

# 2026 Legislative Notebook

For intellectual & Developmental Disabilities







# Who are Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

*Your family members, friends, neighbors, classmates & co-workers*

- People with I/DD experience lifelong conditions such as autism, Down syndrome or cerebral palsy
- Affects person's ability to think, learn and develop skills at the same rate as others
- Often need support for everyday activities
- Family members, friends, neighbors, classmates & co-workers



# What do Individuals and their Families Want?

*What everyone else wants....*

- To live, have access to, and belong in the community
- The opportunity to learn & grow
- A safe, affordable, accessible, inclusive place to live
- Meaningful things to do, including real jobs for real pay
- To be healthy and have access to appropriate healthcare, including mental and behavioral health
- Happy, healthy relationships
- Appropriate, adequate support available when needed
- A transparent, easy-to-use service system
- Economic stability



# Where Does the Data Come From?

*All data comes from Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) 2025 Caseload & Cost report as well as additional data requests from DDCS.*





# *What is the DDCS Caseload?*





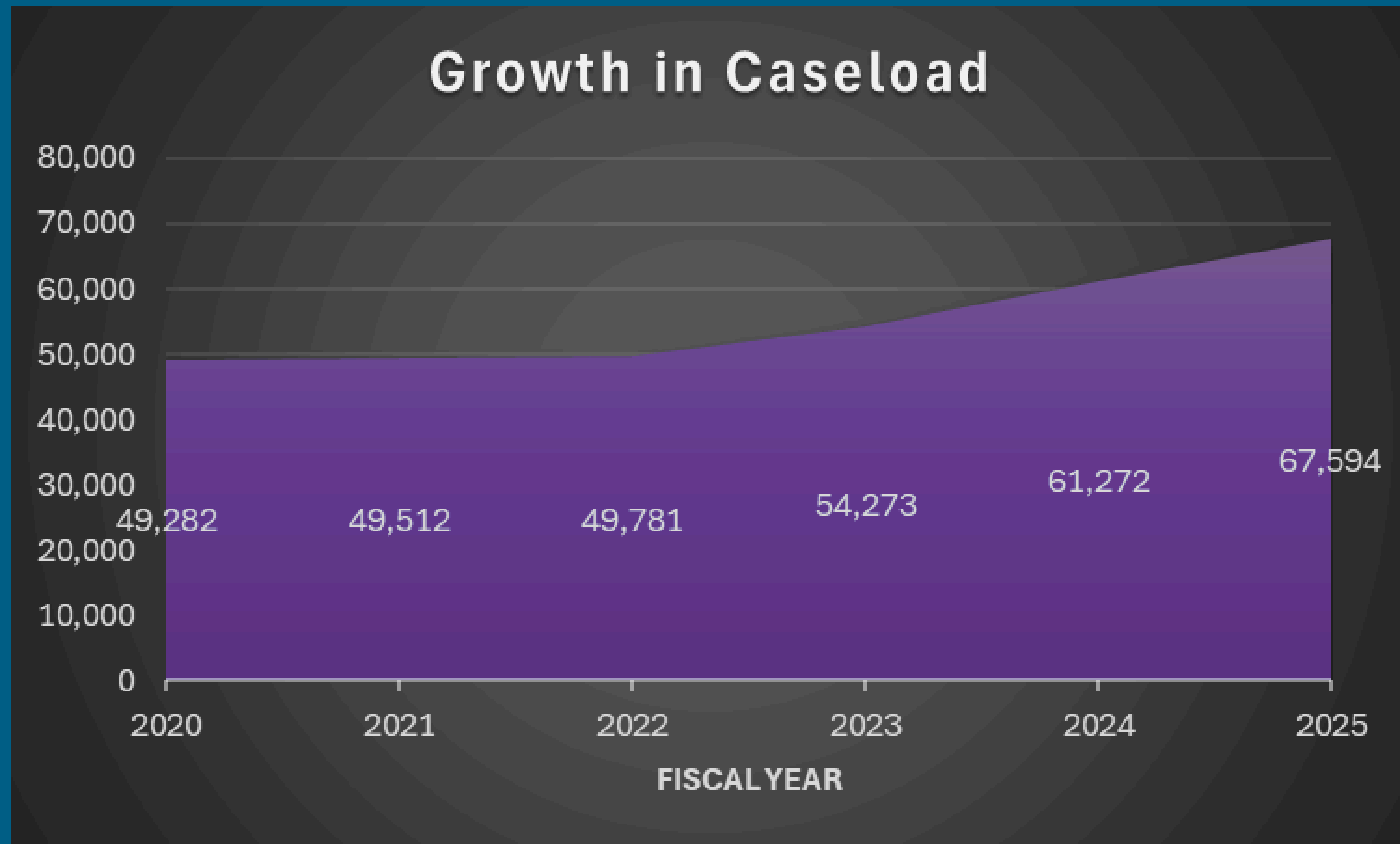
# DDCS Snap Shot

- 1–3% of the population has an intellectual or developmental disability (170,000)
- 67,594 number of DDCS clients
  - 36,881 Children
  - 30,713 Adults
- Of those adults, 17,382 (56.5%) live with and receive care from a parent or a relative.

