



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.

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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.

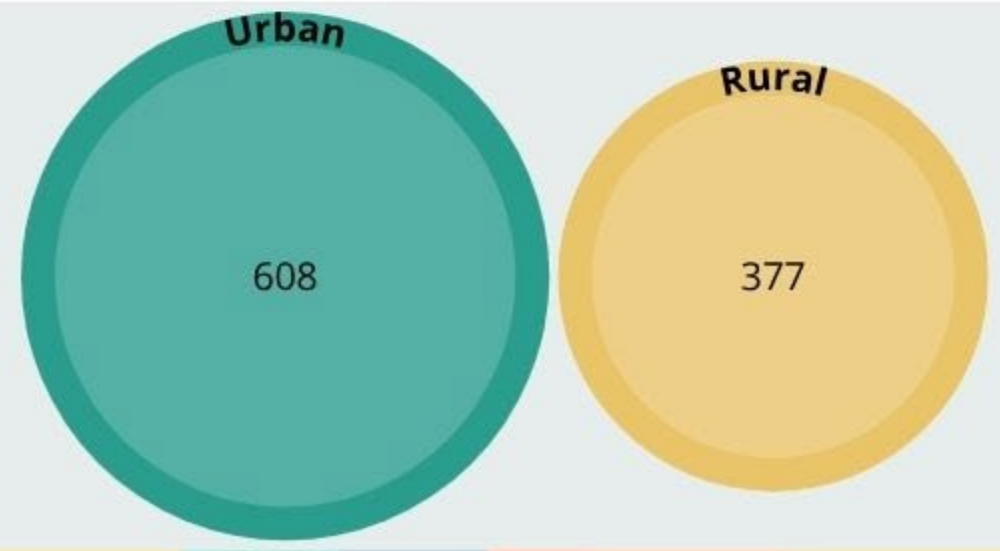
Read the plain language summary at:
www.ddc.wa.gov/post/waddc-2025-state-plan-survey-results



Who Responded



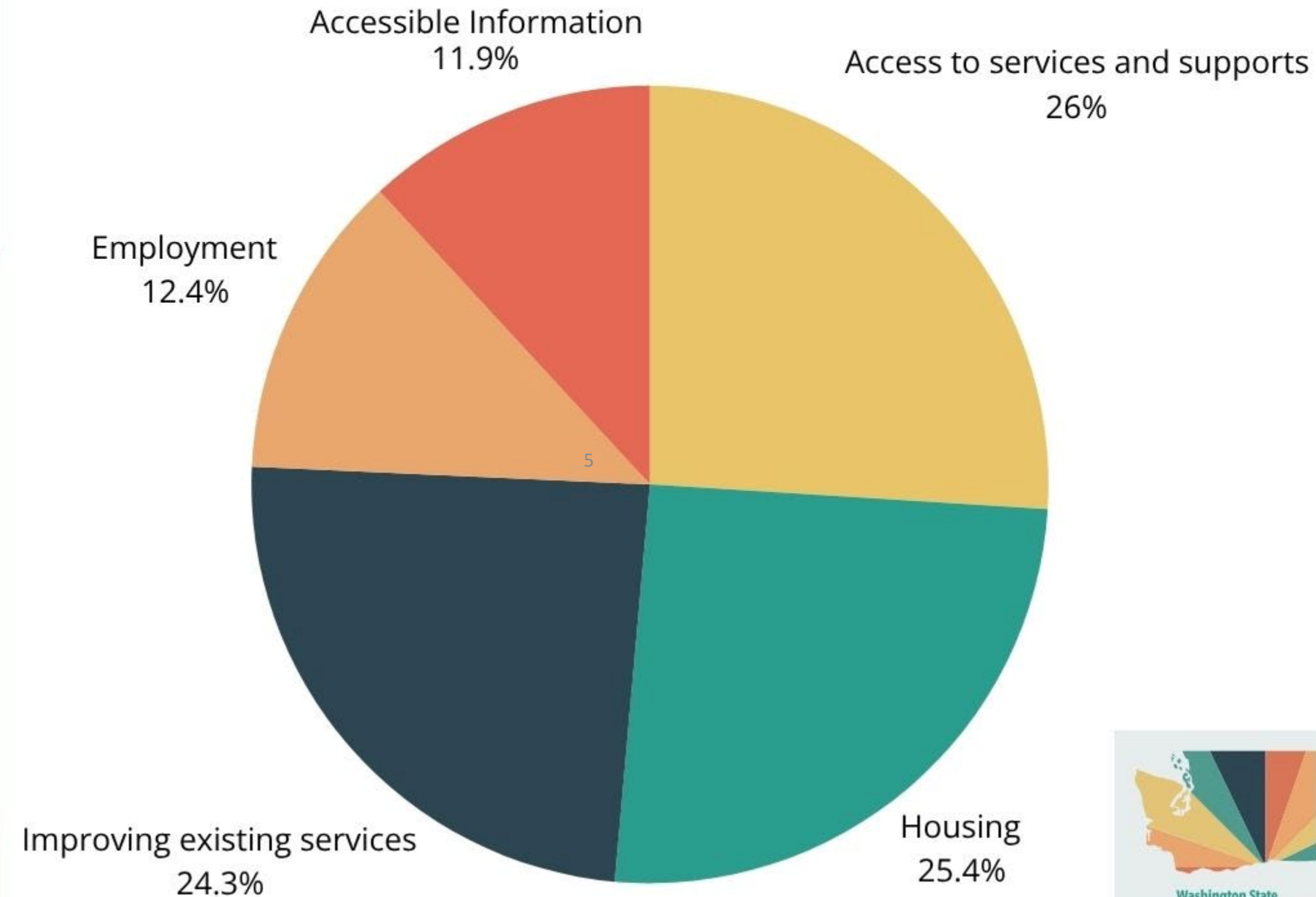
More than 1,100 people from across Washington took the survey. Most were family members of a person with a developmental disability, followed by professionals and people with disabilities themselves. Most respondents live in cities or rural areas, showing that people from all parts of the state shared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



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

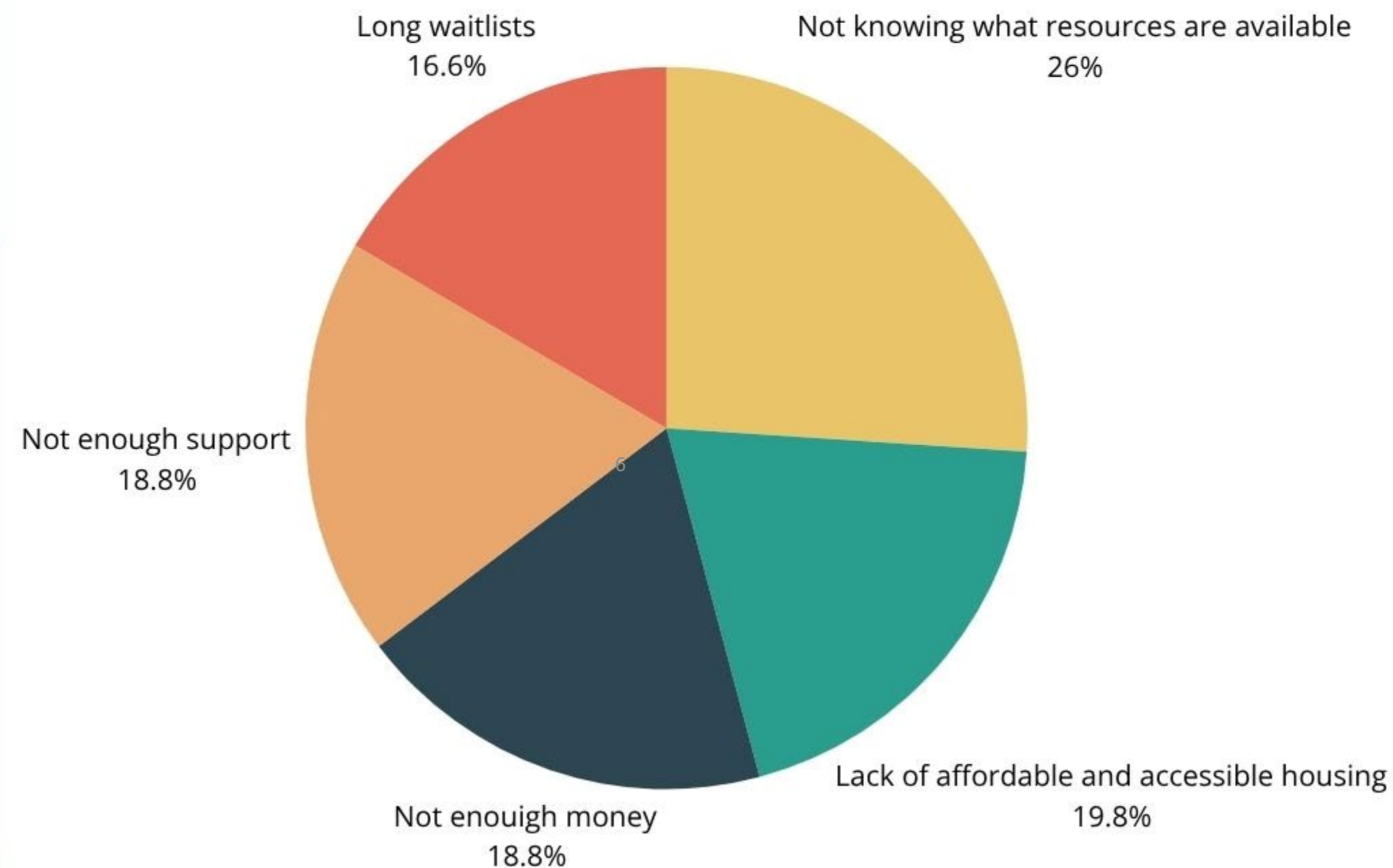


Biggest Barriers



"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.

