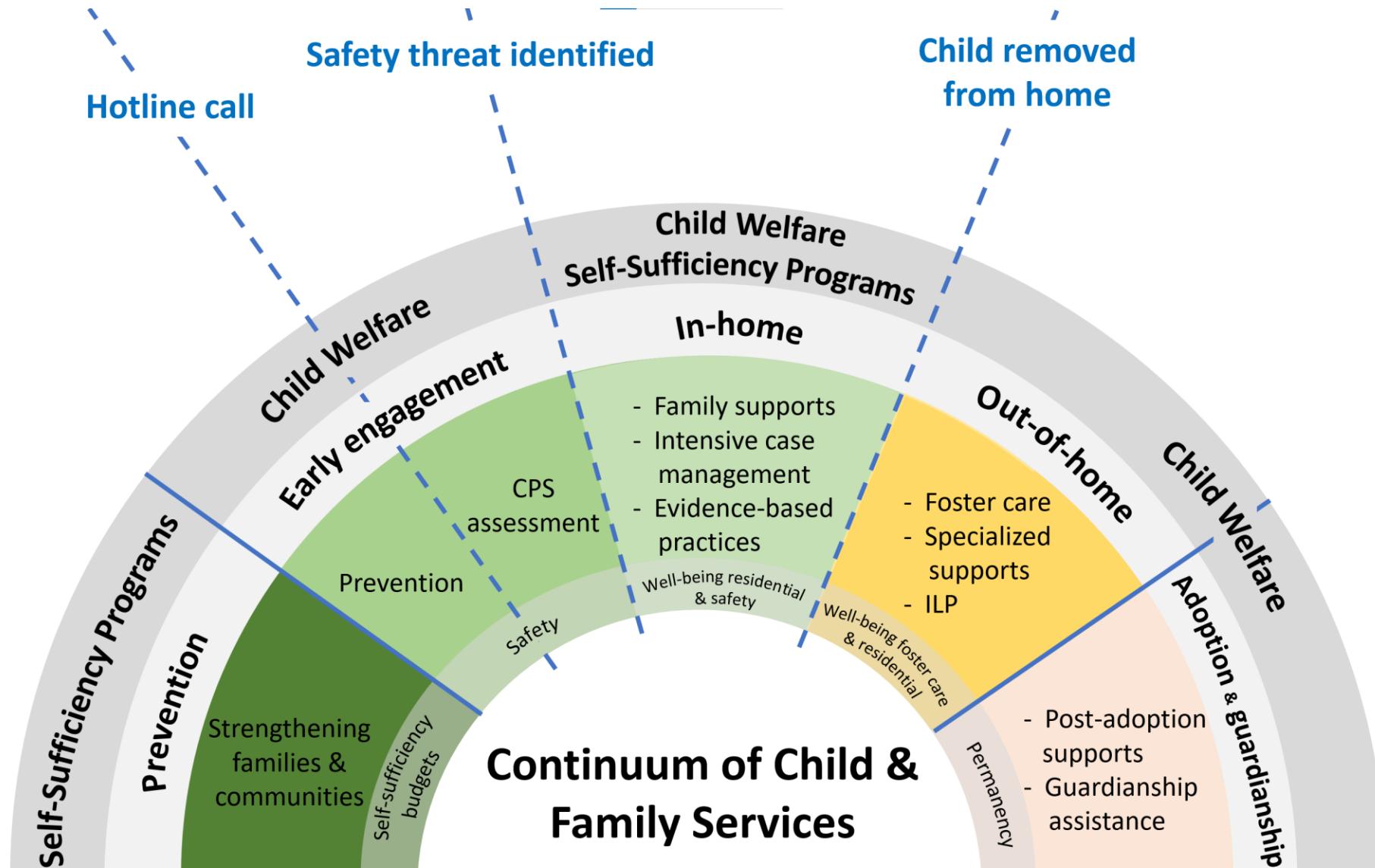


Community builds safety

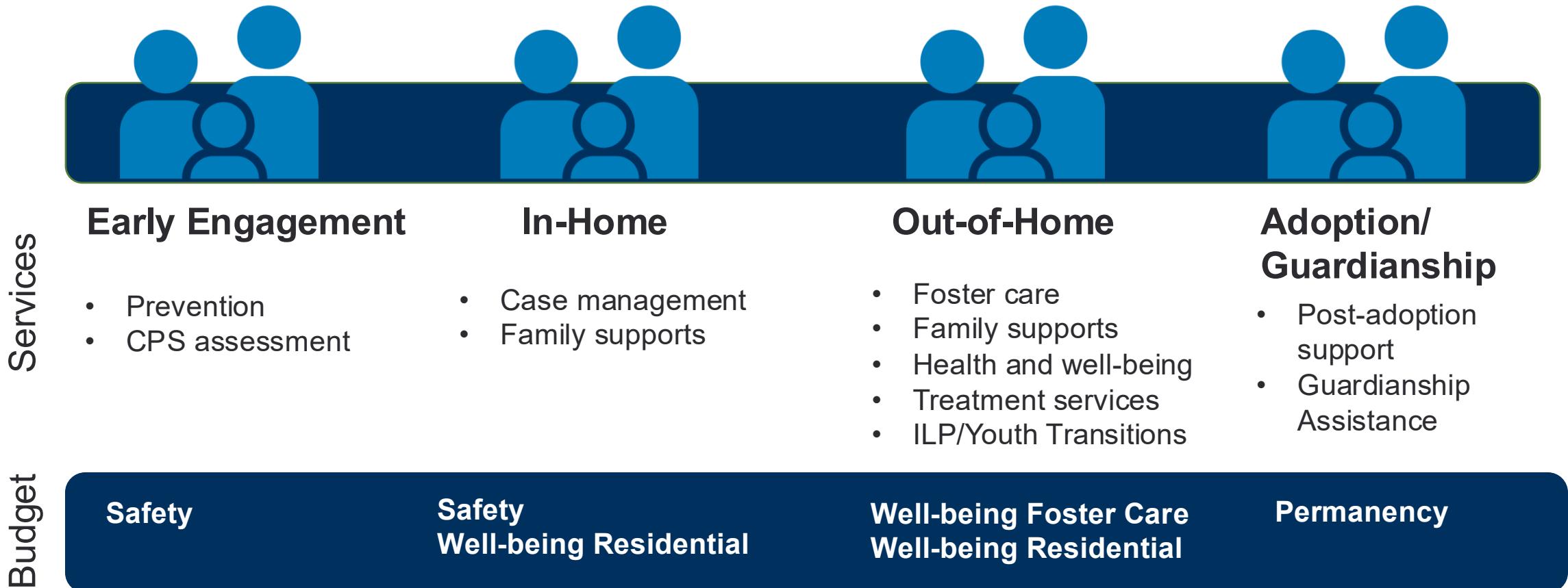


Investing in families

# Child Welfare: How we work



# Child Welfare Continuum of Services



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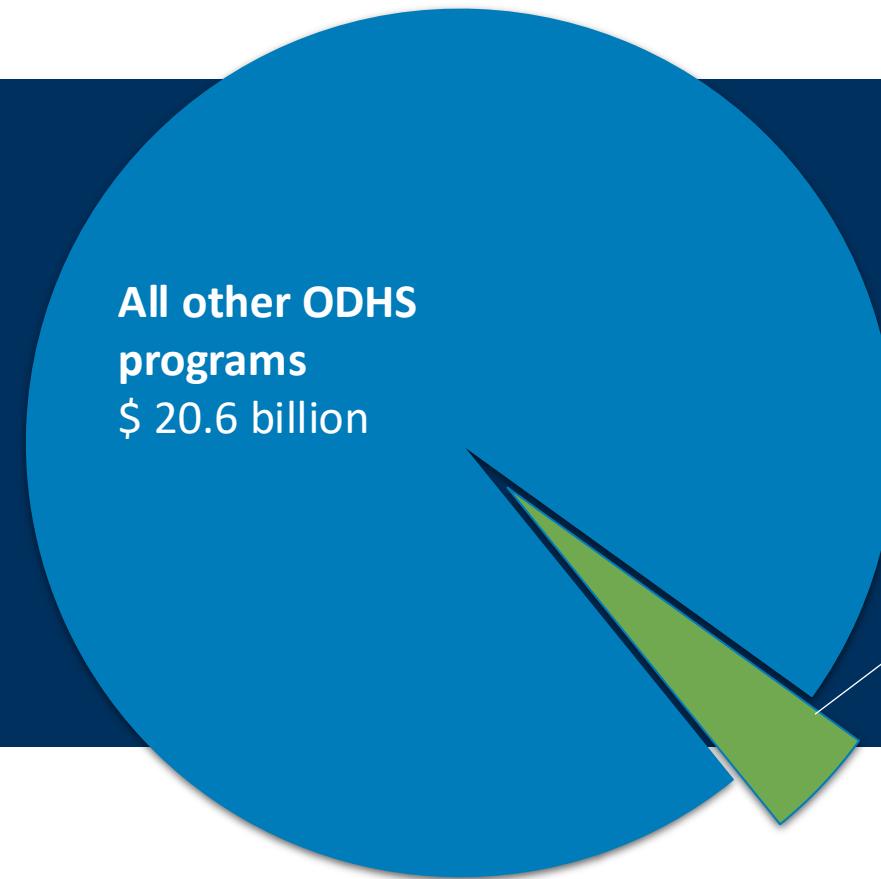
# 2025-27 Governor's Budget: Child Welfare as a portion of ODHS

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ODHS total  
budget  
\$22.5 billion

All other ODHS  
programs  
\$ 20.6 billion

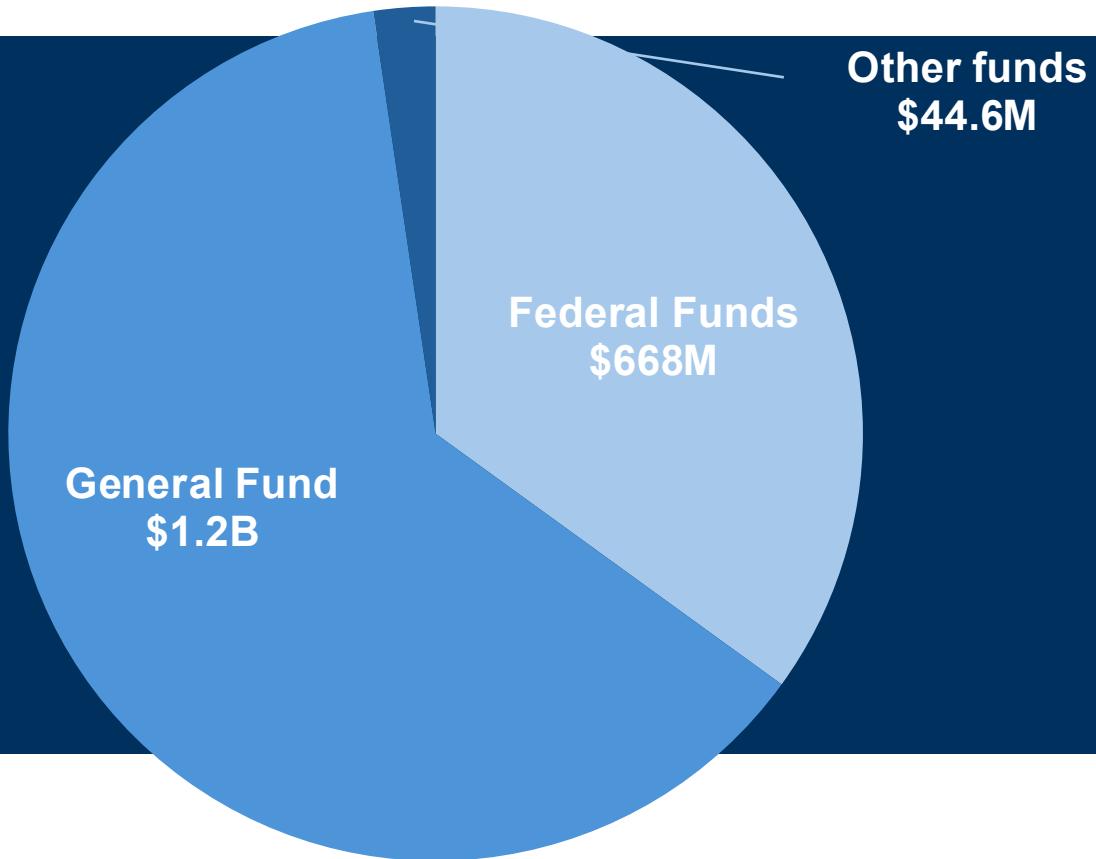
Child Welfare  
\$1.9 billion  
8% of ODHS  
budget



