

*Welcome to the*  
**2026 Legislative  
Notebook**

For intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



[https://arcwa.org/advocacy/2026-  
legislative-notebook/](https://arcwa.org/advocacy/2026-legislative-notebook/)



# 5 Year State Plan Survey

2026-2031



**What We Heard: 2025 Five-Year State Plan**

## Survey Results



**More than 1,100 people from communities across Washington shared what matters most for people with developmental disabilities and their families.**

The feedback gathered through this statewide survey will help guide the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council's goals, funding, and activities for the 2026-2031 State Plan.

**Read the plain language summary at:**

[www.ddc.wa.gov/post/waddc-2025-state-plan-survey-results](http://www.ddc.wa.gov/post/waddc-2025-state-plan-survey-results)



# Who Responded

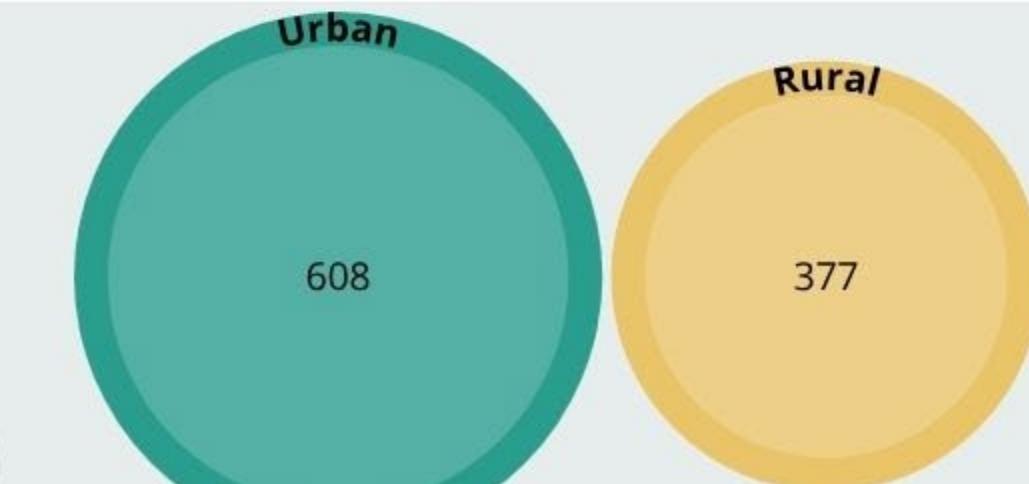


More than 1,100 people from across Washington took the survey. Most were family members of a person with a developmental disability, followed by professionals and people with disabilities themselves. Most respondents live in cities or rural areas, showing that people from all parts of the state shared their voices and ideas.

## Who Responded



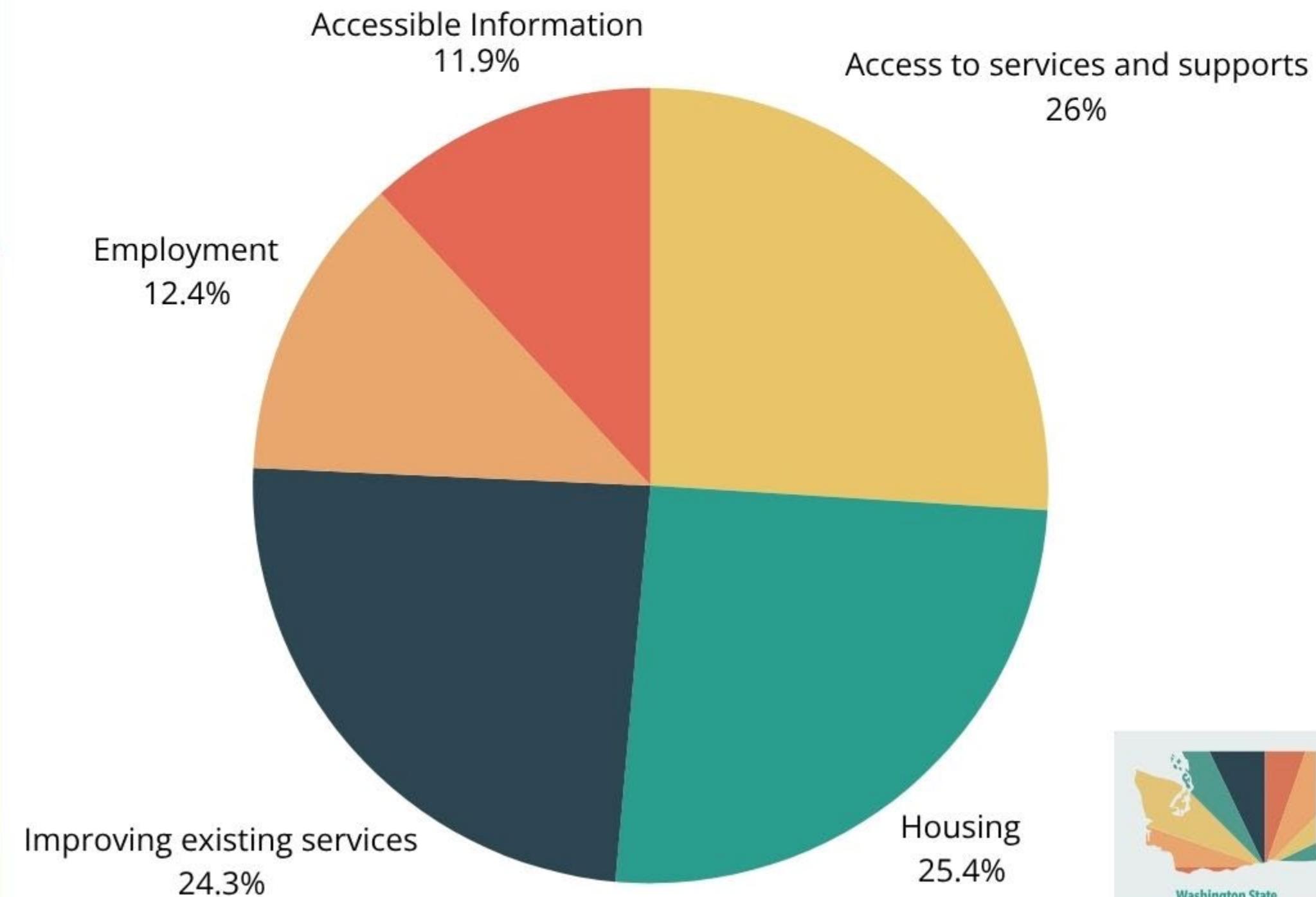
Where people live



# What Matters Most for the Next 5 Years

*“Supports are needed for school, recreation, childcare, afterschool clubs, and community activities — anything a nondisabled person can do, a person with a disability should be able to do.”*

-Survey respondent

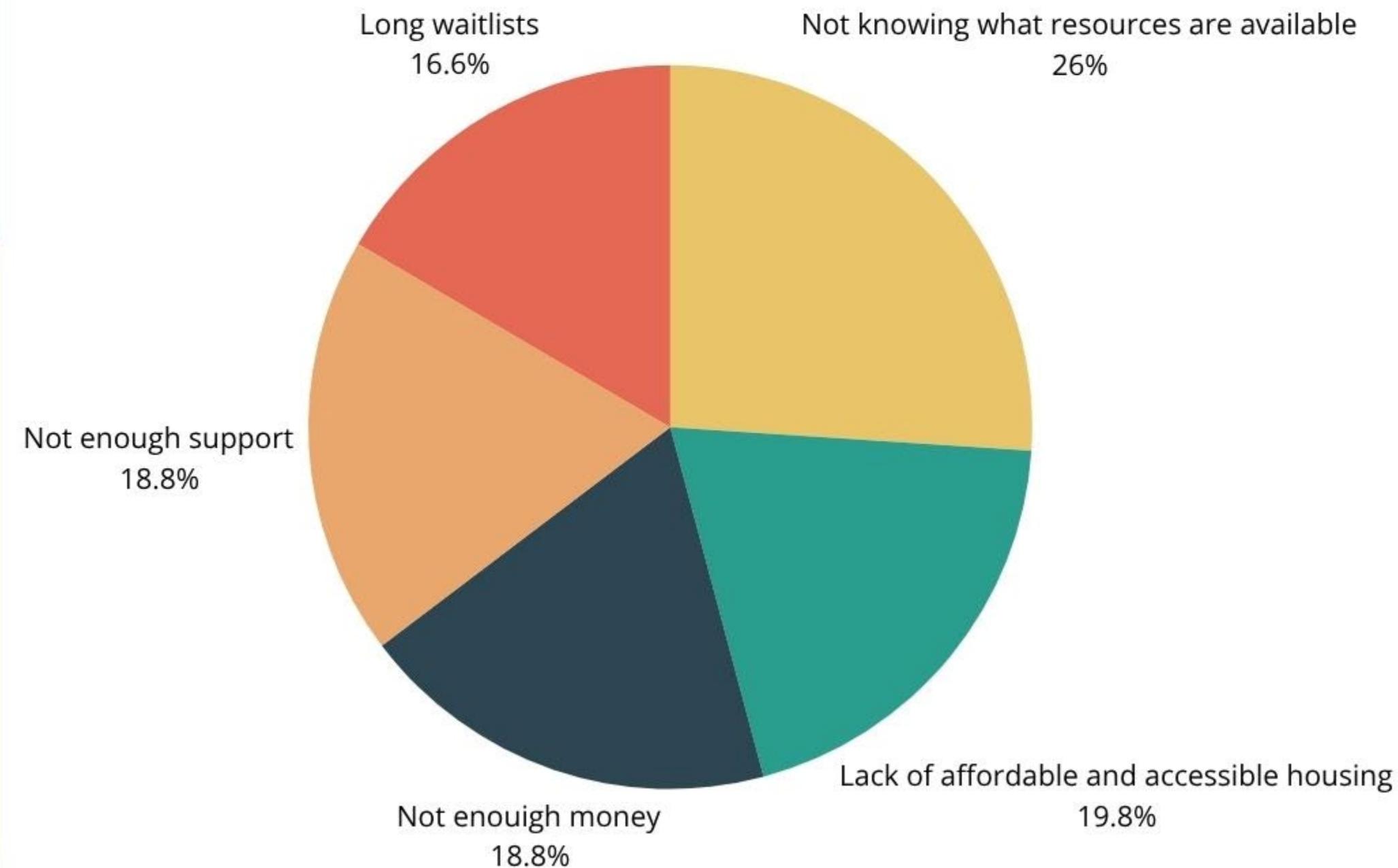


# Biggest Barriers



***"I need help myself to understand all of this and the finances to survive and feed my son and my hubby and finally myself please—I'm begging, we need help."***

-Survey respondent



# The Path Forward



**The feedback from this survey will directly shape the Council's work for the next five years. What people shared will guide how we set goals, choose projects, and invest funding to make the biggest impact. It will also help us plan advocacy efforts and community activities that address the barriers people experience most often.**

