

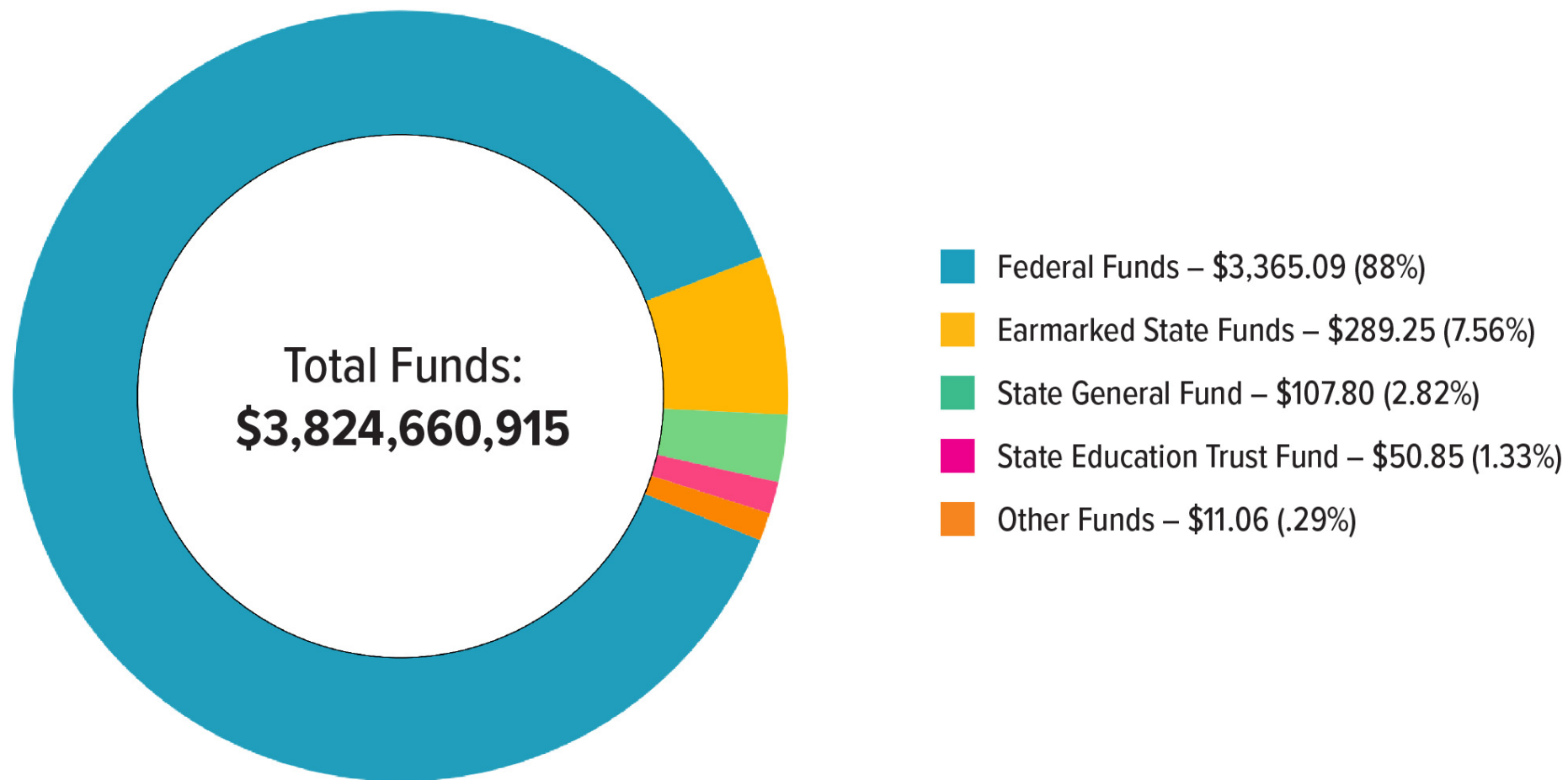
Joint Legislative Budget Hearing Report

Nancy T. Buckner, *Commissioner*

Monday, February 5

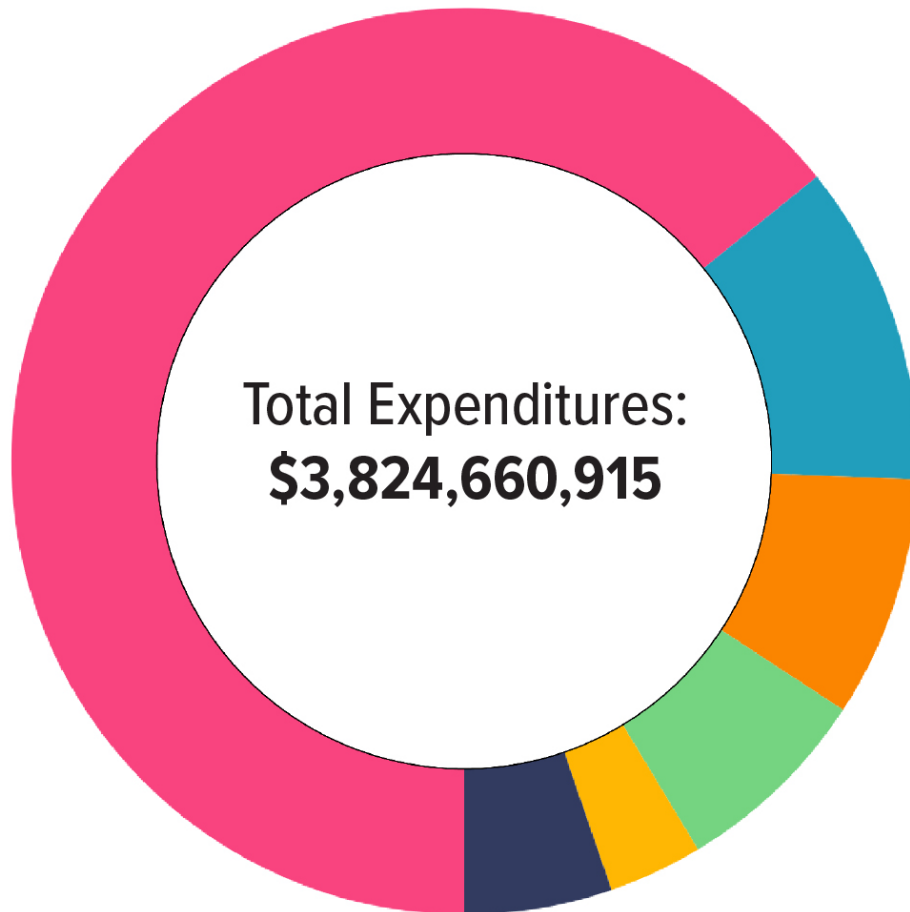


FY 2023 Revenue Sources



Values in millions

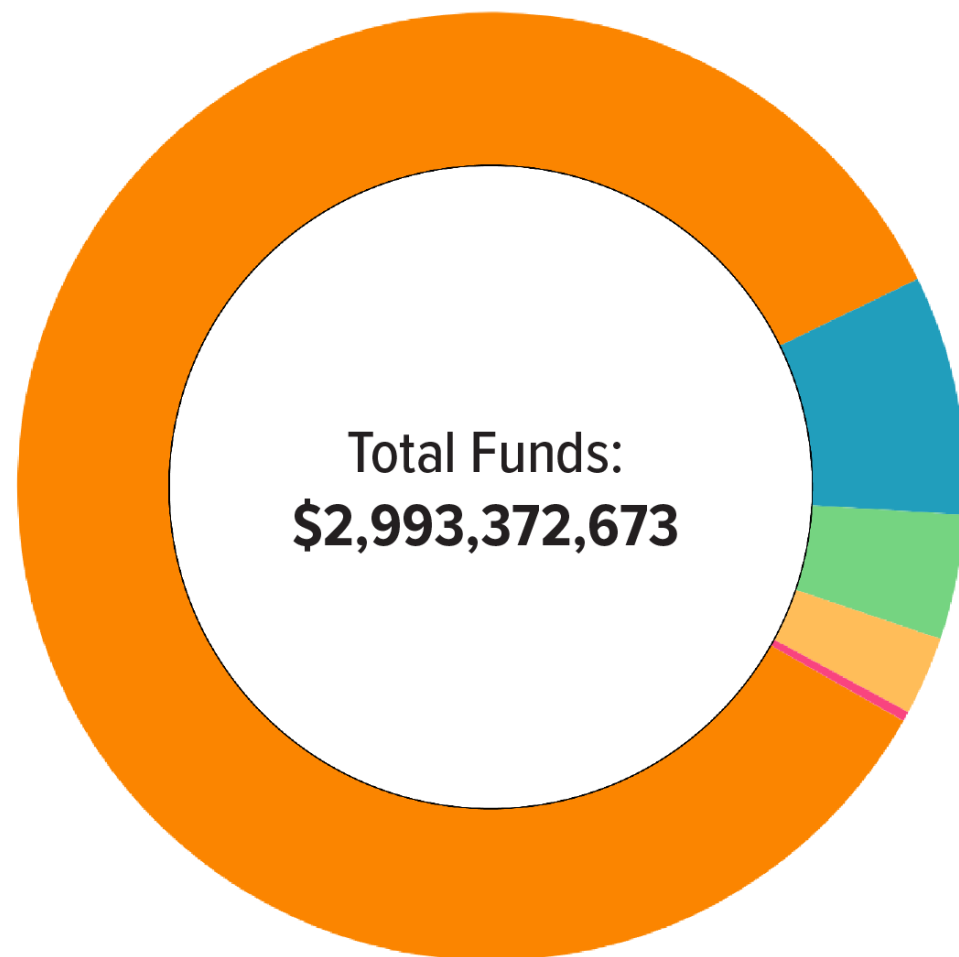
FY 2023 Expenditures by Functional Area



Values in millions

- SNAP – \$2,460.25 (64.33%)
- COVID-19 – \$437.90 (11.45%)
- Child Welfare Services – \$355.66 (9.30%)
- Child Day Care – \$283.30 (7.41%)
- State Administration – \$78.65 (2.10%)