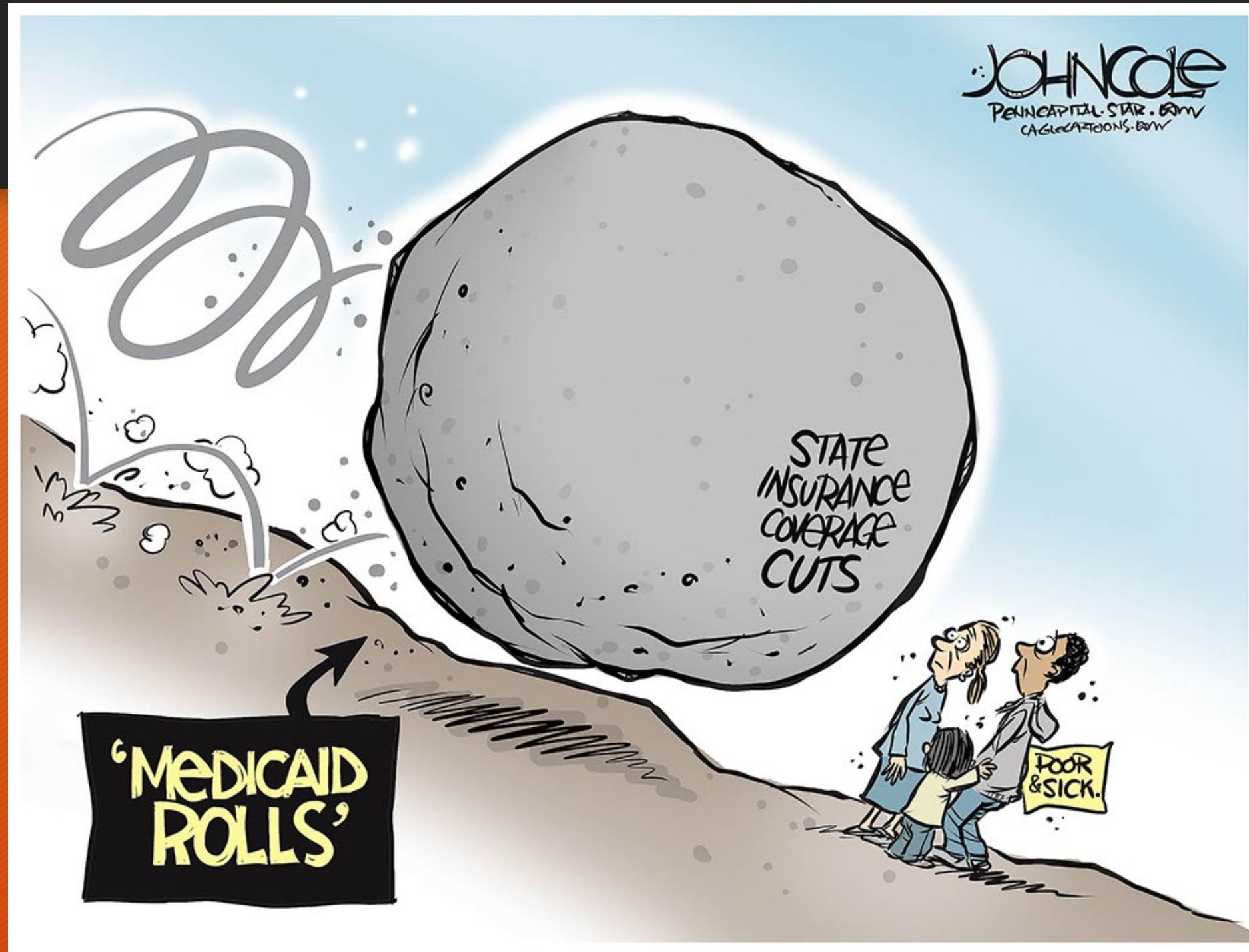
The background features a gradient from light orange to dark orange. Numerous question marks of varying sizes are scattered across the scene. A magnifying glass is positioned in the center, with its lens focused on a large question mark. The magnifying glass handle extends downwards.