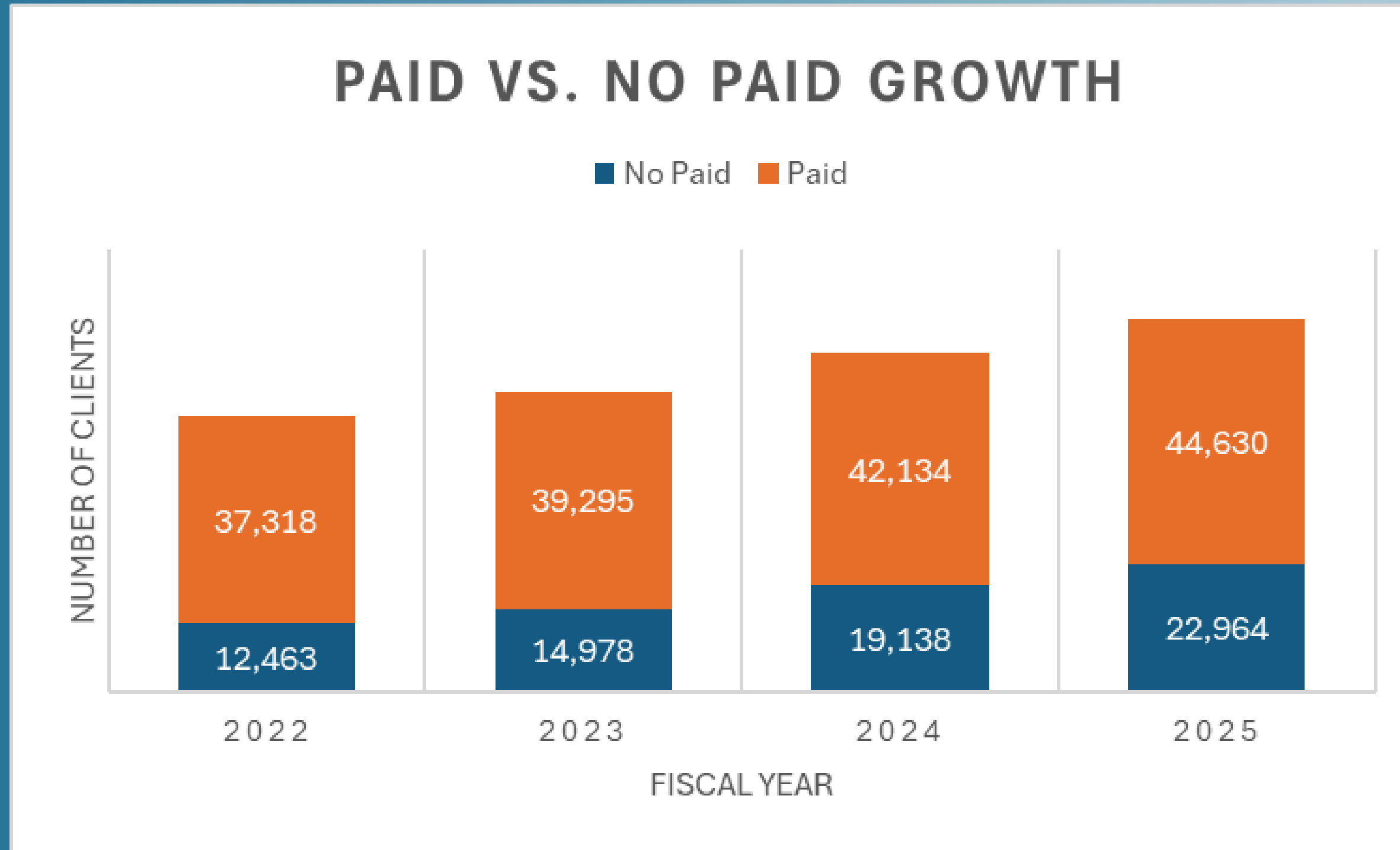




This is more than 37% growth since 2020



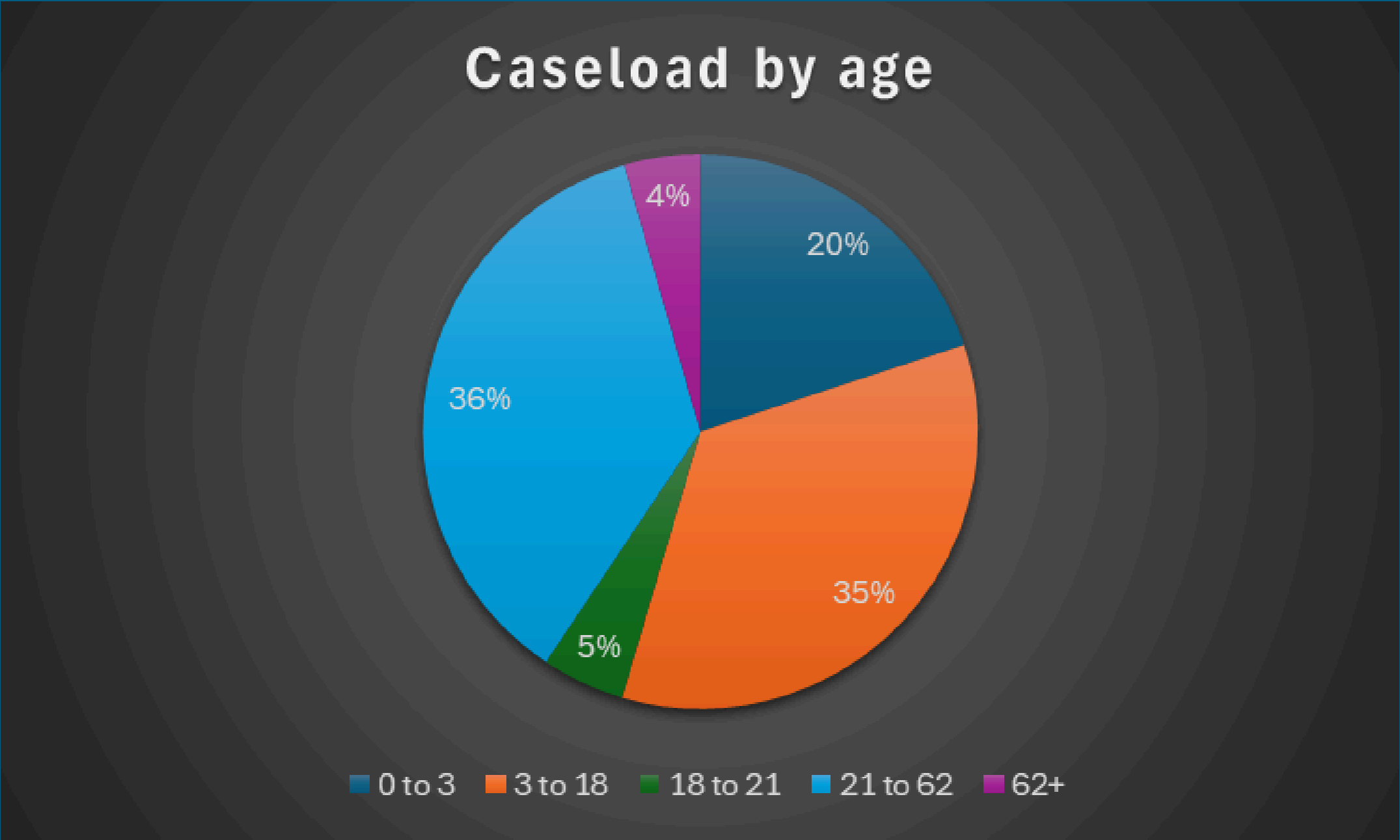
# 22,964 Receive No Paid Services



**A 45% Growth over the past 4 years**



# Who DDCCS Serves by Age



| Age range | Number enrolled |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 0 to 3    | 13,483          |
| 3 to 18   | 23,398          |
| 18 to 21  | 3,268           |
| 21 to 62  | 24,452          |
| 62+       | 2,993           |
| Total     | 67,594          |

More than Half are Children

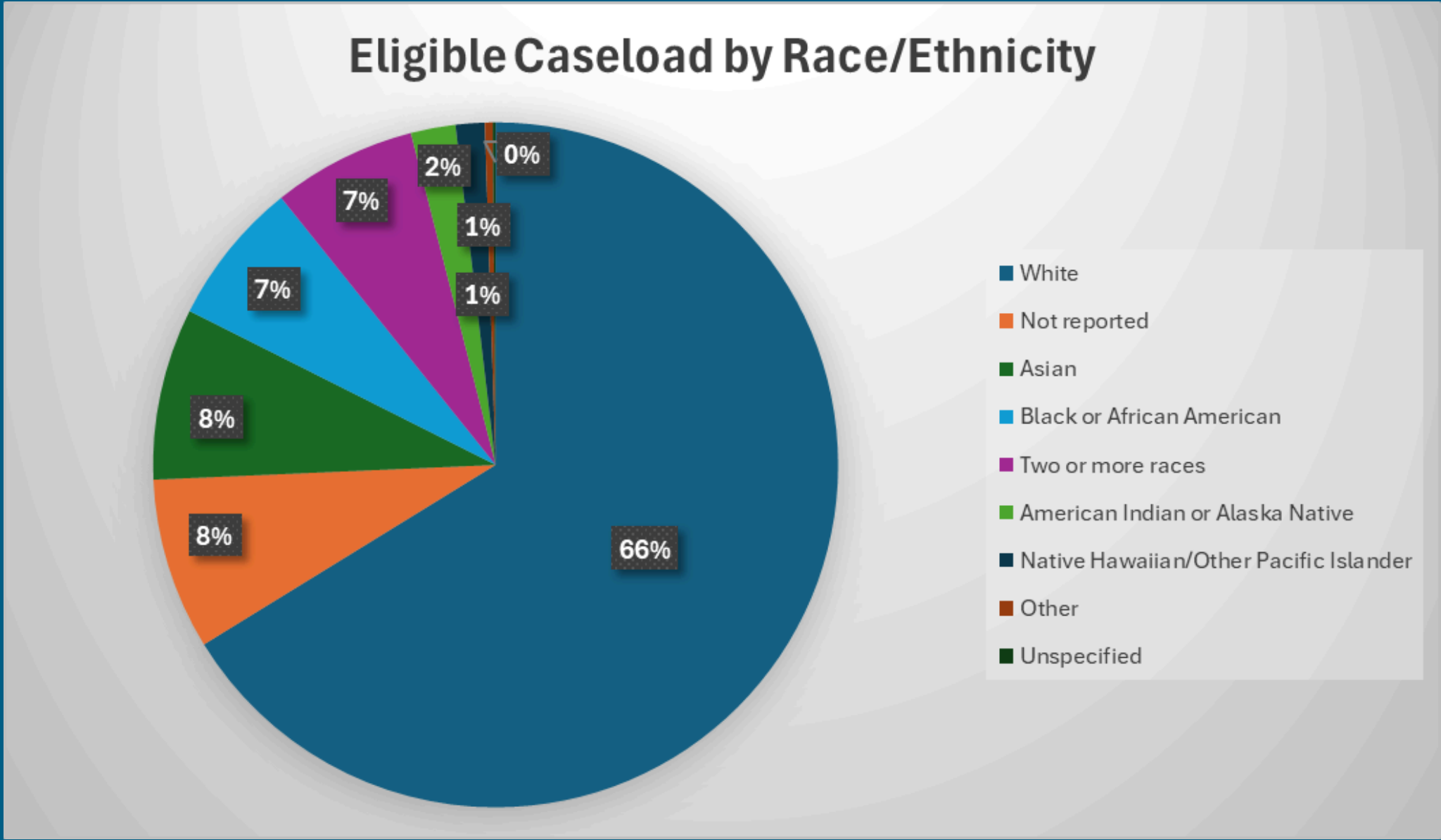


# Caseload by Disability



| Disability                                        | Adult | Child | Total  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
|                                                   | 684   | 1591  | 2275   |
| Another Neurological Condition                    | 162   |       | 162    |
| Another Neurological Condition or Other Condition | 1220  | 735   | 1955   |
| Autism                                            | 5096  | 2250  | 7346   |
| Cerebral Palsy                                    | 2046  | 449   | 2495   |
| Developmental Delay                               | 113   | 28765 | 28878  |
| Epilepsy                                          | 559   | 133   | 692    |
| Intellectual Disability                           | 16882 | 836   | 17,718 |
| Medically Intensive Children's Program            |       | 35    | 35     |
| Other Condition                                   | 1724  |       | 1724   |
| Two or More Disabilities                          | 2227  | 2087  | 4314   |
| Total                                             | 30713 | 36881 | 67594  |

# Who DDCS Serves by Race & Ethnicity



| Race                                   | Adult  | Child | Total  |
|----------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| White                                  | 23,588 | 21170 | 44,758 |
| Not reported                           | 989    | 4482  | 5471   |
| Asian                                  | 1828   | 3649  | 5477   |
| Black or African American              | 1906   | 2707  | 4613   |
| Two or more races                      | 1011   | 3572  | 4583   |
| American Indian or Alaska Native       | 844    | 584   | 1428   |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 370    | 552   | 922    |
| Other                                  | 93     | 158   | 251    |
| Unspecified                            | 84     | 7     | 91     |
| Total                                  | 30713  | 1301  | 67594  |

| Tribal Affiliation                 | Adult | Child | Number |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Affiliated with one or more tribes | 662   | 468   | 1,130  |
| Unspecified                        | 2344  | 24    | 2,368  |
| Total                              | 3006  | 492   | 3498   |

| Hispanic | Adult | Child | Total  |
|----------|-------|-------|--------|
|          | 3,407 | 8806  | 12,213 |