# 2025-27 Governor's Budget: Total Child Welfare budget by fund type

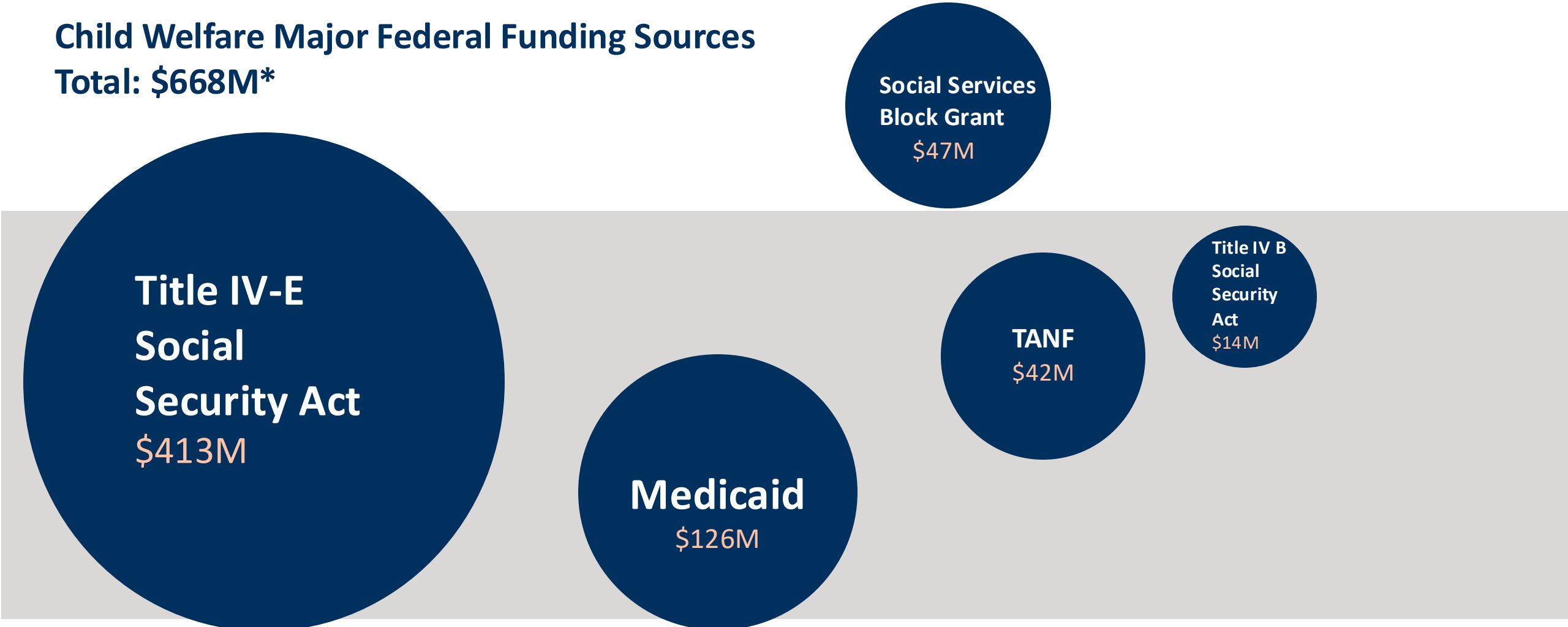
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Child Welfare total  
budget  
\$1.9B



## Child Welfare Major Federal Funding Sources

**Total: \$668M\***



**Title IV-E  
Social  
Security Act**  
\$413M

**Medicaid**  
\$126M

**Social Services  
Block Grant**  
\$47M

**TANF**  
\$42M

**Title IV B  
Social  
Security  
Act**  
\$14M

## Child Welfare Major Federal Funding Sources

**Total: \$668M\***

**Title IV-E  
Social  
Security Act**  
\$413M

- Foster care
- Preventive family services
- Adoption and guardianship
- Education and training
- Independent Living

**Social Services  
Block Grant**  
\$47M

- Child Welfare programs
- Youth homelessness services

**TANF**  
\$42M

**Title IV B  
Social  
Security  
Act**  
\$14M

- Family preservation
- Child safety

**Medicaid**  
\$126M

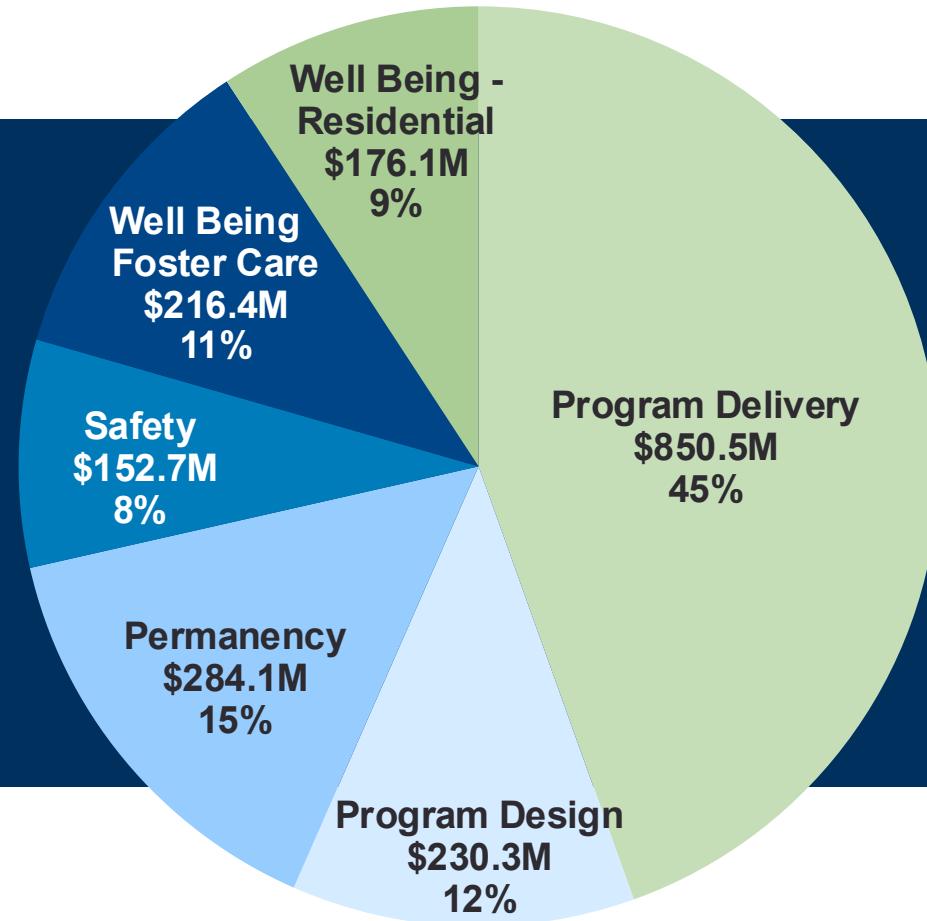
- Residential treatment services
- Personal Care
- Nursing Services

# **Child Welfare Division Program Design and Delivery Budgets**

# 2025-27 Governor's Budget: Total Child Welfare budget

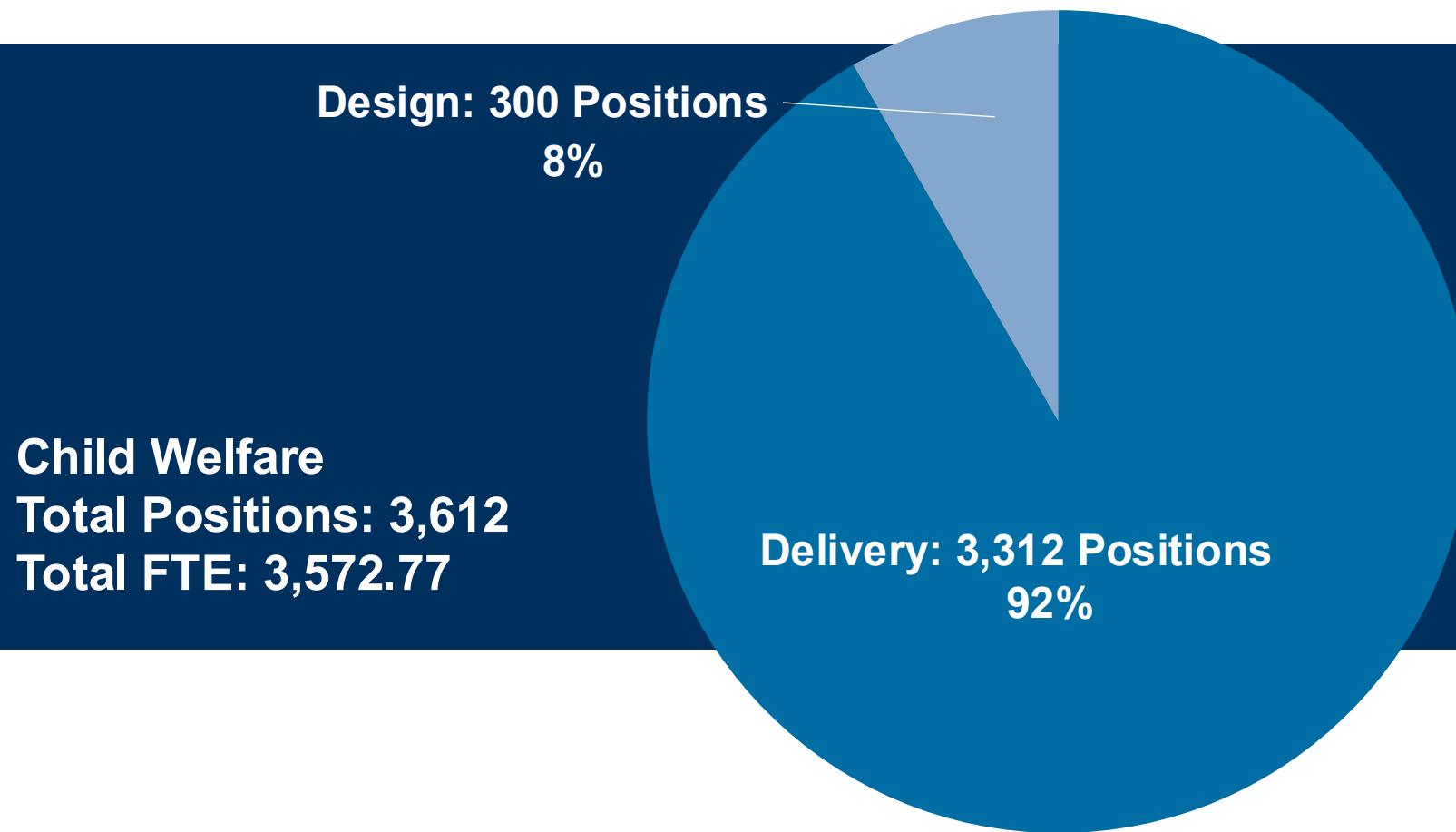
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**Child Welfare total budget**  
\$1.9 billion



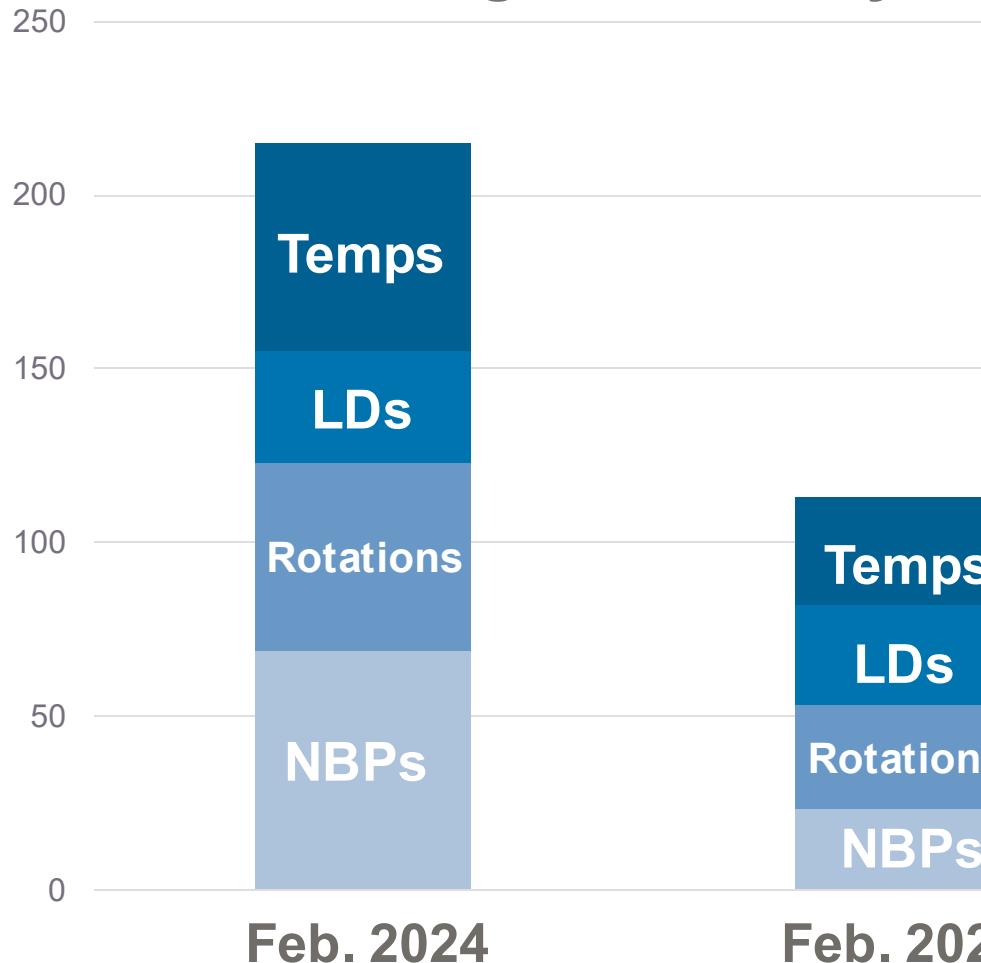
# 2025-27 Governor's Budget: Positions by Program Design and Delivery Budgets