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





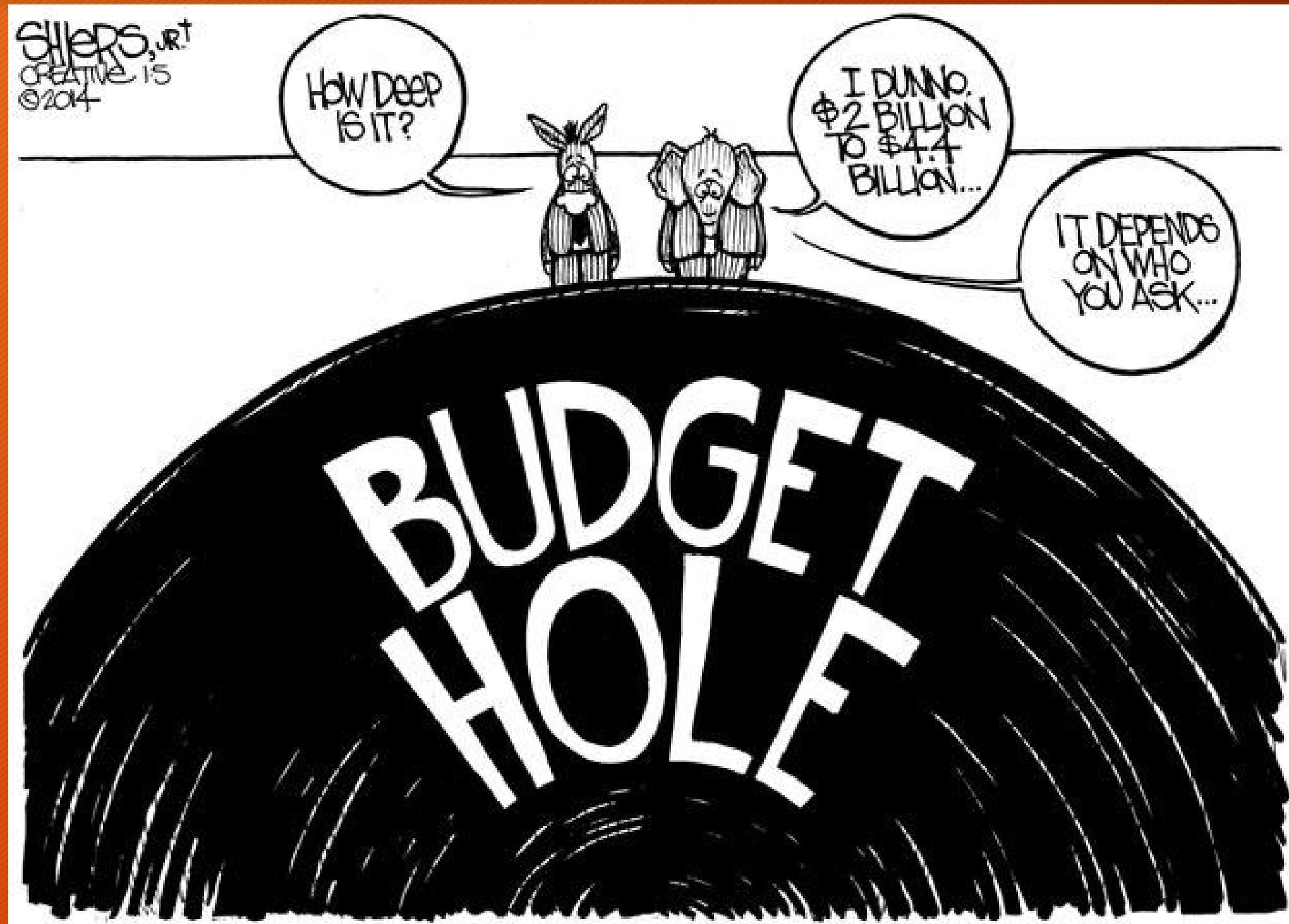
Cost Shifts to the States

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



- Make Cuts



- Raise taxes



Options

Protect Critical Services



Messaging



Protect
Disability Services



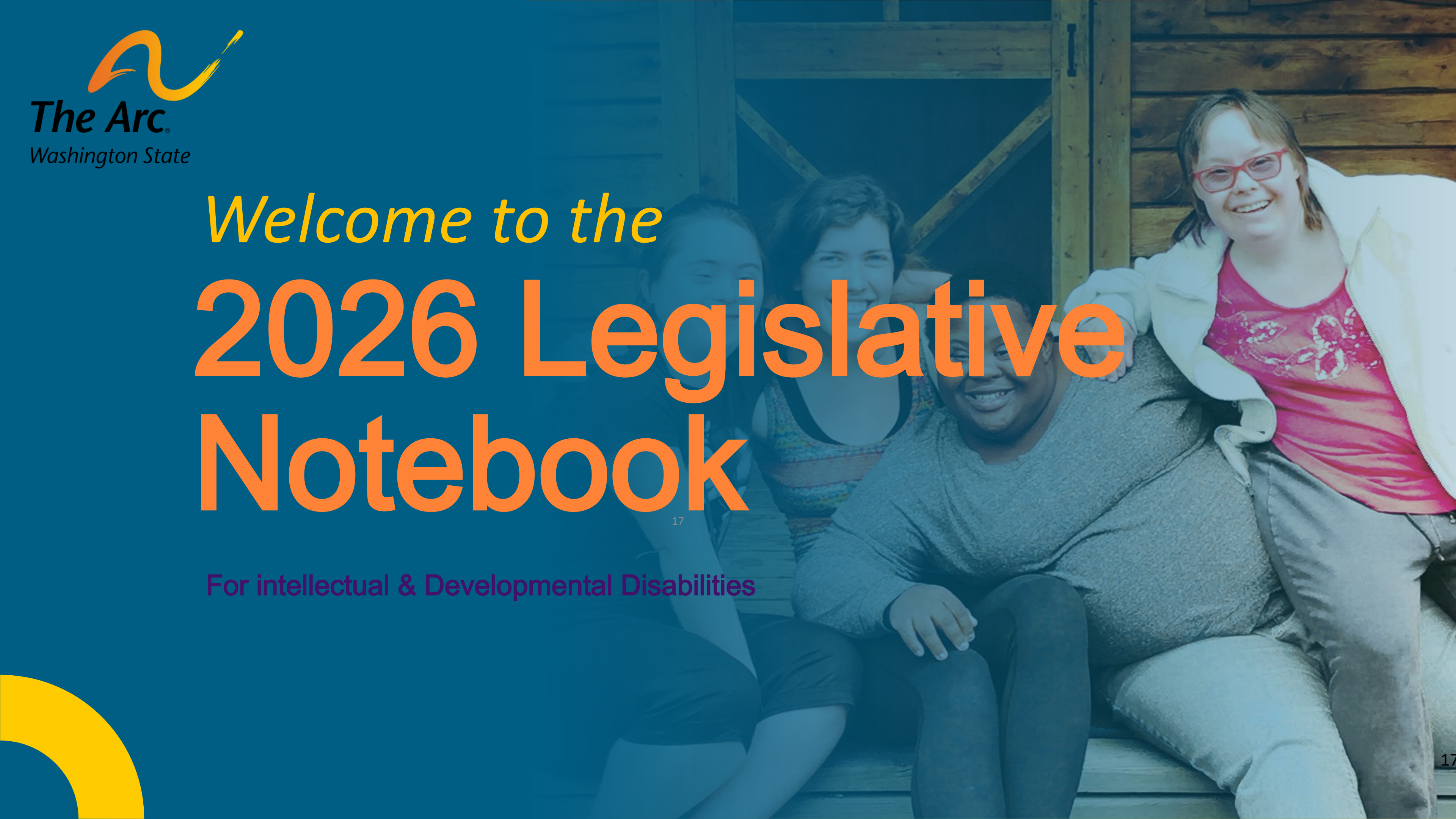
Protect
Community Living



Protect
Disability Rights

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For intellectual & Developmental Disabilities





Who are Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

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

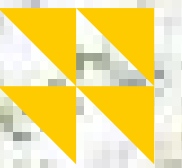
- People with I/DD experience lifelong conditions such as autism, Down syndrome or cerebral palsy
- Affects person's ability to think, learn and develop skills at the same rate as others
- Often need support for everyday activities
- Family members, friends, neighbors, classmates & co-workers



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 DDCCS Caseload?



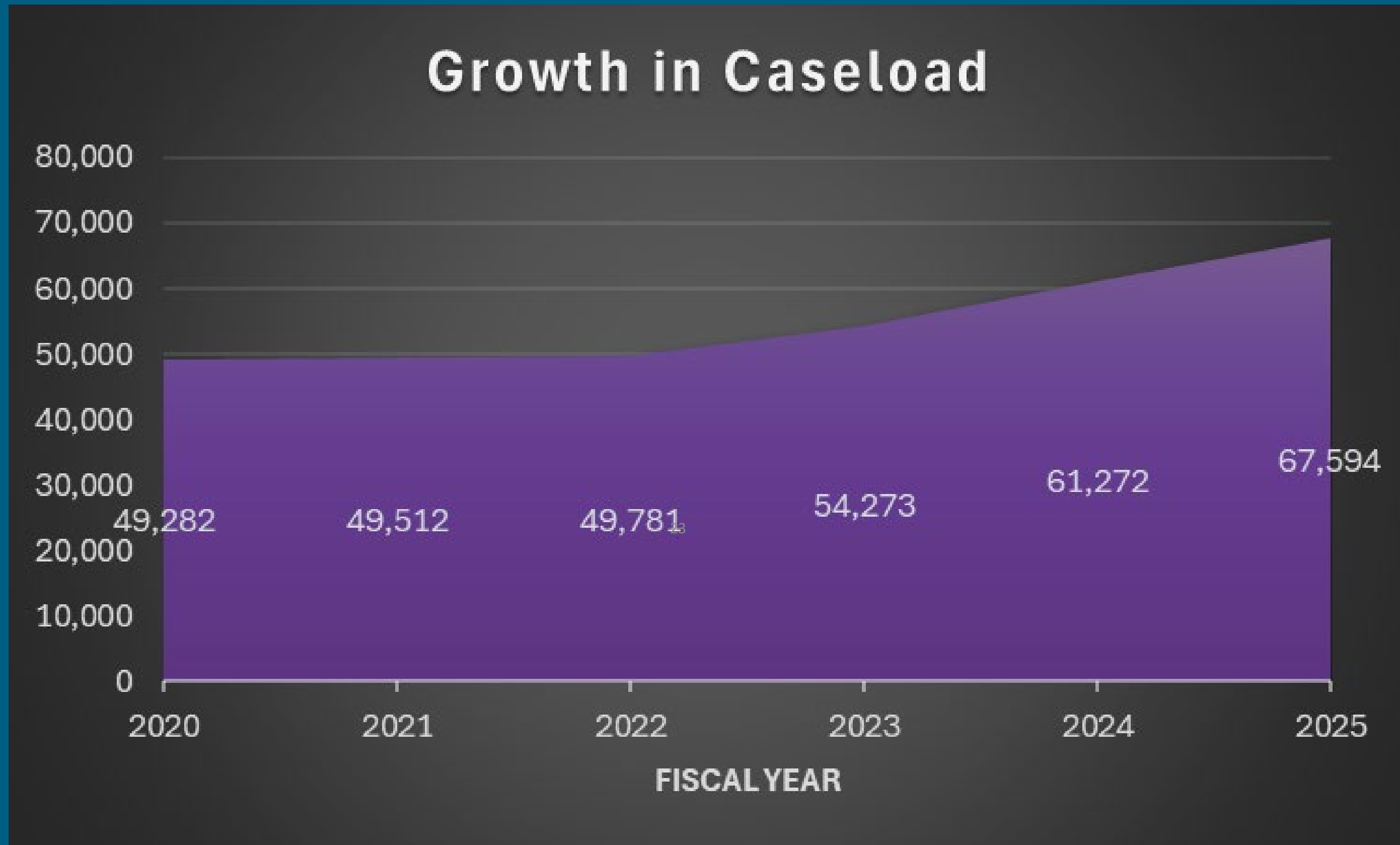


DDCS Snap Shot

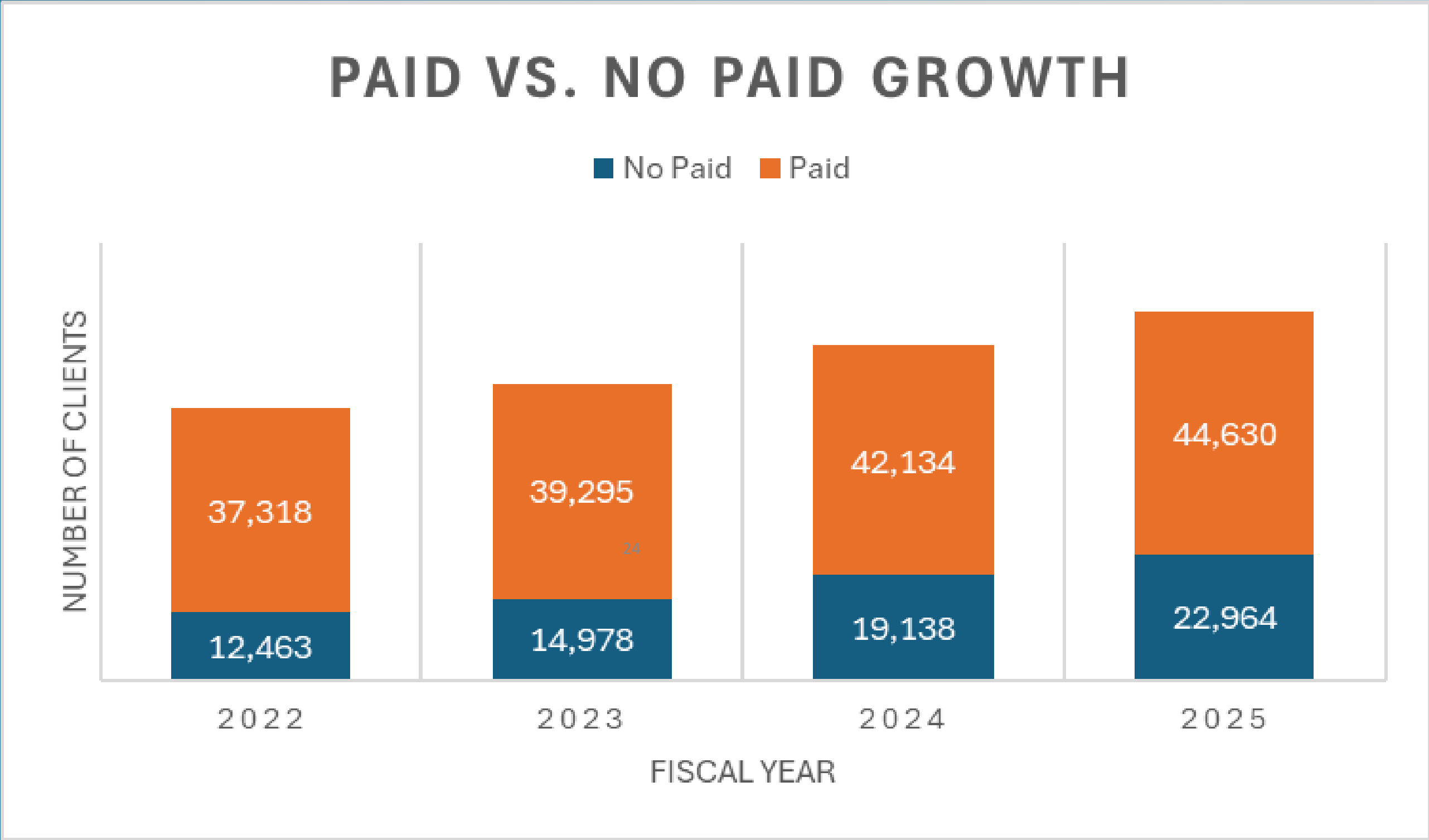
- 1–3% of the population has an intellectual or developmental disability (170,000)
- 67,594 number of DDCS clients
 - 36,881 Children
 - 30,713 Adults
- Of those adults, 17,382 (56.5%) live with and receive care from a parent or a relative.