- Other:
 - › TANF – \$62.35 (1.63%)
 - › Child Support – \$62.20 (1.63%)
 - › County Administration – \$51.28 (1.34%)
 - › Adult Protective Services – \$20.56 (.53%)
 - › Combination Service/Eligibility – \$12.50 (.33%)

FY 2024 Budgeted Revenue

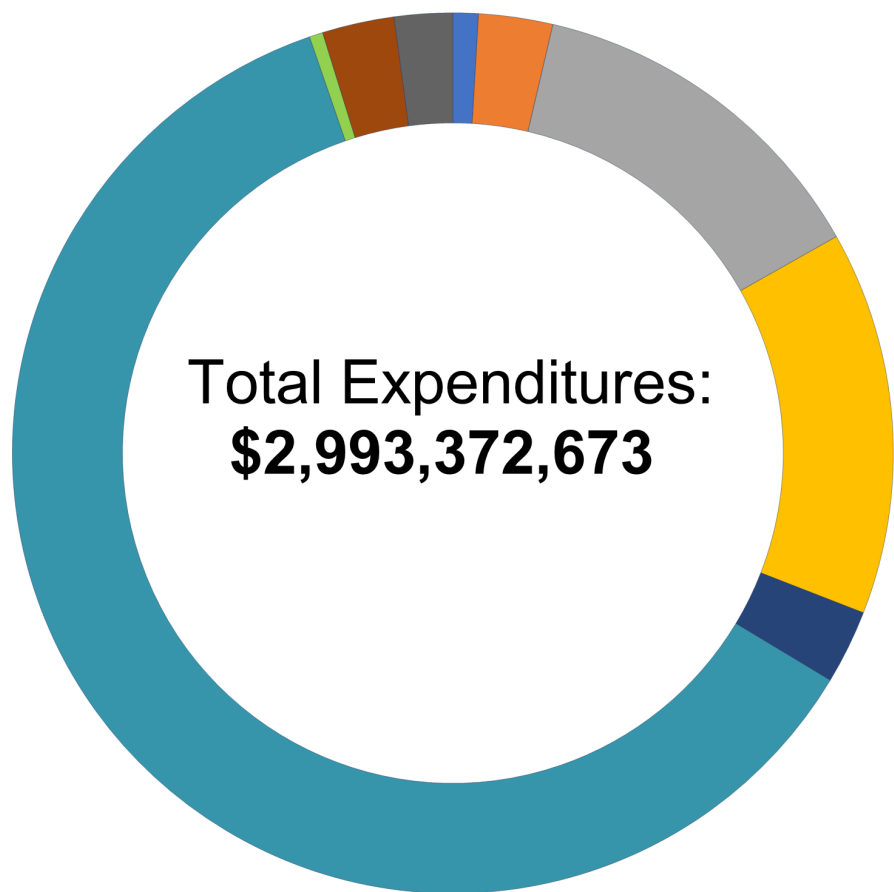


Total Funds:
\$2,993,372,673

- Federal Funds – \$2,531.06 (84.56%)
- Earmarked State Funds – \$244.14 (8.16%)
- State General Fund – \$127.42 (4.26%)
- State Education Trust Fund – \$80.88 (2.70%)
- Other Funds – \$9.87 (.33%)