***"Everyone should be able to get the help they need, no matter where they live"***

*-Survey Respondent*

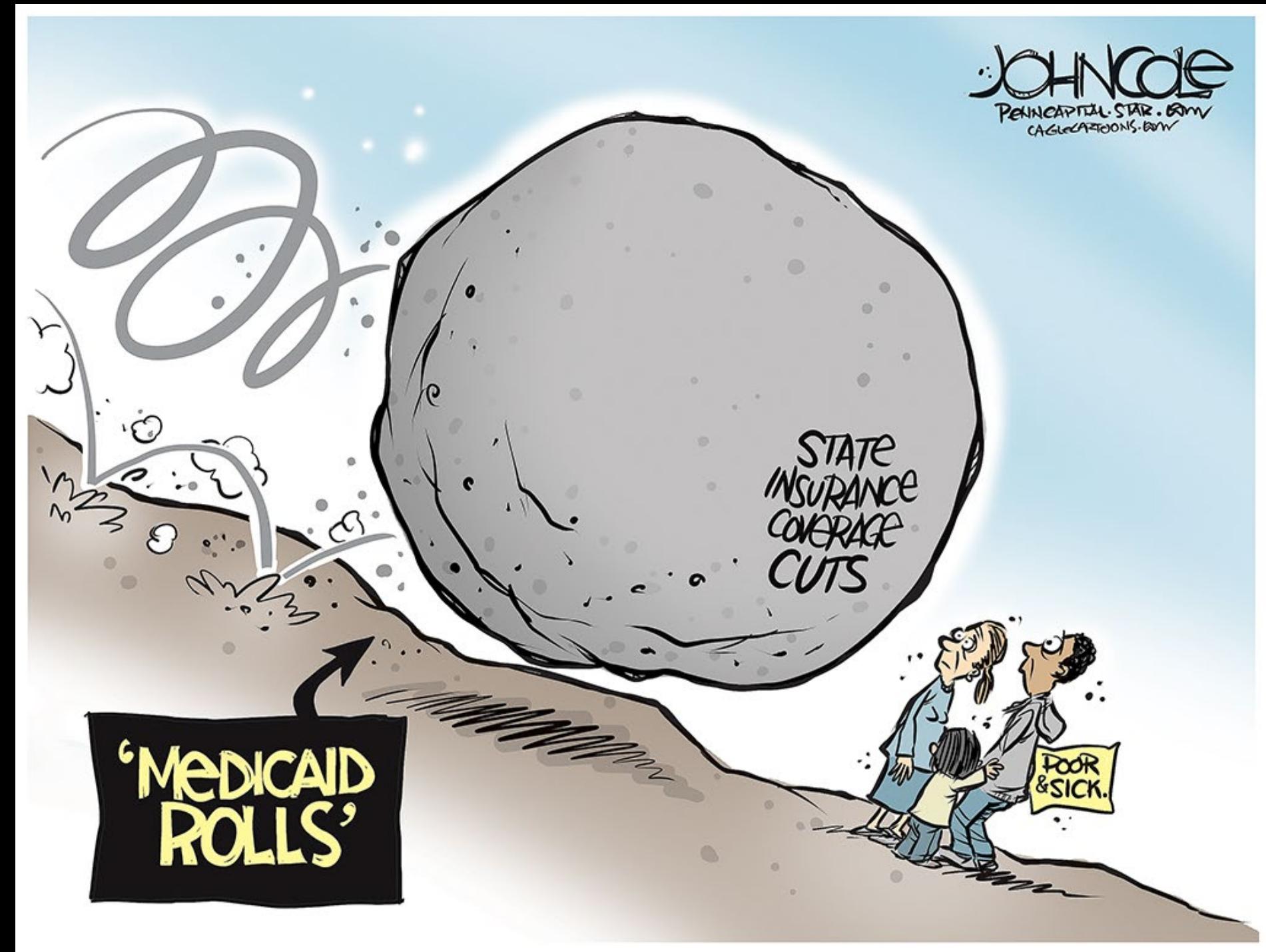
**Together, this input will help the Council build a more inclusive, accessible Washington where every person with a developmental disability and their family has the opportunity to live, work, and fully take part in their community.**

What is Anticipated?

# What's Happening?

- Federal level
  - Medicaid cuts coming
  - Snap Cuts
  - Department of Education shut down
  - Threats to Section 8 housing
  - Threats to disability infrastructure
  - Threats to Social Security



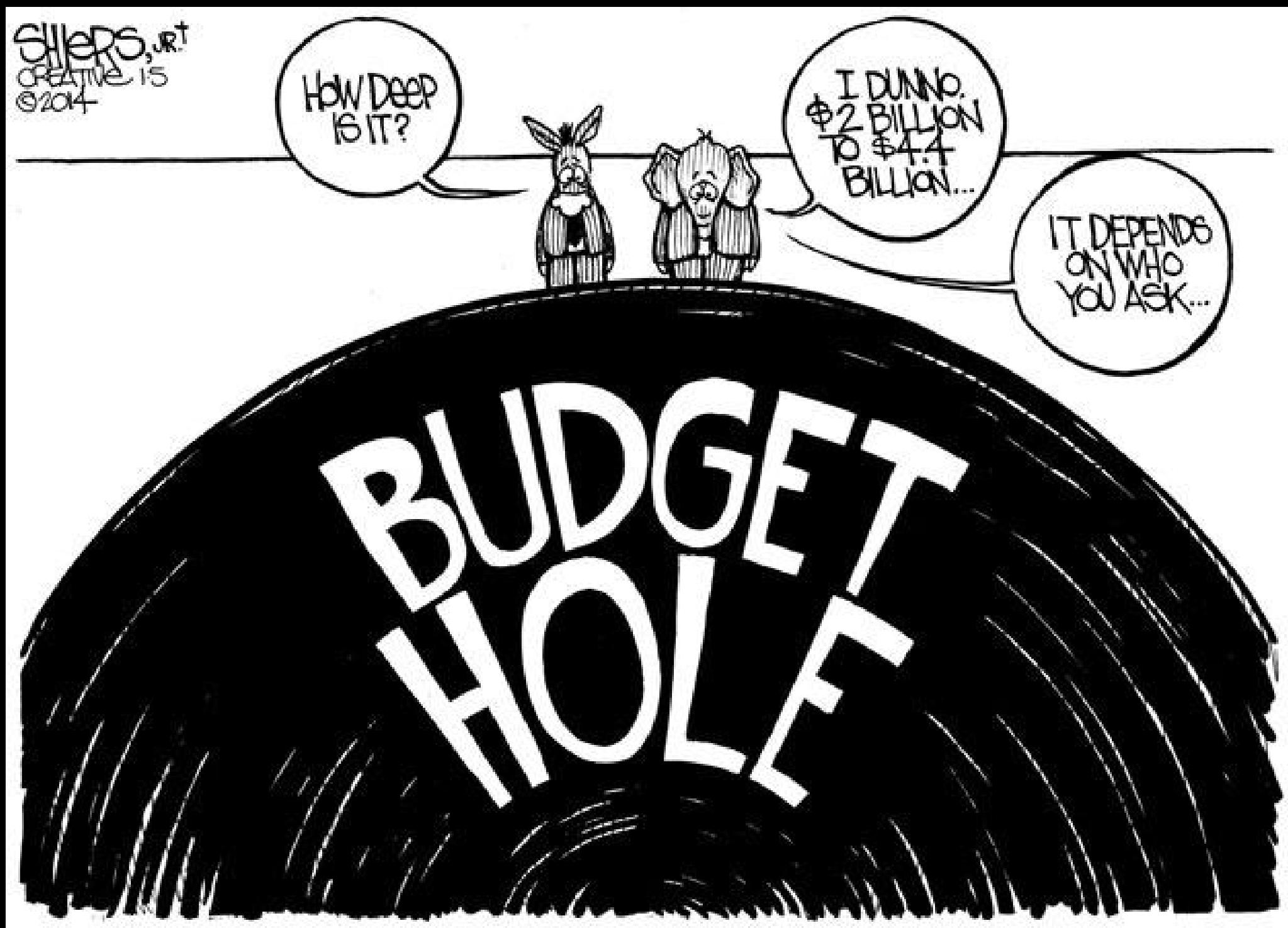


## Cost Shifts to the States

# What Legislators are Facing

- Inflation
- Revenue is down
- Back-filling SNAP
- Loss of Medicaid funding
- Growing caseloads

# The Dilemma



# How Much is a Billion?

- If someone works 40 hours a week at the WA Minimum Wage (\$17.13 in 2026)
- It would take **28 years and 7 months** to make a million dollars
- It would take **28,016 years** to make a billion dollars
- It would take over **28 million years** to make a trillion dollars

