

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES UPDATE

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM OVERSIGHT

SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 8.22.2023

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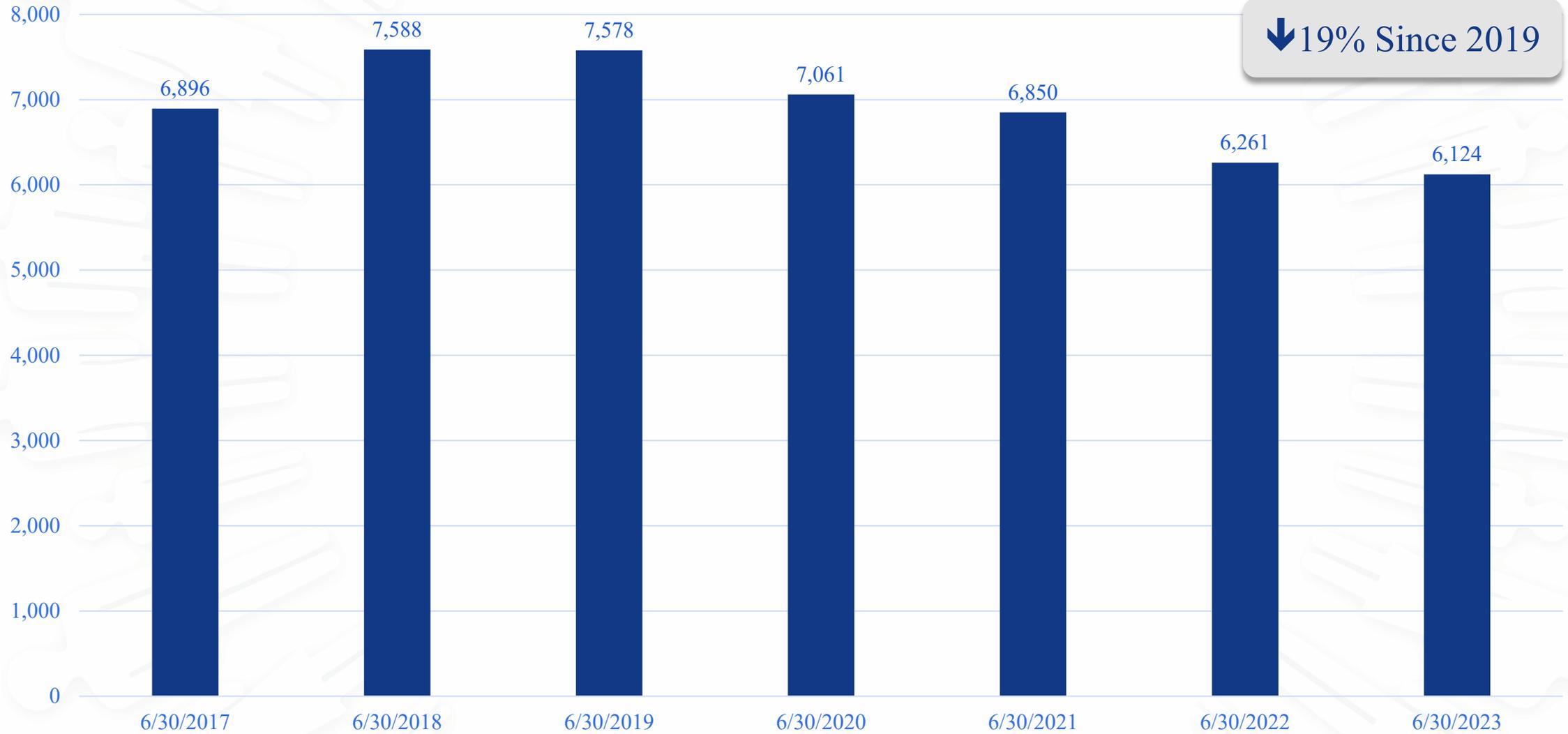
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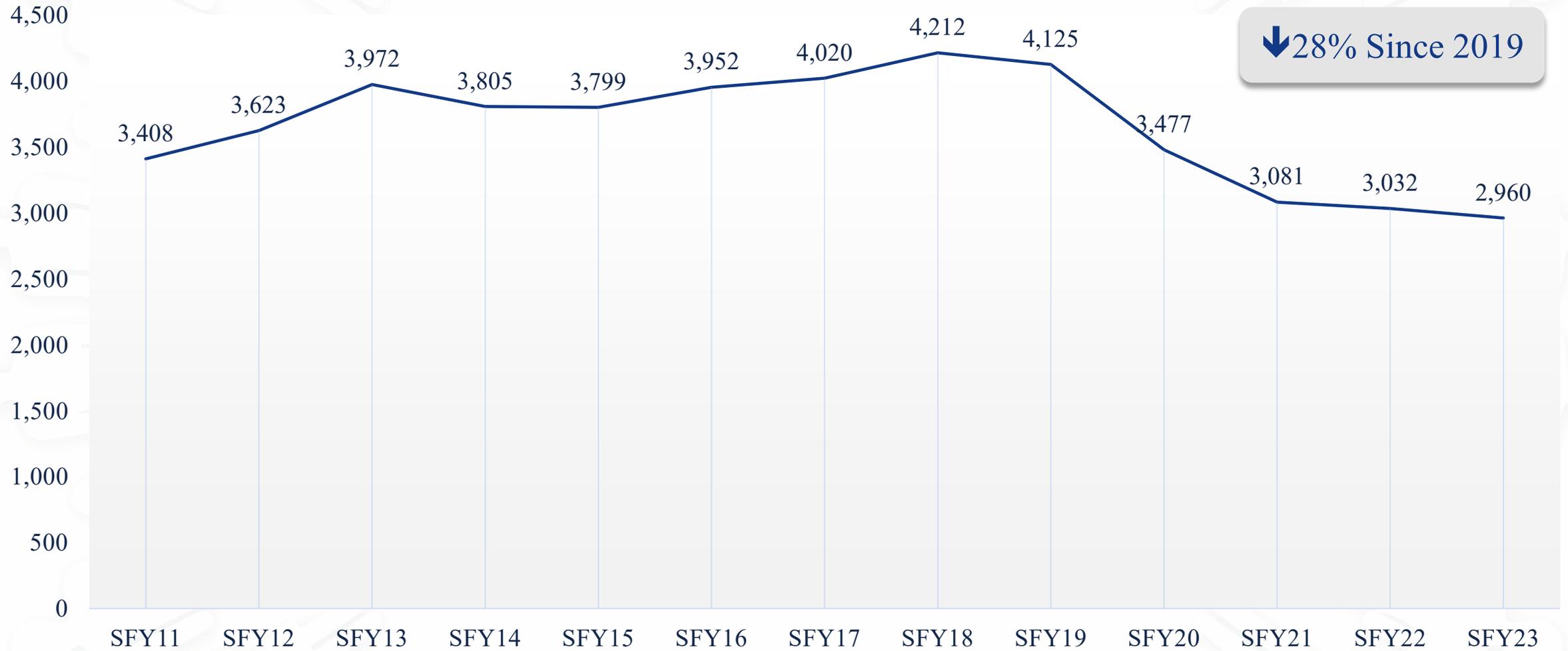
BY THE NUMBERS