Values in millions

FY 2024 Budgeted Expenditures



Total Expenditures:
\$2,993,372,673

Values in millions

- Adult Service - \$27.74 (.93%)
- TANF - \$81.43 (2.72%)
- Child Welfare - \$394.23 (13.17%)
- Child Care - \$421.80 (14.09%)
- Child Support - \$81.53 (2.72%)
- SNAP - \$1,828.50 (61.09%)
- Combination \$14.91 (.50%)
- State Administration - \$79.06 (2.64%)
- County Administration - \$64.18 (2.14%)

About DHR

- **Mission:** To provide for the protection, well-being, and self-sufficiency of children and adults.
- **Major Programs:**
 - Food Assistance (SNAP)
 - Family Assistance (TANF)
 - Child Support
 - Child Care Services
 - Adult Protective Services (APS)
 - Child Welfare Services
 - Emergency Welfare Services (Executive Order of Governor)



Food Assistance (SNAP)

- **Recipient Statistics:**

- Households: **392,000**
- Individuals: **776,000**
- Children: **331,000**
- Heads of households 60+: **96,000**
- Students who received P-EBT in FY 2023: **718,000**
- Applications denied per month: **18,000**

- **Education and training programs**

- Nutritional education programs

- Total benefits issued in FY 2023: **\$2,207,474,619**



Family Assistance (TANF)

- **Program Statistics:**

- TANF cases: **5,673**
- Recipients: **12,881**
 - 1996 = Over **48,000** recipients
- Children: **10,484**
- Children only in budget: **59%**
- Average monthly payment per case: **\$192.12**
- JOBS Program: **2,372** adult clients required to participate; **1,468** are employed (62%)

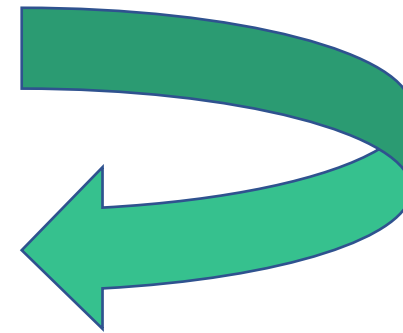
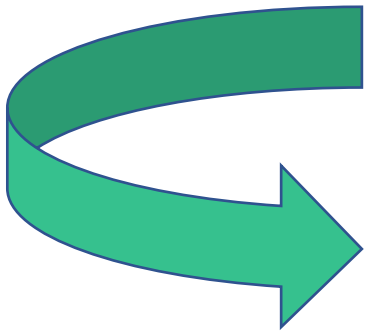


SNAP E&T and TANF/JOBBS

Adult education/GED/
soft skills/jobs (insurance)

Careers with surrounding supports;
resources and removal of barriers

- ACCS Partnership
- WIOA
- Apprenticeships
- Job training/classes
- Budgeting and financial knowledge
- Transportation
- Literacy classes
- Mentoring



Child Support

- **Program Statistics:**

- Families served: **195,000**
- FY 2023 collections: **\$357 million**
- Paternity establishment rate: **98.81%**
 - 15th consecutive year we have exceeded 90% (federal requirement)



- Most benefits are distributed via card

Child Care Services

- Administers the state's child care subsidy program, which pays for child care for low-income working families
- Approximately **41,000** children receive child care subsidies each month
- Subsidies averaged **\$524** per child, per month in FY 2023
- **\$262 million** was paid to child care providers in FY 2023 for child care slots
- DHR licenses and inspects child care providers

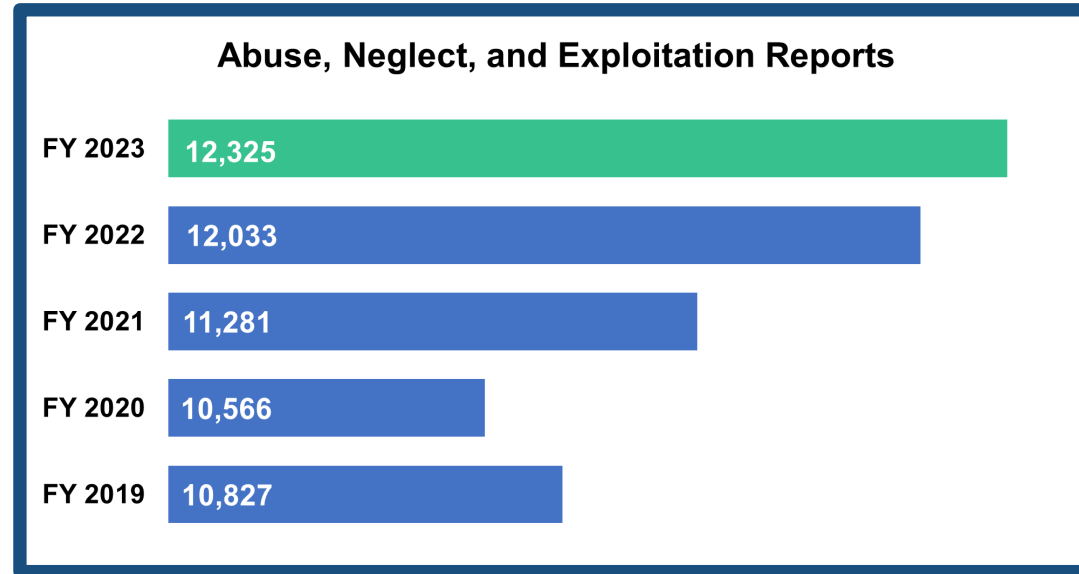


Child Care Services

- Child care facilities
 - Licensed centers: **1,326**
 - Licensed child care homes: **565**
 - Exempt child care facilities: **472**
- Alabama Quality STARS (QRIS)
is part of a national systematic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs.