# Options

- Make Cuts
- Raise taxes

# Protect Critical Services

Maintain  
Eligibility  
for DD  
Services

Preserve  
Personal  
Care  
Hours

Keep  
Waiver  
Services  
Intact

Sustain  
Provider  
Rates

# Messaging



**Protect**  
Disability Services



**Protect**  
Community Living



**Protect**  
Disability Rights



*Welcome to the*

# 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.*

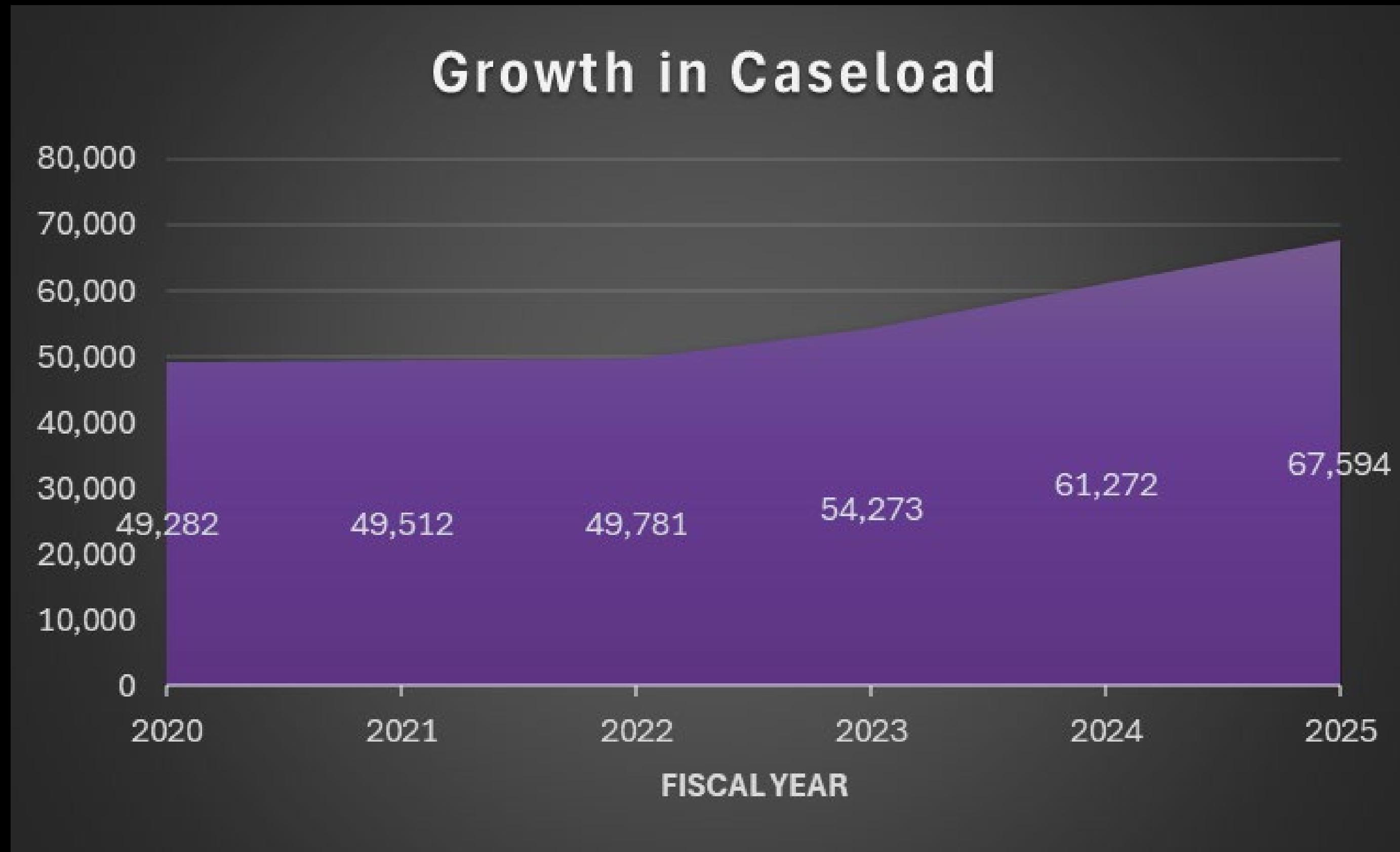
# *What is the DDCS Caseload?*



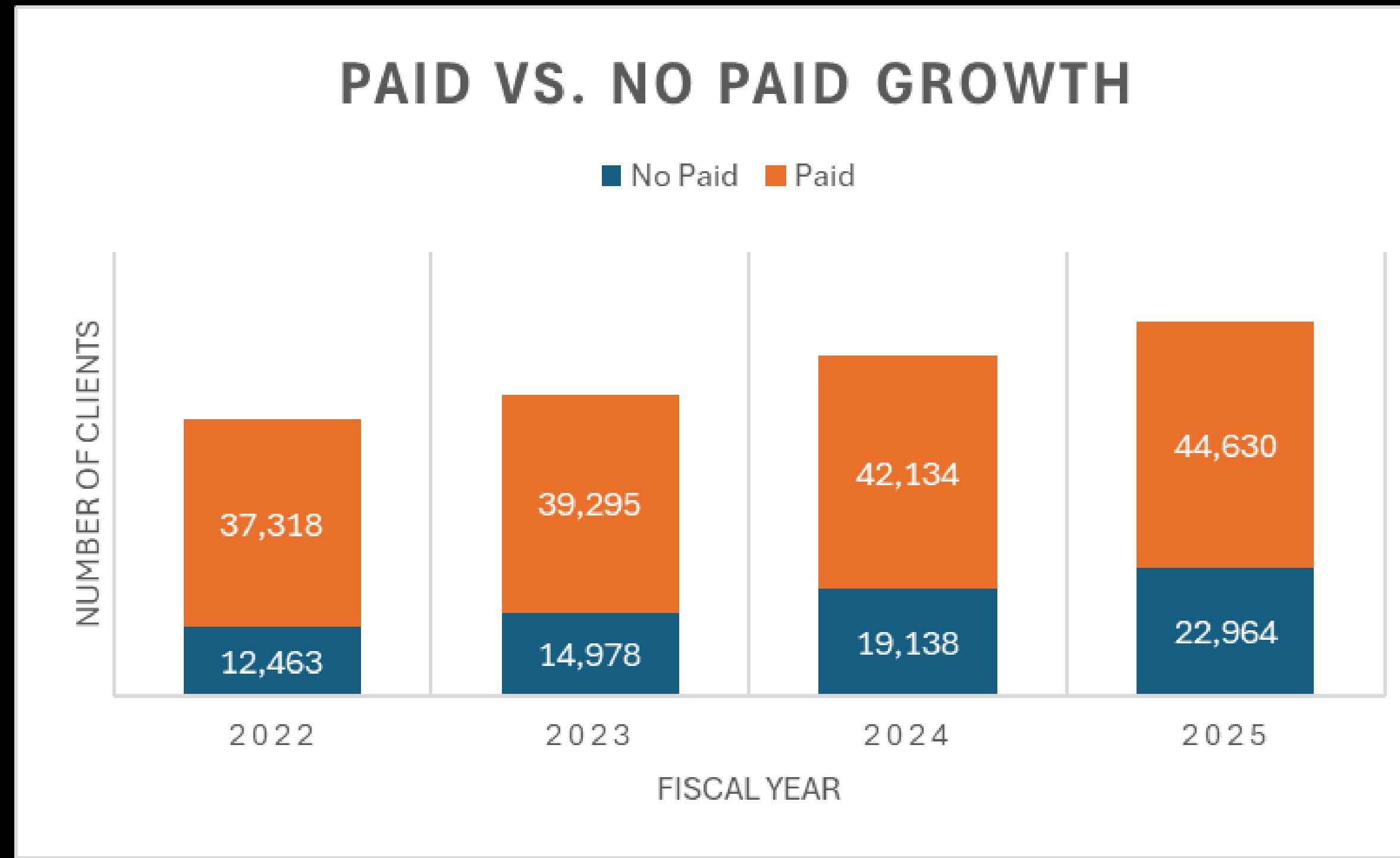
# DDCS Snap Shot

- 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

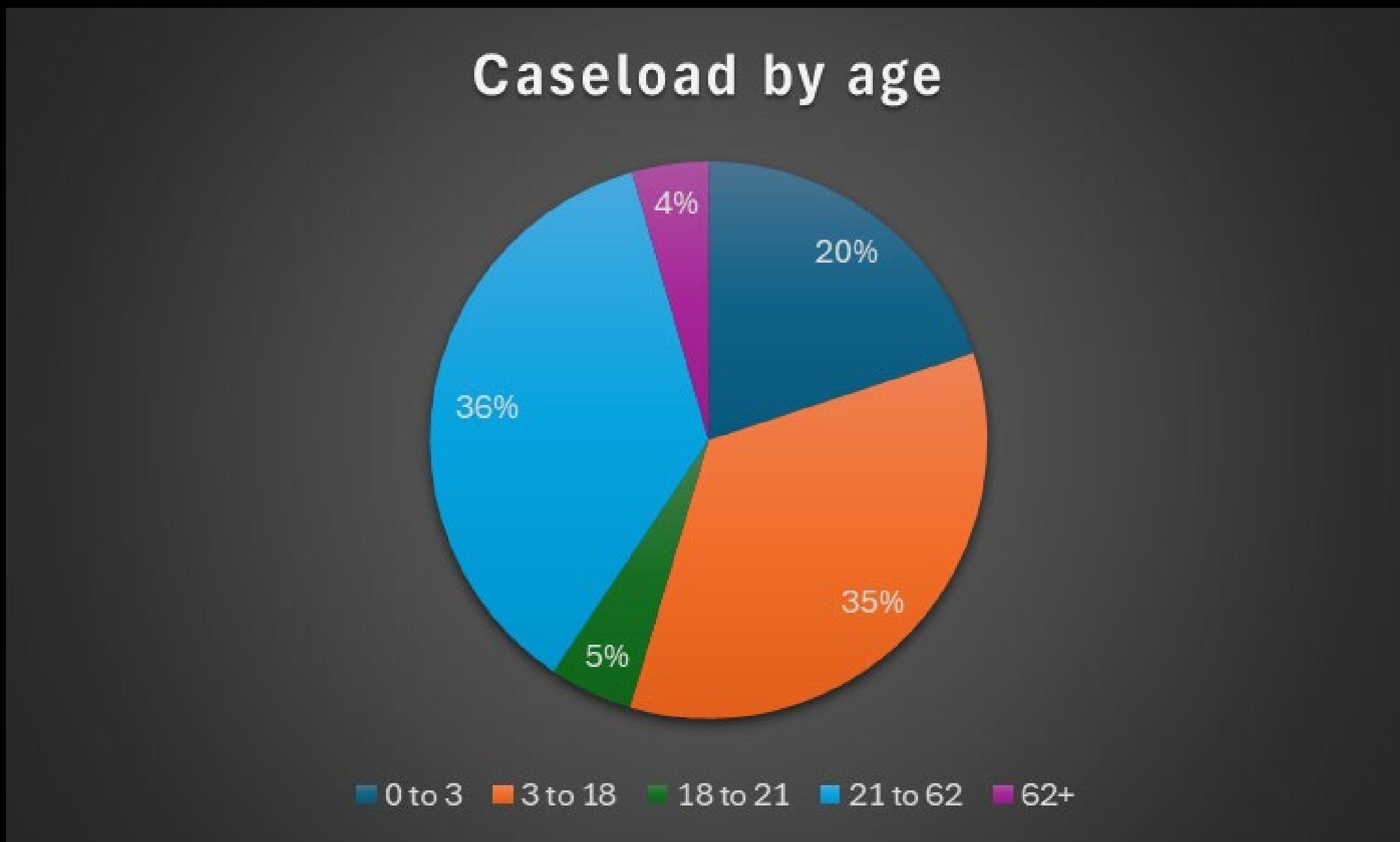


# 22,964 Receive No Paid Services



A 45% Growth over the past 4 years

# Who DDCS Serves by Age



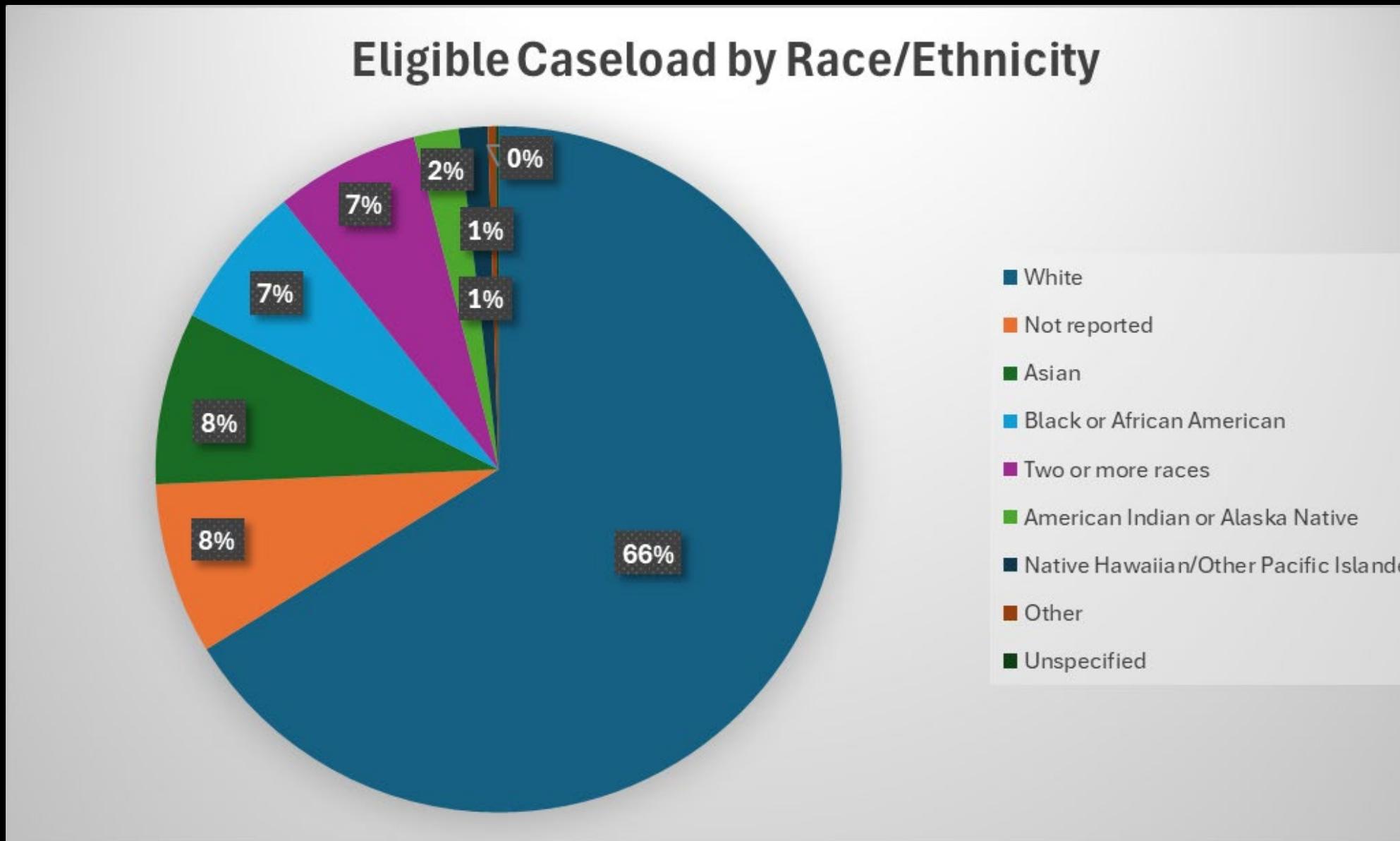
Age range	Number enrolled
0 to 3	13,483
3 to 18	23,398
18 to 21	3268
21 to 62	24,452
62+	2993
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,594</b>