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



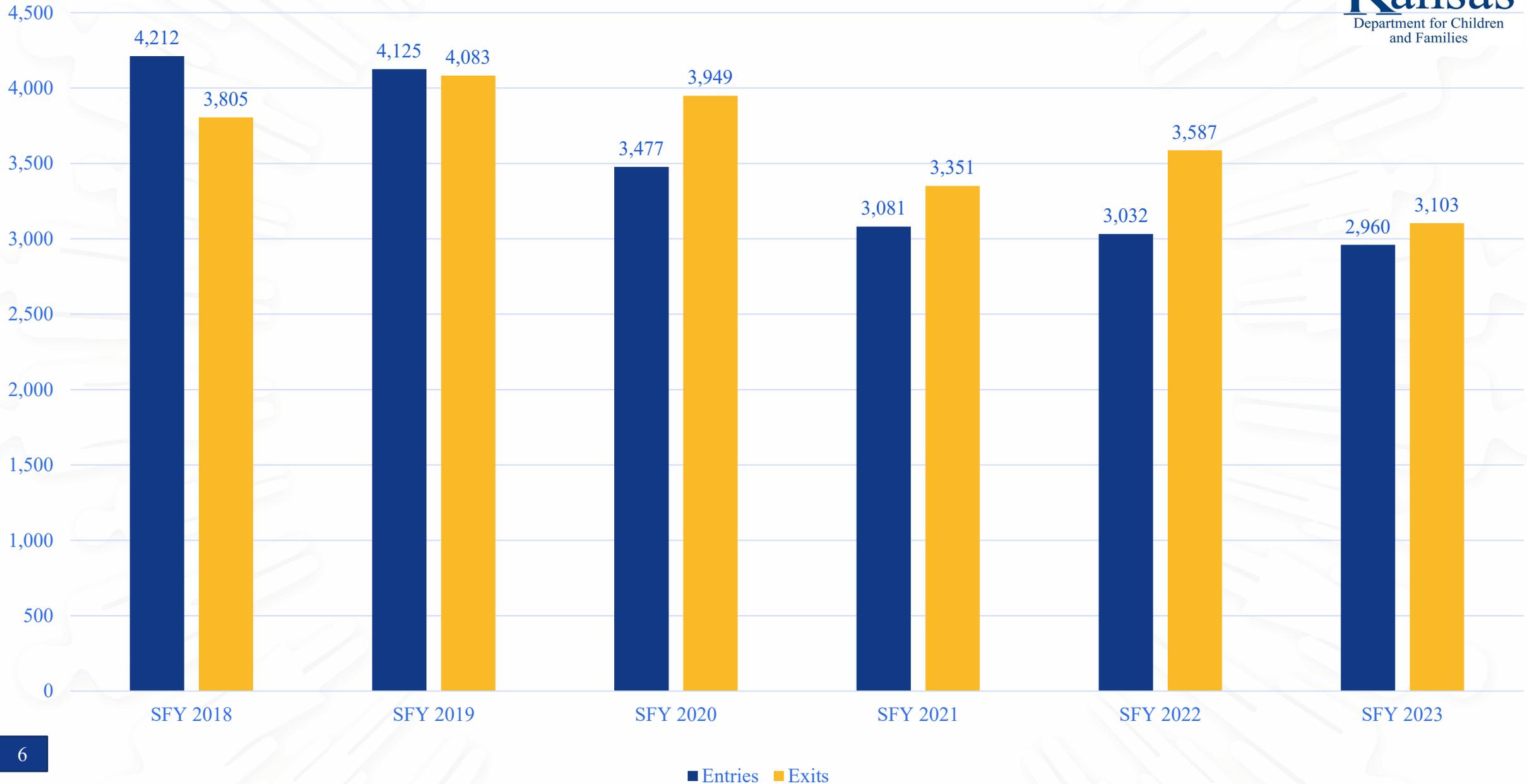
■ Number of Children In Foster Care

CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE ACROSS YEARS



— Children Entering Foster Care Across Years

Children Entering & Exiting Foster Care Across Years



CURRENT RFP'S

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM



RFP INFORMATION

DCF is reviewing submissions for the CCWIS project RFP.

Submissions were received from:

- Accenture LLP
- Business Integra Technology Solutions
- CoreSphere LLC
- Digital Mobile Innovations
- eSystems Inc
- Experis US
- Forward (This is part of Gecko Inc.)
- RedMane Technology
- Servos LLC
- Tata Consultancy Services Limited
- Unisys Corporation

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM



RFP INFORMATION

- Further details regarding the approaches cannot be shared at this time as the project is under an active request for procurement (RFP) process.
- Bidders were encouraged to propose an approach and implementation timeline based on their proposed CCWIS solution.
 - This encouragement included specifying their planned rollout / timeline of modules to allow families and workers to benefit from the modernization as soon as possible.
- When a vendor is awarded the contract, additional details will be provided around the implementation strategy and timeline.

FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT



STATUS

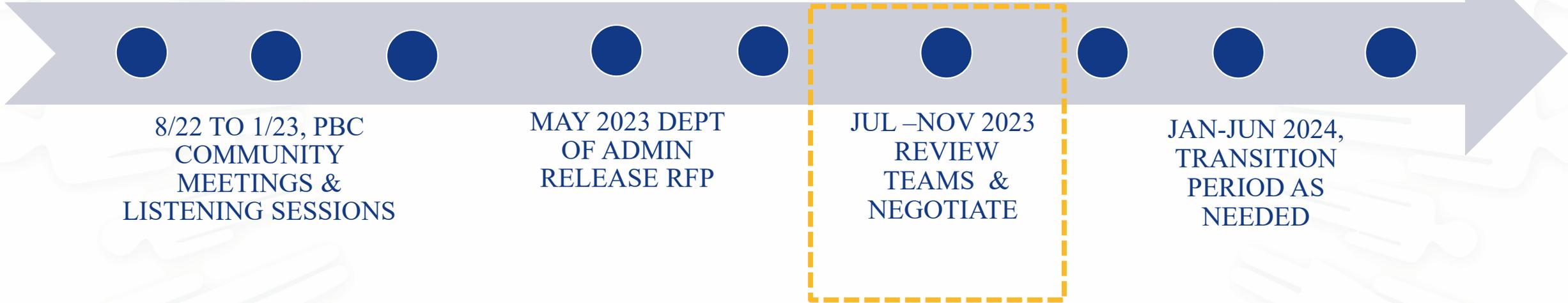
SFY23 IS FINAL YEAR OF FC GRANT WITH A 1 YEAR RENEWAL TO 6/30/24

JAN - APRIL, DCF DRAFT RFP

JUNE 26, 2023 PROPOSAL DUE

DEC 2023 AWARD NEW CONTRACTS

JULY 1, 2024 NEW GRANTS BEGIN



DCF is reviewing bids from KVC of Kansas, Saint Francis Ministries, TFI Family Services, Cornerstones of Care, and EmberHope Youthville.

FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT



RFP ADJUSTMENT DETAIL

- **Most Significant Change:** Bidders could describe **additional non case carrying support they might need to do their case management work** (such as augment with Functional Family Treatment team, mental health coordination liaisons, etc.) in order to meet outcomes and settlement requirements. In many instances in past iterations, contractors would have relied on other systems for part of this work, or we might have added resources during the course of the grant.
- Recommended by Joint Committee on Child Welfare Oversight and LPA -- clarified **caseload size** must meet best practice standards of Council on Accreditation of **12-15 children with some exceptions.**
- **Self-Care/Self compassion and supervising coaching requirements** have been added
- Finance Payment Schedule changes
 - The grantee will bid an annual amount to cover the case management costs for their proposal. This is based on an estimated caseload.
 - The placement costs for CPAs, foster homes, residential centers, childcare costs, and any services will continue to be paid directly by DCF.
 - The payment process will change to pay 1/12 of the grant amount as an advanced during the first week of each month.
 - The grant amount will be adjusted annually if caseloads increase or decrease significantly.
 - The grants will have year-end settlements so any unspent funds are recouped following each grant year.
 - The grants are performance based awards and include incentives and penalties. Grantees can earn annual incentive payments up to 5% over grant costs which can be retained by the organization.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICE REVIEW (CFSR)

CFSR BACKGROUND

Purpose

- Federal review to assess state performance on 7 outcomes and Systemic Factors
- Establishes a process for monitoring state child welfare programs
- Continuous improvement.

Components

- Site reviews administered in “rounds” about every 4-6 years
- Statewide Assessment
- Aggregate data performance review (‘data profile’ created by ACF)
- Case review of 65 family case plans: in home and foster care.
- Parent, youth and provider interviews during case review
- Focus groups with stakeholders on specific topics
- Possible Performance Improvement Plan Periods to achieve success

CFSR COMPONENTS

- Partnership between the state and the Children's Bureau
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data- State Data Profile from Aug 2022 (provided by the Children's Bureau)
- Statewide Assessment submitted February 2023
- Onsite review the week of April 17, 2023 for period under review Apr 2022 – Apr 2023
 - CFSR case review + stakeholder interviews
- CFSR final report (provided to the state 30 days after the conclusion of the onsite review)- culmination of Statewide Assessment, Statewide Data Indicators, onsite review, and stakeholder interviews
- Program Improvement Plan (due to the Children's Bureau 10/16/23 - 90 days after the state receives the final report)

CFSR CASE REVIEW BASICS

- 65 cases were reviewed statewide using the federal Onsite Review Instrument and Instructions (OSRI)
 - 25 in-home services
 - 40 foster care
- Cases reviewed in three sites by four teams
 - Sedgwick County
 - Crawford County
 - Brown, Doniphan & Nemaha Counties

CFSR COMPONENT: OUTCOMES



Safety

Permanency

Wellbeing

Measured through individual Case Reviews and statewide aggregate Data Indicators

QUICK REFERENCE: 7 OUTCOMES

1. Safety 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect
2. Safety 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.
3. Perm 1: Children have safety and stability in their living situations.
4. Perm 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.
5. Wellbeing 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.
6. Wellbeing 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.
7. Wellbeing 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