This is more than 37% growth since 2020



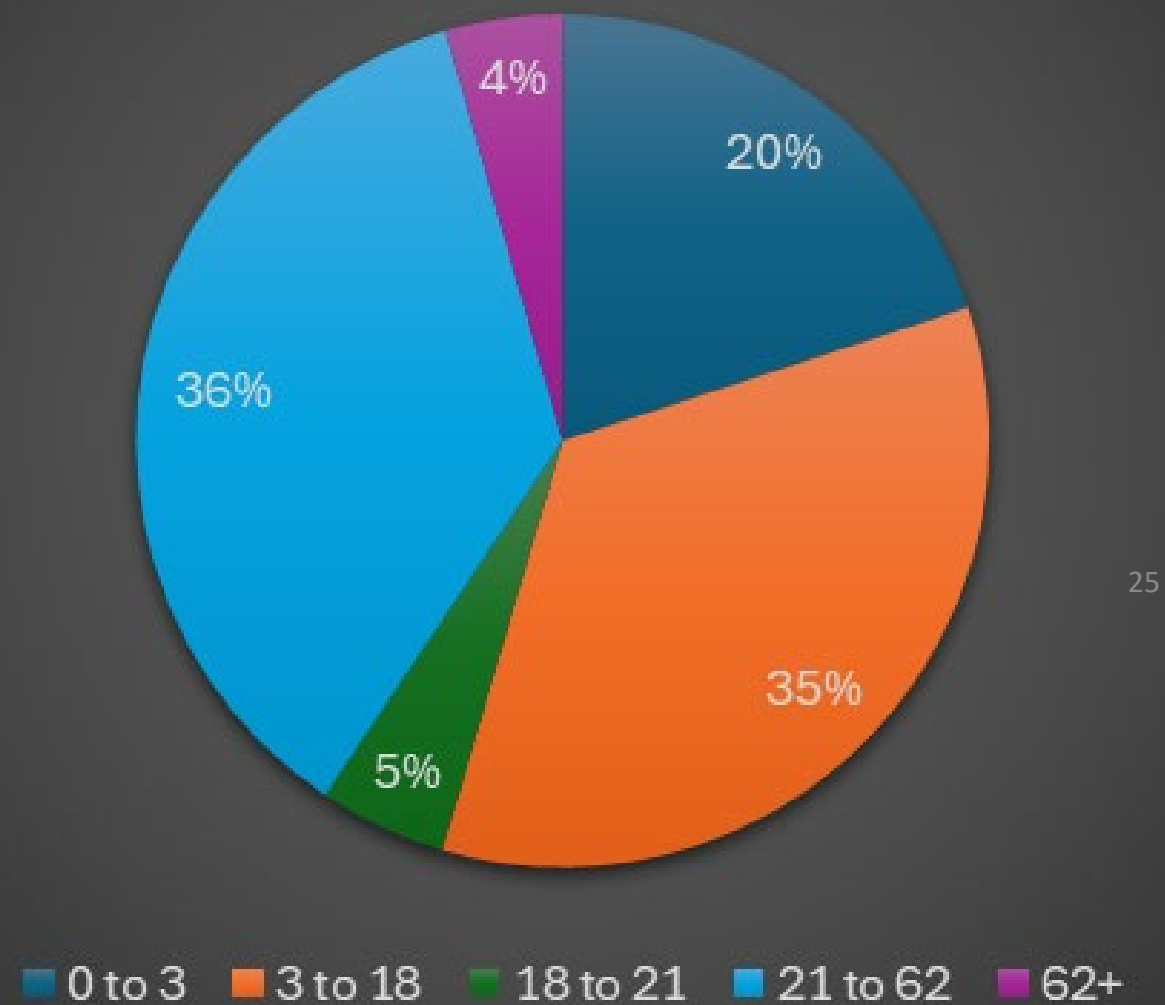
22,964 Receive No Paid Services



A 45% Growth over the past 4 years

Who DDACS Serves by Age

Caseload 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

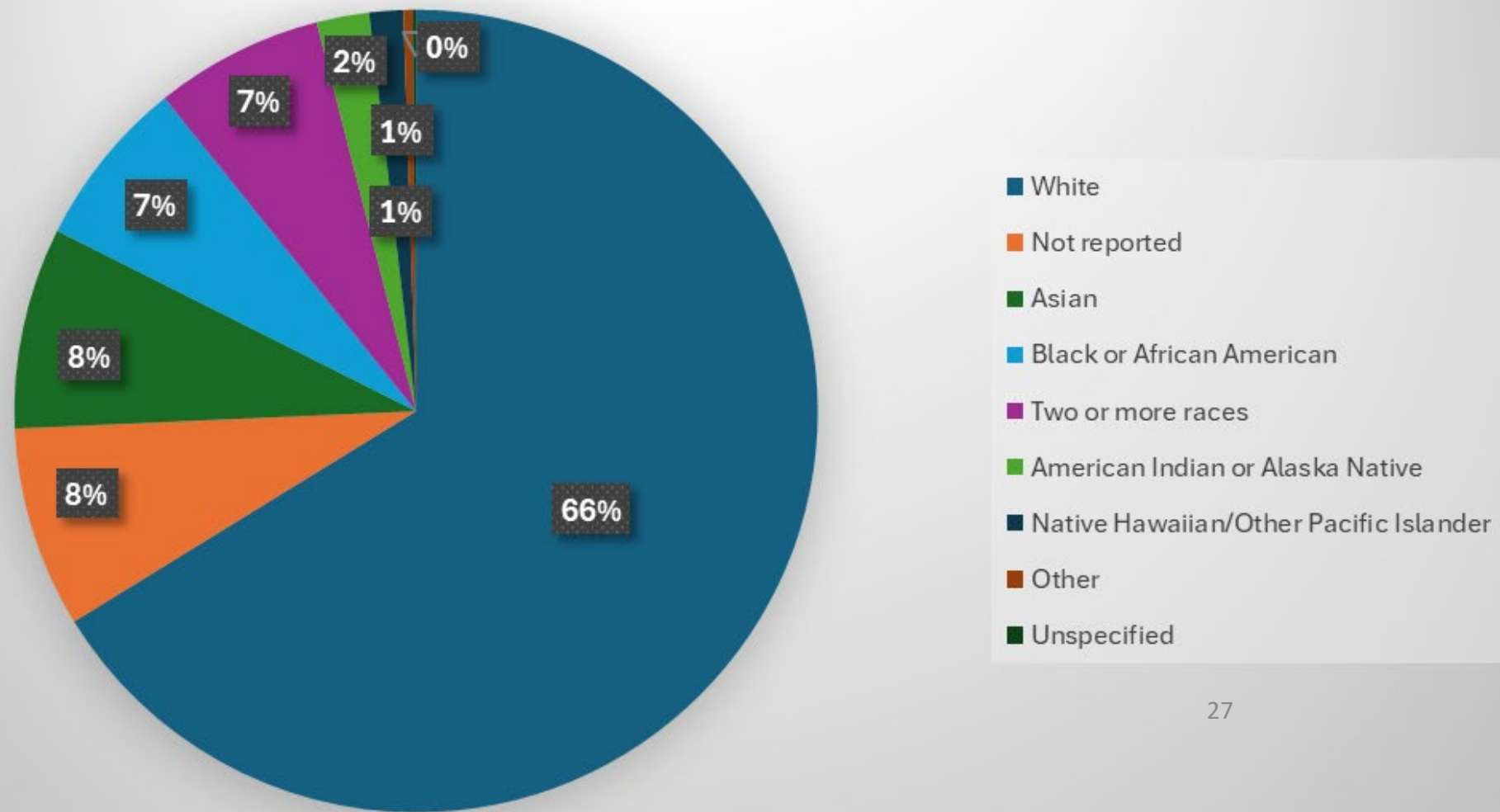


Caseload by Disability

Disability	Adult	Child
	684	1591
Another Neurological Condition	162	
Another Neurological Condition or Other Condition	1220	735
Autism	5096	2250
Cerebral Palsy	2046	449
Developmental Delay	113	28765
Epilepsy	559	133
Intellectual Disability	16882	836
Medically Intensive Children's Program		35
Other Condition	1724	
Two or More Disabilities	2227	2087
Total	30713	36881