Adult Protective Services



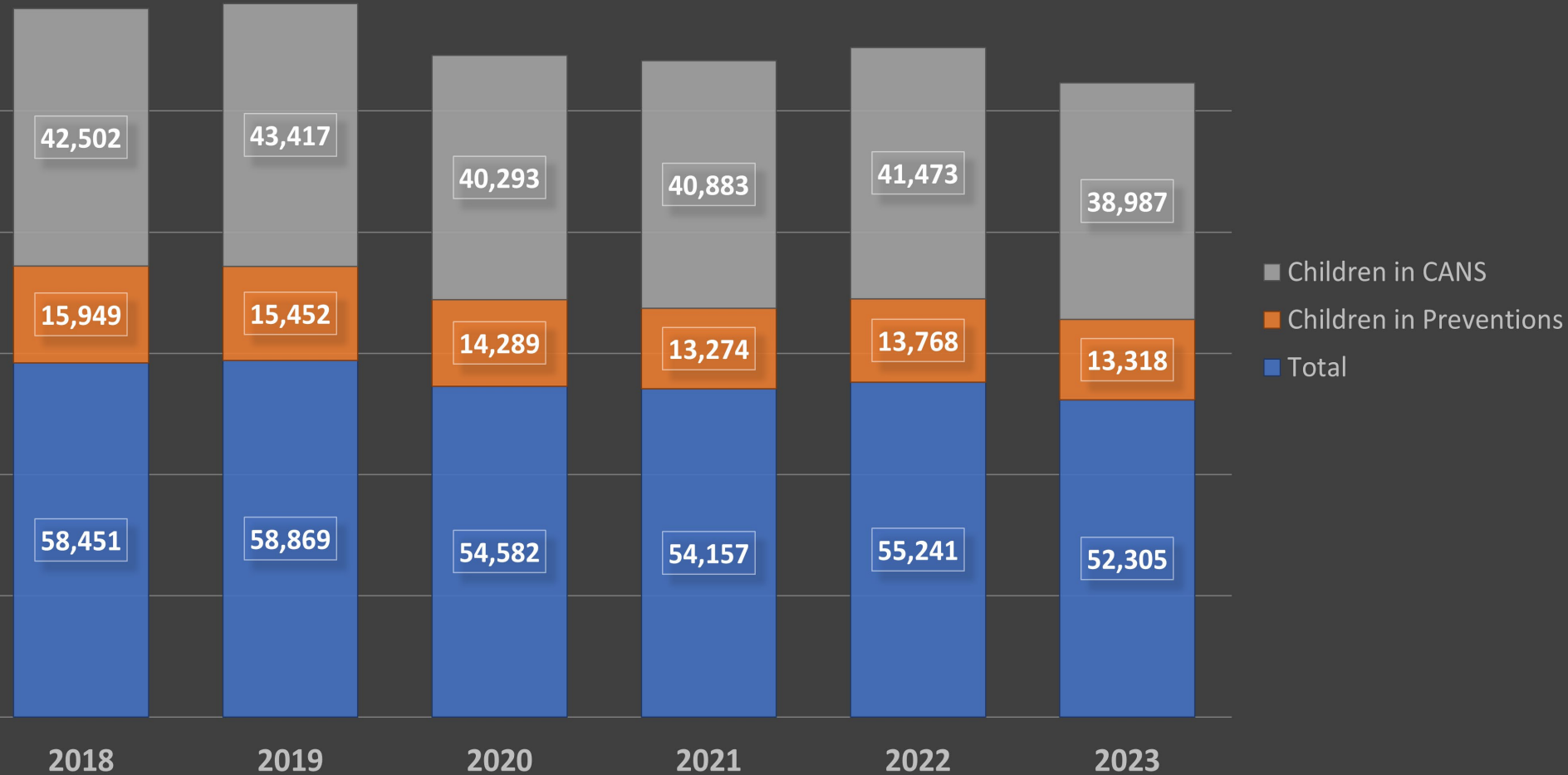
- Investigates reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable adults
- DHR provides protective services for vulnerable adults who may be victims of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation

Child Welfare

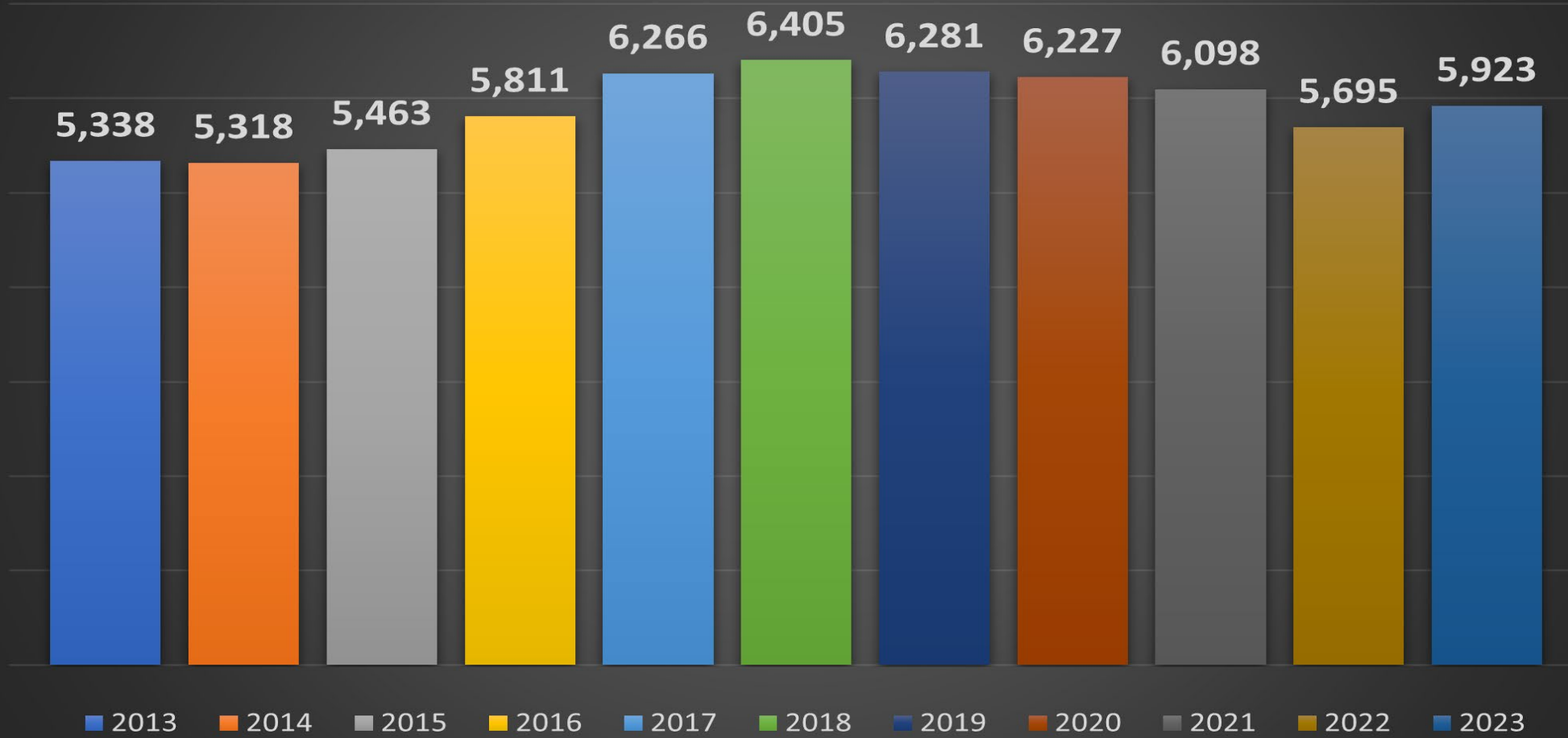
- DHR provides for the investigation and prevention of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of children in Alabama