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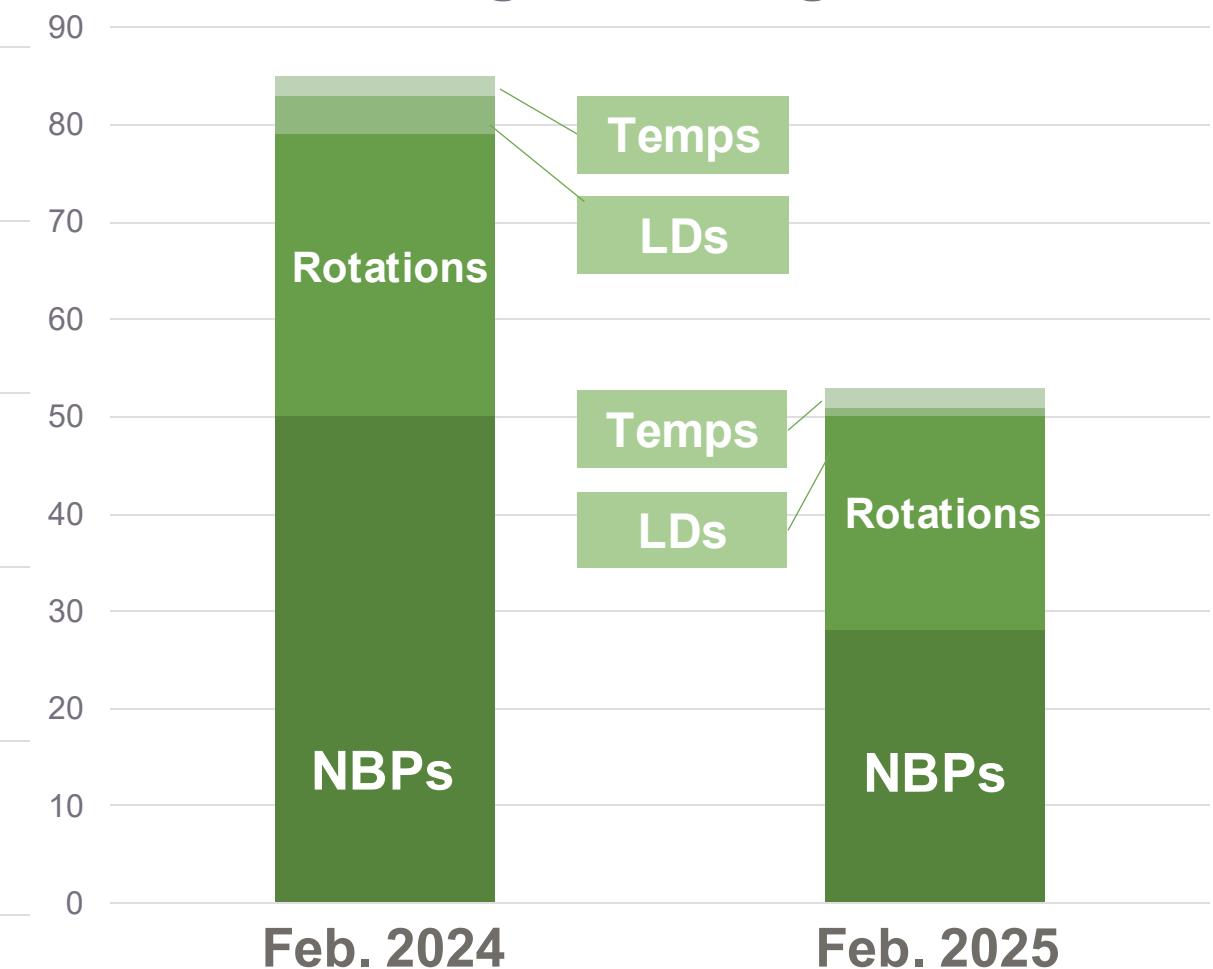


# Progress on Non-budgeted Positions

Program Delivery



Program Design



# Addressing Long-term Vacancies

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Posting date  
to conditional  
offer average



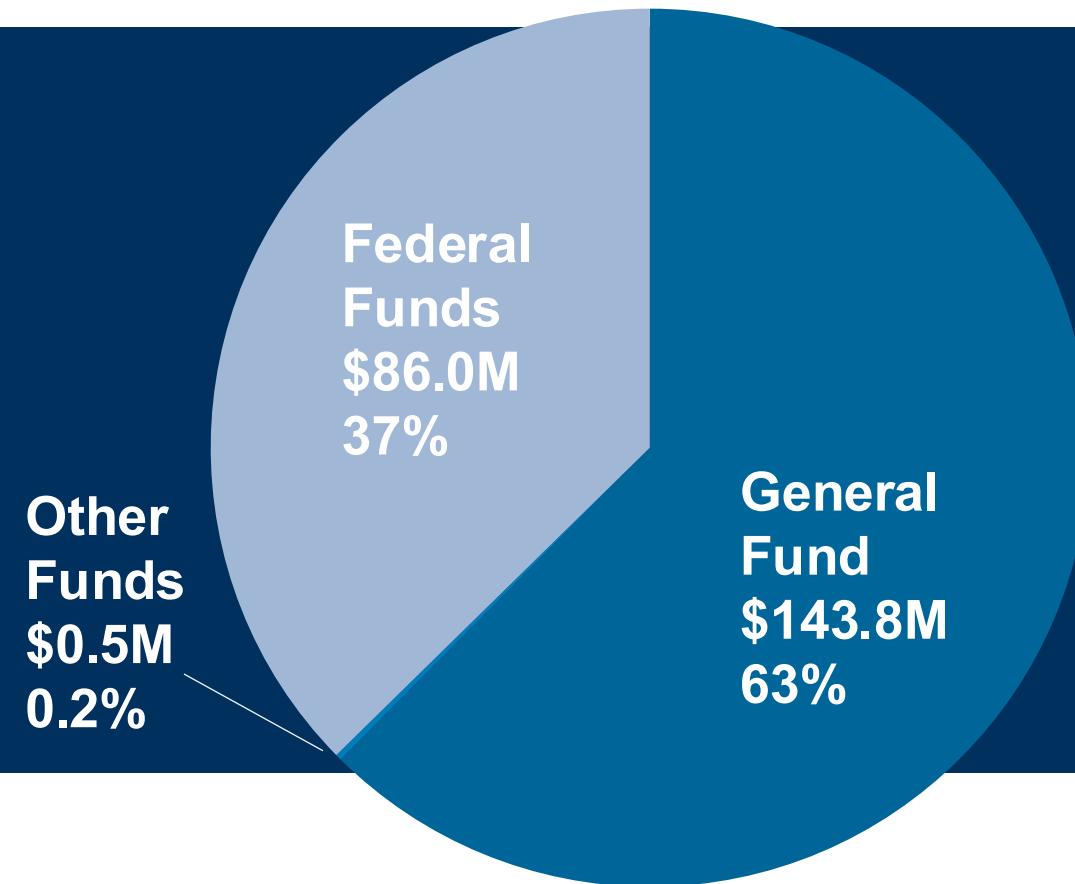
372 or 10%  
vacant positions



# Program Design Funding Split for GB 2025-27

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**Program Design**  
Total GB Funds:  
\$230.3M



# Program Design

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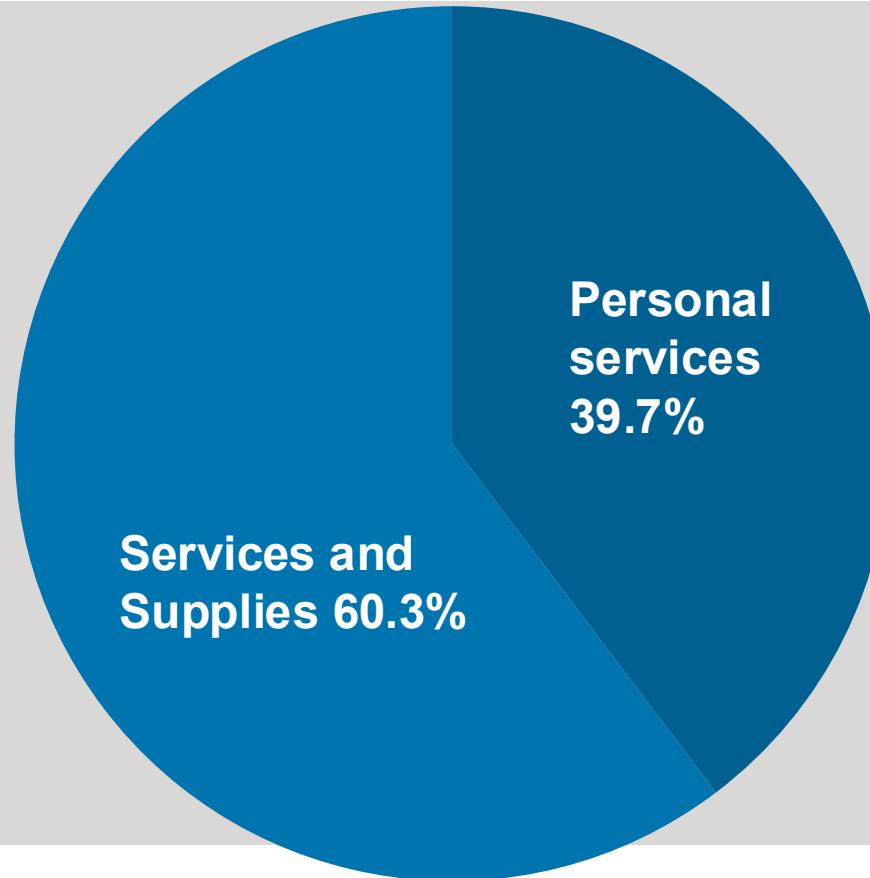
**Governor's Budget: \$230.3M**

**Positions at GB 2025-27:**

300 Positions

290.77 FTE

**Vacancy rate: 8%**



\*As of 2/28/2025

# Program Design Budget

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**Includes staff for Safety, Well-being Foster Care, Well-Being Residential, Permanency**

- Child Protective Services (CPS)
- Family Preservation
- Permanency and Foster Care Certification
- Interstate Compacts
- Health and Wellness
- Post Adoptions
- Child Fatality Prevention and Review
- IT and case management system support

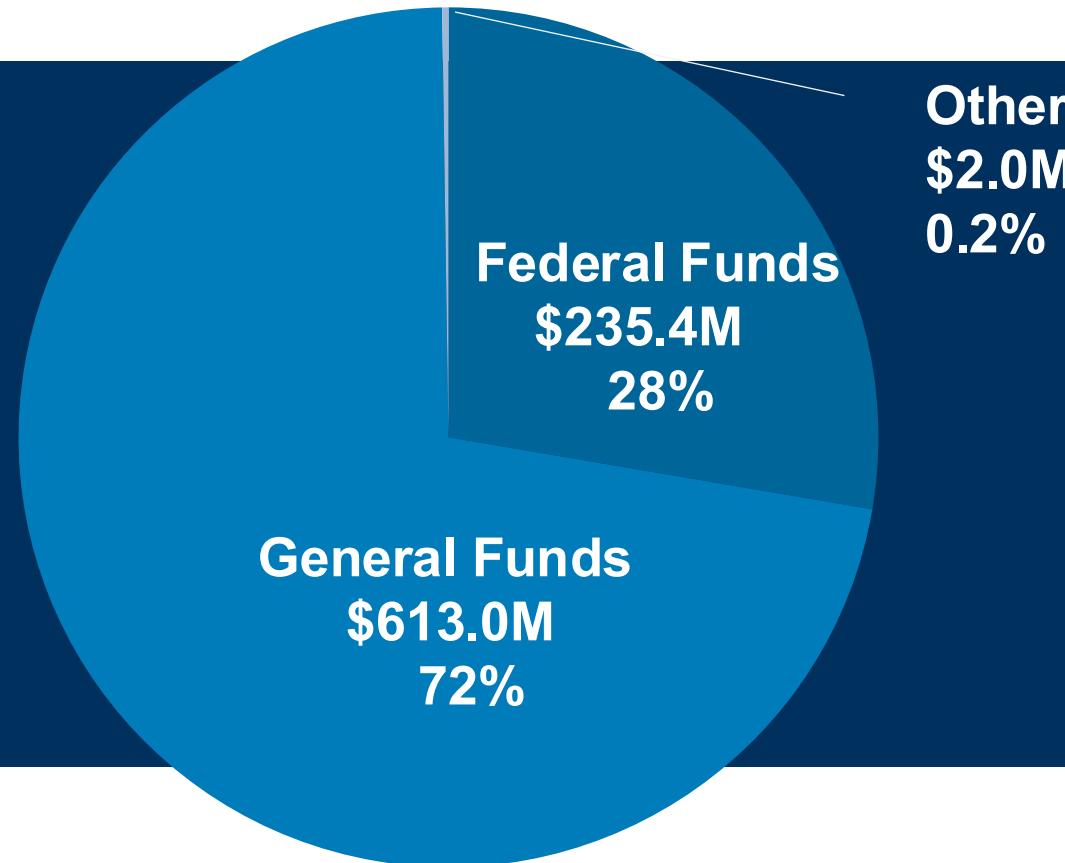
## Operations and Infrastructure

- Business operations
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Federal Policy
- Program Reporting
- Project Management
- Training and Workforce
- Information Systems

# Program Delivery Funding Split GB 2025-27

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Program Delivery total  
GB Funds: \$850.5M