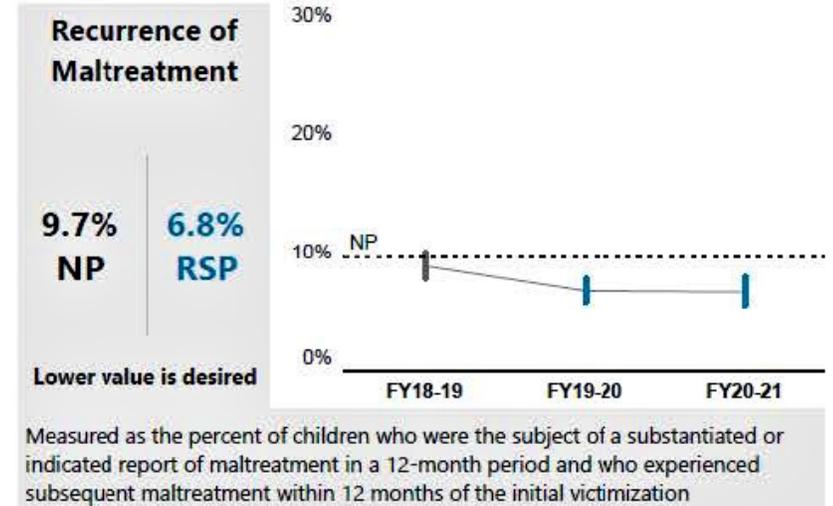
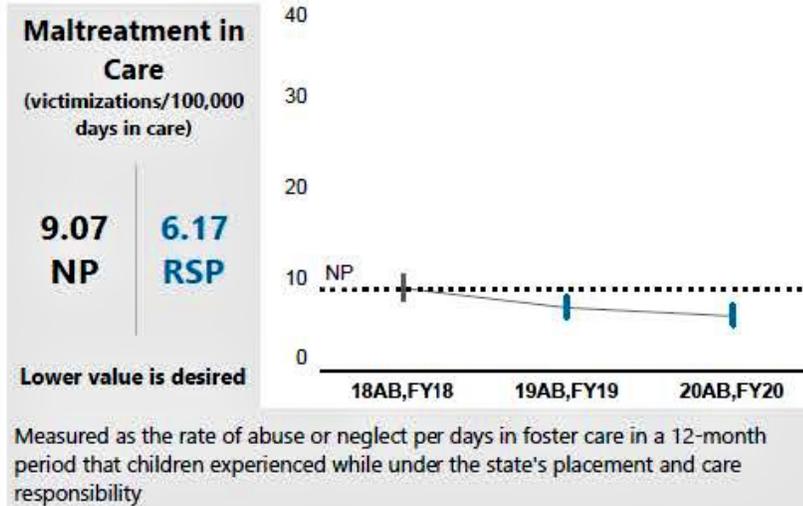
SAFETY

Kansas performs better compared to national performance in the 2 safety data indicators.

The case review results did not achieve the required 95% of the cases rated as strength in how timely DCF was responding to the assigned response time.
(11 of 65 cases were not a strength)

Performance Key

- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically better than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically no different than national performance.
- State's performance (using RSP interval) is statistically worse than national performance.
- **DQ** Performance was not calculated due to exceeding the data quality limit on one or more data quality (DQ) checks done for the indicator.



SAFETY REVIEW THEMES

Strengths

- Timeframes for initiation and face-to-face contact were routinely met
- Family preservation workers managing safety in the home
- Concrete and appropriate risk and safety-related services
- Creative, effective assessment tools for younger children
- Accurate initial assessments of risk and safety

Areas Needing Improvement

- Lack of coordination of timely responses when “courtesy requests” are made for initiation/ face-to-face contact with children
- Inadequate ongoing assessments at critical case junctures in foster homes
- Inadequate provision of needed safety services. Lack of formal/informal safety planning.