Who DDCCS Serves by Race & Ethnicity

Eligible Caseload by Race/Ethnicity



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Race	Adult	Child	Total
White	23,588	21,170	44,758
Not reported	989	4,482	5,471
Asian	1,828	3,649	5,477
Black or African American	1,906	2,707	4,613
Two or more races	1,011	3,572	4,583
American Indian or Alaska Native	844	584	1,428
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	370	552	922
Other	93	158	251
Unspecified	84	7	91
Total	30,713	13,011	67,594

Tribal Affiliation	Adult	Child	Number
Affiliated with one or more tribes	662	468	1,130
Unspecified	2,344	24	2,368
Total	3,006	492	3,498

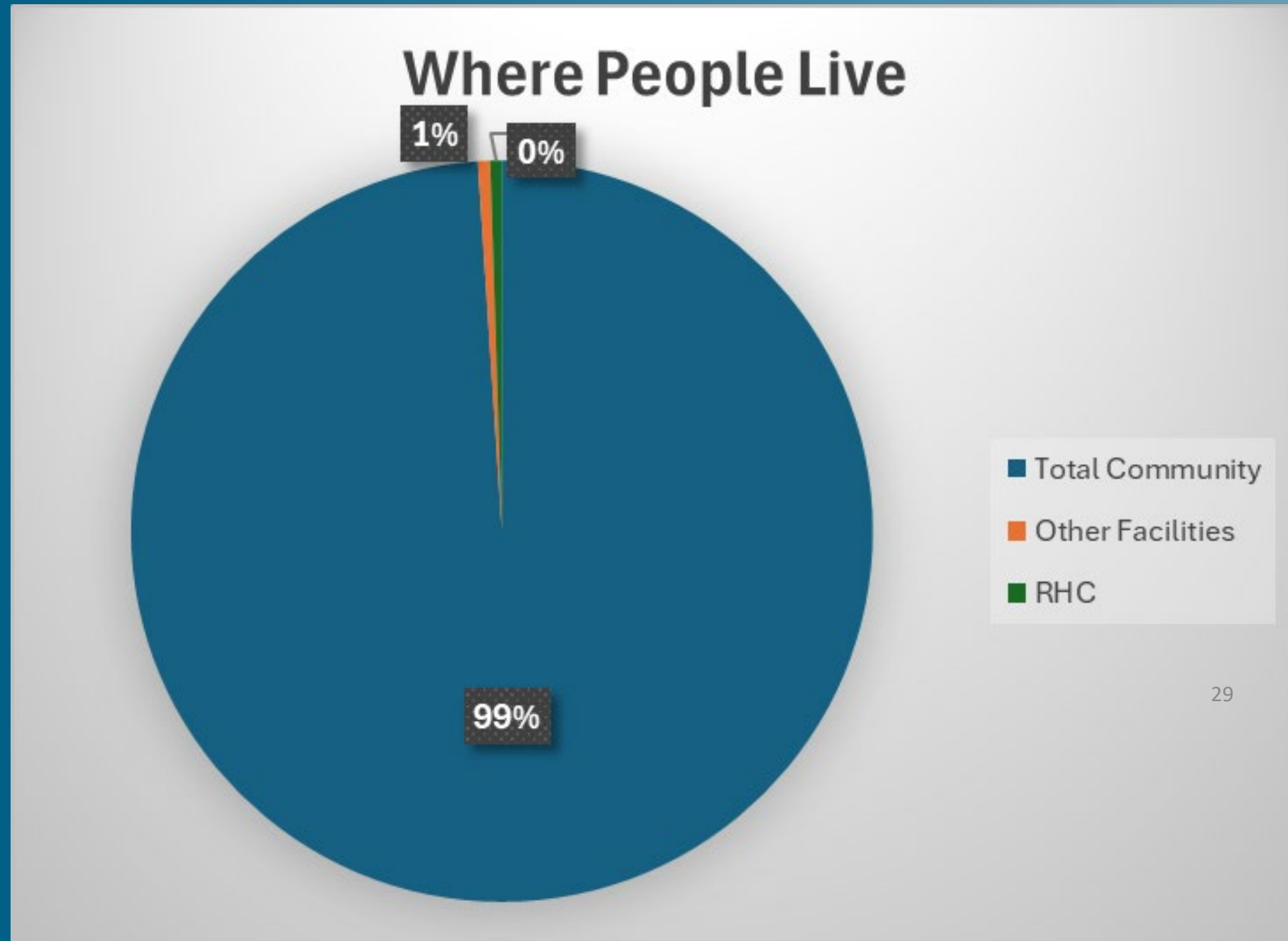
Hispanic	Adult	Child	Total
	3,407	8,806	12,213

Community Living

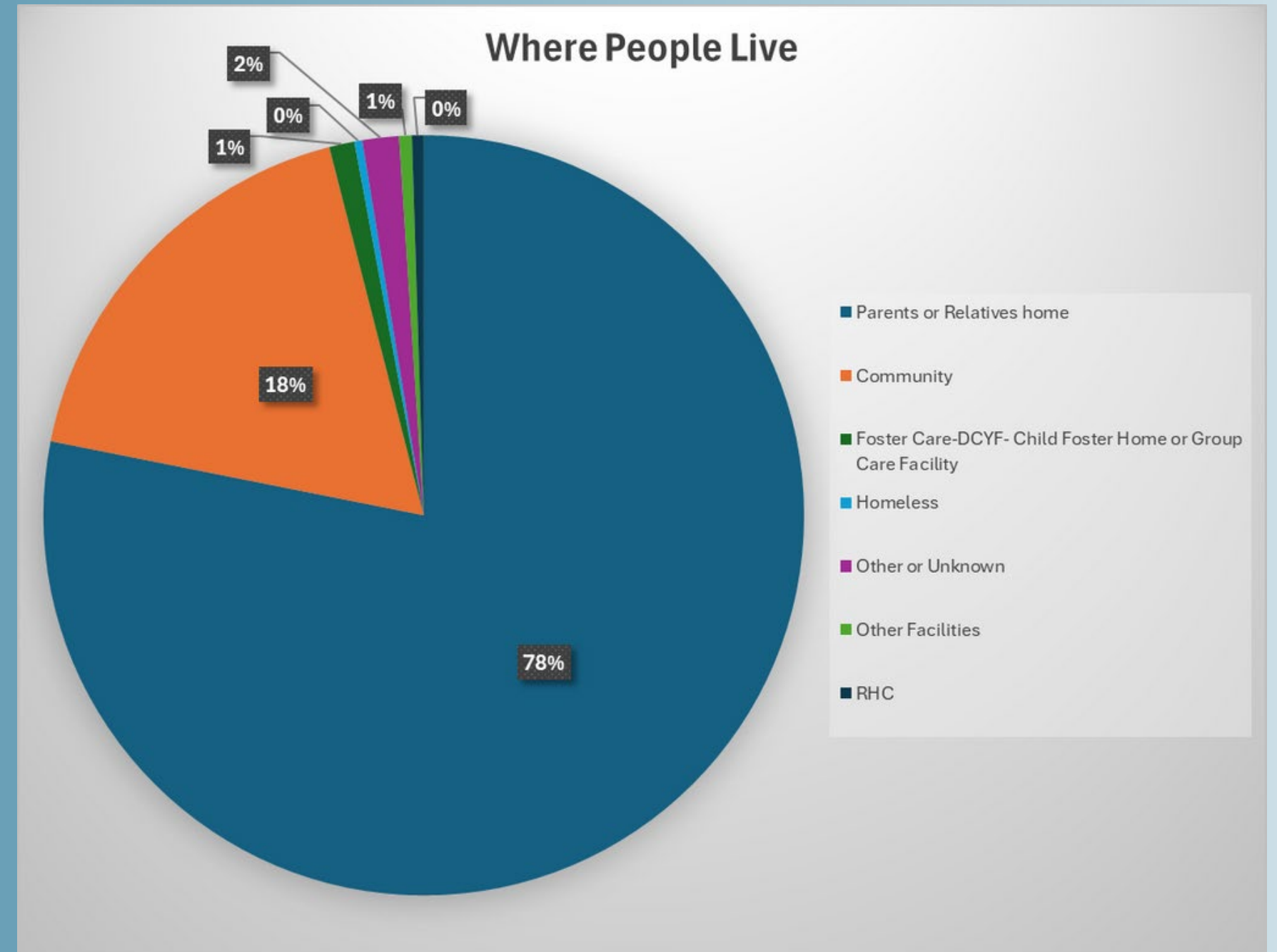


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Where People Live



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.