# Program Delivery Budget

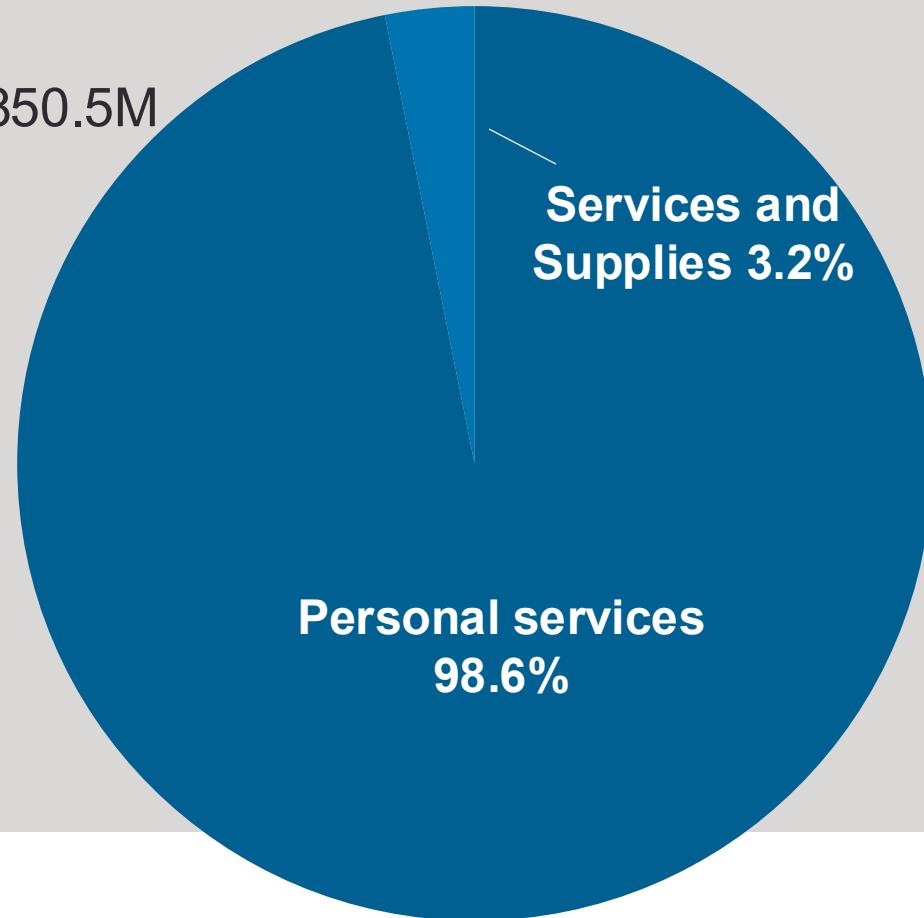
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**Program Delivery Budget:** \$850.5M  
(\$613.0M from General Fund)

**Positions:** 3,312

**FTE:** 3,282

**Vacancy rate:** 10%



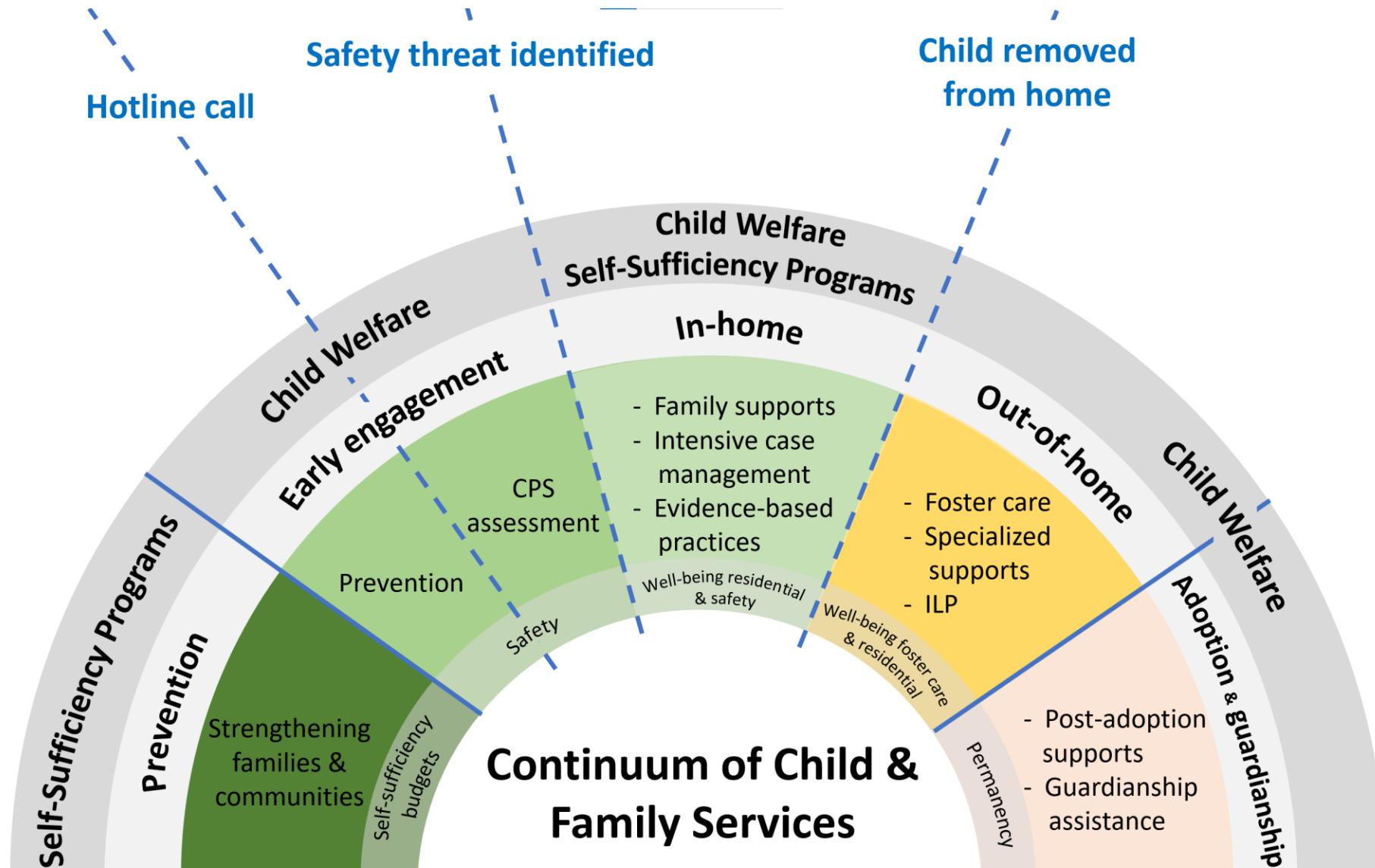
# Program Delivery 2025-27 Workload Model

Based on Fall 2024 Workload Model Forecast

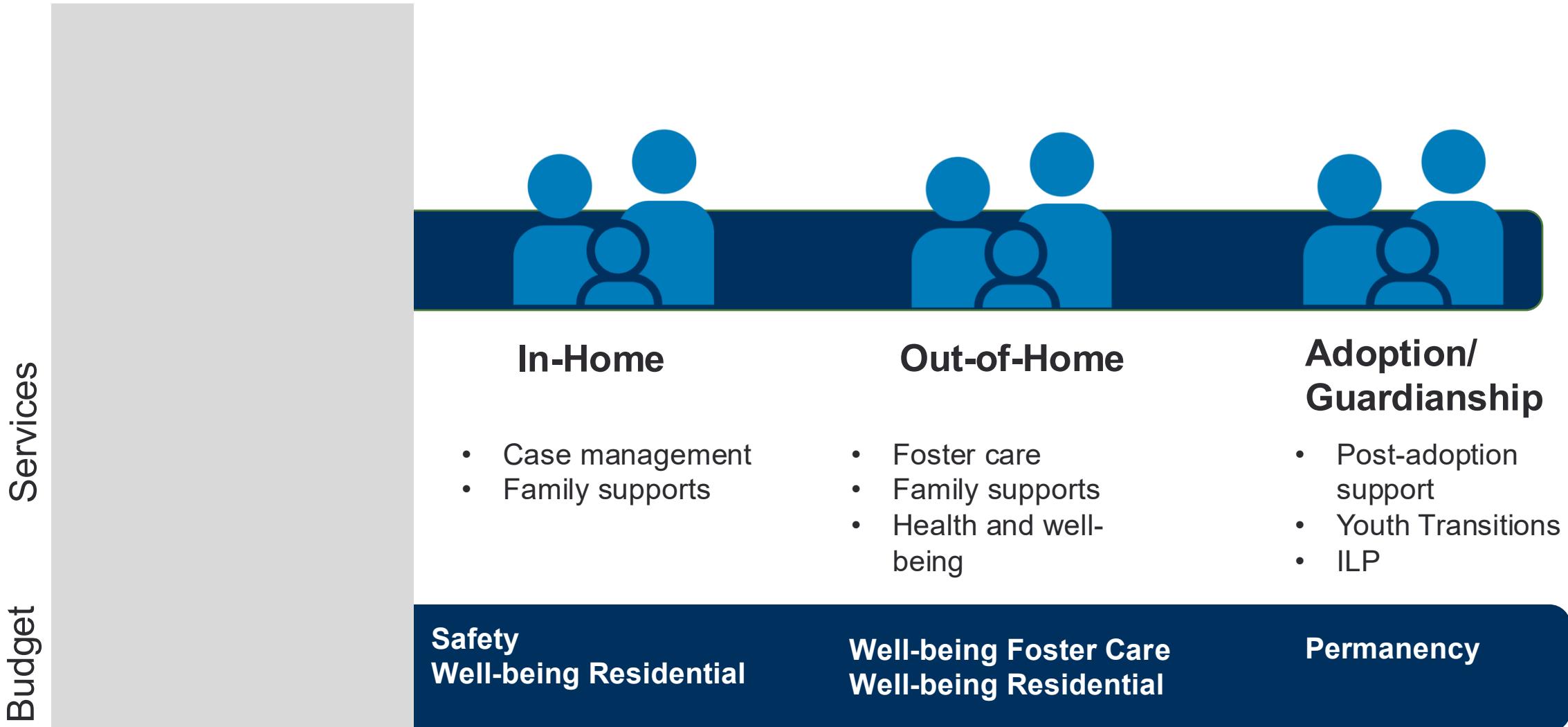
Position types	Percentage
Case Workers (SS1)	108.4%
Case Support (SSA)	95.4%
Support Staff (OS2)	104.7%
FRS/IVE Specialist (HSS2)	150.0%
Legal Support (Paralegal)	59.9%
Leadership Support (OM3)	93.1%
Coach and Training Specialist (SSS2)	53.0%
Field Management (Supervisor 2)	102.2%
<b>Total percentage of earned positions</b>	<b>102.8%</b>