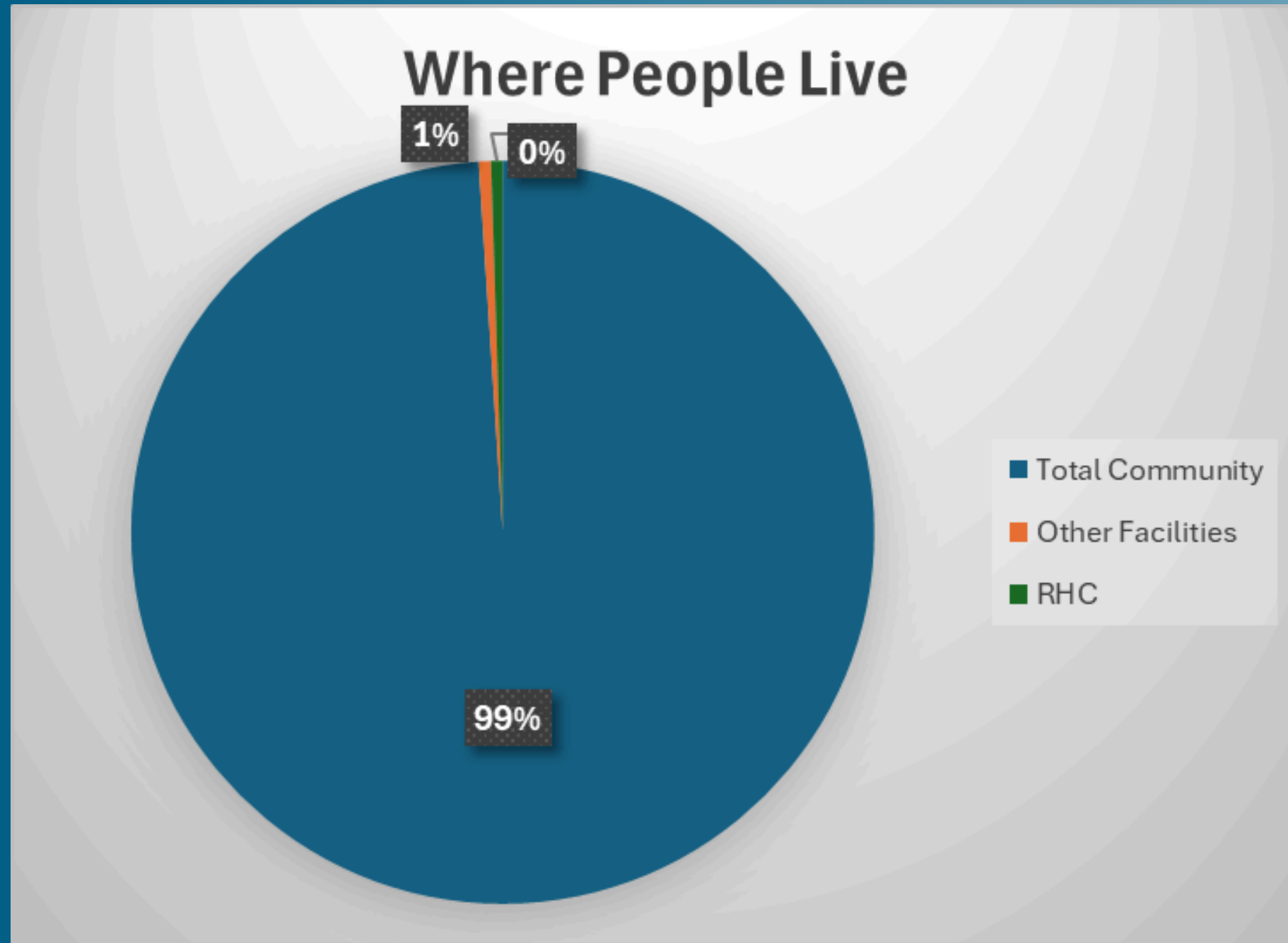


# Community Living

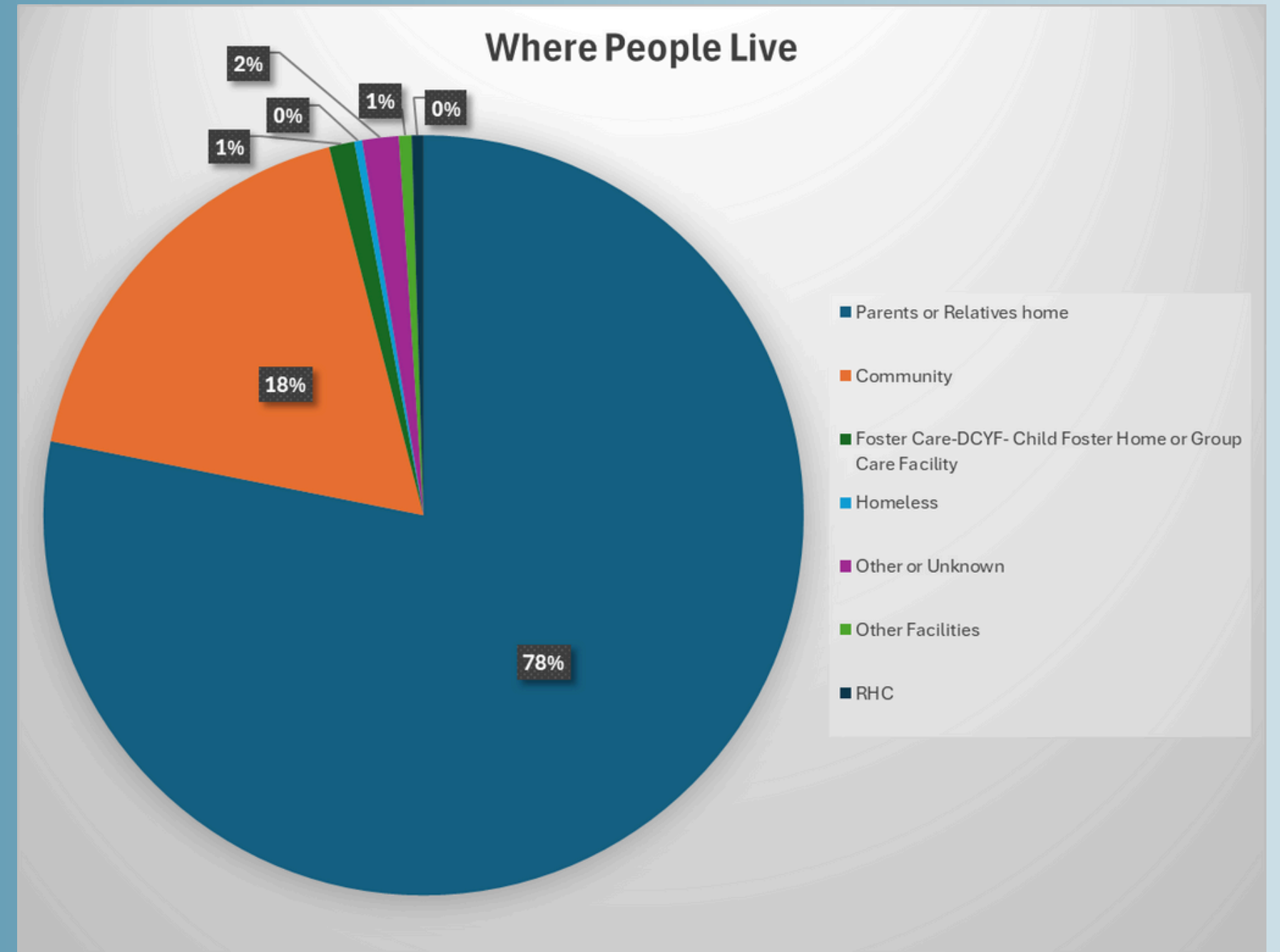




# Where People Live



99% of DDCS Clients live in the Community



78% of DDCS Clients live with a parent or relative



# Home & Community Based Services

## What's a Waiver & What are you Waiving?

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HCBS waivers are a set of Medicaid services that are available to a specific population of people. Waivers are state-specific and have a 50/50 federal match.



Waives services in an institution to receive services in the community

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Washington has 5 DD Waivers

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The number of DD Waiver slots are capped

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# Waivers by the Numbers

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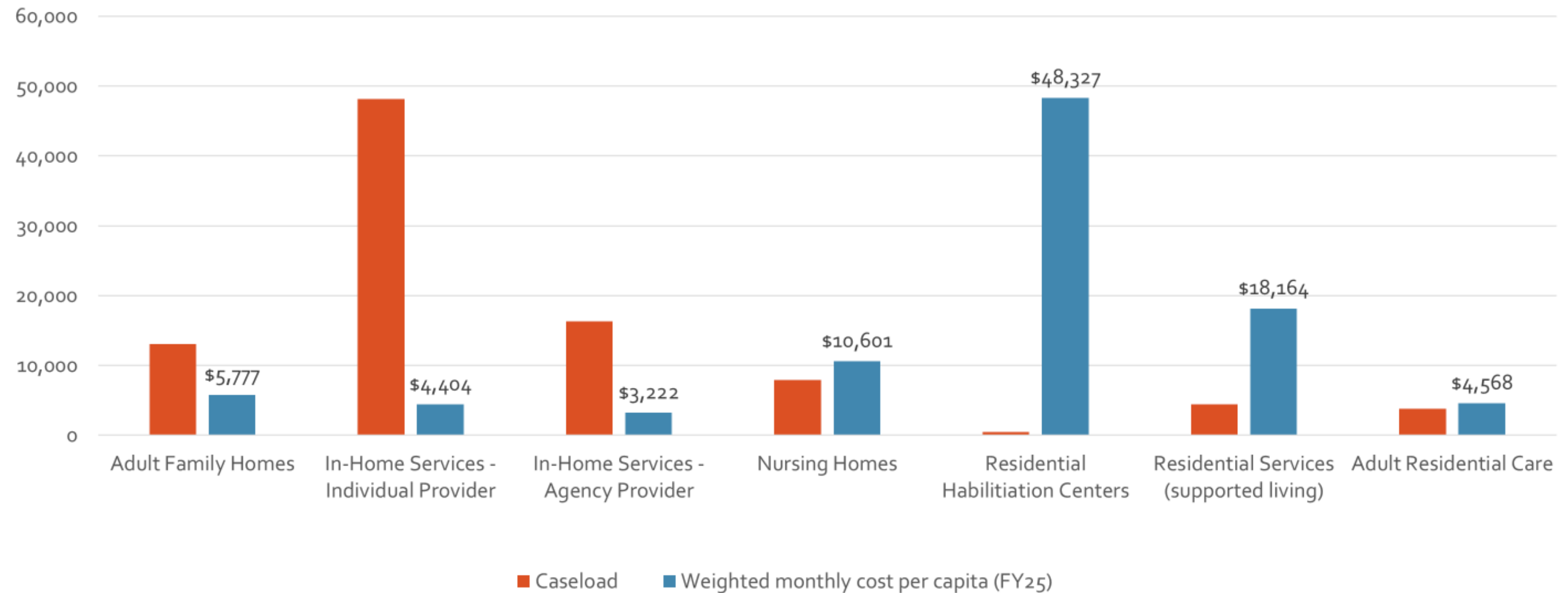


| Waiver                             | Capacity | Enrolled |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Individual & Family Services       | 8000     | 7,208    |
| Basic Plus                         | 13,400   | 12,490   |
| Core                               | 5702     | 4801     |
| Community Protection               | 504      | 301      |
| Childrens In Home Behavior Support | 200      | 190      |
| TOTAL                              | 27,806   | 24,990   |