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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



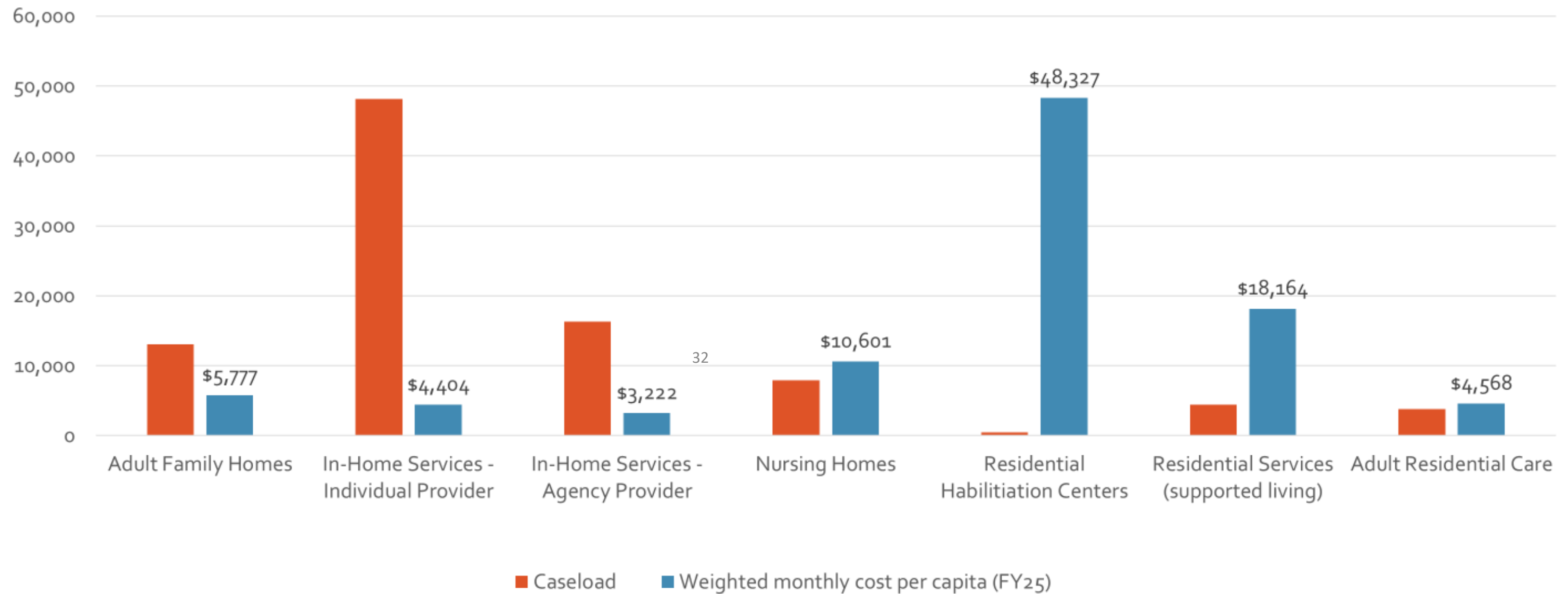
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Waiver	Capacity	Enrolled
Individual & Family Services	8000	7,208
Basic Plus	13,400	12,490
Core	5702	4801
Community Protection	504	301
Childrens In Home Behavior Support	200	190
TOTAL	27,806	24,990

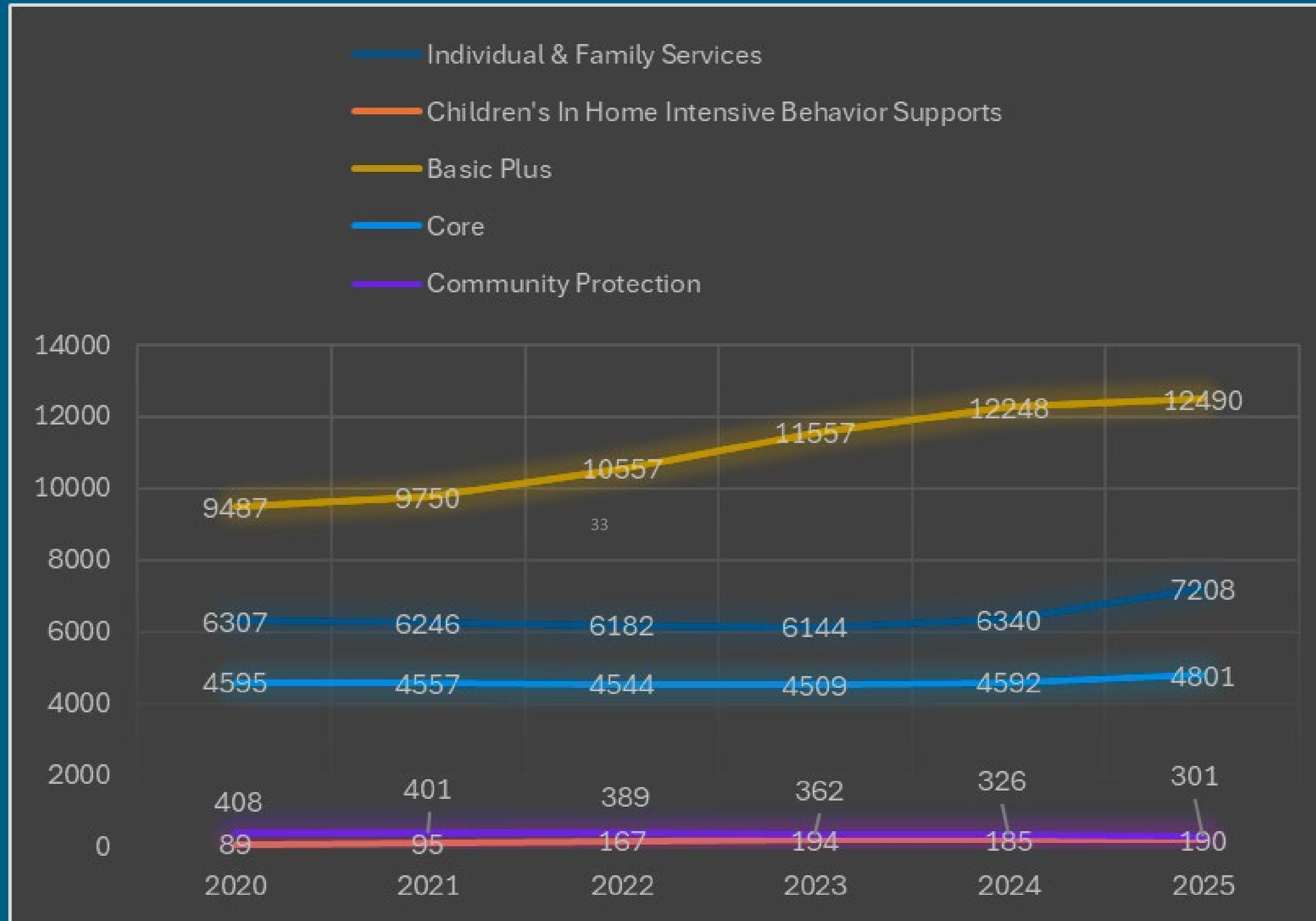
HCBS is extremely popular & saves the State money

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



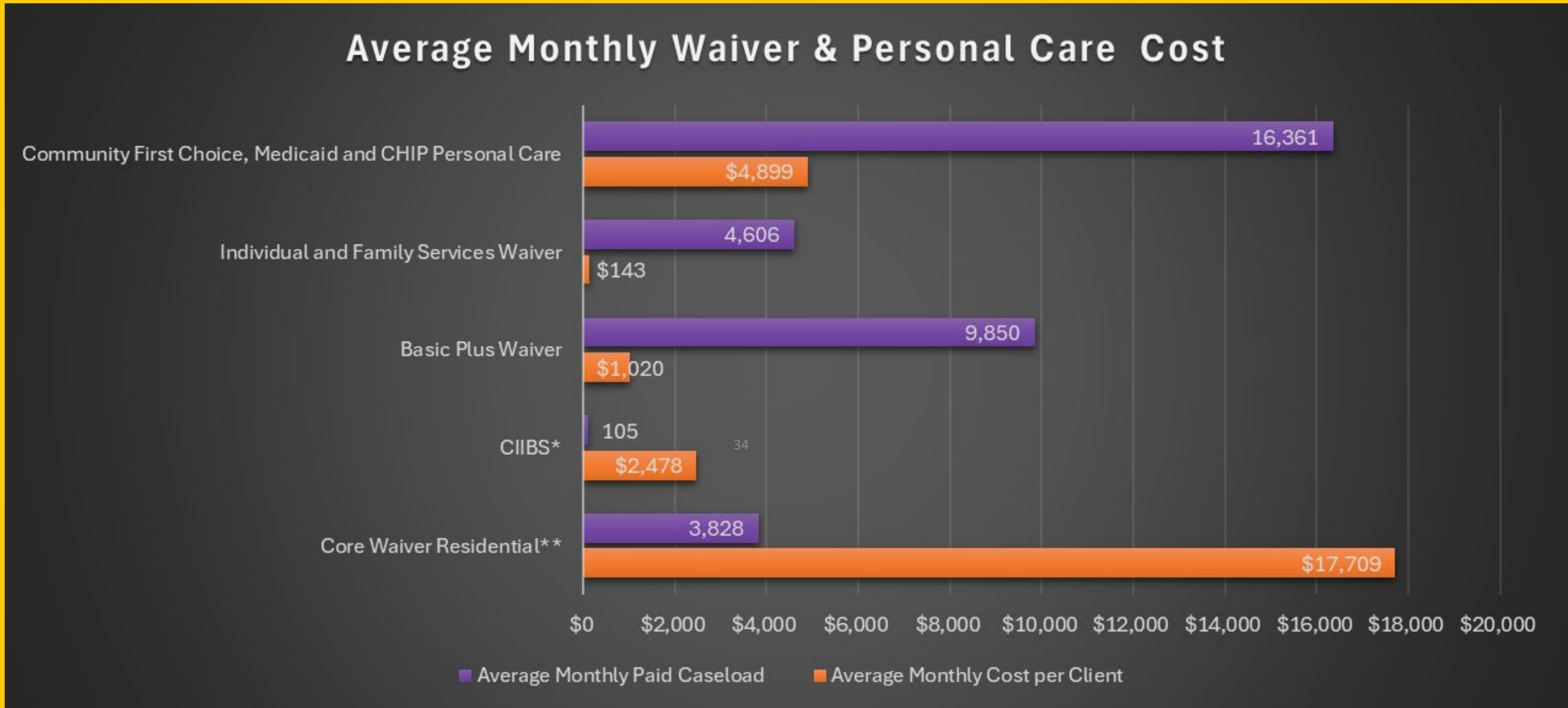
Source: own elaboration with information from DSHS - AL TSA & DDA Per Capita Costs Winter 2024 Forecast