CHILDREN IN CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS AND PREVENTIONS



Children in Care on 09/30



Foster Care Demographics

- **Gender:**

- Male: **51.52%**
- Female: **48.46%**

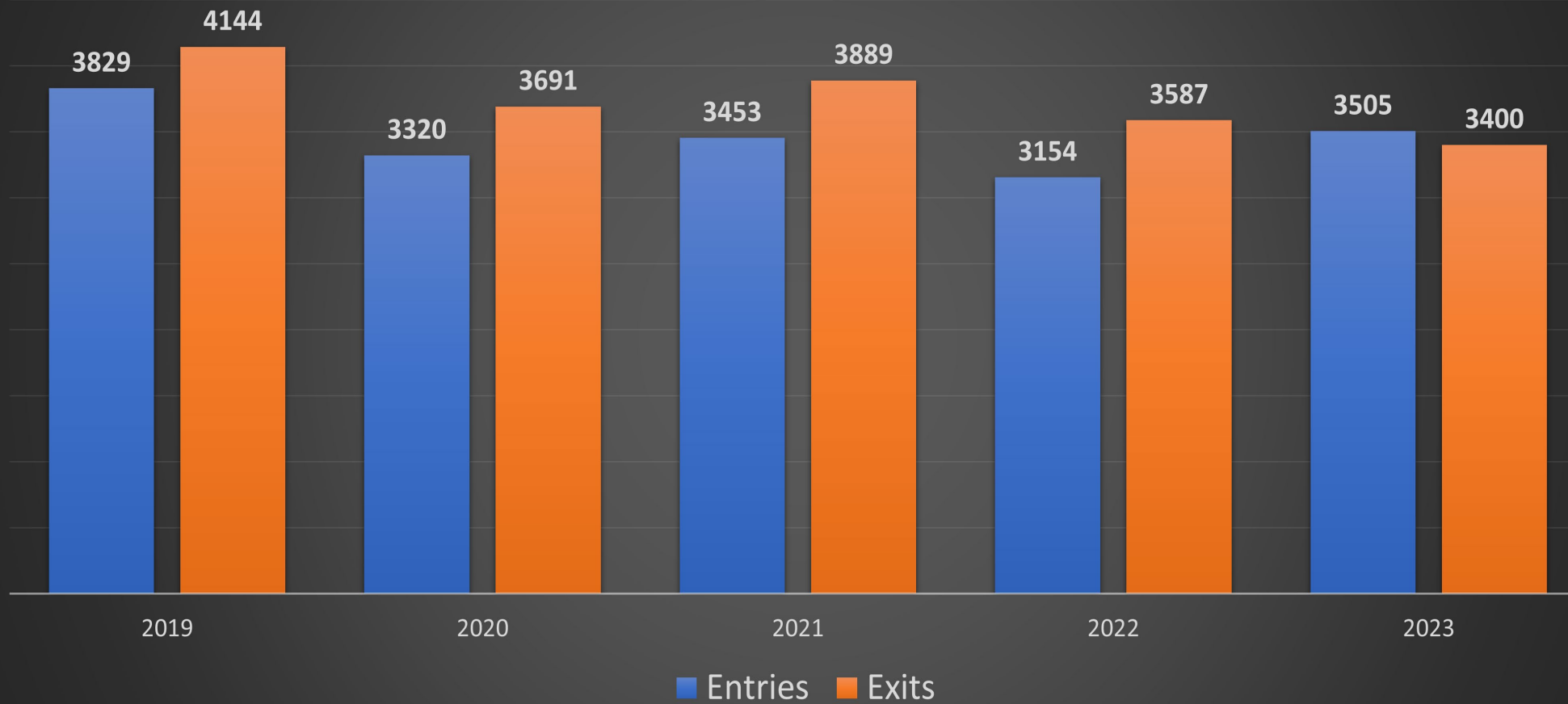
- **Age:**

- 0-2 Years: **22.14%**
- 3-5 Years: **15.54%**
- 6-12 Years: **28.30%**
- 13 and Older: **34.02%**