PERMANENCY DATA

Performance Key

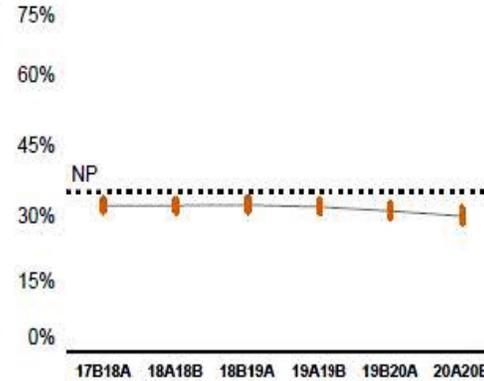
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Permanency in 12 Months (entries)

35.2% NP
30.2% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children who entered foster care in a 12-month period, the percent who exited foster care to reunification, adoption, guardianship, or living with a relative within 12 months of their entry

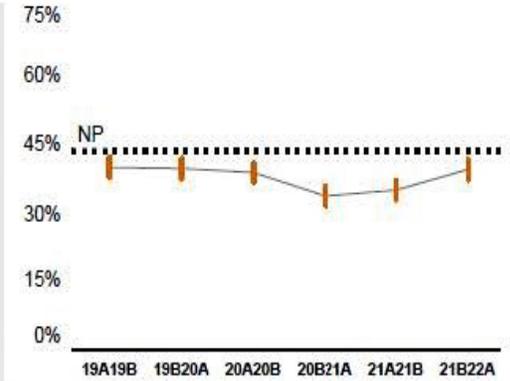


Permanency in 12 Months (12-23 mos)

43.8% NP
40.1% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care for 12 to 23 months, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

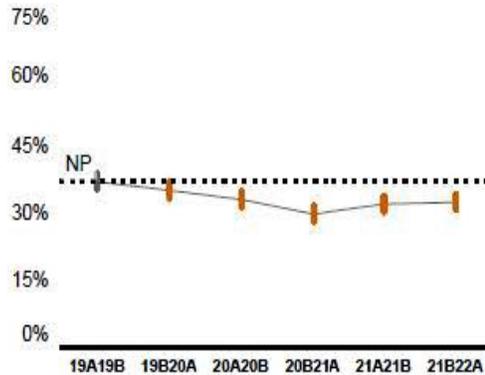


Permanency in 12 Months (24+ mos)

37.3% NP
32.8% RSP

Higher value is desired

Among children in foster care at the start of the 12-month period who had been in care 24 months or more, the percent who exited to permanency in the subsequent 12 months

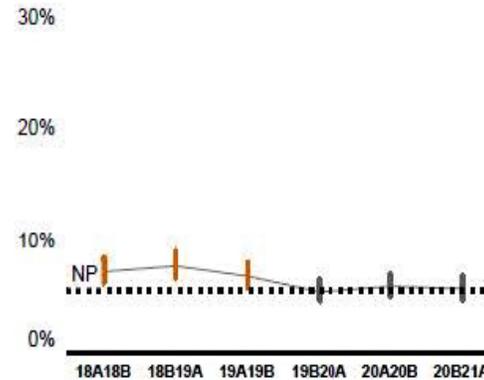


Reentry to Foster Care

5.6% NP
5.9% RSP

Lower value is desired

Among children who discharged to permanency (excluding adoption) in a 12-month period, the percent who reentered care within 12 months of exit

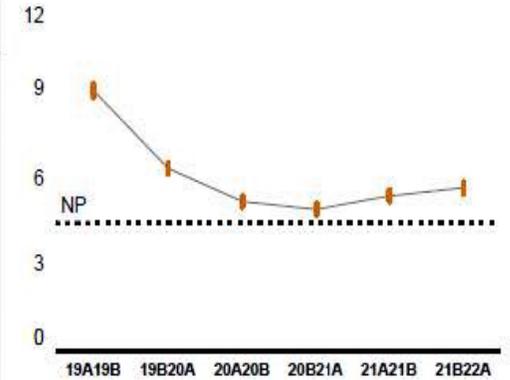


Placement Stability (moves/1,000 days in care)

4.48 NP
5.72 RSP

Lower value is desired

Among children who entered care in a 12-month period, the number of placement moves per day they experienced during that year



PERMANENCY THEMES: STRENGTHS

Strengths

- Stability of current placement
- Changes in placement settings were planned in an effort to achieve case goals
- Use of relative placements & preserving connections
- Assignment of GALs, engagement with child/youth/families
- Foster parents facilitating frequent, quality parent/child visitation
- Assessing and meeting the needs of parents and frequent, quality visits in the family home
- Placing siblings together when appropriate

PERMANENCY THEMES: OPPORTUNITIES

- Establishing concurrent goals
- Untimely goal changes from reunification to adoption
- Delays processing signed relinquishments of parental rights
- Adoptions taking longer to finalize than necessary
- Court extending reunification timelines to allow parents more time
- Lack of ongoing efforts to engage resistant parents
- Case plans not developed with parents
- Multiple caseworkers
- Parents not notified of opportunities outside of visitation (e.g., medical, school)