More than Half are Children

# Caseload by Disability

<b>Disability</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Child</b>	<b>Total</b>
	684	1591	<b>2275</b>
Another Neurological Condition	162		<b>162</b>
Another Neurological Condition or Other Condition	1220	735	<b>1955</b>
Autism	5096	2250	<b>7346</b>
Cerebral Palsy	2046	449	<b>2495</b>
Developmental Delay	113	28765	<b>28878</b>
Epilepsy	559	133	<b>692</b>
Intellectual Disability	16882	836	<b>17,718</b>
Medically Intensive Children's Program		35	<b>35</b>

# 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

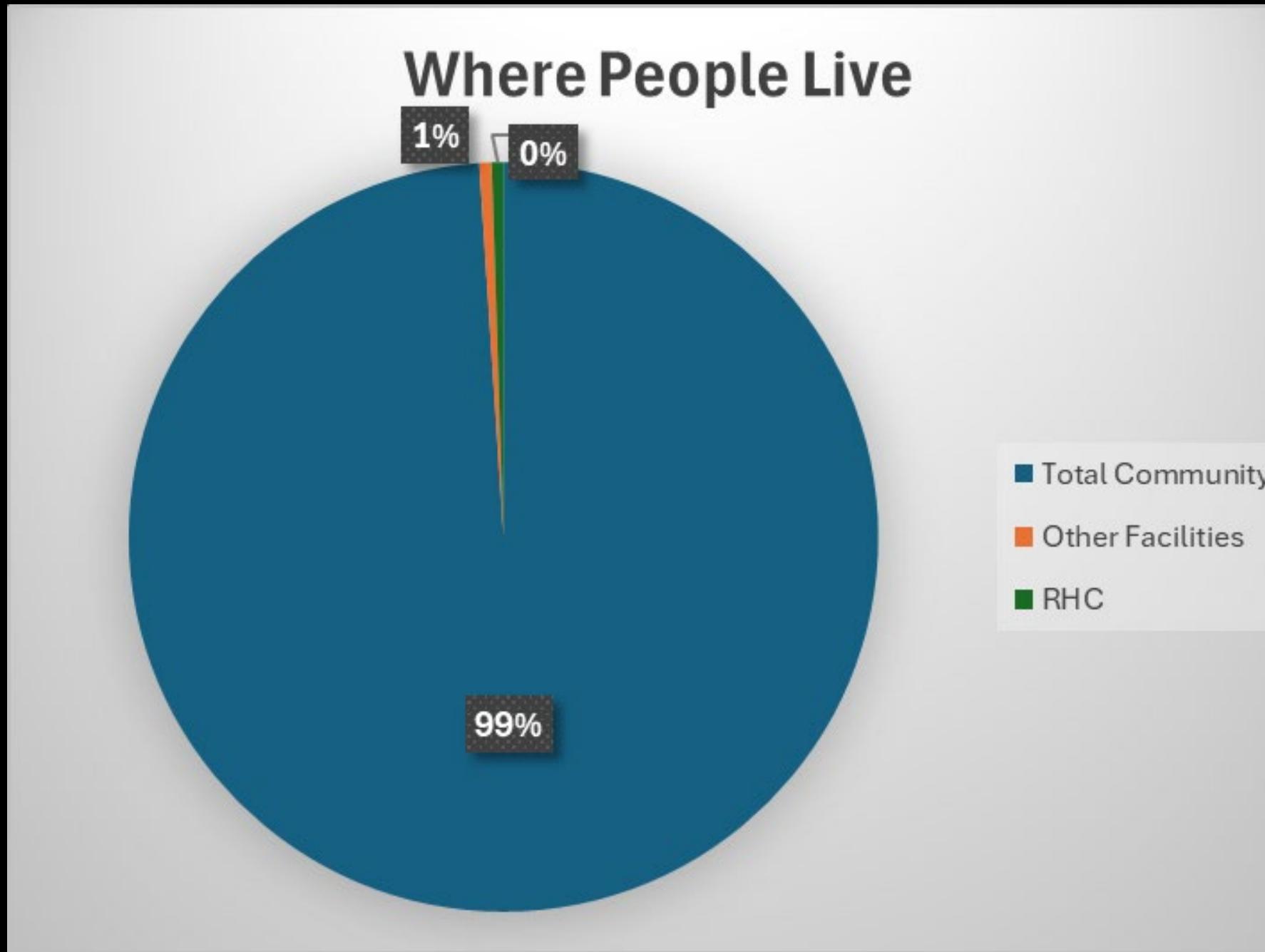
Tribal Affiliation	Adult	Child	Number
Affiliated with one or more tribes	662	468	1,130
Unspecified	2344	24	2,368
<b>Total</b>	<b>3006</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>3498</b>

Hispanic	Adult	Child	Total
	3,407	8806	<b>12,213</b>

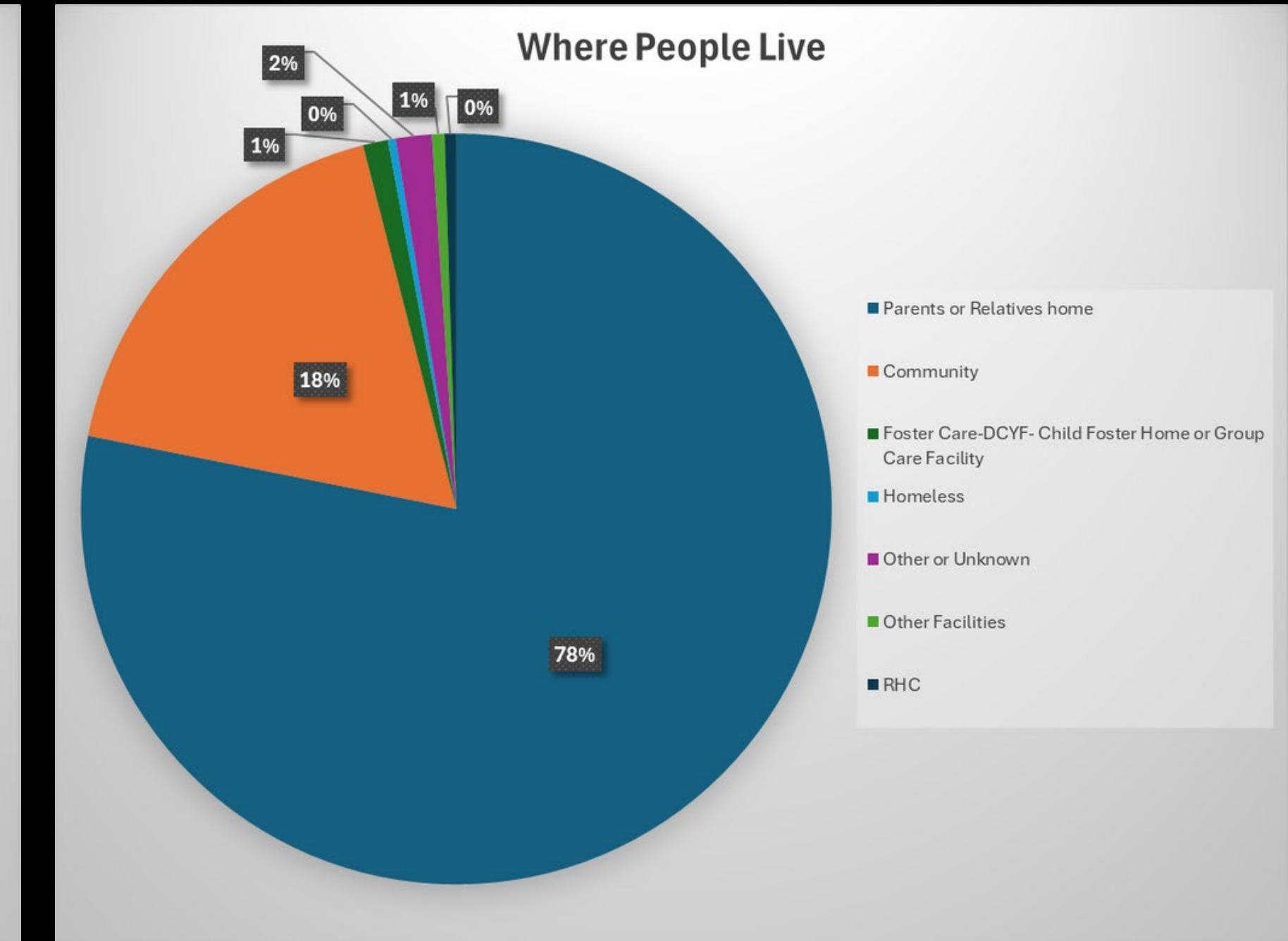
# Community Living



# 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?

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



Washington has 5 DD Waivers



The number of DD Waiver slots are capped

# Waivers by the Numbers

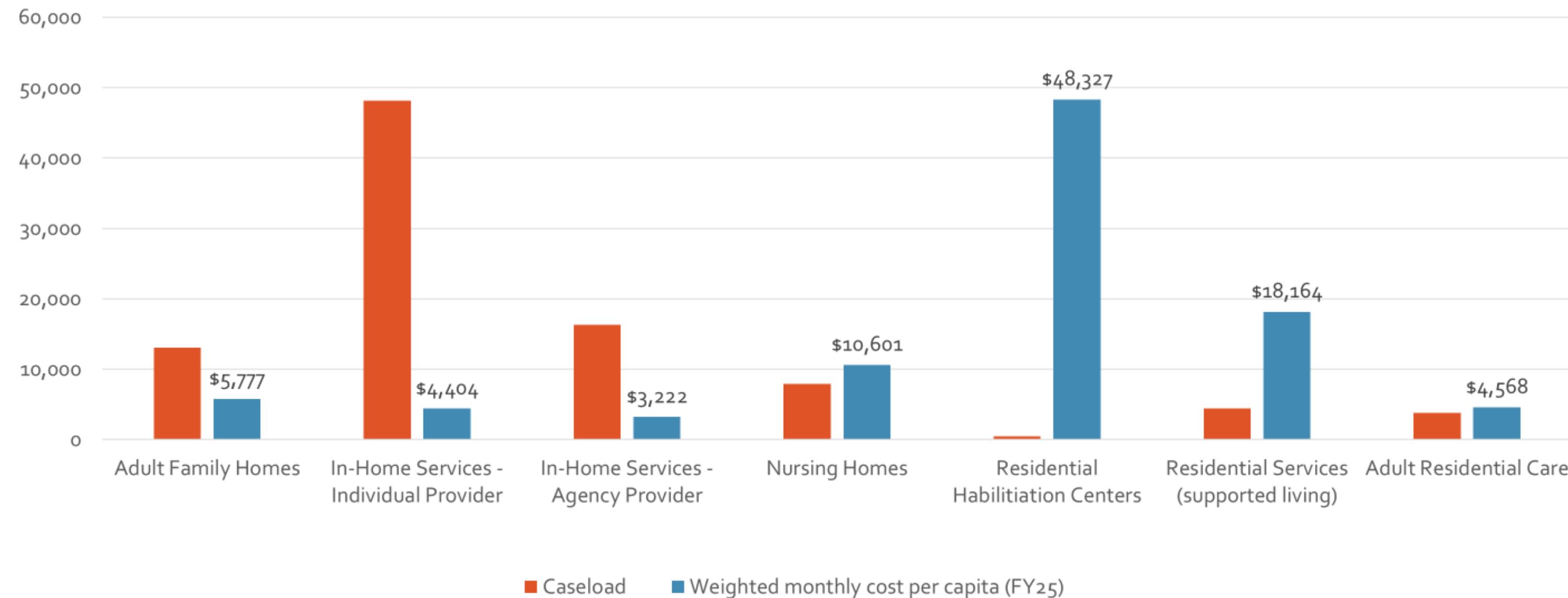
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Waiver	Capacity	Enrolled
Individual & Family Services	8000	7,208
Basic Plus	13,400	12,490
Core	5702	4801
Community Protection	504	301
Childrens In Home Behavior Support	200	190
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,806</b>	<b>24,990</b>