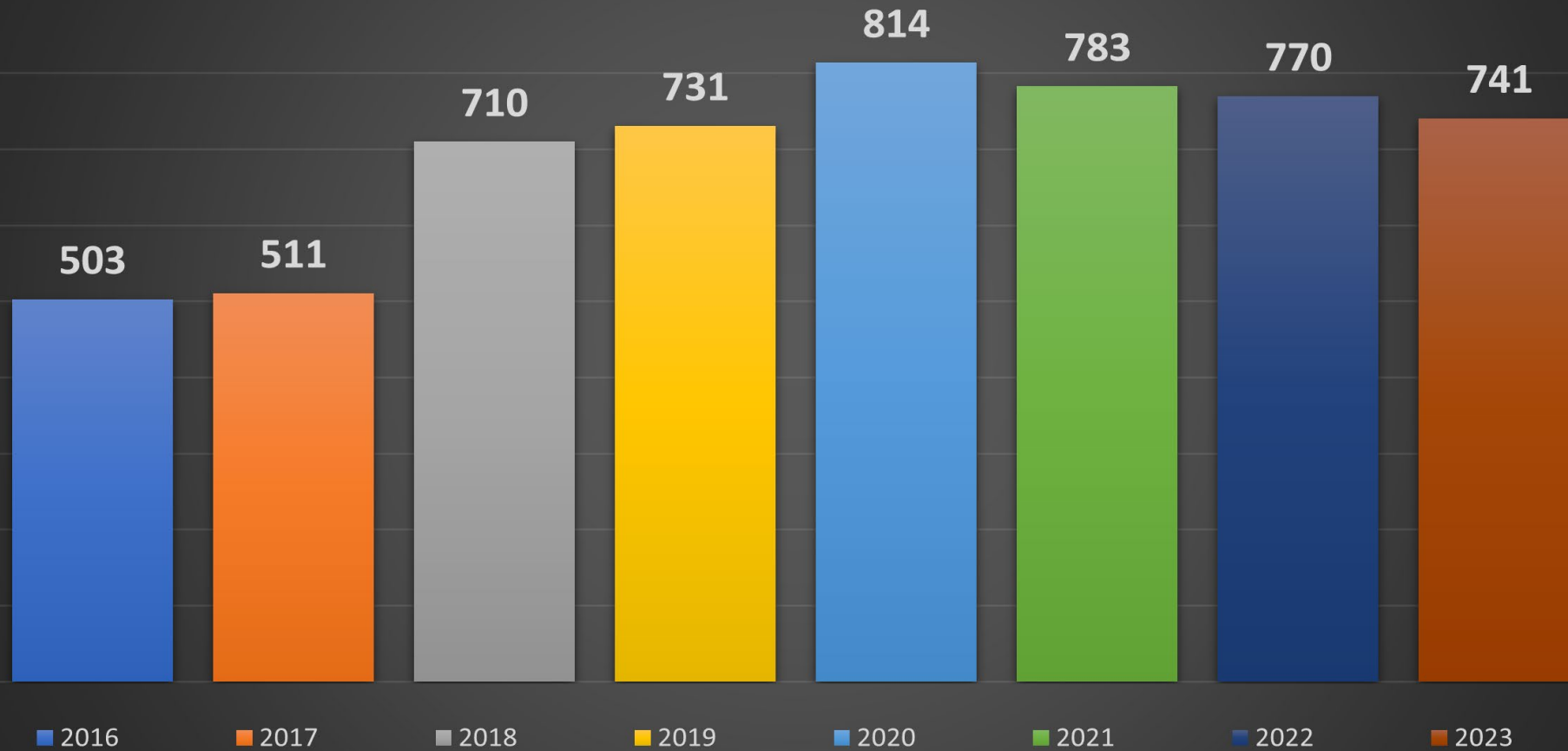
- **Race:**

- Black: **36.90%**
- White: **61.68%**
- Other: **1.42%**

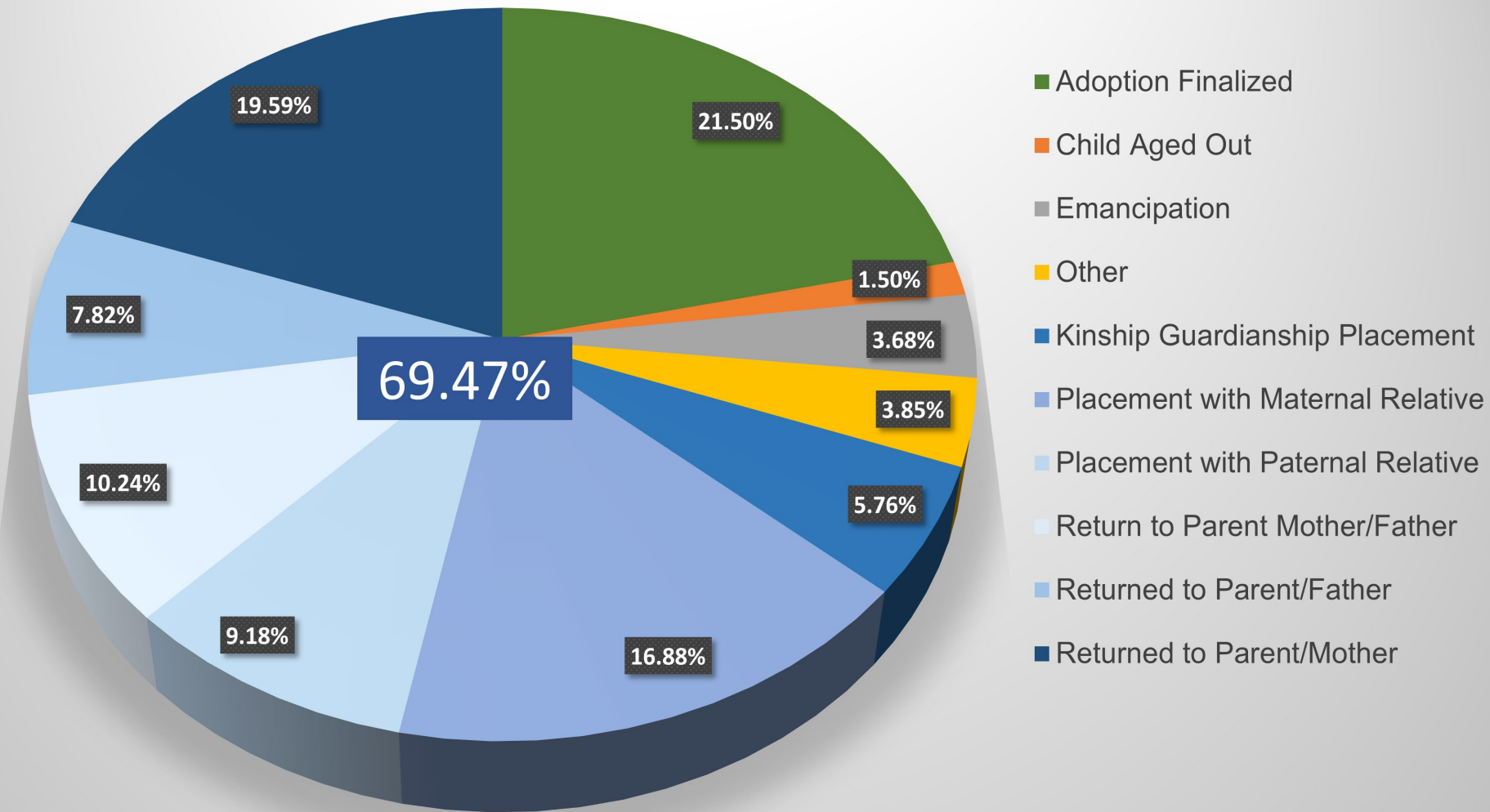
Entries and Exits from Care



Finalized Adoptions



FY 2023 Discharges From Care



FY 2023 Length of Care

MEDIAN LOC FOR
CHILDREN DISCHARGED

13.1
Months

2021 NATIONAL MEDIAN

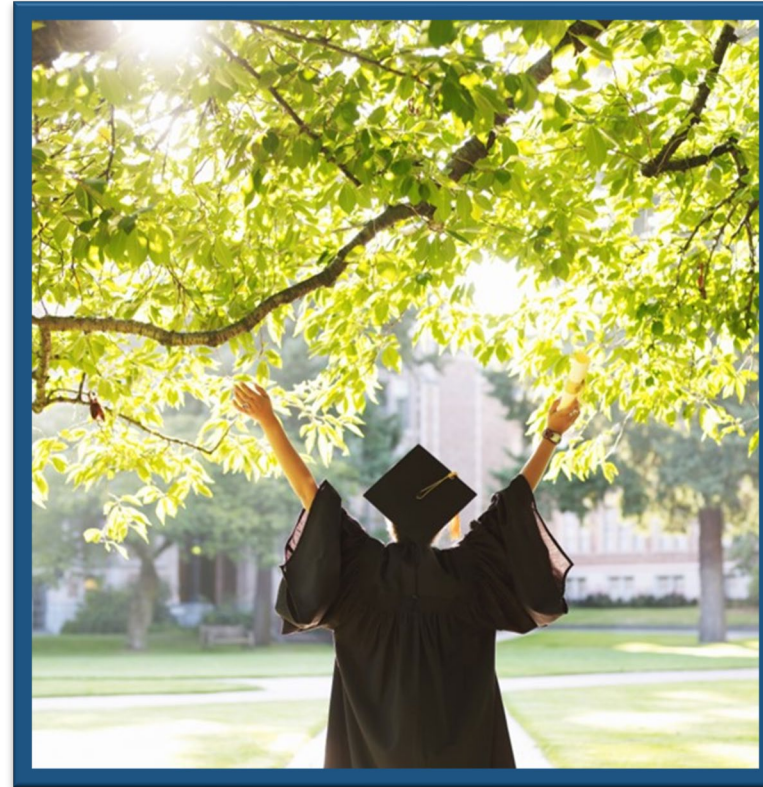
17.5
Months

CHILDREN DISCHARGED TO FAMILY

69.47%

Independent Living Program (ILP)