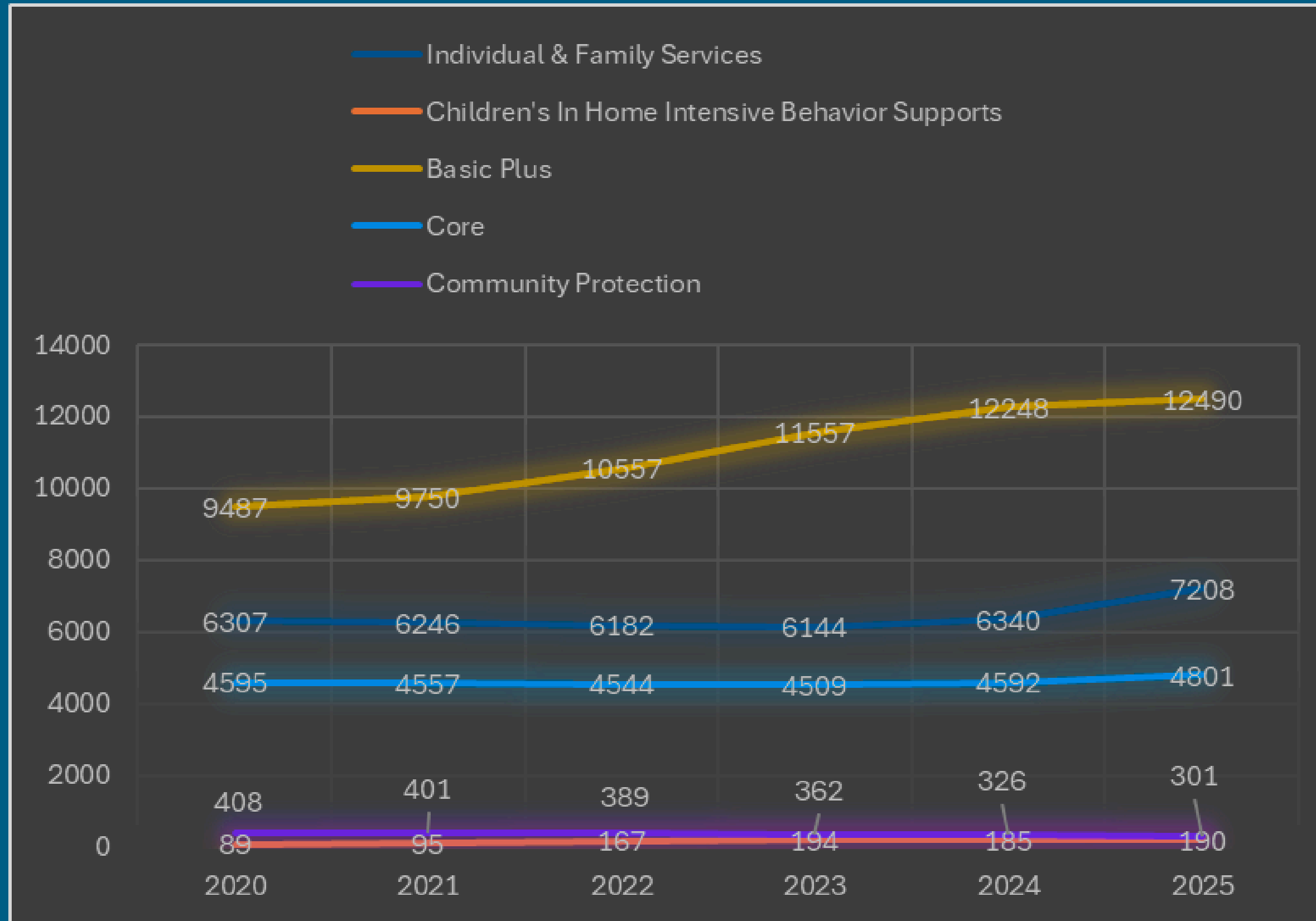
# HCBS is extremely popular & saves the State money

Caseload and weighted average monthly cost for LTSS services in Washington state



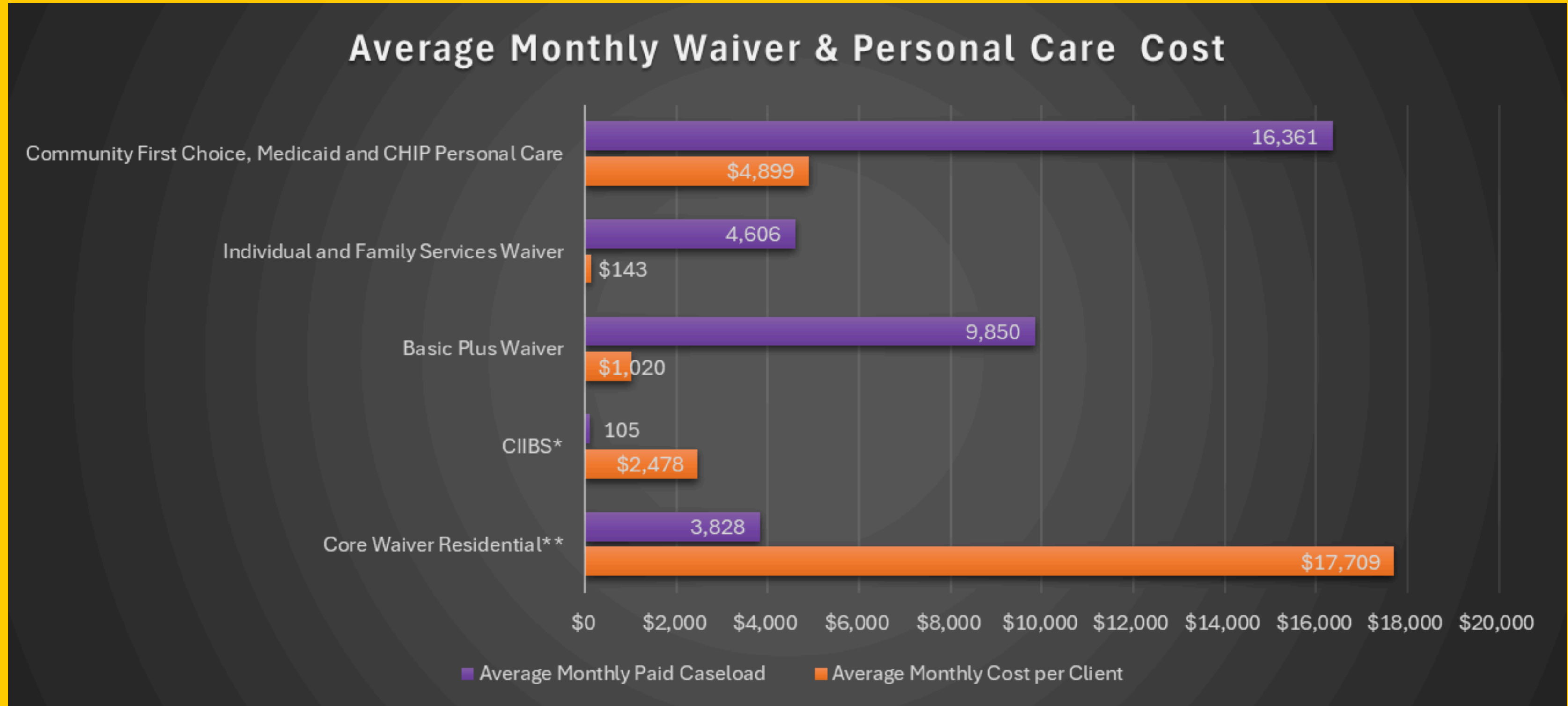
Source: own elaboration with information from DSHS - ALTSA & DDA Per Capita Costs Winter 2024 Forecast

# The Demand for Waivers Continues to Grow





# Average Monthly Waiver Cost



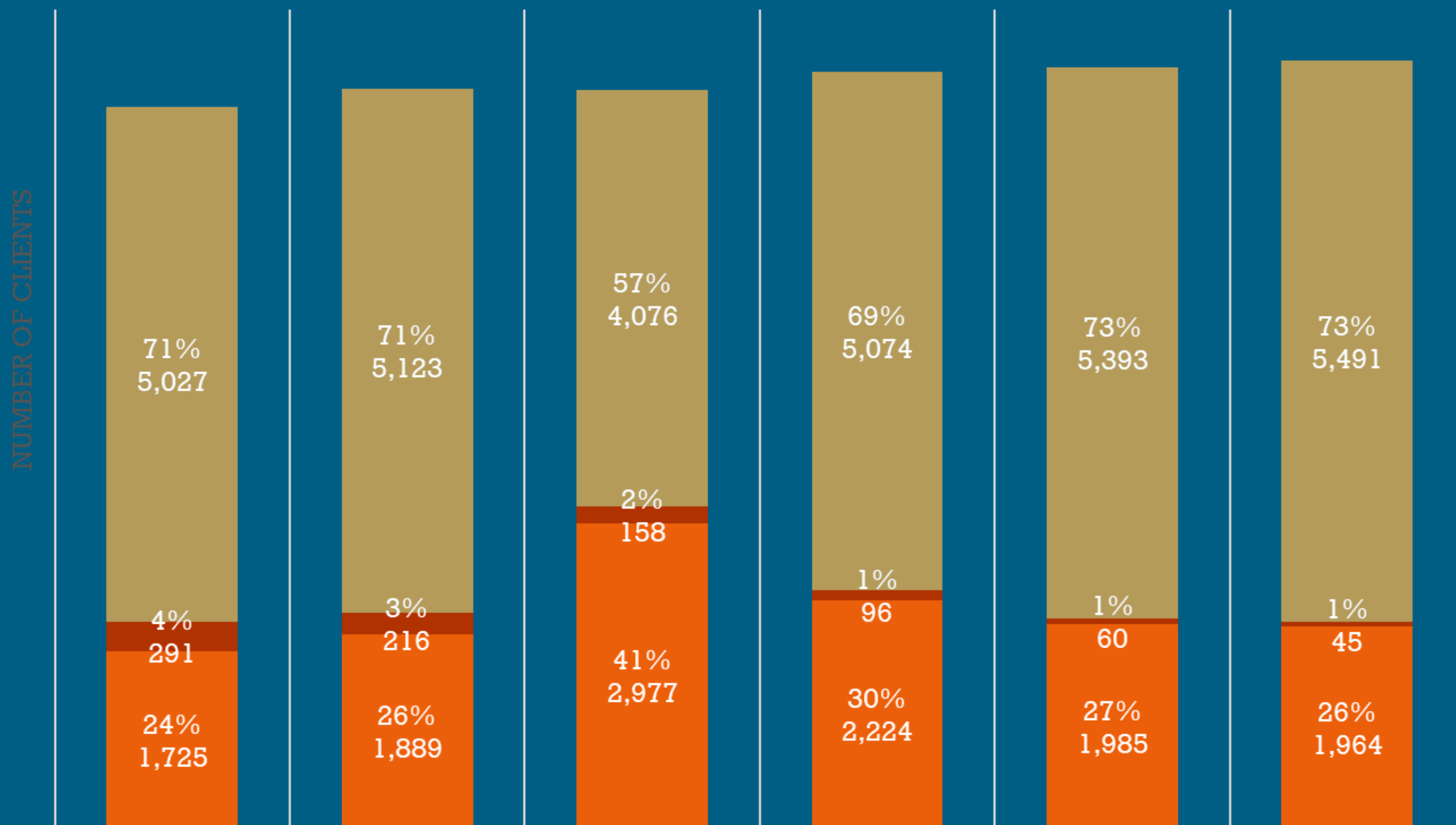
Data from 2024





# People Working

■ Job Seeking - No Wages Reported ■ Subminimum Wage ■ ≥Minimum Wage and/or Self-Employed