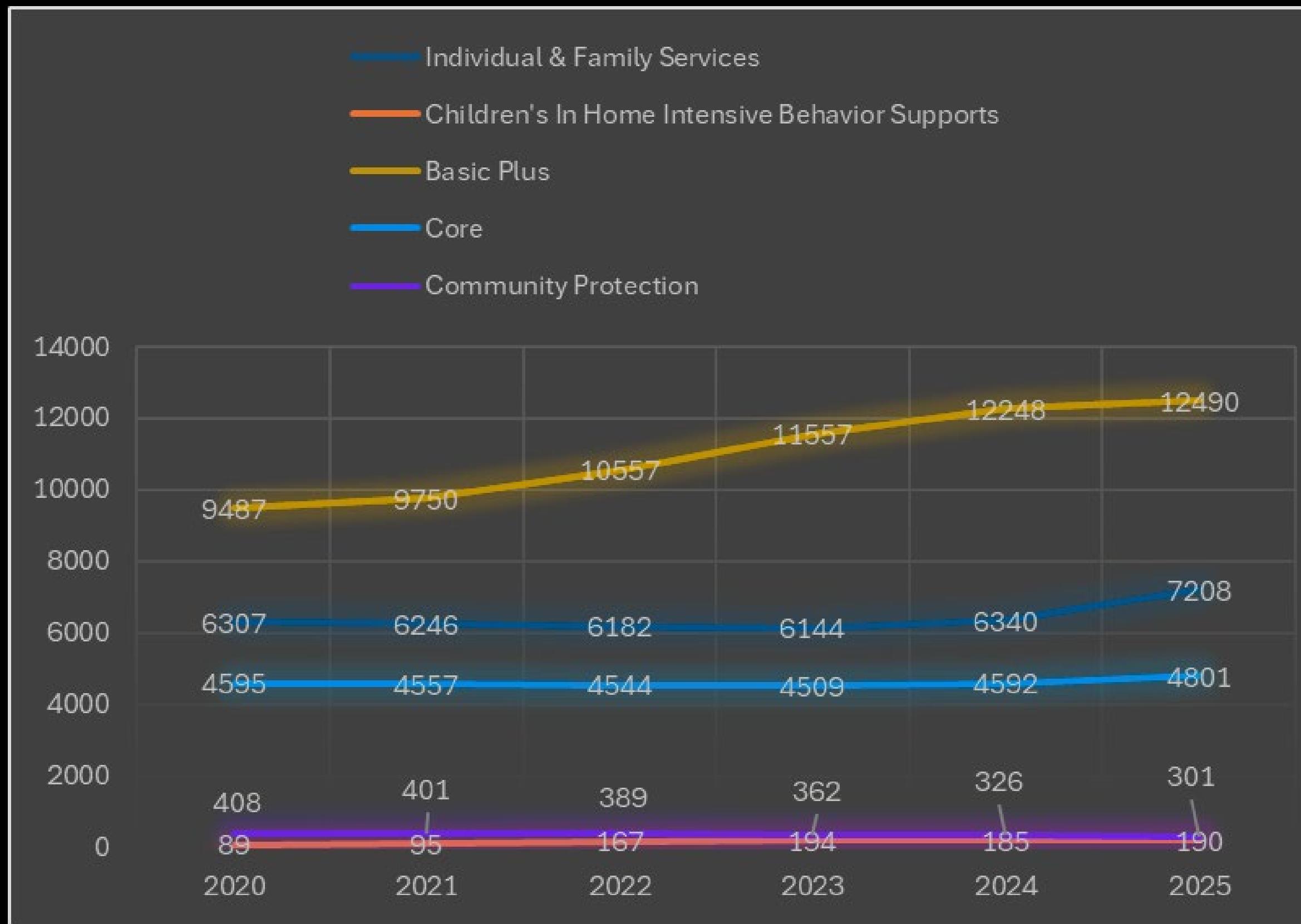
# HCBS is extremely popular & saves the State money

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

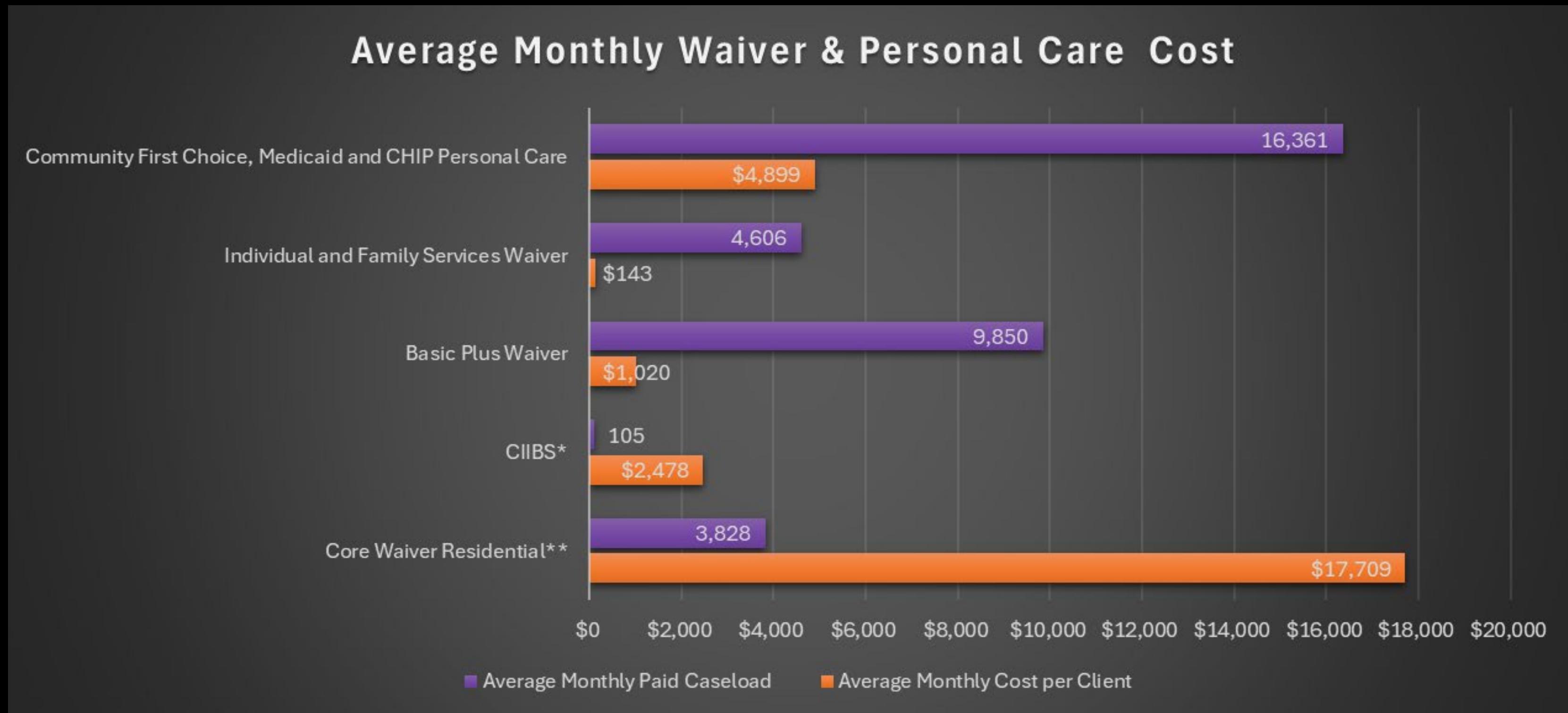


Source: own elaboration with information from DSHS - ALTSA & DDA Per Capita Costs Winter 2024 Forecast