# **Child Welfare Division Safety Budget – Early Engagement**

# Child Welfare: How we work



# Child Welfare Continuum of Services

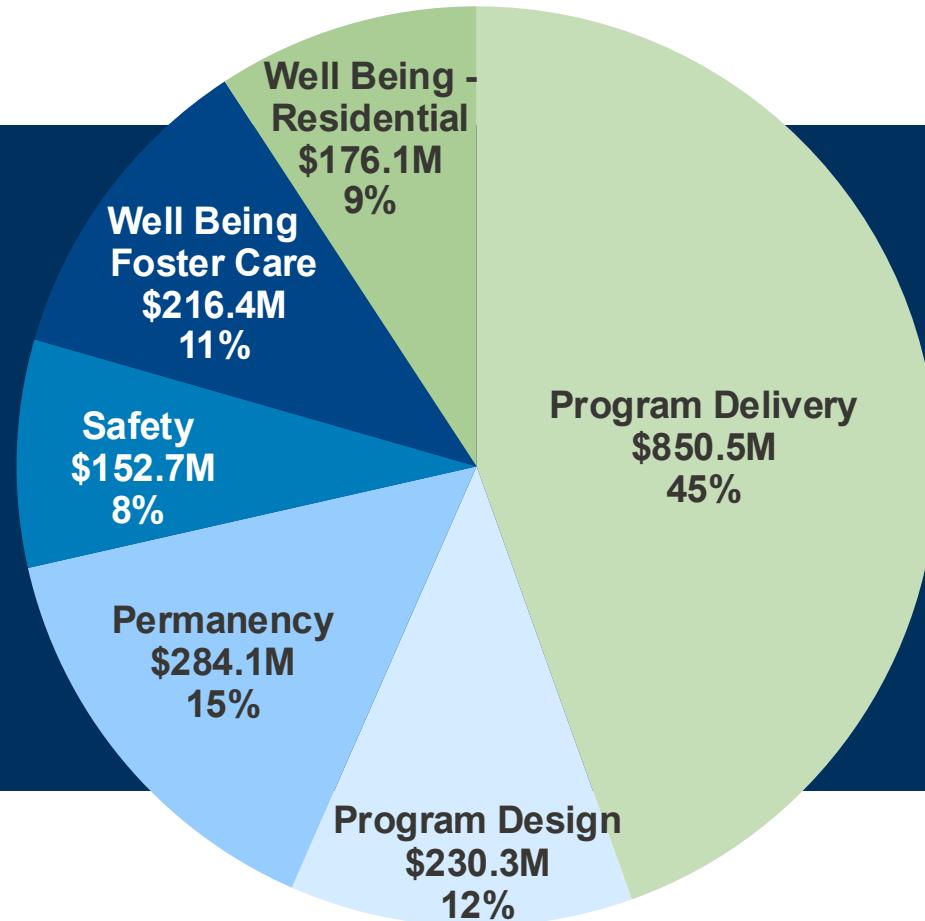


# 2025-27 Governor's Budget: Total Child Welfare budget: Safety

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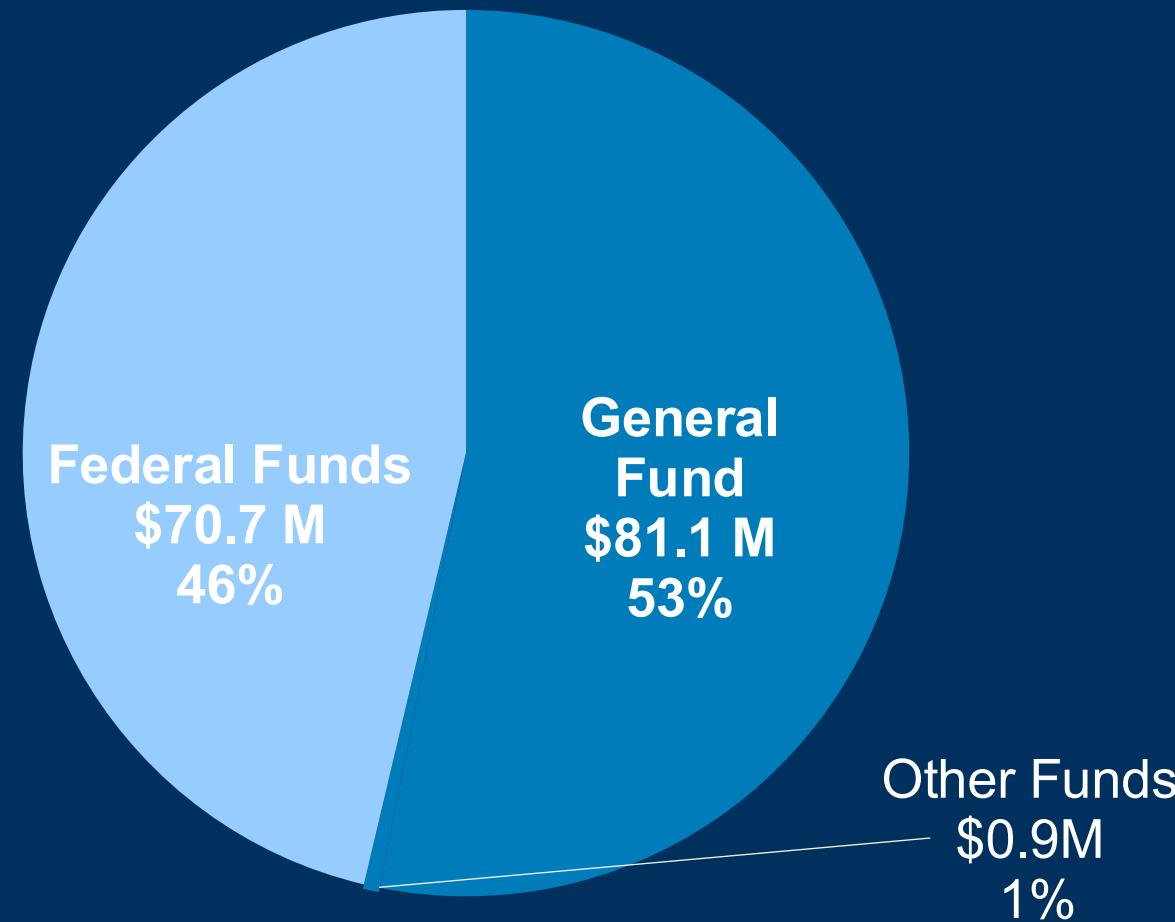
**Child Welfare total budget**  
\$1.9 billion

**Safety budget**  
\$152.7M

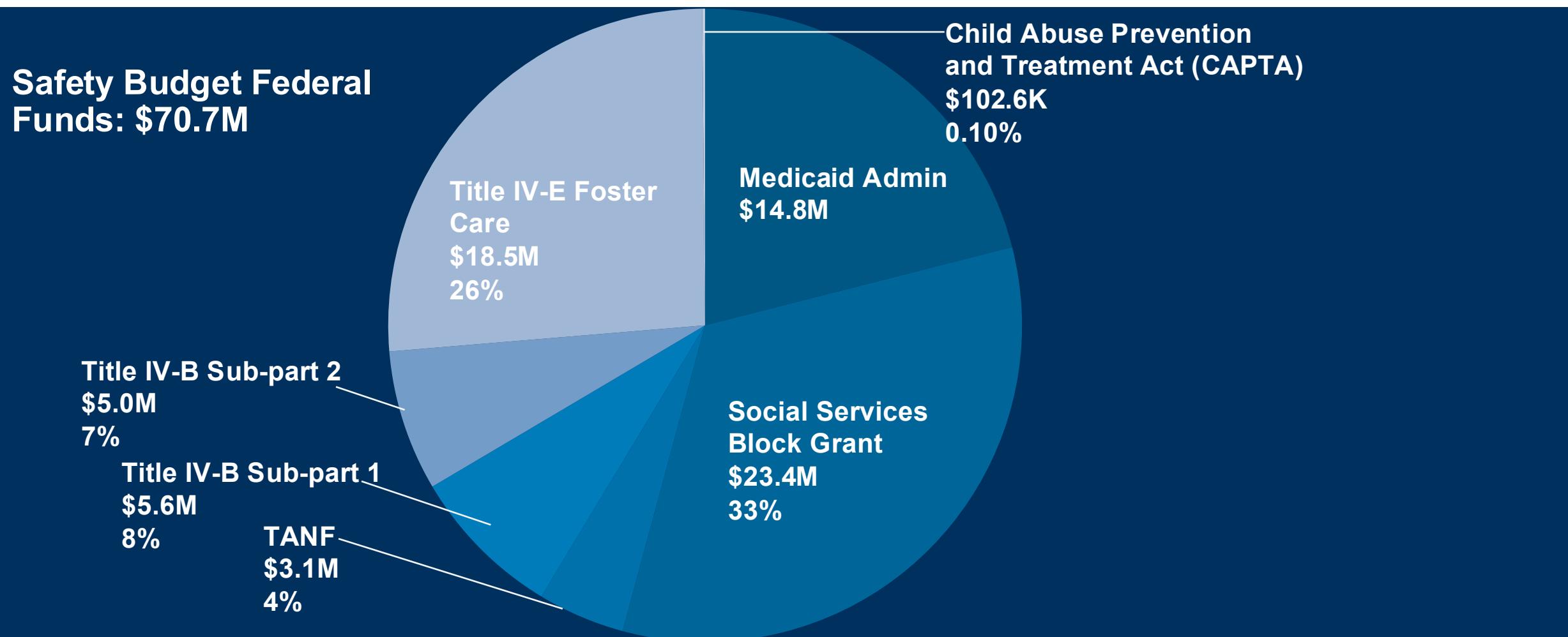


# Child Welfare Safety Budget: Funding split

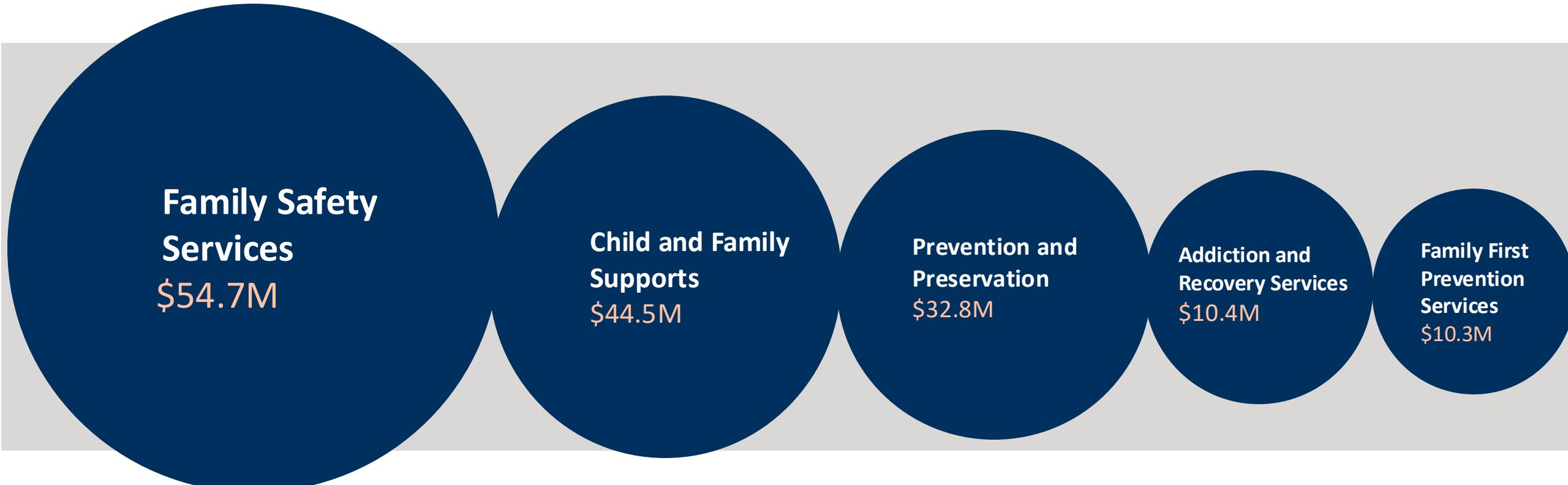
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# Child Welfare Safety Budget Federal Funds



## Child Welfare Safety DCRs



**Family Safety Services**  
\$54.7M

**Child and Family Supports**  
\$44.5M

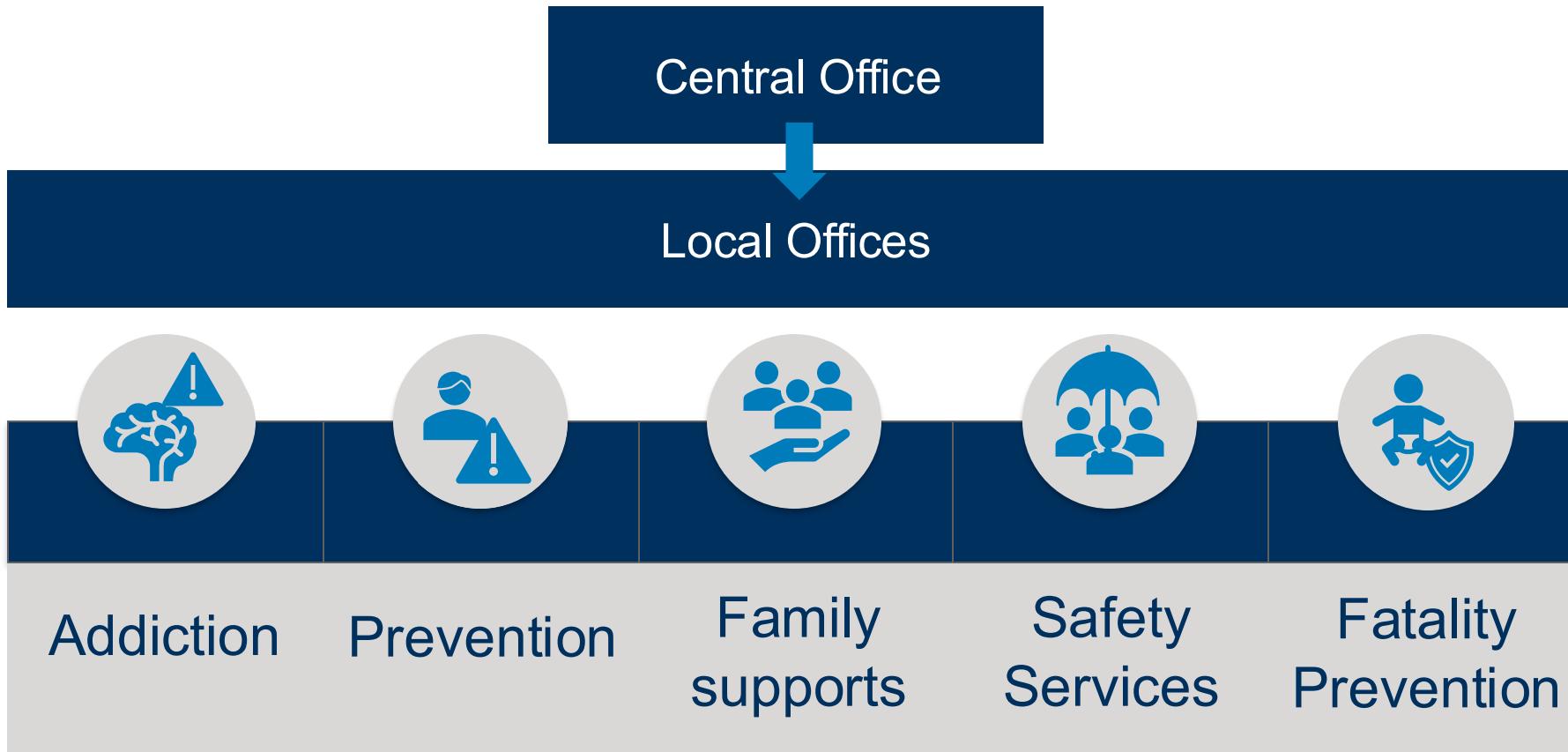
**Prevention and Preservation**  
\$32.8M

**Addiction and Recovery Services**  
\$10.4M

**Family First Prevention Services**  
\$10.3M

# Child Welfare Safety Budget DCR

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# Child Welfare Safety Budget

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Recovery Support Teams

Supportive Housing



Contracts for community prevention services

Statewide parent mentor contract



Economic supports

Transportation

Child-specific contracts



In-Home Safety and Reunification Services (ISRS)

Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families (SPRF)