2024 Data

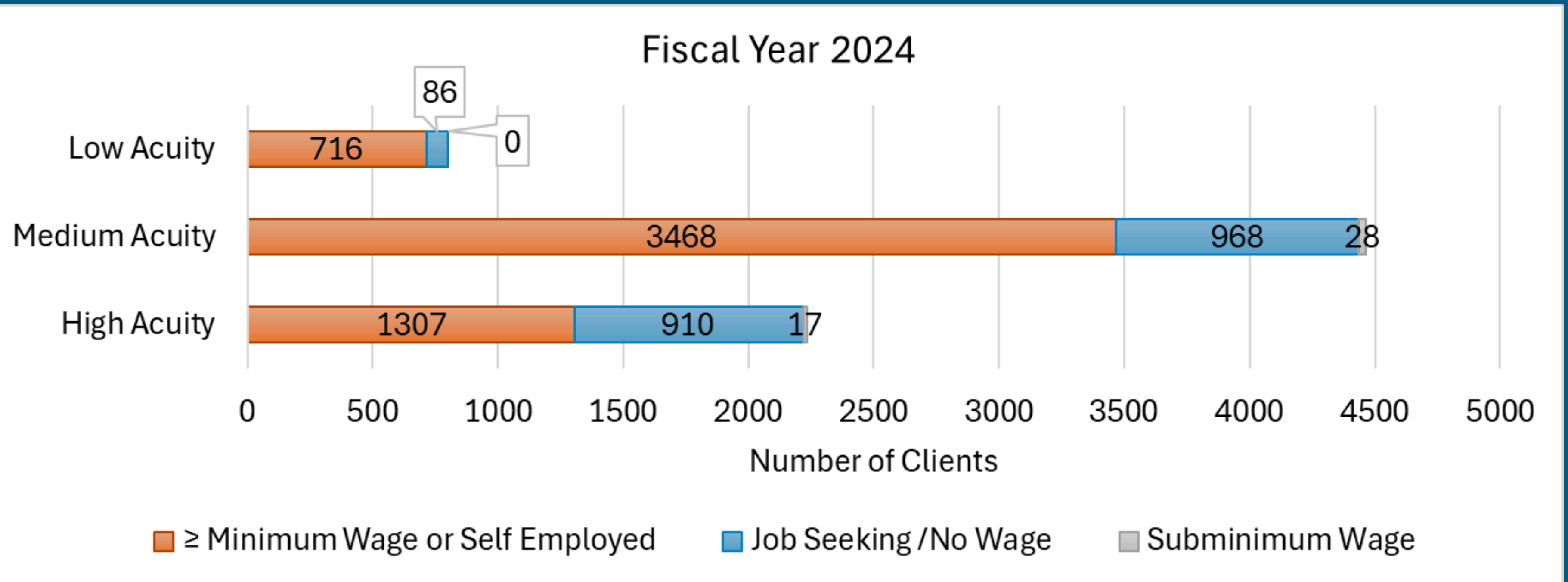




# Support for Working

| Service                    | Support Hours Per Week | Work Hours Per Week | Wages Per Week |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Individual Employment      | 2.4                    | 10                  | 180.7          |
| Group Supported Employment | 2.4                    | 7.6                 | 125.78         |

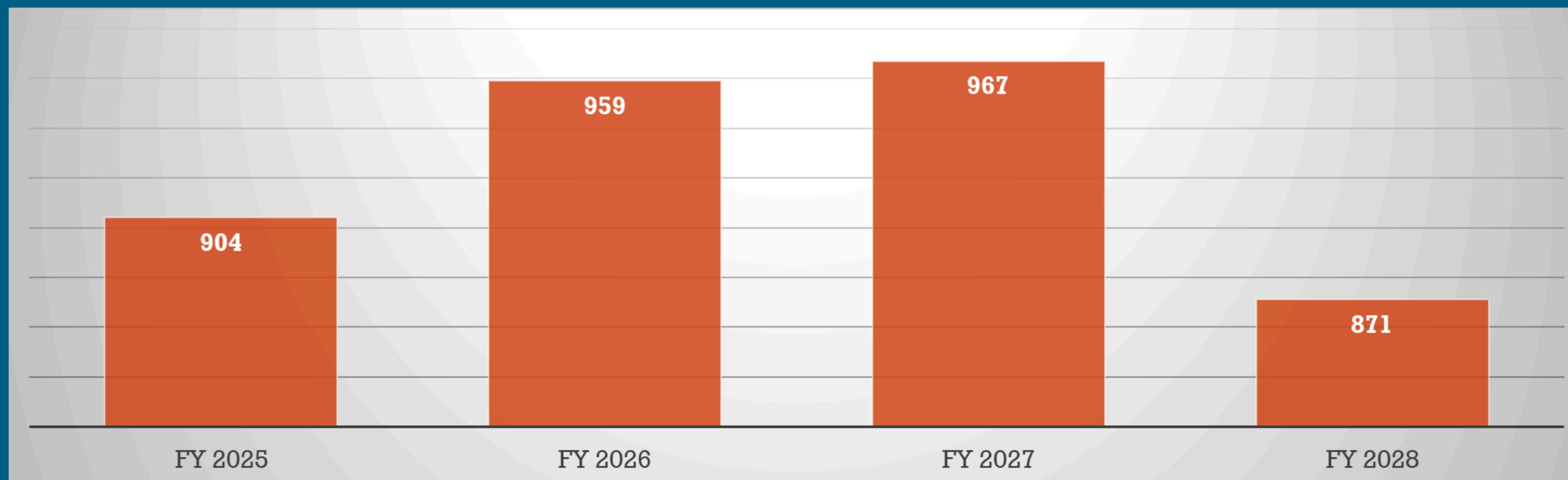
# Wages & Acuity Level





# Projected Transition Age Students

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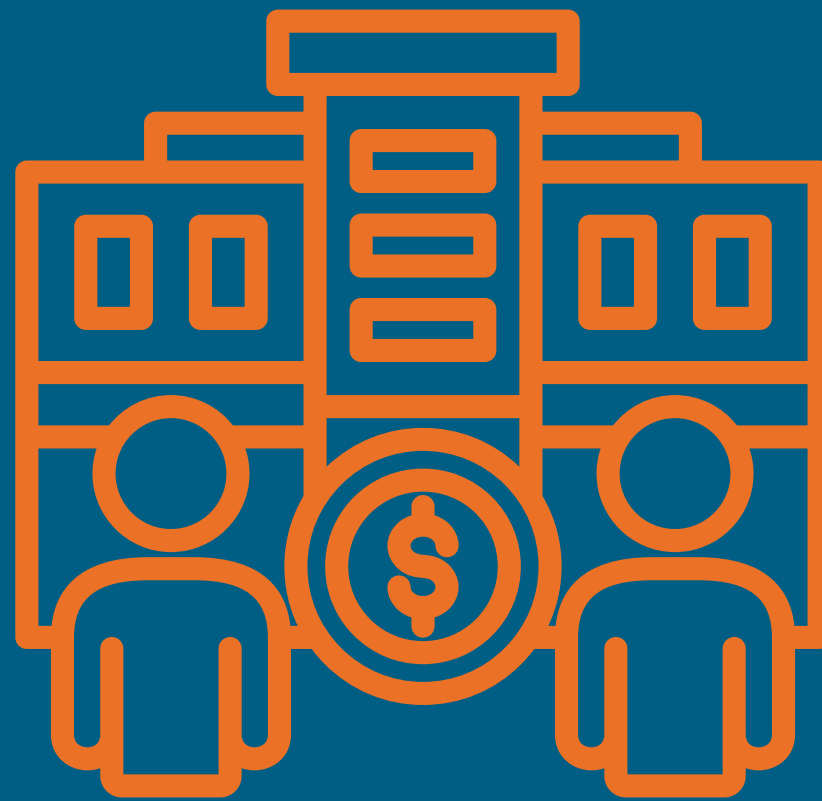
# Access to the Community