# The Demand for Waivers Continues to Grow



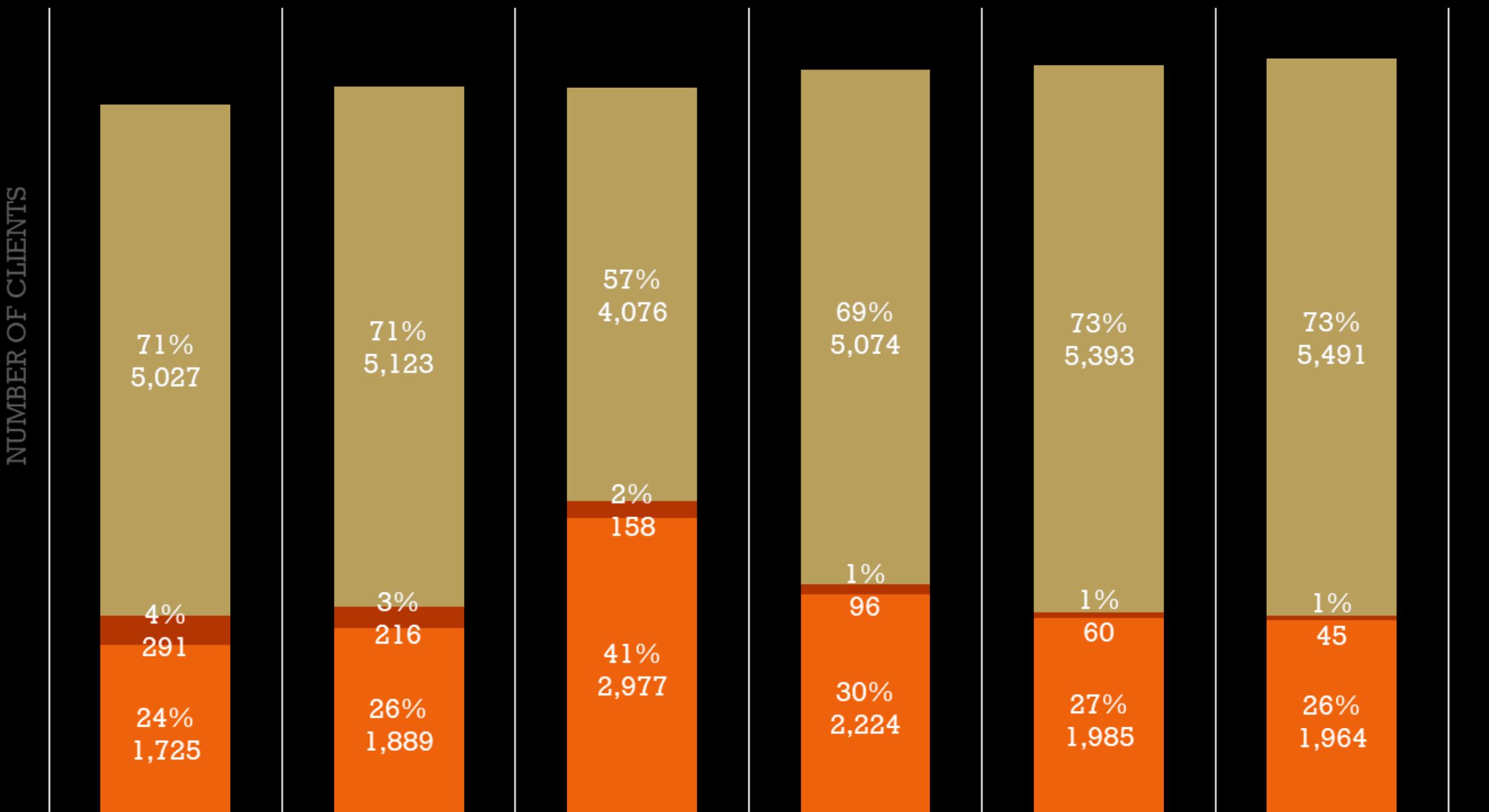
# Average Monthly Waiver Cost



Data from 2024

# People Working

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



2024 Data

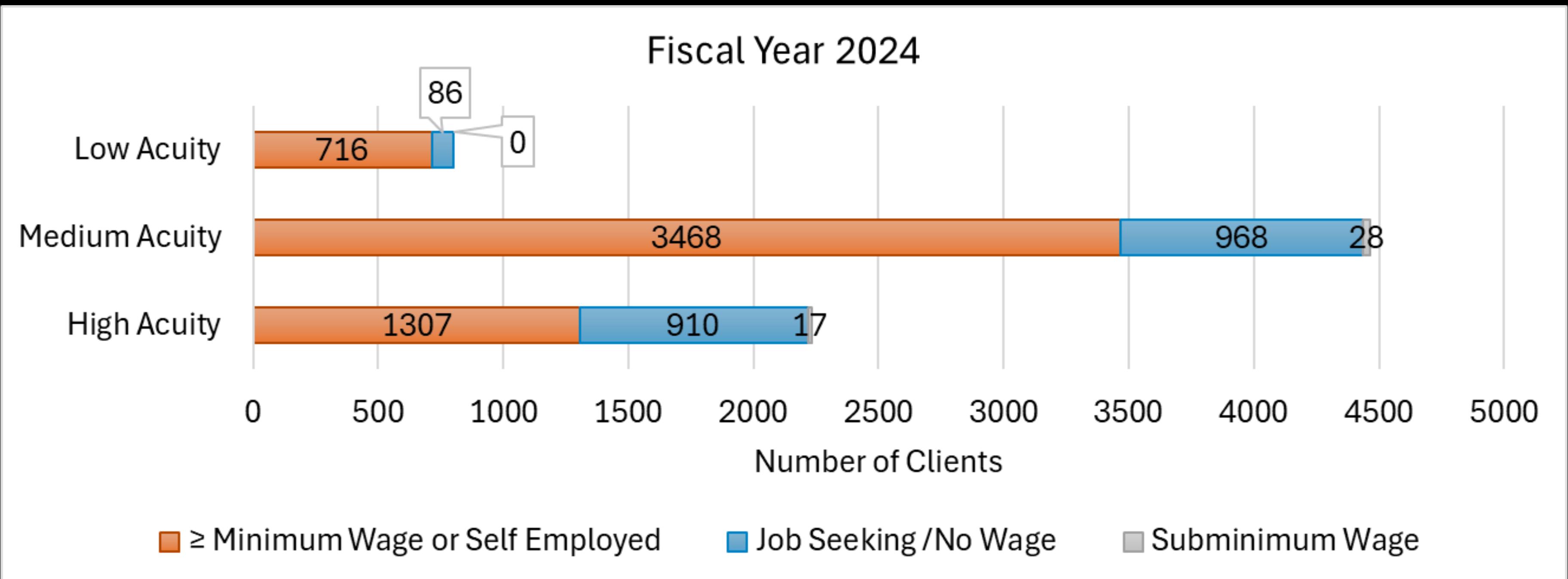




# Support for Working

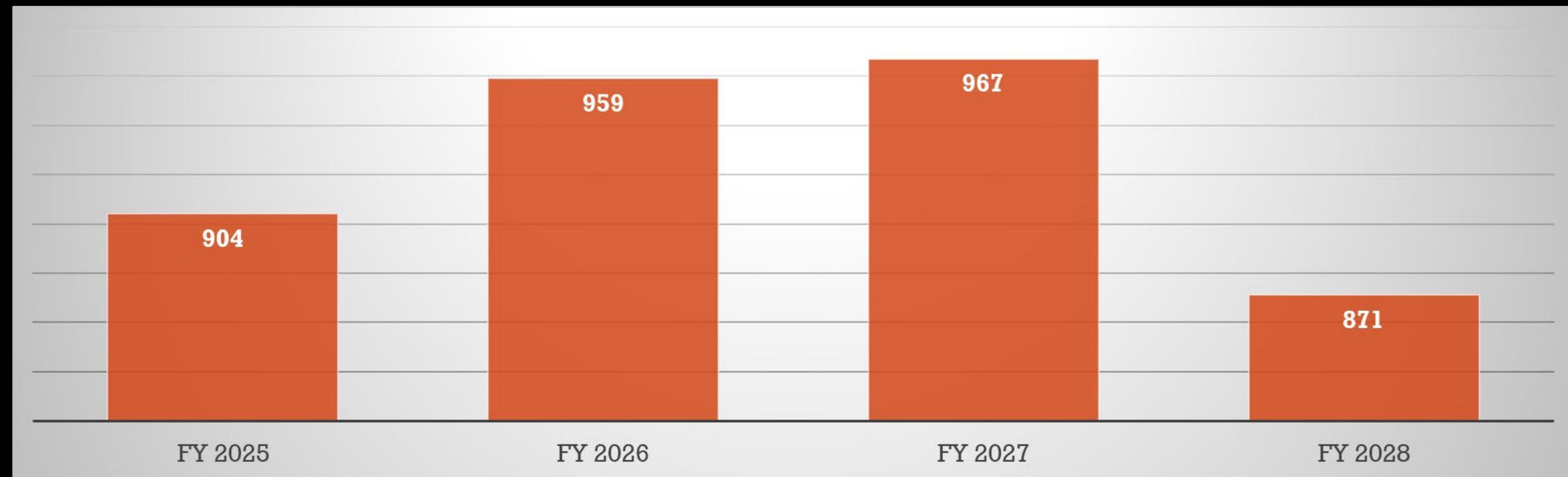
Service	Support Hours Per Week	Work Hours Per Week	Wages Per Week
Individual Employment	2.4	10	180.7
Group Supported Employment	2.4	7.6	125.78