Domestic Violence services

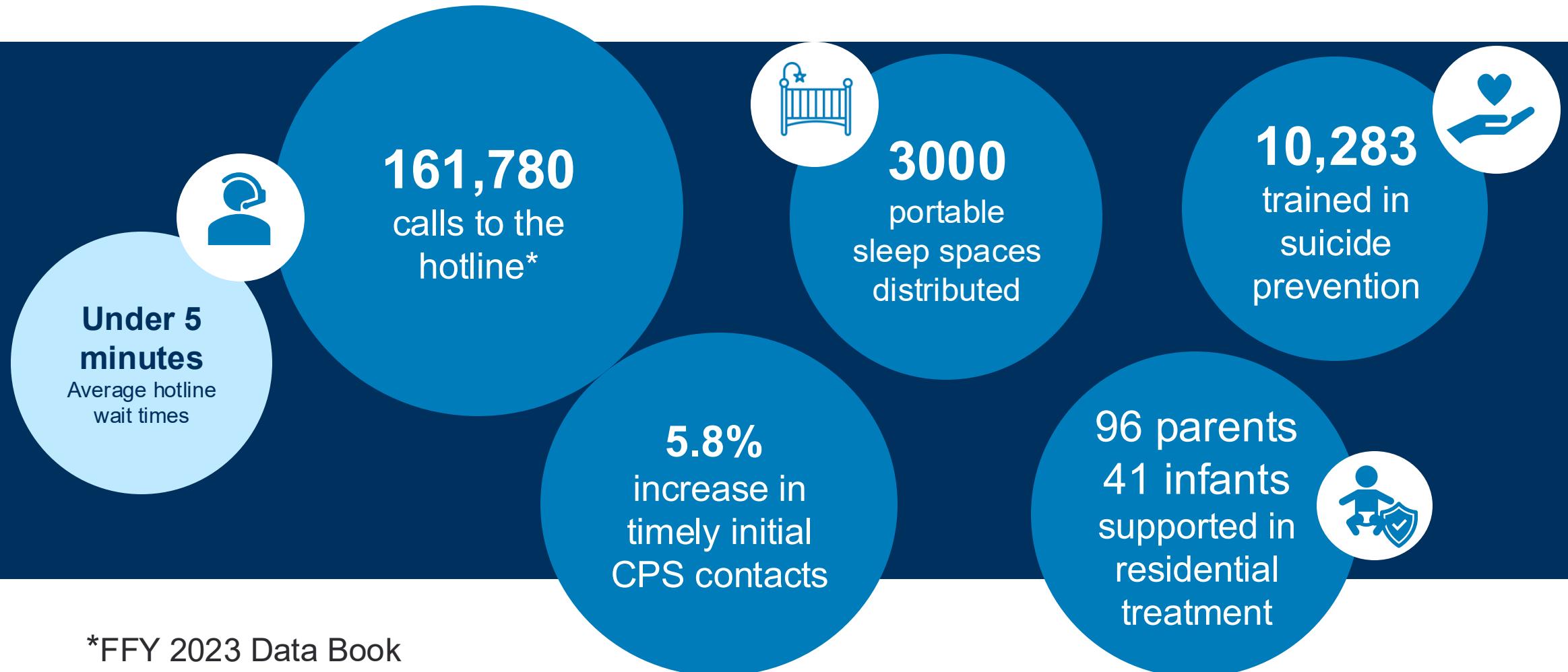


Child Fatality Review

Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA)

Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA) Plans of Care

# Early Engagement-Safety Outcomes



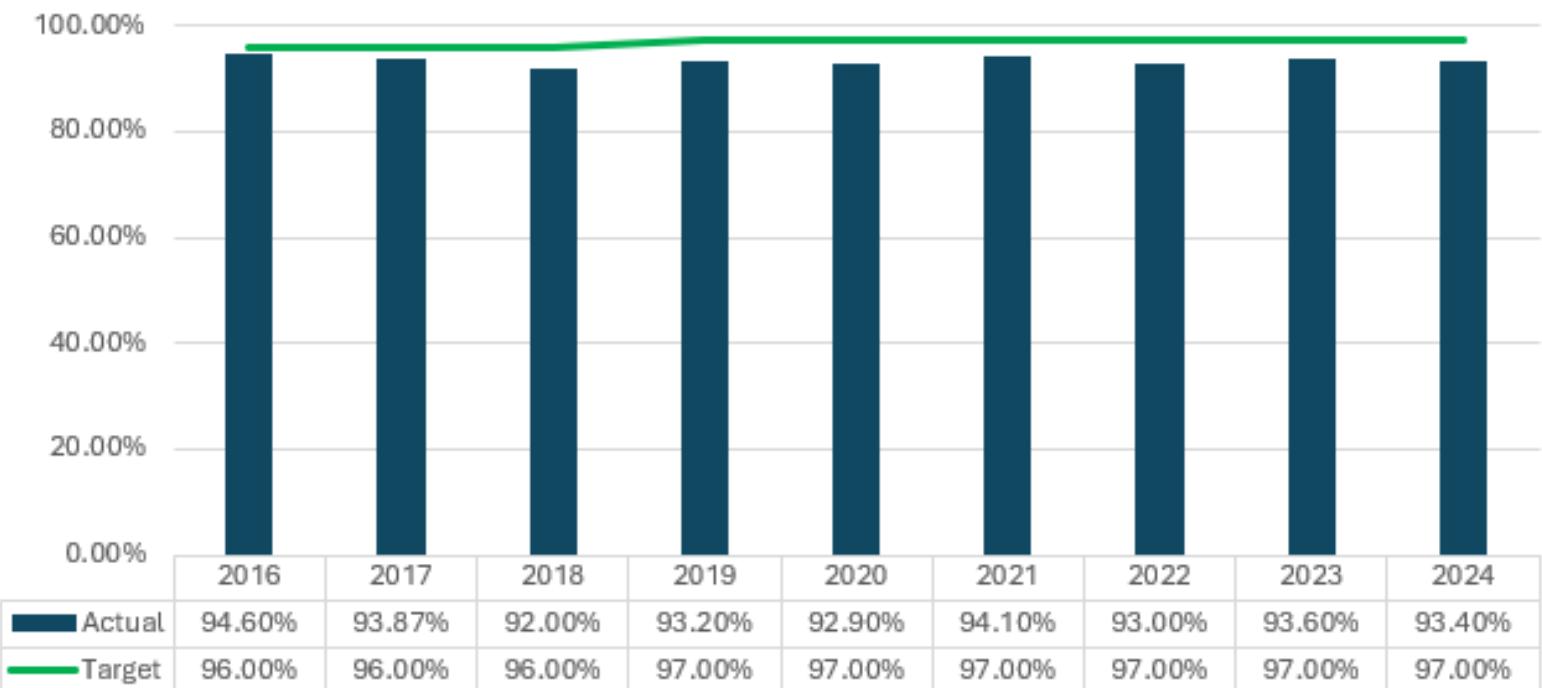
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# Key Performance Metric (KPM): Absence of Repeat Maltreatment of Abused/Neglected Children

## KPM # 4 Absence of Repeat Maltreatment of Abused/Neglected Children (CW)

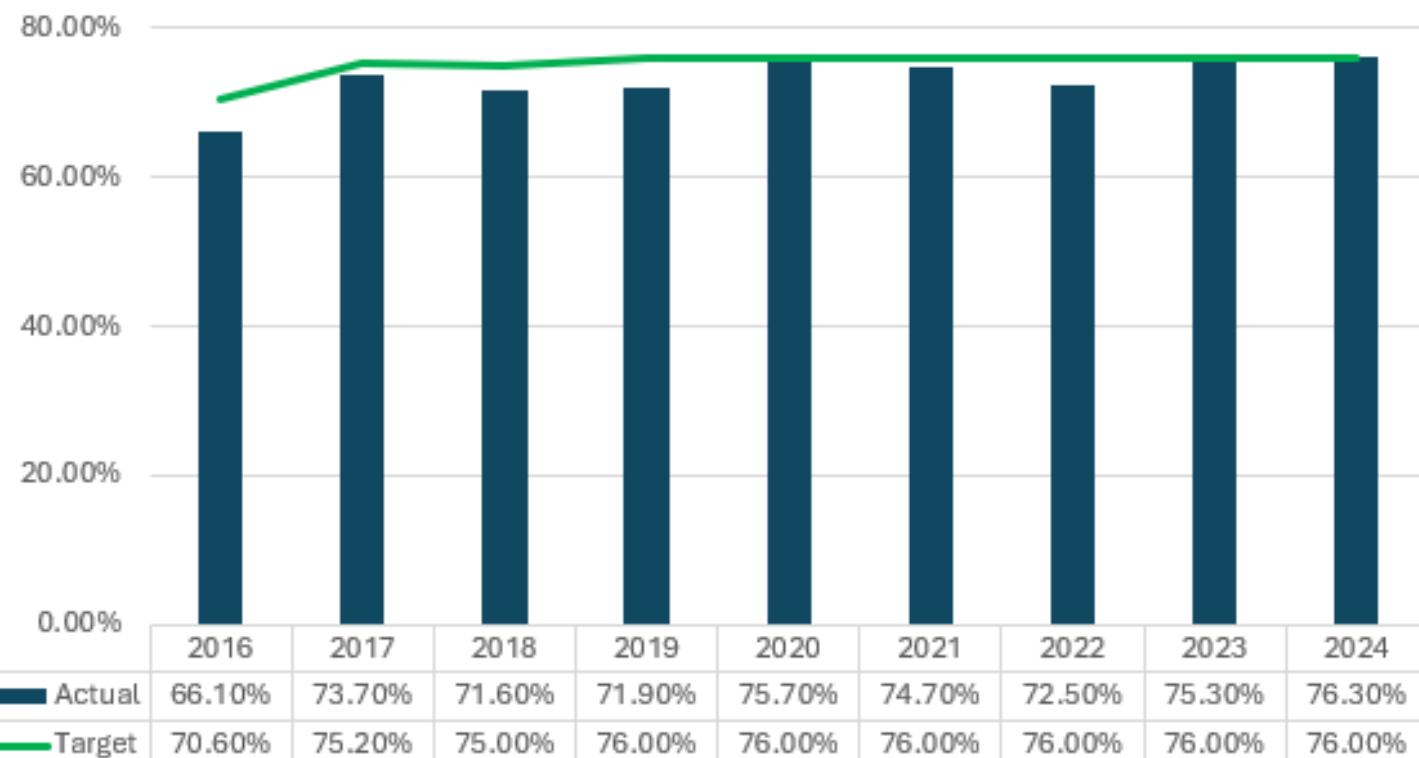
The percentage of abused/neglected children who were not subsequently victimized within 6 months of prior victimization. Data Period: Oct 01 - Sept 30



# KPM: Timely Reunification of Foster Children

## KPM # 5 Timely Reunification of Foster Children (CW)

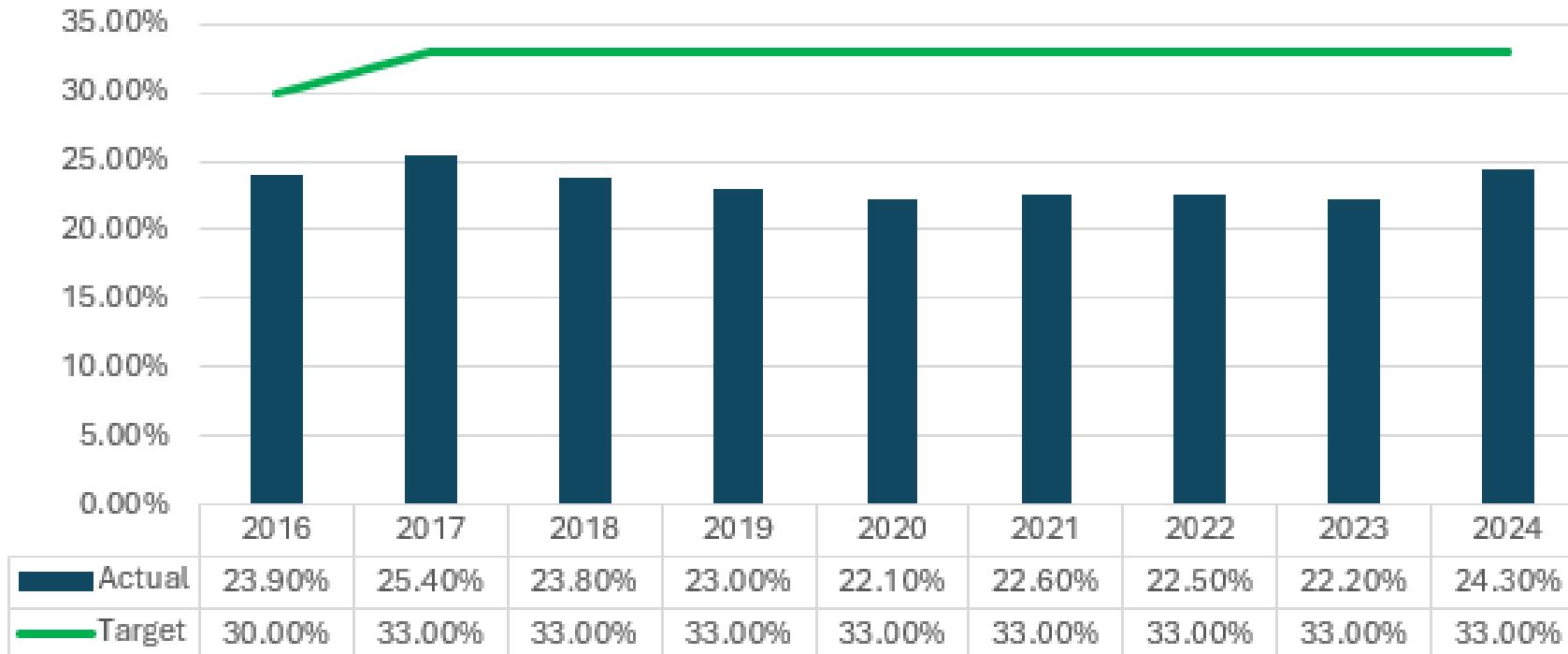
The percentage of foster children exiting to reunification within 12 months of foster care entry. Data Period: Oct 01 - Sept 30