Number of  
Individuals  
Served 2526

Community  
Inclusion Average  
Support Hours  
Per Week 2.2

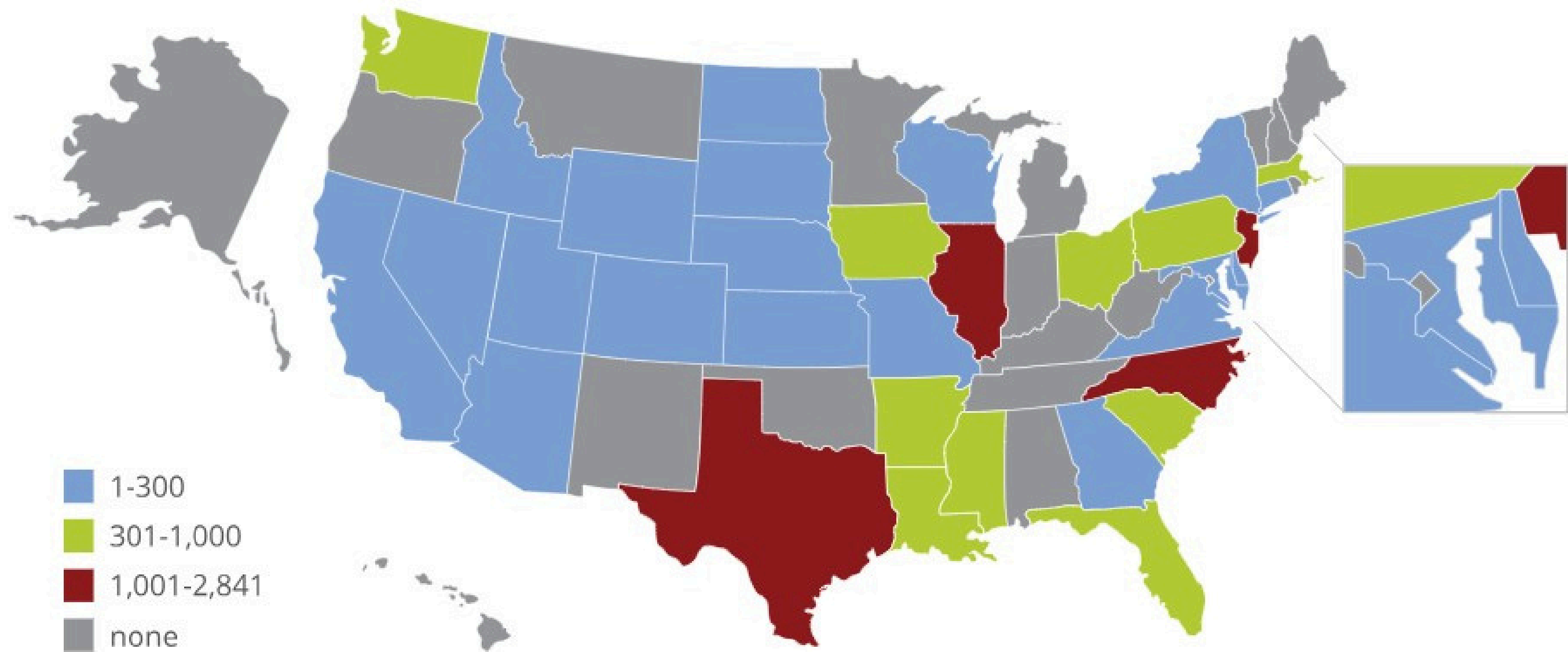
# Residential Habilitation Centers

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# 18 States have Completely Eliminated RHCs

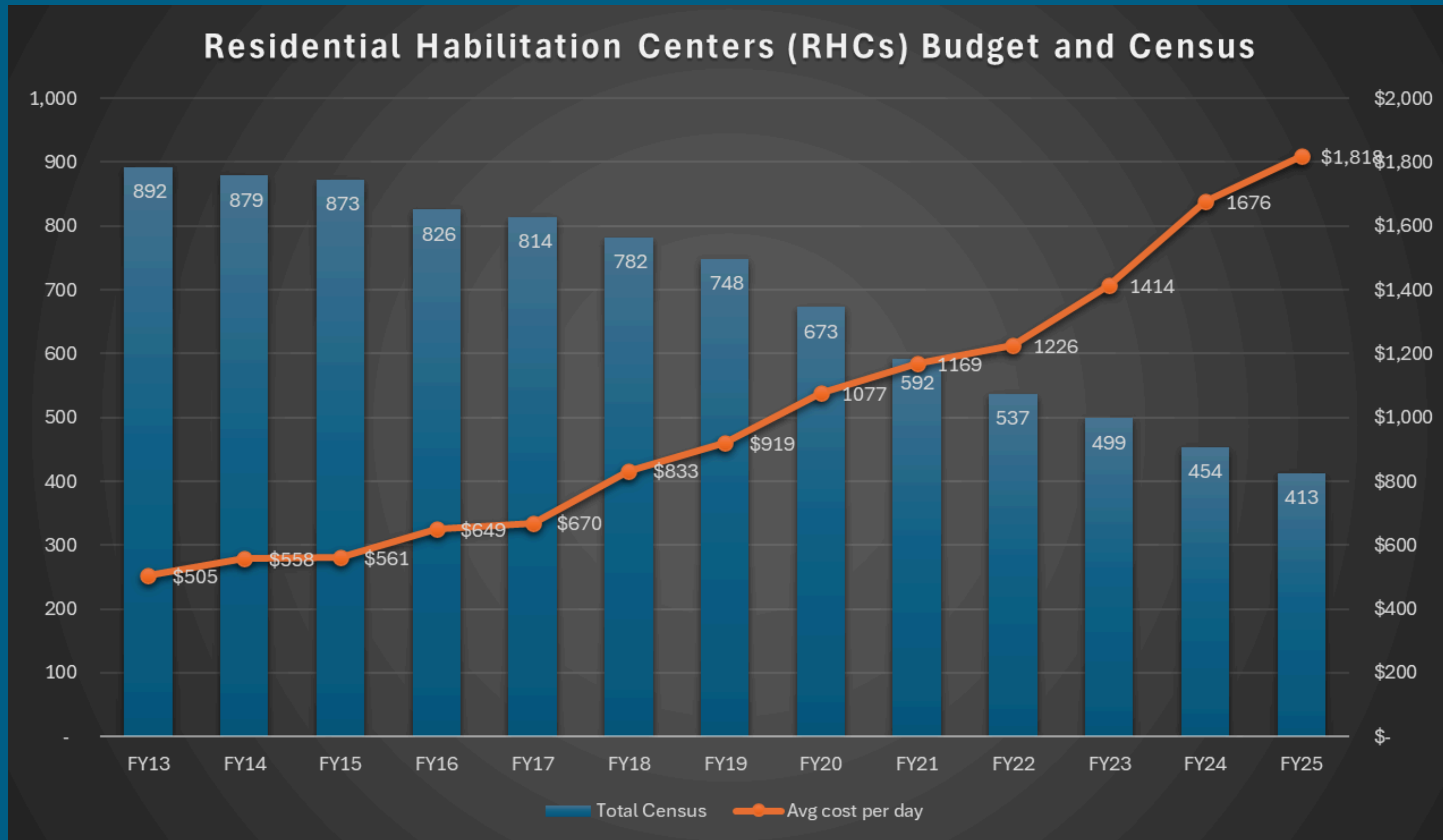
On June 30, 2020, 15,322 people lived in state-run IDD facilities serving 16 or more people.



By 2020, there were 15,322 people with IDD living in 103 state-run facilities in 33 states.



In the last 12 years the number of people at RHCs has dropped by more than **half**, while the cost has more than **tripled**

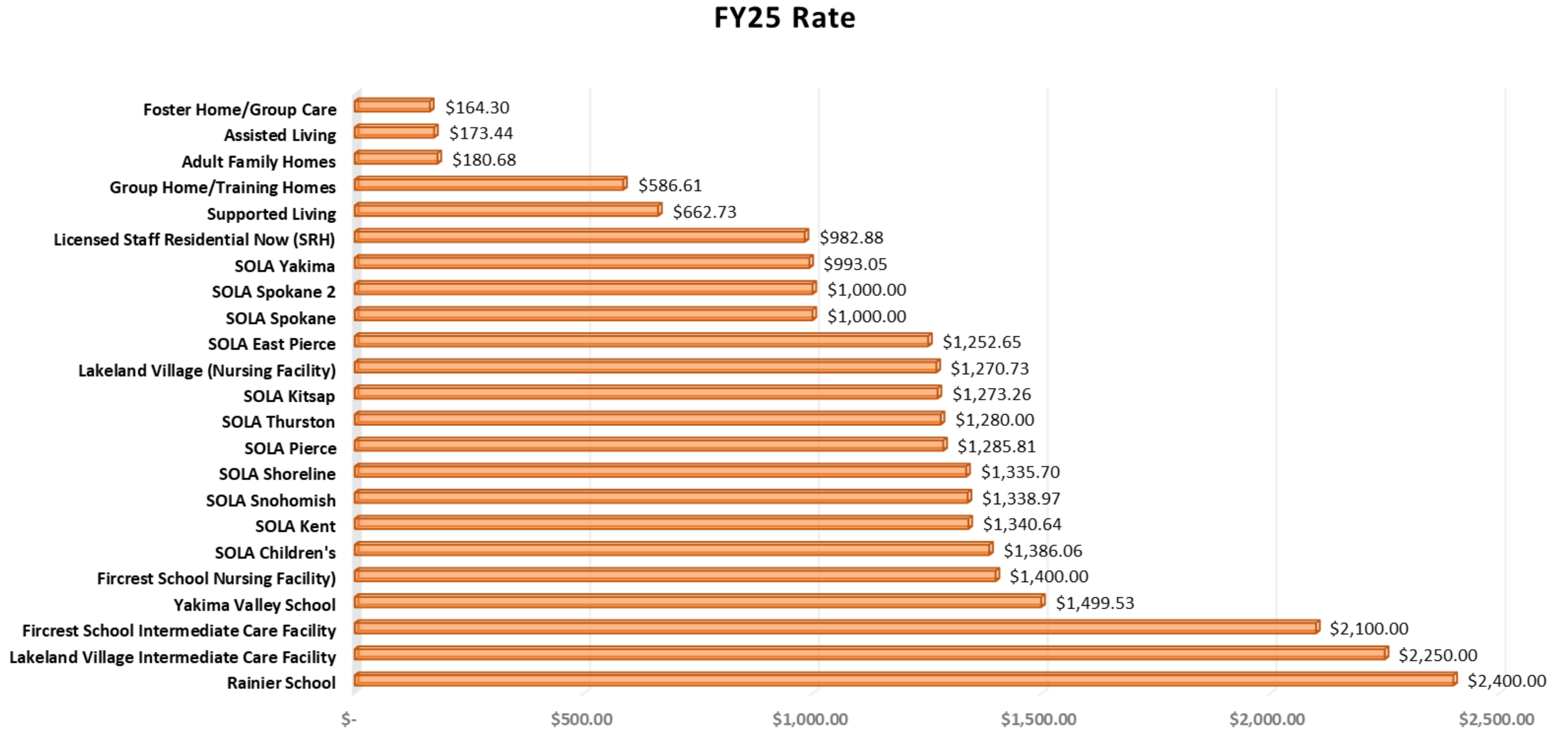




# RHC Census

| Setting              | 18 through 21 | 22 through 62 | 63 + | Total |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|------|-------|
| Lakeland Village     | 1             | 61            | 81   | 143   |
| Rainier              | 2             | 50            | 19   | 71    |
| Yakima Valley School | 4             | 31            | 14   | 49    |
| Fircrest             | 1             | 101           | 64   | 166   |
| TOTAL                | 8             | 243           | 178  | 429   |