The Demand for Waivers Continues to Grow





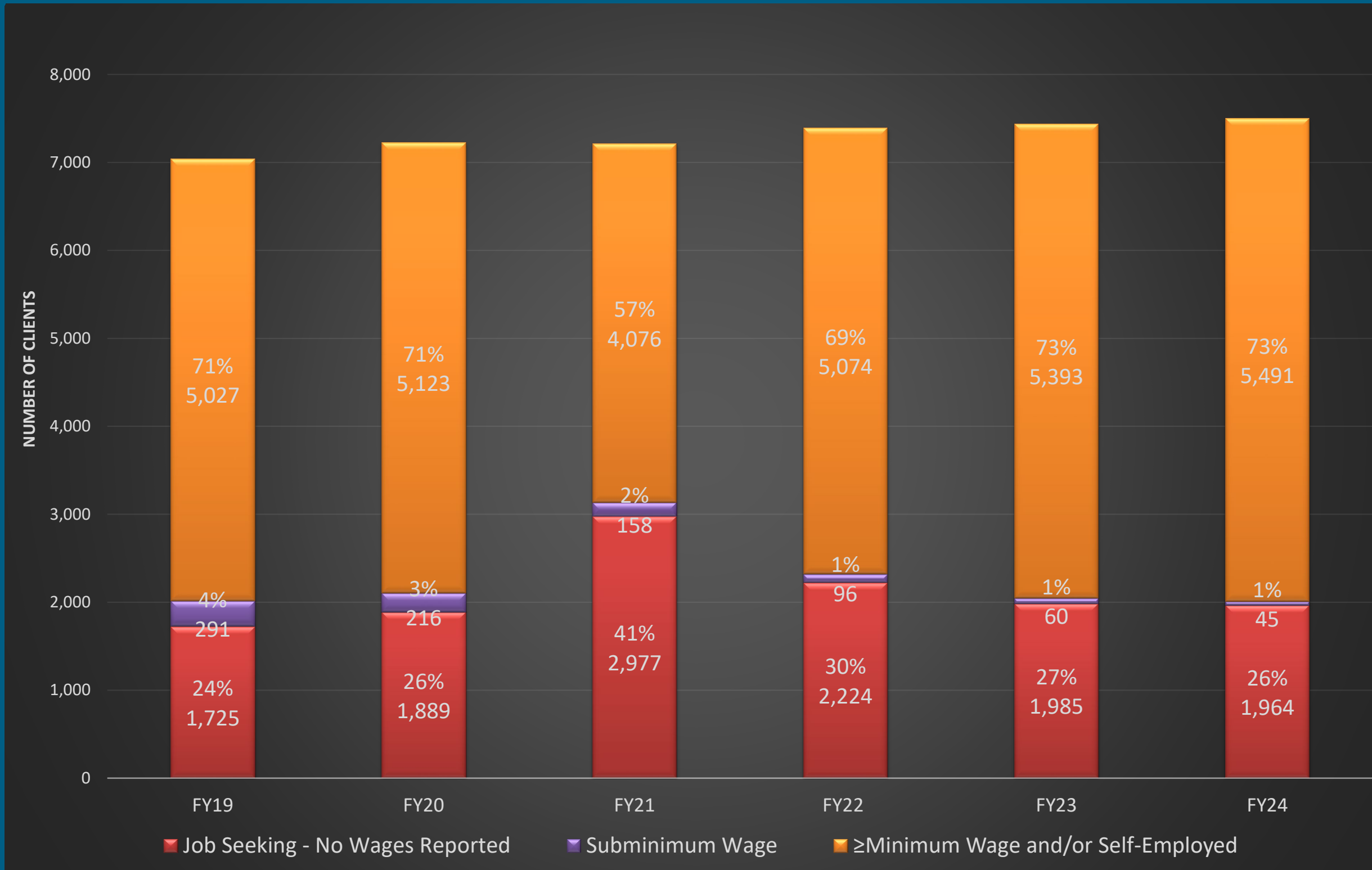
Average Monthly Waiver Cost



Data from 2024



People Working



2024 Data



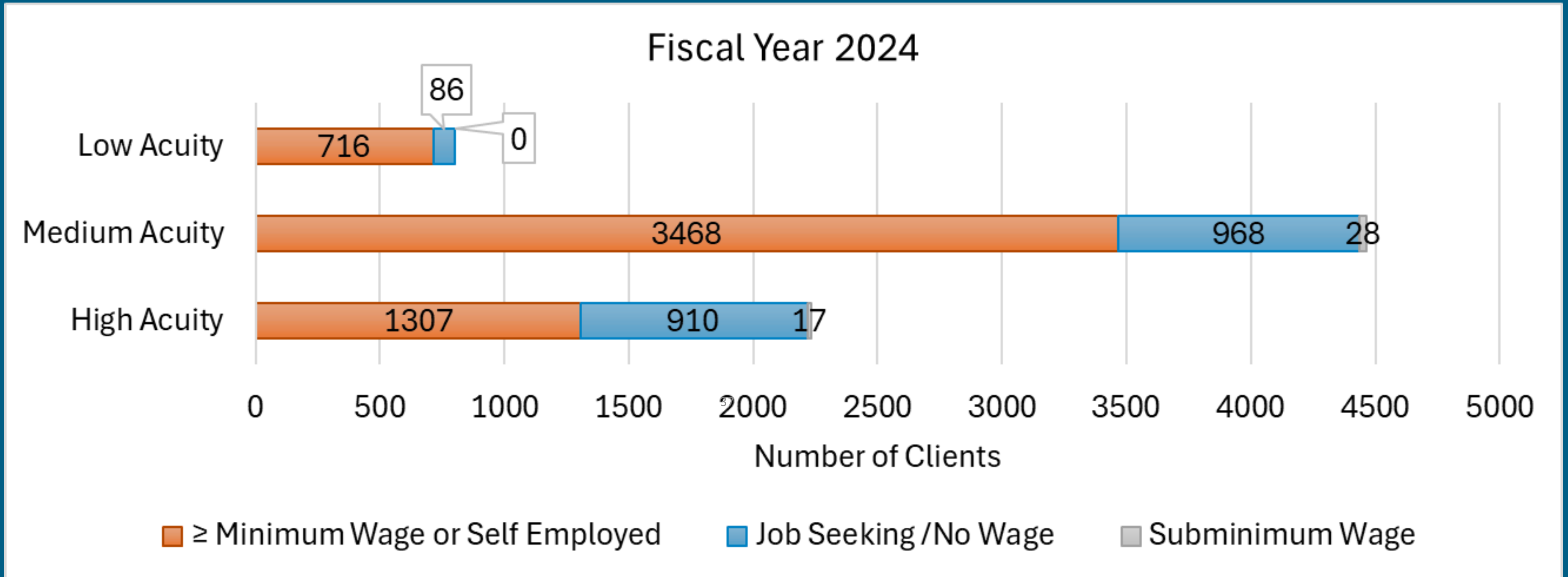


Support for Working

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

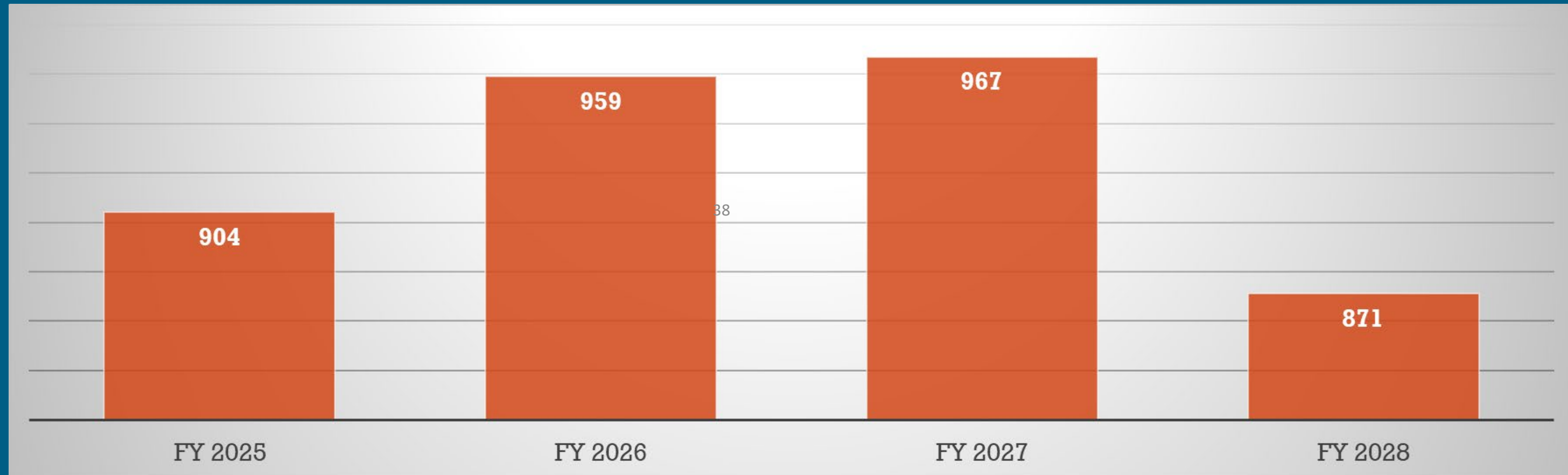


Wages & Acuity Level





Projected Transition Age Students