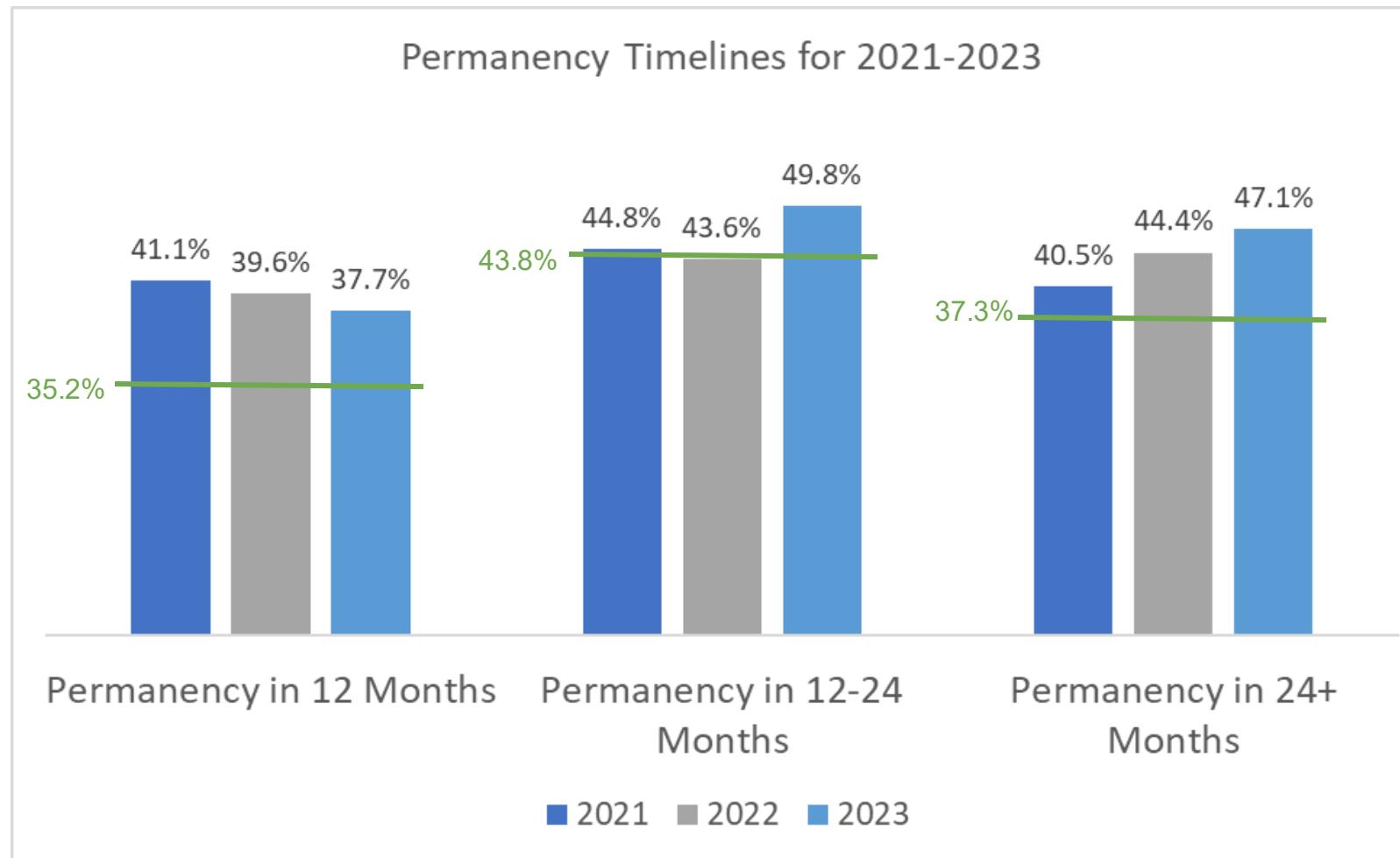
# KPM: Children Served by Child Welfare Residing in Parental Home

## KPM # 8 Children Served By Child Welfare Residing in Parental Home (CW)

The percentage of children served in Child Welfare on an average daily basis (in home and foster care) who were served while residing in their parent's home. Data Period: Oct 01 - Sep



# Permanency Outcomes

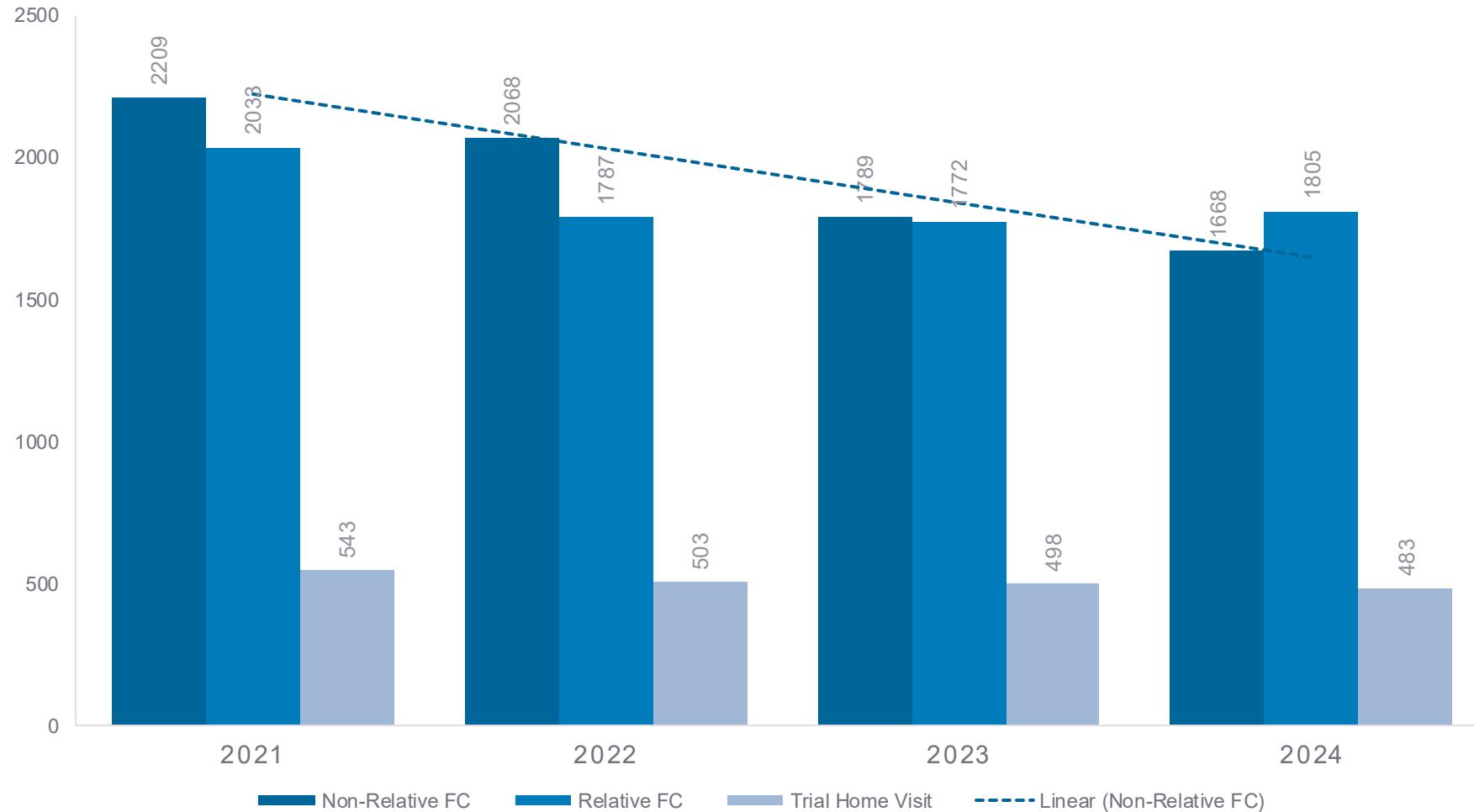


Permanency in 12 months:  
What percentage achieved  
permanency in 12 months of entry  
Federal standard: 35.2%

Permanency in 12-14 months:  
What percent of children in foster  
care 12 to 23 months as of the  
first  
day of a period and achieved  
permanency in 12 months  
Federal standard: 43.8%

Permanency in 24+ months:  
What percent of children that  
discharged to permanency within  
12 months of the first day of the  
12-month period who had been  
in care for 24 months or more  
Federal standard: 37.3%

# Placement Types

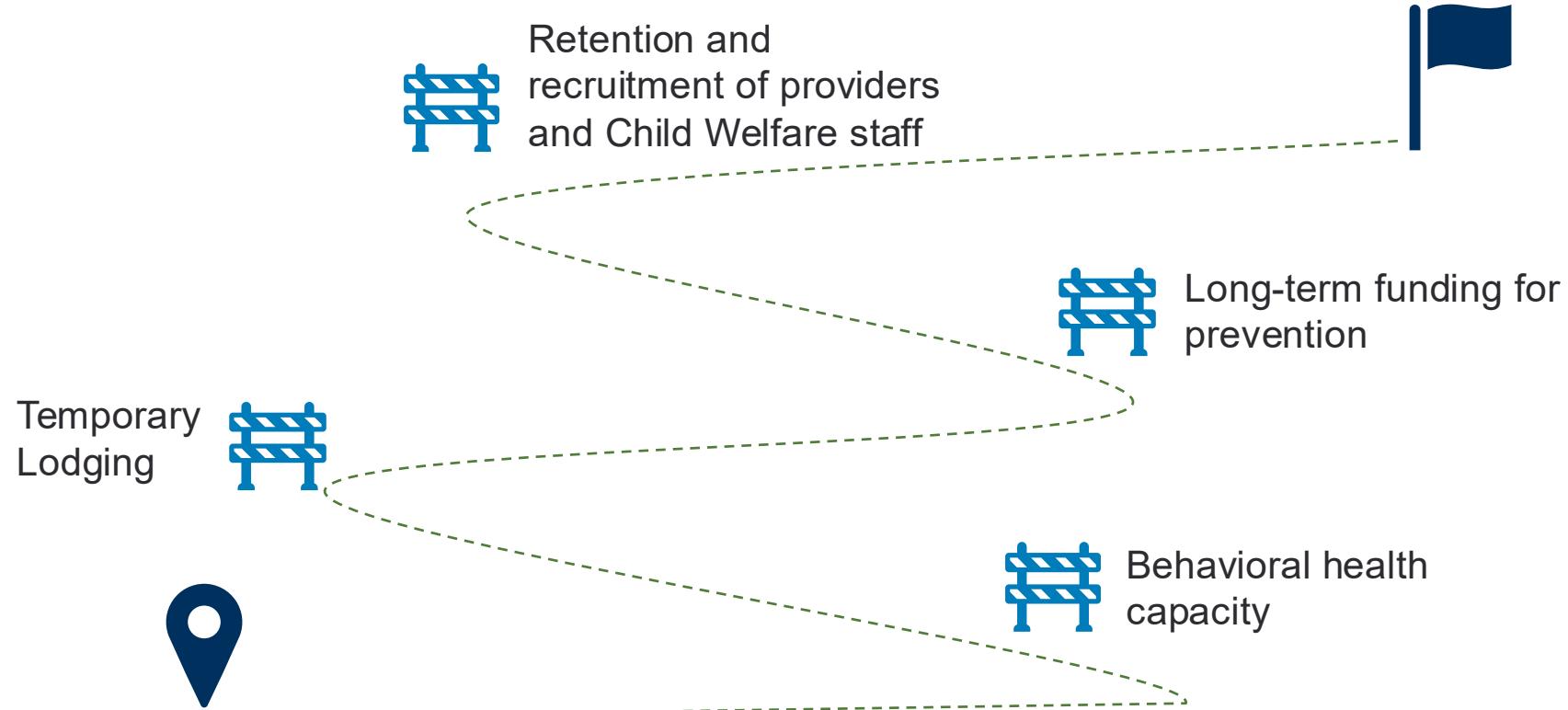


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# Looking ahead: Unresolved issues

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# Challenges and Priorities

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## Key priorities

- Supporting child safety across programs
- Preventing temporary lodging
- Keeping families together
- Increasing accountability and transparency

## Key challenges

- Need for acute services for children with complex needs
- Ending of Family First transition funding
- Need for resources to help youth transitioning out of foster care, prevent homelessness





# Safety Practice Priority

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## Improvement focus areas

- Accountability
- Timeliness
- Quality



## Tools

- Technology
- Practice model review
- Youth advisory input

# Key Challenges: Temporary Lodging Prevention

## 23-25 Biennium

## 25-27 Biennium

Funded by scaling back on regular spending in services budgets.

Specifically, on District Allocated Budgets we have reduced the allocated amount, have not allocated Inflation earnings, and savings assumed in the Respite Program.