# 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

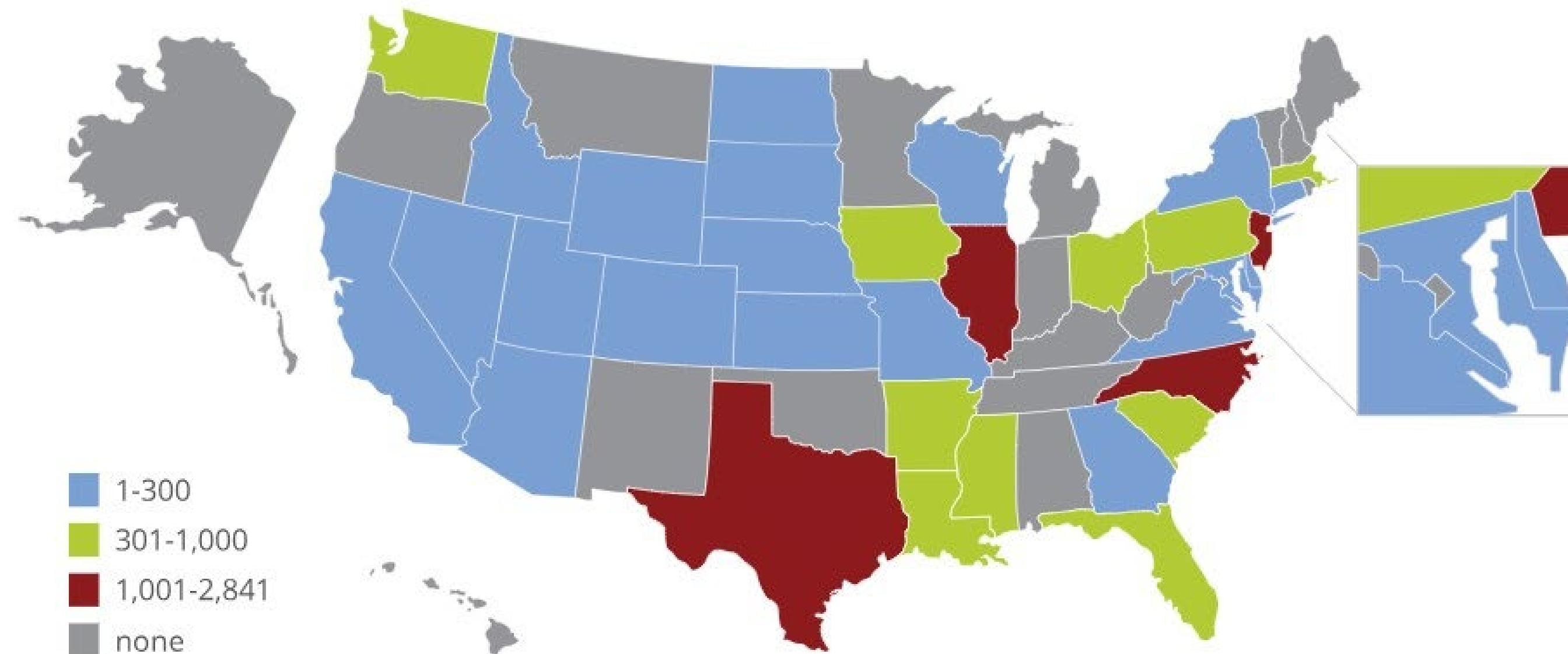
# Residential Habilitation Centers

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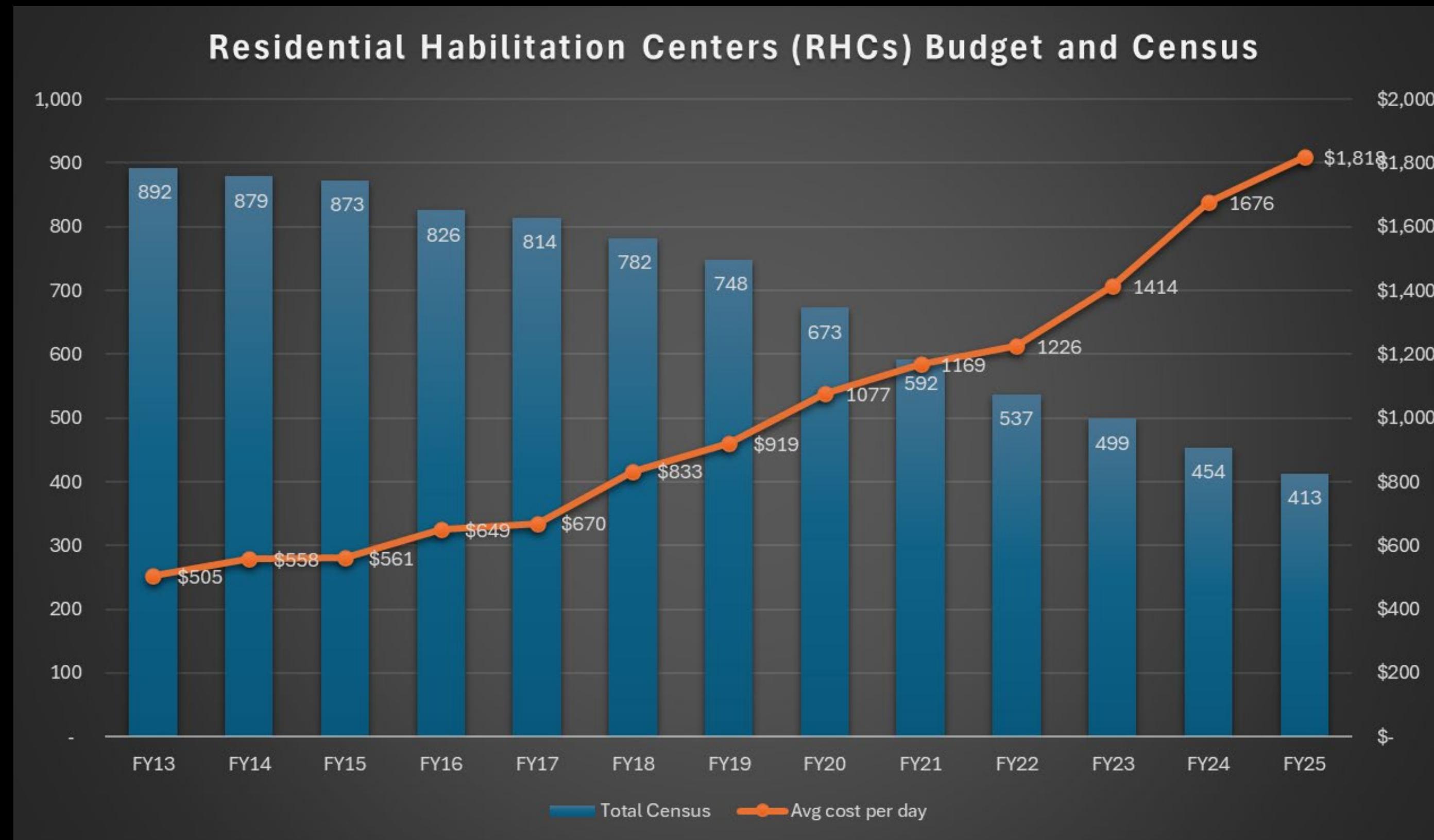
# 18 States have Completely Eliminated RHCs

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

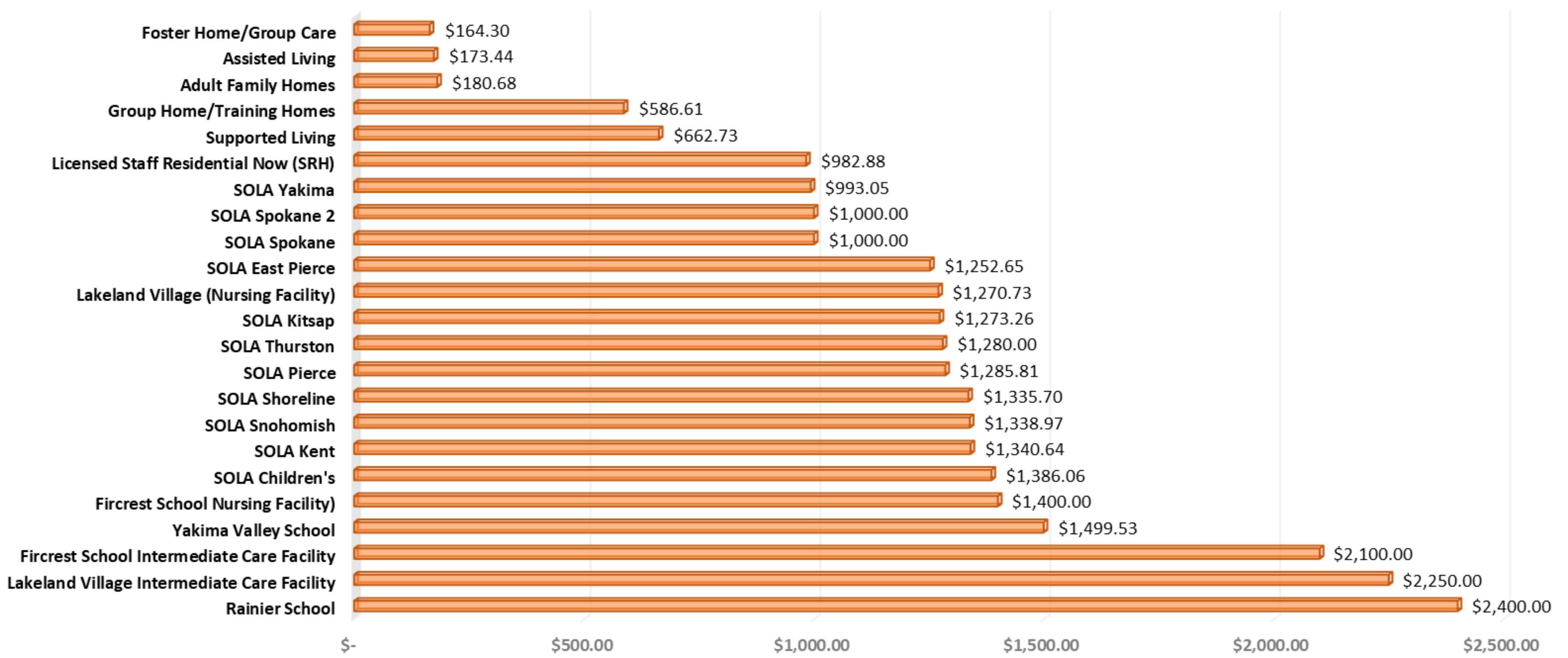


# RHC Census

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

# Cost Per Day By Residential Setting

## FY25 Rate



# State Operated Community Residential

## Our state-operated living alternative homes

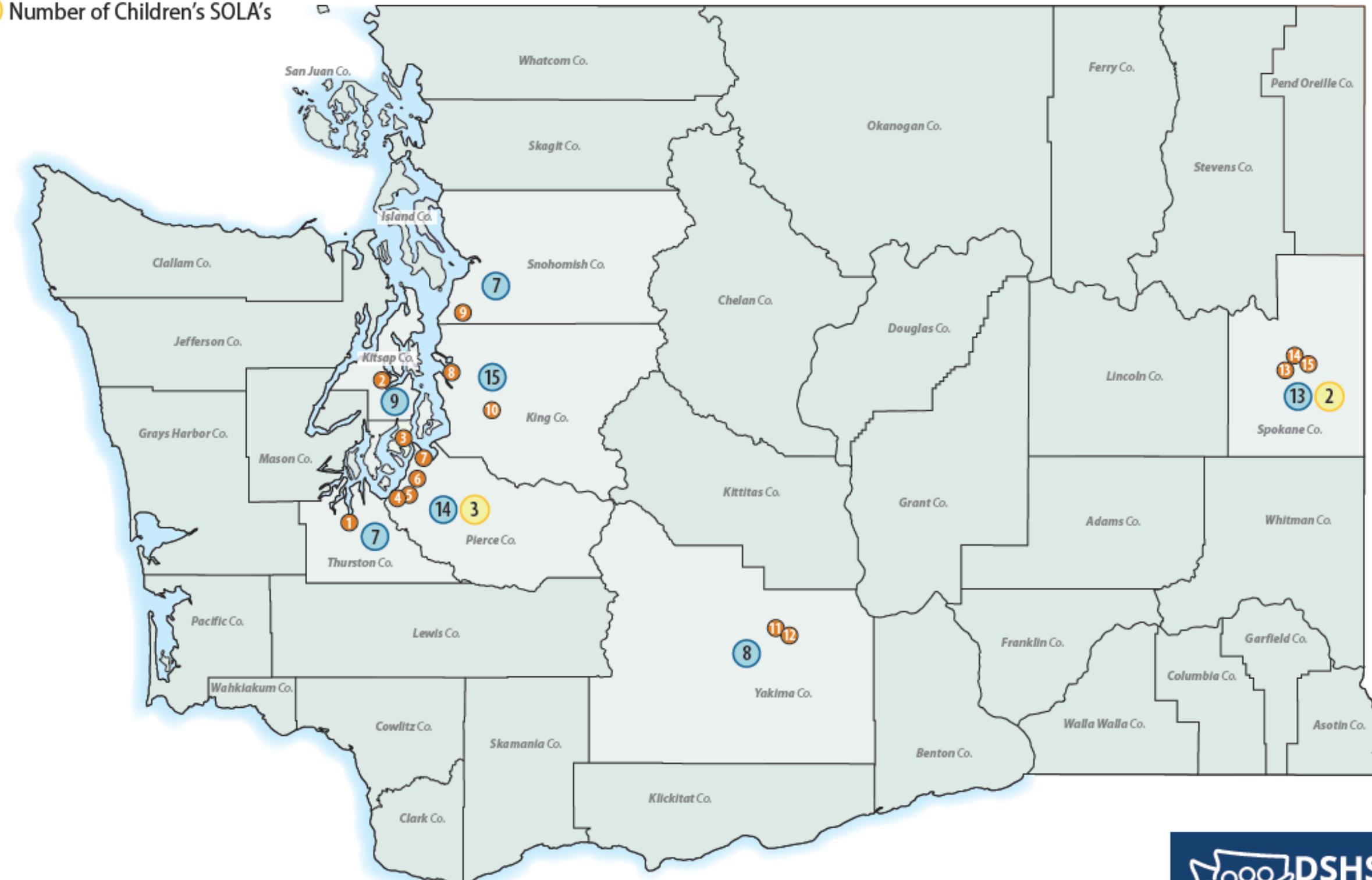
Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration