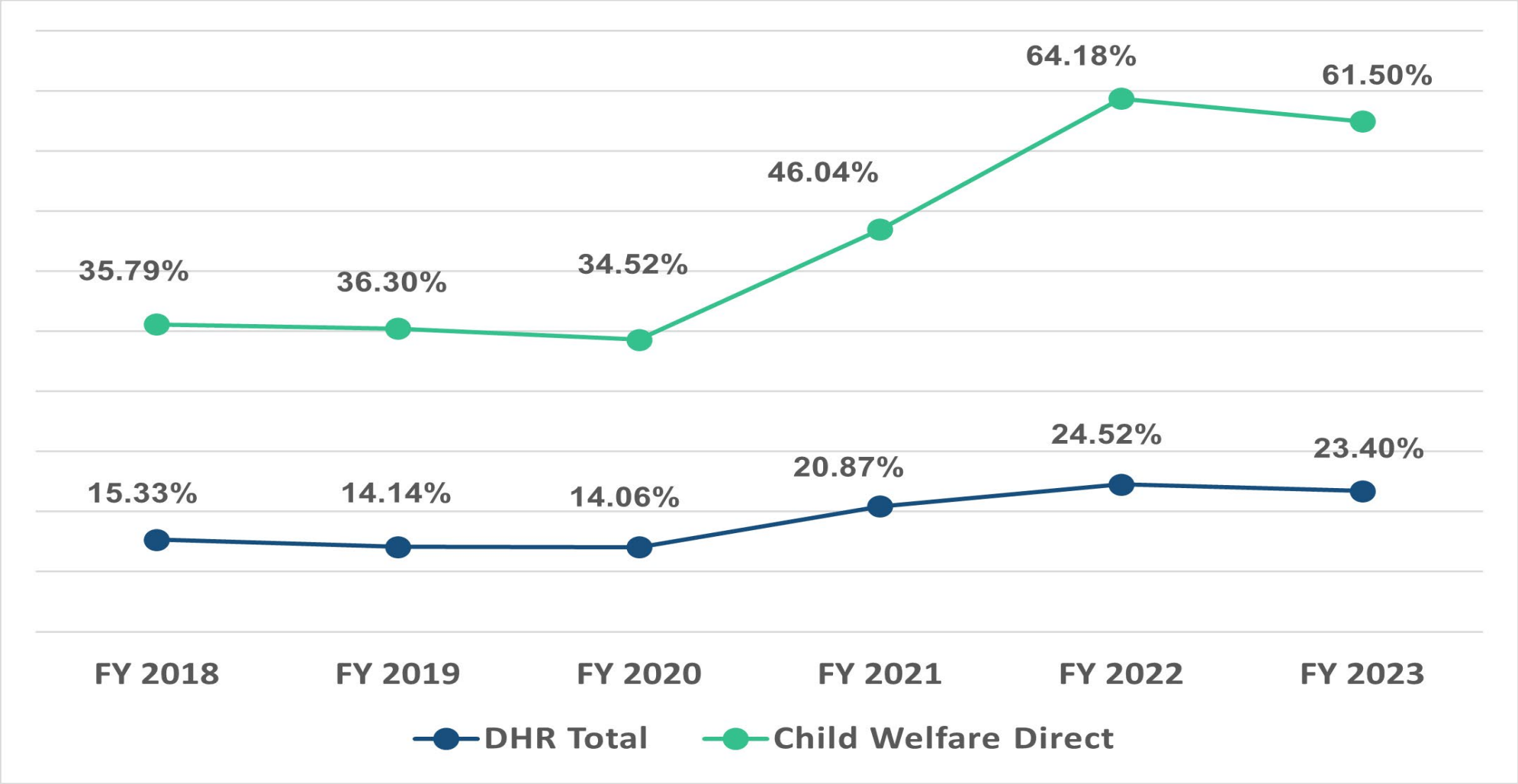
- ILP-aged children (14 & older): **1,771**
- Graduations in 2023
 - **199** High School Graduations
 - **13** College Graduations
- Currently
 - **217** Enrolled in College
 - **21** Enrolled in Trade Programs