# Temporary Lodging prevention funding

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## Spending plan:

- Continue supporting current cost of Temporary Lodging prevention
- Funding for additional capacity as recommended by Dr. Beyer's report

# Wyatt v Kotek Overview

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## 2019: Class action lawsuit filed



- Filed by DRO and A Better Childhood
- *Wyatt B et al. vs. Kotek et al.*

## Sept. 2024: Collaborative agreement reached



- Five areas of focus
- Began work with Neutral Kevin Ryan

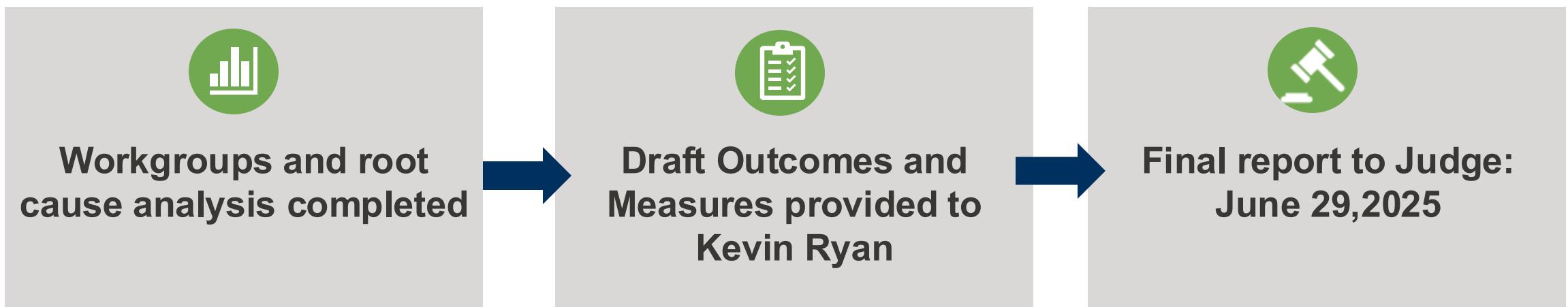
## 2025 and beyond: Measures and outcomes



- Up to 15 measures
- Regular assessment and monitoring
- 10 years or completion of successful outcomes

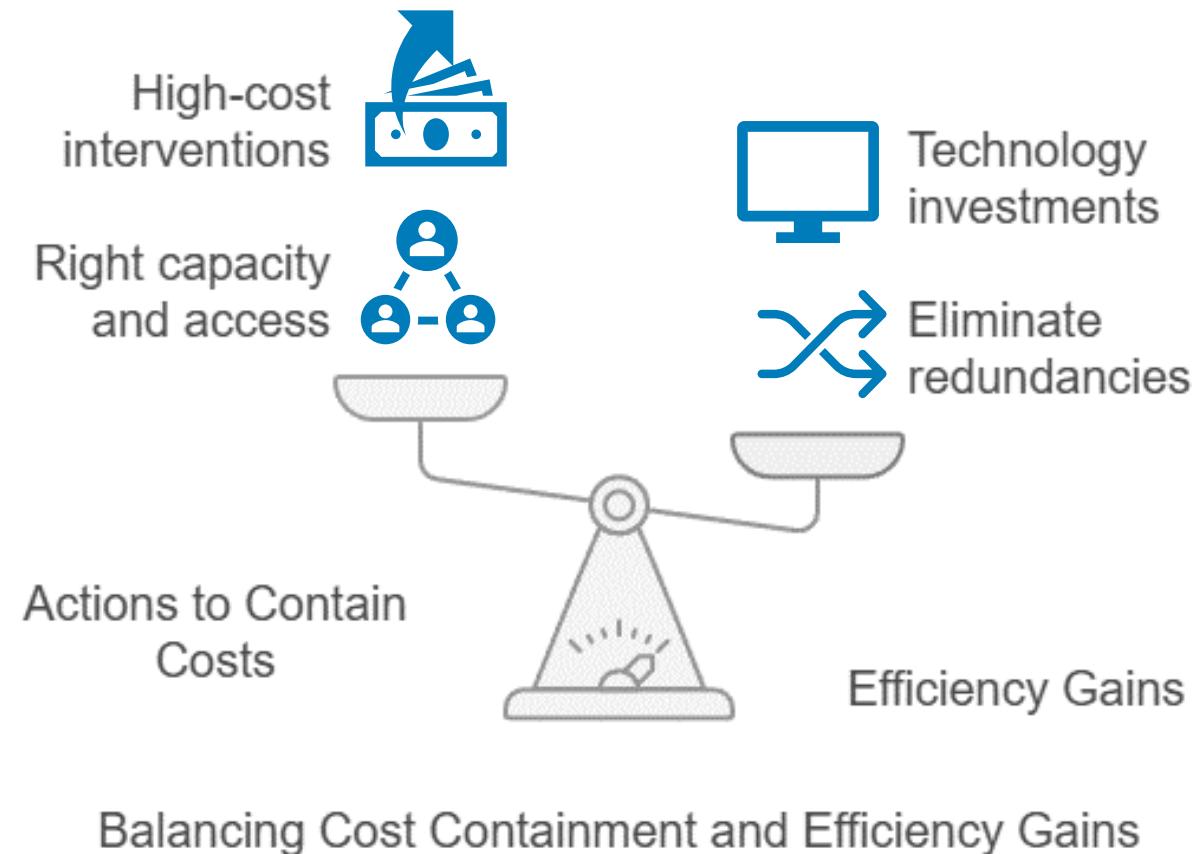
# Collaborative Agreement Updates

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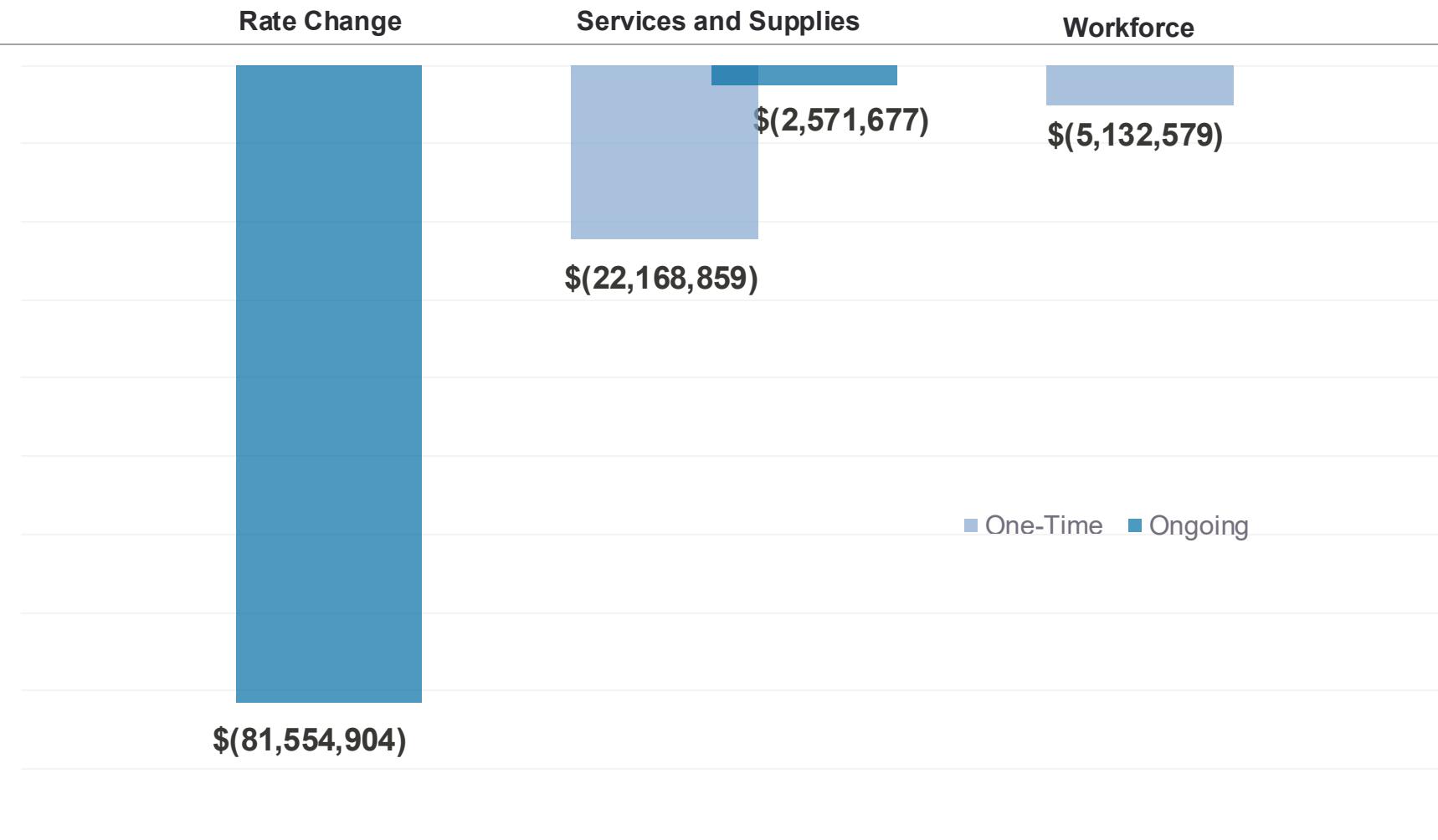
# Creating efficiencies

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# 10% Statutory Reduction Exercise

General  
Fund  
reductions:  
\$111.4M



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# 2023-25 Governor's Recommended Budget

## Legislative review



### Customer Service

- **SB 548:** Ensures youth in foster care have access to duffel bags for transporting personal items



### Safety

- **SB 209:** Confidentiality protections for youth
- **HB 4086:** Committees to clarify child abuse jurisdiction and service array gaps for problematic sexualized behavior



### Kin and family first policies

- **SB 865:** Notification of placement impact

# Policy shift updates 2023-25

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## SB 548: Duffel bags for youth in care

### What it is:

Ensures staff have duffel bags for youth in foster care.

### Why it matters:

Providing duffel bags to children in care is required to ensure dignity when moving homes, preventing use of trash bags.

### Status update:

- Policy guidance issued to frontline staff
- Tracking system for duffel bag inventory
- Tracking system for use of plastic bags
- Monthly reporting to legislature

# Policy shift updates 2023-25

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## HB 4086: Committees to recommend changes to child abuse jurisdiction, problematic sexualized behavior

### What it is:

Creates two committees to study child abuse jurisdiction and service array gaps for problematic sexualized behavior and provide recommendations to the legislature.

### Why it matters:

Oregon expends resources investigating third parties unlike all other states. Clarifying child abuse jurisdiction will focus our work where Child Welfare can make a difference.

### Status update:

- Ongoing study committees examining scope of child abuse investigations in Oregon in comparison with national child abuse definitions and national approaches to serving minors with complex sexual behaviors.
- Statutory analysis by Bipartisan Policy Center (in-kind services).
- Committee recommendations expected September 2025.

# Policy shift updates 2023-25

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## SB 209: Confidentiality protections for youth

### What it is:

Protection of child confidentiality.

### Why it matters:

Children who experience the child welfare system have the right to feel safe when sharing sensitive information about their identity with us and to know that information will be protected from disclosure whenever possible.

### Status update:

- Or-Kids system updates
- Confidentiality form and process implementation with frontline staff
- External communications to legal partners

# Policy shift updates 2023-25

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## SB 865: Notification of placement impact

### What it is:

Defined new requirements and timelines to engage potential kith/kin caregivers and provide additional notification to parents and relatives when children enter substitute care.

### Why it matters:

Research shows the behavior, mental health, and well-being of children placed with kin is better than that of children placed in non-relative foster care, and they experience greater placement stability.

Source: <https://www.casey.org/strategies-improve-placement-stability/>

### Status update:

- 57 OAR revisions completed
- New forms for frontline staff
- External communications to legal partners about new procedure and forms.

# Key investments review

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2019-21

- **Oregon Child Abuse Hotline centralization**
- **Foster care recruitment team**

2021-23

- **ILP Expansion**
- **Family Preservation**
- **Respite Care Program**
- **Equity, Training, Workforce Development Expansion**

2023-25

- **Safety positions**
- **Resource parent rate increase**

# Key investments review

2023-25



**Safety positions**



**Resource parent  
rate increases**

- Positions to focus on CPS and screening
- ~30 rural positions to improve coverage

Cost-of-living rate increases  
for resource parents

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget

## Policy Option Package (POP) highlights

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### Customer Service

- **POP 111:** FOCUS\* Expansion: 24/7 caregiver support for children with complex behavioral needs (Temporary lodging-related)
- **POP 112:** Evidence-based Services for Community Pathways to Prevention (Family First)



### Safety

- **POP 501:** Foster Care Youth: Path to Housing Stability



### Accountability

- **POP 106:** Child Welfare contracting staff oversight

\*Focused Opportunities for Children Utilizing Services

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget

## Policy Option Package (POP) 111

### Expanding FOCUS\* Programs

#### PROBLEM

- Children with intensive needs are often placed outside of their homes and communities due to lack of local resources to serve them.

#### SOLUTION

- Expand FOCUS programs into underserved areas so that more caregivers have the training and coaching they need to support and maintain children in their homes and communities.

#### RESOURCES

- **GF:** \$ \$383,562
- **OF:** \$0
- **FF:** \$164,381
- **Pos.:** 3
- **FTE:** 2.25



ODHS priority: Customer Service

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget

## Policy Option Package (POP) 112

### Evidence-Based Services for Community Pathways to Prevention

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>State investment is required to continue implementing the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.</li><li>Families would lose services to help them stabilize and remain together.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Secure funding to 50% federal match.</li><li>Covers buildup of the behavioral health and parenting service array to prevent foster care.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>GF:</b> \$7,041,752</li><li><b>OF:</b> \$0</li><li><b>FF:</b> \$7,041,752</li><li><b>Pos.:</b> 2</li><li><b>FTE:</b> 1.5</li></ul>



ODHS priority: Customer Service

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget **Policy Option Package (POP) 501**

## Improving Access to the Independent Living Program (ILP) and SSI benefits

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Youth in foster care face many challenges as they transition into adulthood and prepare to live on their own.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Expand access to existing successful interventions by improving eligible youths' financial stability.</li><li>Maximize their access to federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>GF:</b> \$4,307,390</li><li><b>OF:</b> \$122,214</li><li><b>FF:</b> \$138,441</li><li><b>Pos.:</b> 3</li><li><b>FTE:</b> 1.89</li></ul>



**ODHS priority: Customer Service**

# 2025-27 Governor's Recommended Budget

## Policy Option Package (POP) 106

### Child Welfare Division Contract Administration Program

PROBLEM	SOLUTION	RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Child Welfare division presently lacks sufficient resources to ensure effective and comprehensive oversight across its many active contracts, creating risks related to client safety and resource stewardship.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Provide dedicated staff and a centralized, standardized contract oversight framework that includes stronger training for contract administrators and clear performance standards.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>GF:</b> \$1,902,083</li><li><b>OF:</b> \$0</li><li><b>FF:</b> \$815,174</li><li><b>Pos.:</b> 15</li><li><b>FTE:</b> 10.85</li></ul>



Child Welfare priority: Accountability





# Questions?

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# Thank you.