# Cost Per Day By Residential Setting



# State Operated Community Residential

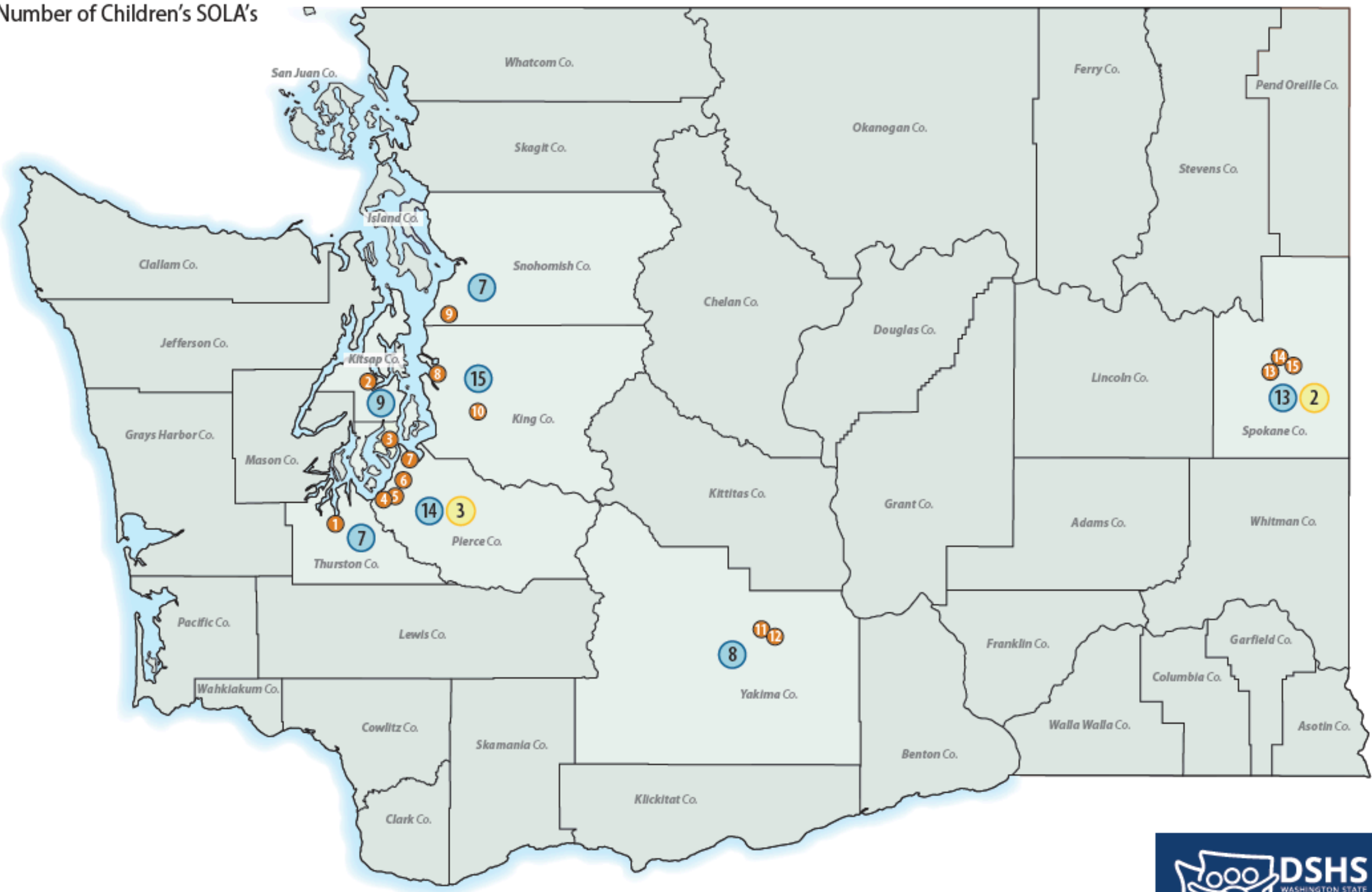
## Our state-operated living alternative homes

Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration

● Number of Adult SOLA's  
● Number of Children's SOLA's

State Operated Living Alternatives regional offices – managing 80+ community homes

- |                                                             |                                         |                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Thurston SOLA                                             | 6 Intensive Habilitation Services (IHS) | 11 Yakima SOLA              |
| 2 Kitsap SOLA                                               | 7 East Pierce SOLA                      | 12 SOCR Transitions         |
| 3 Stabilization Assessment and Intervention Facility (SAIF) | 8 Shoreline SOLA                        | 13 Spokane 1 SOLA           |
| 4 Pierce SOLA                                               | 9 Snohomish SOLA                        | 14 Spokane 2 SOLA           |
| 5 Children's SOLA West (CSW)                                | 10 Kent SOLA                            | 15 Children SOLA East (CSE) |