WELLBEING THEMES: STRENGTHS

- Comprehensive assessments of children's, parents', and foster parents' needs
- Active engagement of children/youth in case planning
- Frequent, quality visits with children and parents
- Stronger performance seen in In-home services cases than foster care cases
- Timely well-child exams (physical and dental)
- Special medical needs assessed and addressed
- Immediate crisis mental health assessments
- Individualized, effective mental and behavioral health treatment

WELLBEING THEMES: OPPORTUNITIES



- Dental care limited by providers who accept state insurance
- Insufficient medication monitoring
- Waitlists, accessibility, and availability of specialized mental/behavioral health services

EQUITY OBSERVATIONS AND OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY REMARKS



- Concerted efforts were made to maintain a child's important connections when in foster care. Most notable were connections to extended relatives, particularly grandparents, older siblings not in foster care, and cousins.
- Foster and relative caregivers were key in assisting in various ways to help maintain children's important connections
- **Timeliness to permanency:** Black children are over-represented in the proportion of children entering foster care compared to the overall child population, and have experienced the highest entry rates and lowest percentages of permanency regardless of length of stay. Permanency for children of two or more races has substantially increased over the last 3 reporting years.
- **Reentry into care:** Black children and children of two or more races are over-represented in the total percentage of reentries compared to exits and experienced the highest percentage of reentries.
- **Placement stability:** Black children are over-represented in the number of placement moves and experienced the highest rate of moves for the most recent reporting period. Their rate of moves has increased over the past 3 reporting years.

CFSR COMPONENT SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Statewide
Information
System *

Case
Review
system

Quality
Assurance
System

Staff and
Provider
Training

Agency Responsiveness
to Community *

Service Array &
Resource Development

Foster and Adoptive Parent Recruitment
and Retention *

PIP COLLABORATION AND NEXT STEPS

- Four (4) workgroups of stakeholders developing PIP
 - Comprised of consultants with lived experience, courts, prevention and permanency providers, child placing agencies, academic institution partners
- Identify jurisdictions to implement a change and identify performance goals
- State must include and complete key activities to benchmark progress (most significant action steps)
- State must include and achieve measurable progress on certain items

McINTYRE SETTLEMENT

CY 2022 Report

SETTLEMENT HISTORY

- The McIntyre lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court of Kansas in November of 2018 under the Colyer Administration. Secretary Howard and her team negotiated with Plaintiffs and agreed to a settlement plan in July 2020. It was approved by the federal court in Jan. 2021.
- The settlement is structured around ensuring substantial progress and compliance would be made in key performance areas over a multi-year period.
 - Accountability
 - Reporting and implementation
 - Practice improvements
 - Outcomes
- The second status report was released Aug. 14 and covers calendar year 2022.

REPORT HEADLINES

- **Placement stability** – Report shows 91% of the cases reviewed showed children were in stable placements. This is a 6% increase over CY 2021 and the second year DCF met the stable placement outcome.
- **Licensing** - Nearly 98% of Family Foster Homes and nearly 100% of Non-Relative Kin and Licensed Kin homes followed licensing capacity standards in CY 2022.

REPORT HEADLINES: MENTAL HEALTH

- Agency improved the number of children and youth receiving mental health and trauma screens after initially entering care. The CY 2022 data indicates 43% of case reviews showed a screening was conducted by a qualified worker, an improvement from 34% in CY 2021.
- Case reads also show DCF improved in addressing mental health and behavioral health needs of children and youth in custody. 70% of cases showed children and youth receiving timely mental health services, an 5% increase over the previous year.

CHALLENGES – FAILURE TO PLACE

- Youth staying in offices and night-to-night placements continue to be a challenge for the agency. The report shows an increase in both metrics.
- DCF Failure to Place Network identifies stand-by beds for youth who may otherwise be forced to stay in an office due to a lack of available placements.
- Your recent investment of \$6 million in the state's new therapeutic foster home system will increase the stability of placements and improve mental health outcomes.

CHALLENGES – DATA COLLECTION

- Neutral continues to have concerns about data access and validation
- The agency currently has a Request for Proposal for a Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) in the review stage. The RFP is designed to allow for separate parts of the system to be implemented sequentially, allowing the state to realize the benefits prior to the system becoming fully operational.