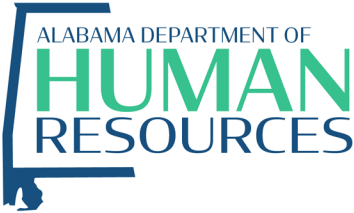
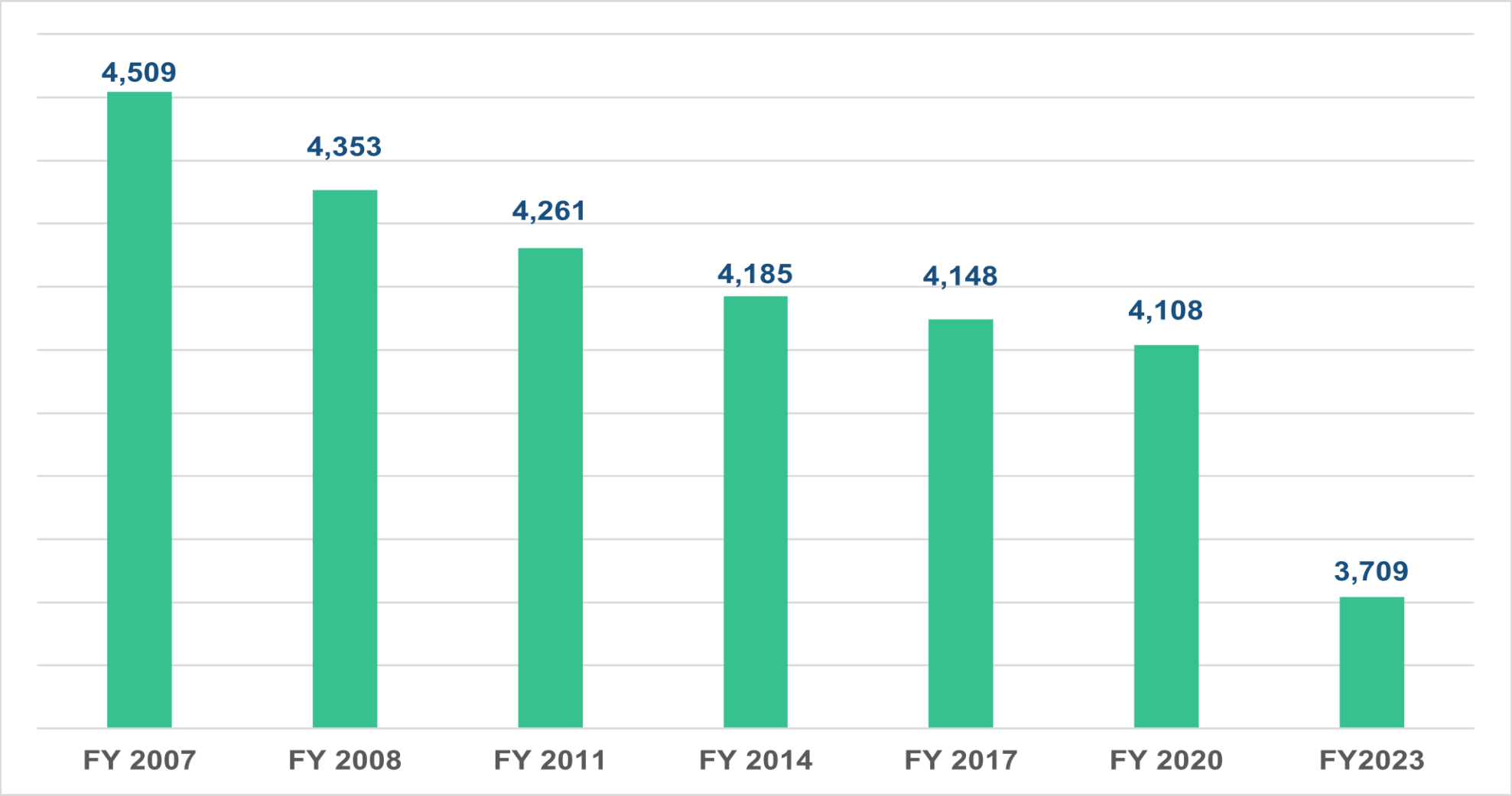
Greatest Challenges

- Over **61%** turnover rate of Child Welfare Direct Workers
- Placements
 - Children & Youth with Mental Health Needs
 - Juvenile Delinquency Issues
- Lawsuits
- Social Media
- Outdated Computer Systems: SNAP, TANF, Child Care

Staff Turnover Rates



Staffing Levels By Fiscal Year



Challenges to Hiring and Retention

1. Often cannot compete with wages paid by other employers
2. In child welfare:
 - Hours required (nighttime calls)
 - Nature of the job (entering homes)
3. Many other entities competing for same staff now
 - More pay and predictable work environment without having to go in the field and into homes
4. Often encounter dangerous and traumatic situations
 - Stabbed; bitten by dogs and people; slapped to ground; hit by car; guns and drugs
5. Social media
6. Lawsuits

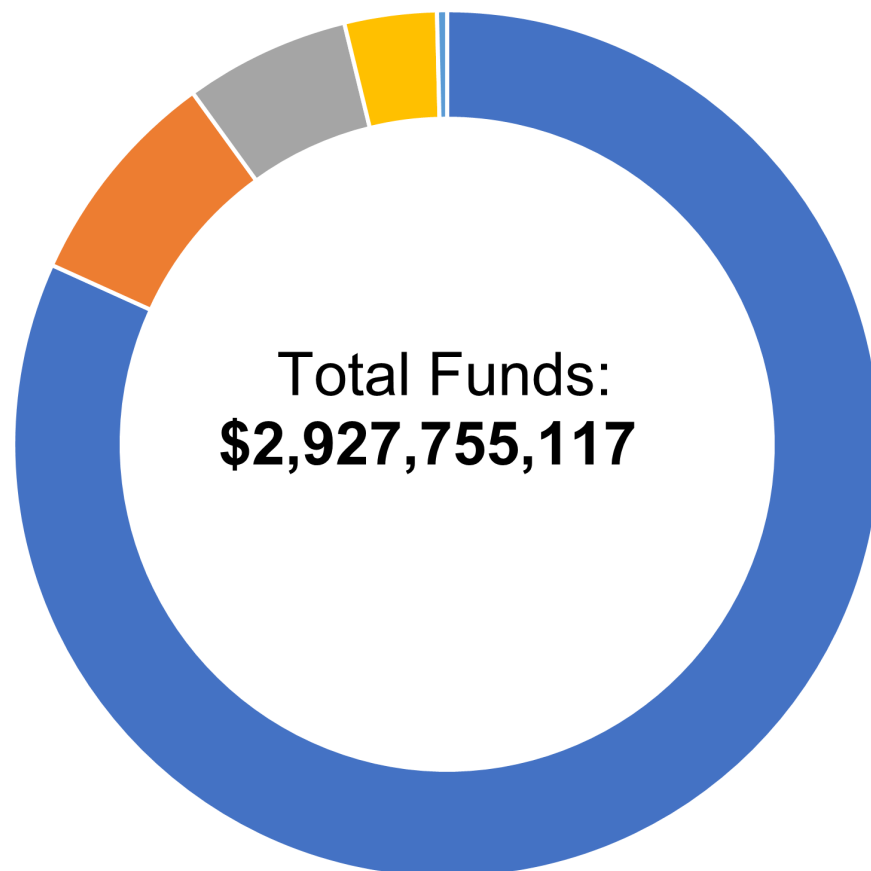


Litigation

- DHR in court last year on approximately **38,000** cases statewide for routine legal matters
- Approximately **51** “significant” cases pending statewide. The majority of these cases involve a plaintiff seeking monetary damages.
- **Class Action:**
 - Sufficient community-based mental health services
 - Mobile crisis and crisis stabilization services



FY 2025 Budget Request



Total Funds:
\$2,927,755,117

Values in millions

- Federal Funds - \$2,393.98 (81.77%)
- Earmarked State Funds - \$241.49 (8.25%)
- State General Fund - \$180.41 (6.16%)
- State Education Trust Fund - \$100.82 (3.44%)
- Other Funds - \$11.05 (.38%)

FY 2025 Budget Request

• General Fund Increase	\$52,983,652
▪ Routine inflation and other administrative increases, such as travel, OIT Rates, etc	5,351,526
▪ Transition children from PRTF to homes with wrap services	15,393,821
▪ Specialized placements to meet mental health needs of our children	25,881,563
▪ In-home services previously funded by federal grants	6,356,742
• Education Trust Fund Increase	\$19,947,498
▪ Transition children from PRTF to homes with wrap services	15,947,498
▪ Anticipated increase in QRIS	4,000,000



Contact Information

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