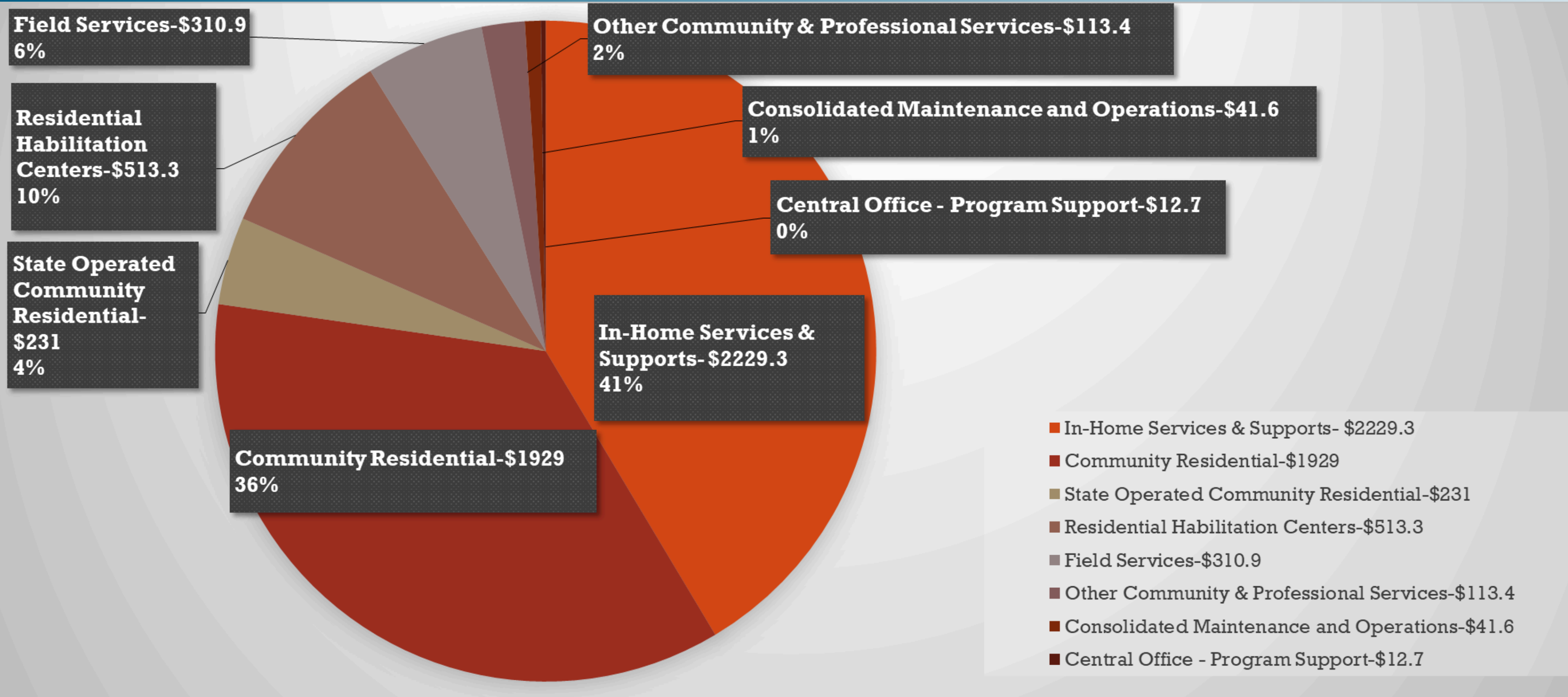


# DDCS Budget





# DDCS's Budget FY 2024

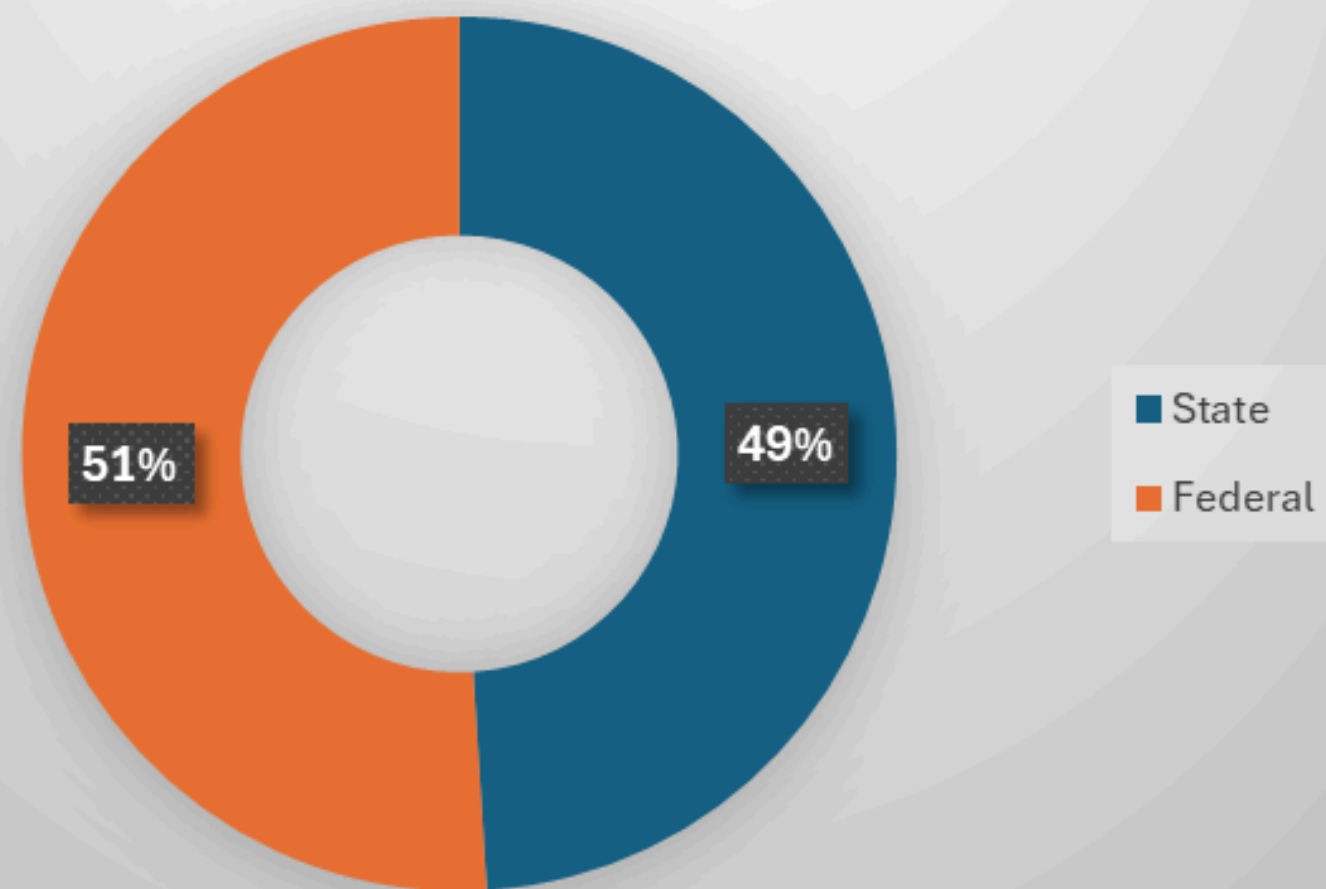


**TOTAL: \$5,381.2 Million**

**\$2,659.8 Million State Funds, \$2,721.4 Million Federal Funds**



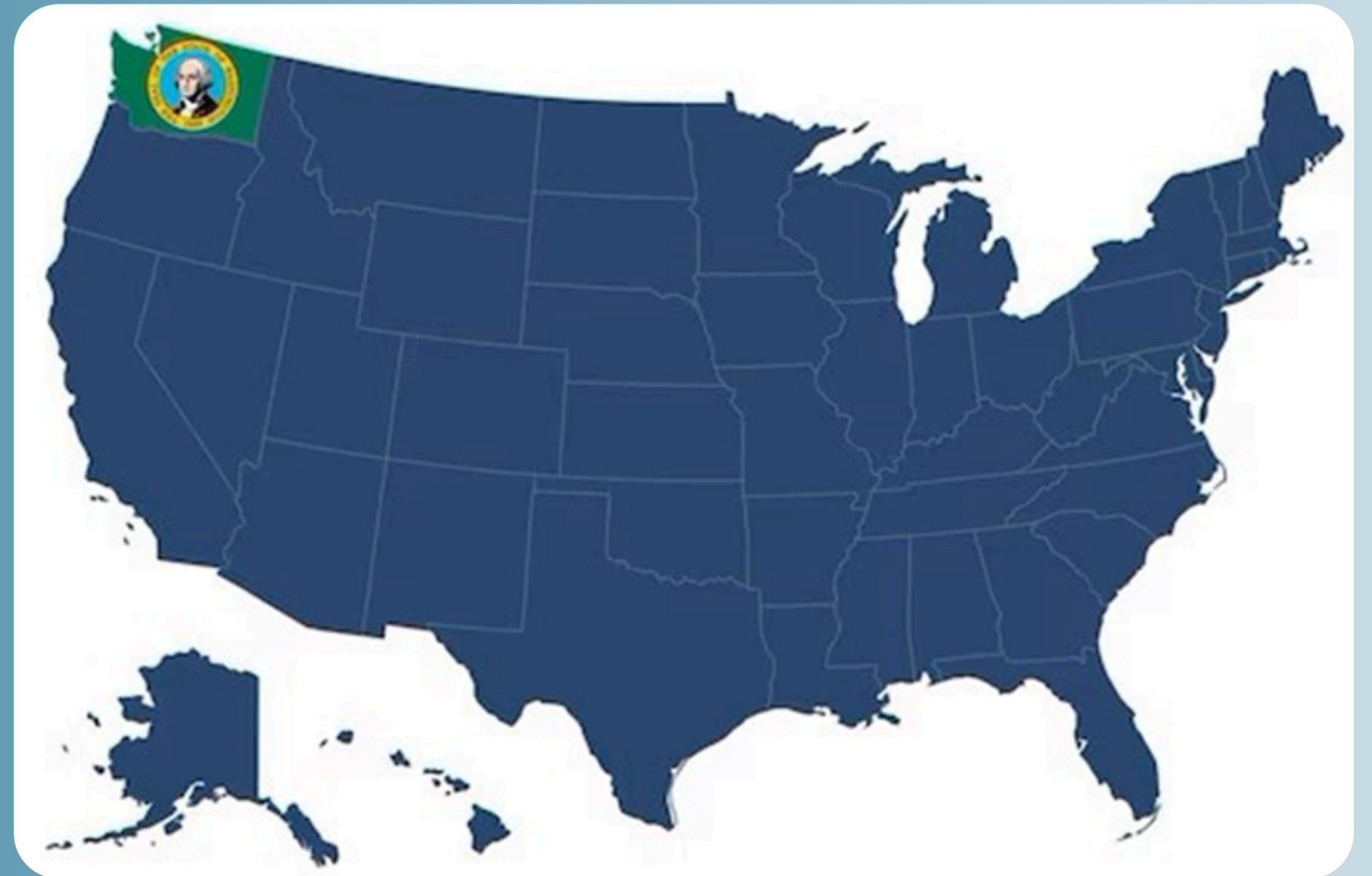
## State Funds are Federally Matched



# State & Federal Partnership

# WASHINGTON STATE RANKS 38TH IN PER CAPITA SPENDING FOR I/DD SERVICES

**Almost one-third of  
DDCS clients  
receive no paid  
services (22,964)**







# Challenges Ahead

Lack of Capacity  
Workforce Shortage  
Insufficient Housing  
Inadequate Family Supports  
Access to Inclusive Education  
Limited Reliable Transportation





Bricks & Mortar Housing



Supports & Services



Caregiver Workforce



All the  
Elements are  
Necessary for  
Success

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# Lack of Capacity



# Lack of Capacity Leads to Crisis

- **Individuals**

- Don't get the care they need
  - End up isolated
  - End up in the hospital or jail

- **Families**

- Have to quit work
  - Go into financial crisis
  - Are separated

- **Agencies**

- Can't adequately serve new people
  - Go out of business

- **Students**

- Don't get an appropriate education
  - Are isolated and/or restrained
  - Get sent out of state



# Workforce Shortage

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Lack of Appropriately and  
Adequately Trained  
Caregiving Professionals

Low Wages/Rates

Less available care  
AND lower-quality  
care



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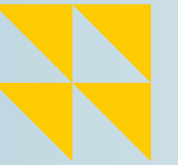




# The Workforce Shortage Affects ALL Services

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Mental/Behavioral Health
- 3 Employment
- 4 Local Community Programs
- 5 Homecare/Residential Services
- 6 Childcare
- 7 Education

# Insufficient Housing



*There isn't enough Safe, Affordable, Accessible, Inclusive Housing*

- People with I/DD are considered extremely low income (SSI= \$967 a month)
- \$2000 asset limit
- **Projected need for 39,000 units in WA**
- Housing Trust Fund has 1,382 DD Set aside units
- There is NO housing market in the US where you can rent an apartment solely on SSI





# Inadequate Family Supports

Families are the long-term care system for individuals with I/DD



xyz ( percent) of adult clients live with and receive care from a parent or a relative



It is estimated that more than 2000 individuals over the age of 40 are living with a parent





# ***Families Need.....***



- Affordable, Accessible, Reliable Childcare and after school programs
- An Occasional break from caregiving (respite)
- A reliable network of well trained, care providers
- Timely and easy to use services
- Accurate information & culturally responsive support
- Assistance navigating systems
- Adequate funding for supports that give individuals meaningful things to do while family members work, which provides financial stability to the family



# ***Aging Parents Need...***



**Support to plan for  
the Future**

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**Assurance there will  
be things in place  
when they are no  
longer able to  
provide care**

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# ***Education Reform is Needed***

- Washington is 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation in use of inclusive practices
- Washington continues to send many of our high acuity students with I/DD out of state
- Washington continues to disproportionately restrain and isolate students with disabilities





# ☒ Limited Reliable Transportation ☒



- Individuals with disabilities often are unable to drive. They need reliable, accessible public transportation to get to:
  - Work
  - The store
  - Medical appointments
  - Recreation
  - To church
  - To visit friends & family

*to live the lives they want.....*



# What's Next?





Community services are **not** optional -  
they are lifelines.

The state has a **moral obligation** to  
ensure people with IDD are cared for.

#Cuts#Cause#Crisis

***Protect DD Services***





Equal cuts across state agencies are **not equitable** for people with IDD

Individuals with IDD receive services from **many agencies**, so they end up taking multiple cuts.

#Cuts#Cause#Crisis

***Protect DD Services***



# ***Protect Disability Rights***



Individuals with disabilities have a right to live, work, learn, and play in the community

Ensure that people with disabilities are not denied services, provided unequal treatment, or relegated to segregated settings and they have equal opportunities to benefit from state services and programs.





# How Can you Help?

## *Thank You!*



Cathy@arcwa.org

[www.reallygreatsite.com](http://www.reallygreatsite.com)