MOVING FORWARD

CMP ACCOUNTABILITY

- In-person meeting between Secretary and CMP leadership to receive updated performance plans related to settlement requirements.
- Increased frequency of performance reviews regarding timely mental health screens by qualified staff.
- Quarterly case read reports by foster care catchment area
- New requirement for monthly mental health compliance action plans and performance improvement updates relative to aspects of mental health screens case read outcome

CMP ACCOUNTABILITY

- Post the initial quarterly settlement requirements performance data by catchment areas along with performance improvement plans.
- Increased oversight, including face-to-face meetings, on performance. Example: If CMP reports increase in office stays.
- New penalty and incentive structure for items controlled by case management providers. Example: mental health screen and placement stability outcomes

MOVING FORWARD – OUR STRENGTHS



- Preventing the need for foster care. Supporting parents with services in their home.
- Continued and steady reduction in the need for foster care through prevention and permanencies (20%).
- Placing children with relatives and kin.
- Child placing agencies and cases managers supporting stable placements for children.
- Continue to be below the national standard of maltreatment/recurring maltreatment in care.

MOVING FORWARD- STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CURRENT DEFICIENCIES

- **Need more in-home behavioral supports for parents and placement providers for stability and reduction in short-term moves.**
 - Children's Behavior Interventionist planned as Medicaid services beginning 10/1/23
 - Evidence-based Functional Family Therapy (FFT) beginning Fall 2023 via \$2 million budget investment grants with the three agencies who do FFT for KDOC

MOVING FORWARD- STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CURRENT DEFICIENCIES



- **Need more timely permanency in the first 24 months of foster care:**
 - HB 2021 and referrals for FFT, CMPs will be able to access those community- based services, helping to reduce the length of time in care.
 - SOUL permanency option, if passed, creates new legal options for older youth age 16+ to have permanent connection and wellbeing.
 - Developing strategies with Judicial partners as part of CFSR Performance Improvement Plan

MOVING FORWARD- STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CURRENT DEFICIENCIES



- **Need to reduce the number of moves for youth 13+:**
 - Improve access to behavioral and mental health supports through CCBHC
 - Increased awareness of crisis intervention and child behavior interventionist will concentrate resources for this age group and those with complex needs.
 - Using \$6 million budget enhancement, build capacity for therapeutic family foster and relative homes by amplifying respite supports, training models, and statewide recruitment.
 - RFP for Child Placing Agencies and DCF residential program providers to submit capacity building proposals for their community.
 - DCF added outcomes to agency residential provider agreements to support reintegration, family engagement and placement in a family-like setting.

MOVING FORWARD- STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS CURRENT DEFICIENCIES

- **End failure to place cases:**
 - Build on stand-by bed prevention network with added homes and additional supports for relatives as resources for youth.

MOVING FORWARD – WHAT WE NEED



- **New strategies, new urgency, new accountability:**
 - Develop new in-home supports for parents to prevent youth age 13+ from entering foster care for a mental health service (FINA). No child should have to enter foster care for a service!
 - Collaborate with Families Together to support families whose children are IDD from needing to enter foster care for a service.
 - Build prevention therapeutic family foster homes similar to other state models (Missouri).

MOVING FORWARD – WHAT WE NEED

- Review current statutory standards for removal of children into care to narrow or further prevent FINA and truancy as a reason to enter foster care. Example:
 - Require in-home supports for older youth prior to removal
 - Similar to Iowa and Michigan, consider balance of harm when removing a child
 - Consider stronger language to distinguish poverty from neglect and safety
 - Modify CINC code to reflect “refusal” of parent to provide care even when offered services rather than current language of “failure to provide” care as a factor in removal.

MOVING FORWARD – WHAT WE NEED

- Build Respite Stand-By network that is available and ready for therapeutic family foster homes and relatives
- Provide substance-use treatment services at no cost to parents to reduce length of time in care. (Currently three specialty court pilots beginning 9/1/24).
- Stronger judicial engagement in addition to CSFR PIP, April 2024 summit and follow-up judicial district teams
- Consider concrete supports to older youth or incentives when there is no failure to place in previous 6 months.

MOVING FORWARD – WHAT WE NEED



- Develop accountability requirements for MCOs to support relative placements and prevention services for children and youth.
- Develop incentives or penalties in Community Mental Health Center agreements to meet timeliness of access standards for youth in care.

QUESTIONS?