● Number of Adult SOLA's

● Number of Children's SOLA's

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

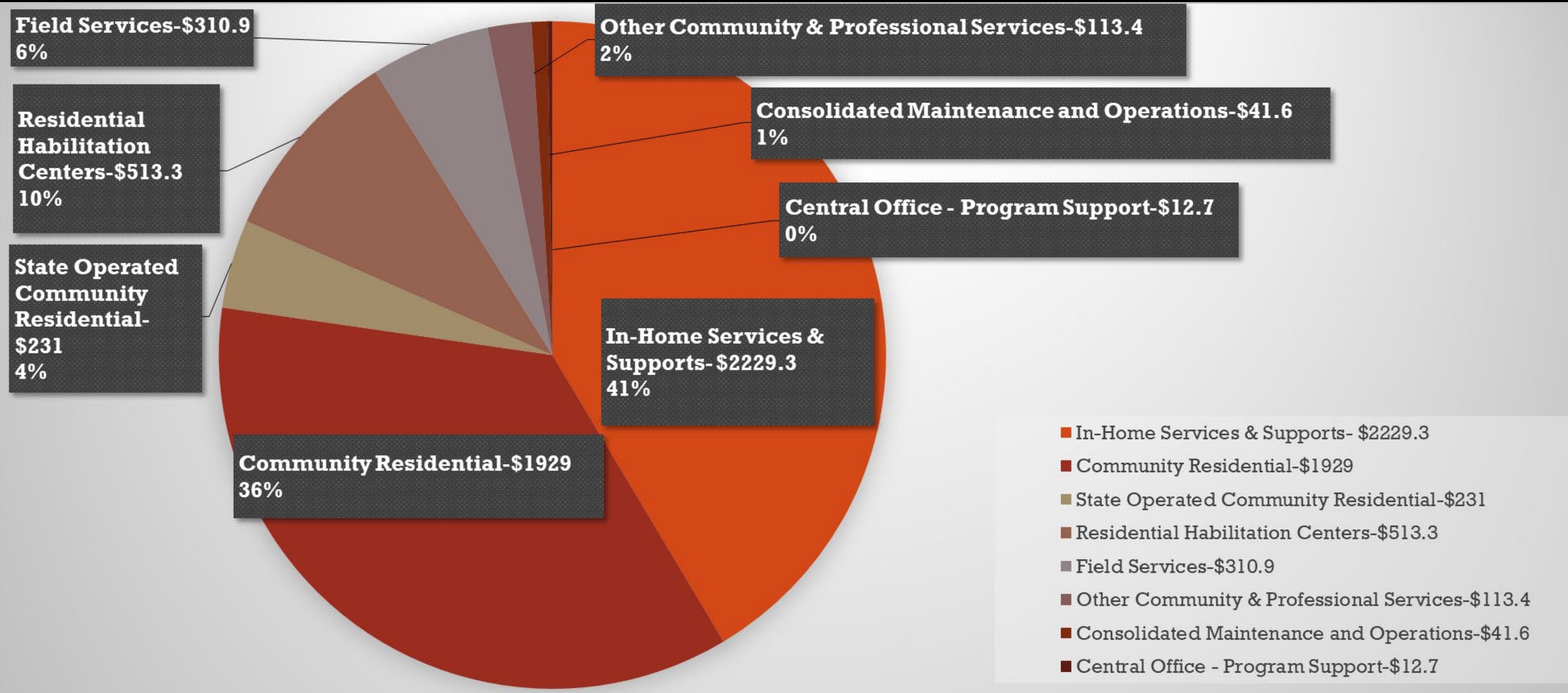
1 Thurston SOLA	6 Intensive Habilitation Services (IHS)	11 Yakima SOLA
2 Kitsap SOLA	7 East Pierce SOLA	12 SOCR Transitions
3 Stabilization Assessment and Intervention Facility (SAIF)	8 Shoreline SOLA	13 Spokane 1 SOLA
4 Pierce SOLA	9 Snohomish SOLA	14 Spokane 2 SOLA
5 Children's SOLA West (CSW)	10 Kent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



# DDCS Budget



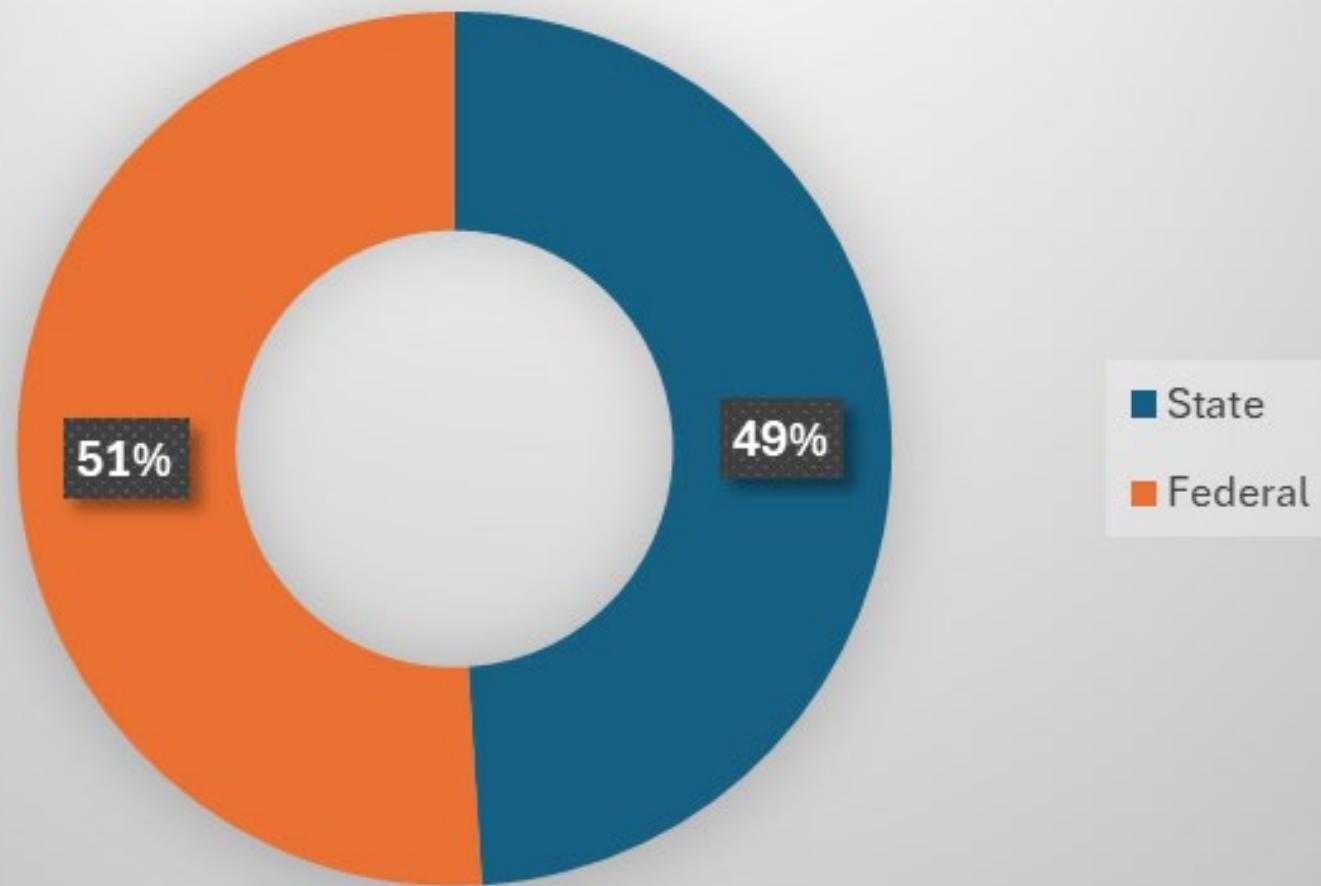
# DDCS's Budget FY 2024



**TOTAL: \$5381.2 Million**

**\$2,659.8 Million State Funds, \$2721.4 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

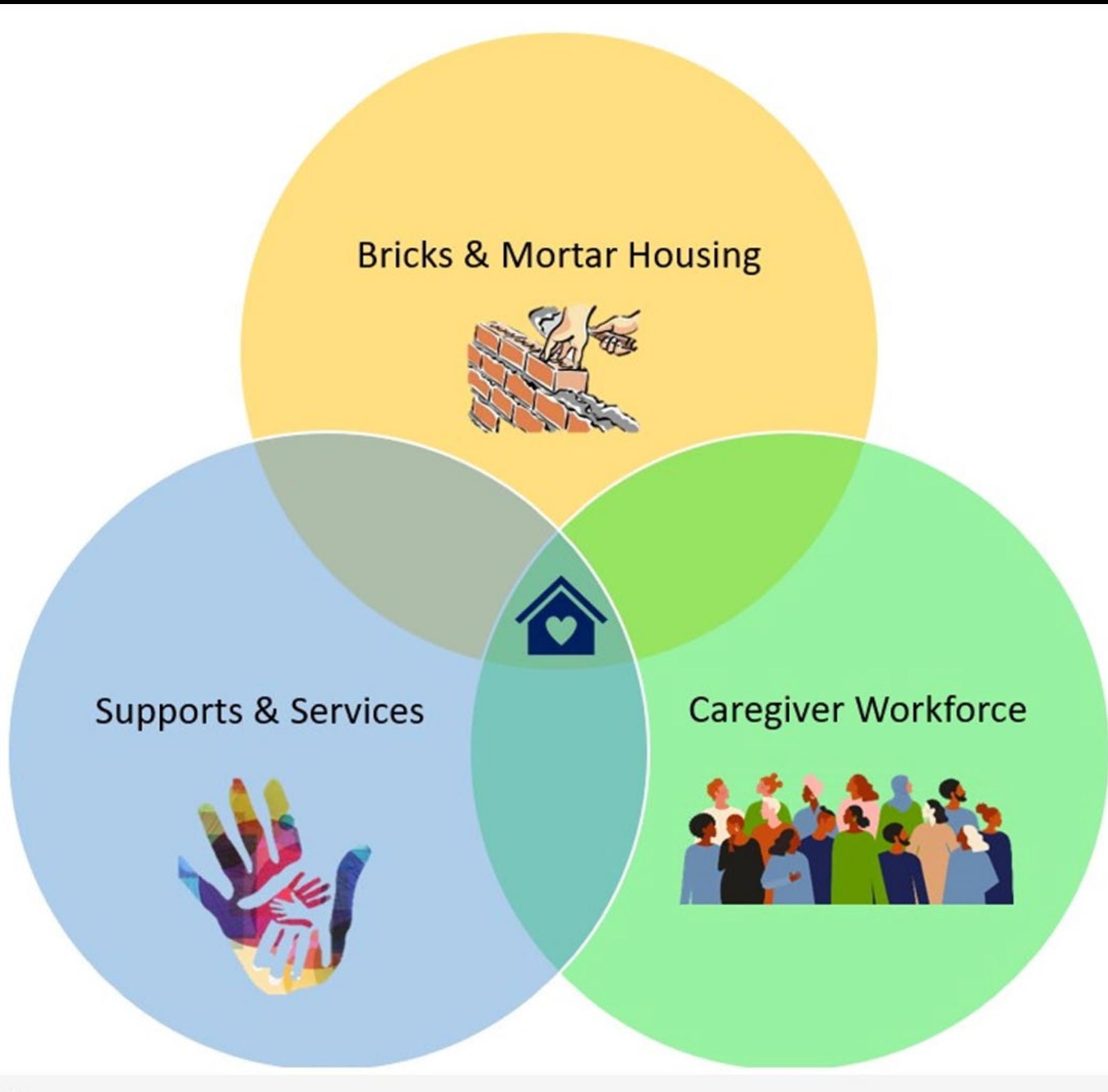
Workforce Shortage

Insufficient Housing

Inadequate Family Supports

Access to Inclusive Education

Limited Reliable Transportation



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**

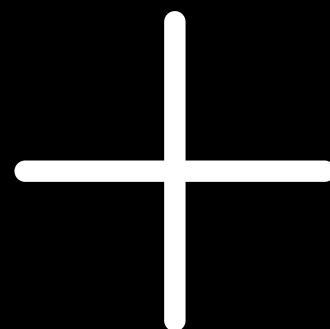
- Don't get an appropriate education
  - Are isolated and/or restrained
  - Get sent out of state



# Workforce Shortage

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Lack of Appropriately and  
Adequately Trained  
Caregiving Professionals



Low  
Wages/Rates



Less available care  
AND lower -quality  
care



# The Workforce Shortage Affects ALL Services

- Healthcare
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Employment
- Local Community Programs
- Homecare/Residential Services
- Childcare
- 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



56.5% 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

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

# *Education Reform is Needed*



- Washington is 44th 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 life lines.

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?

- Use the data in the Notebook
- Sign up for Advocacy Days- share info with your organization
- Share information with your legislators

# *Thank You!*



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