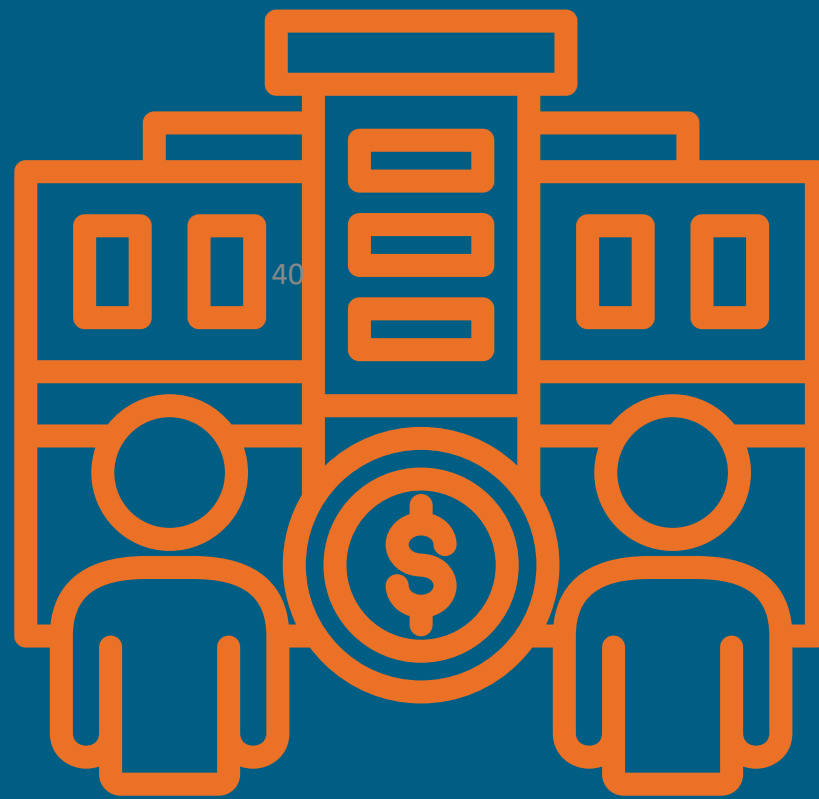


Access to the Community

Number of
Individuals
Served **2526**

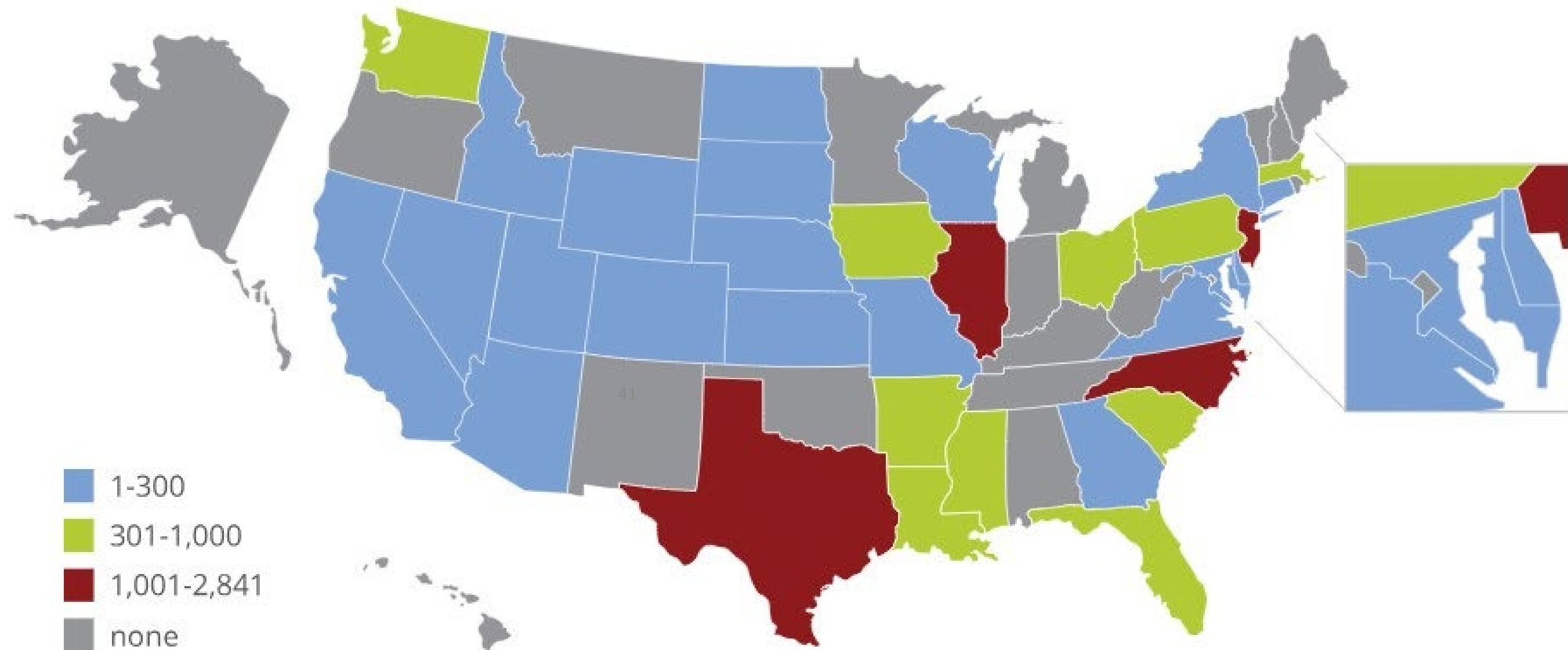
Community
Inclusion Average
Support Hours
Per Week **2.2**

Residential Habilitation Centers



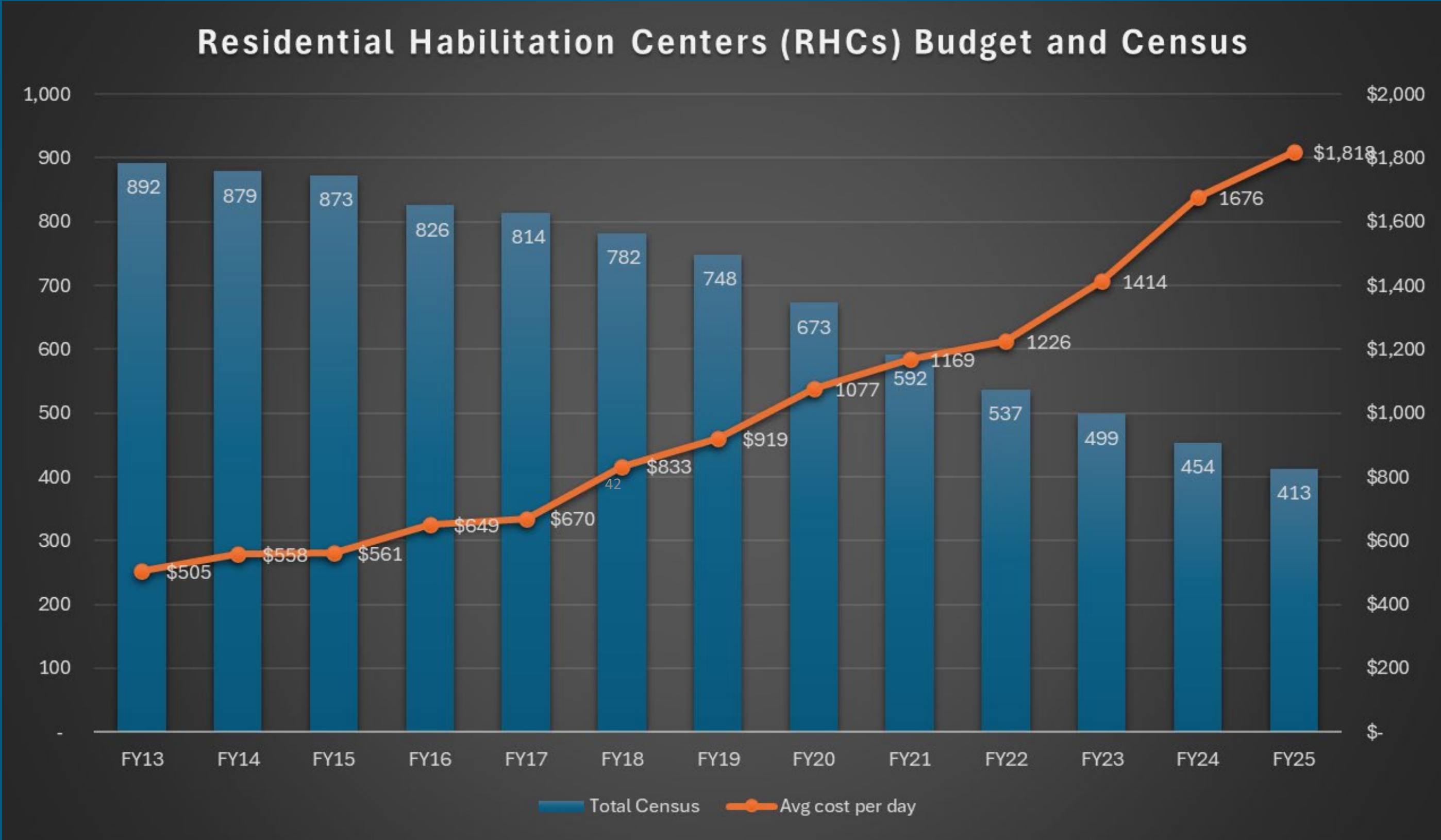
18 States have Completely Eliminated RHCs

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**

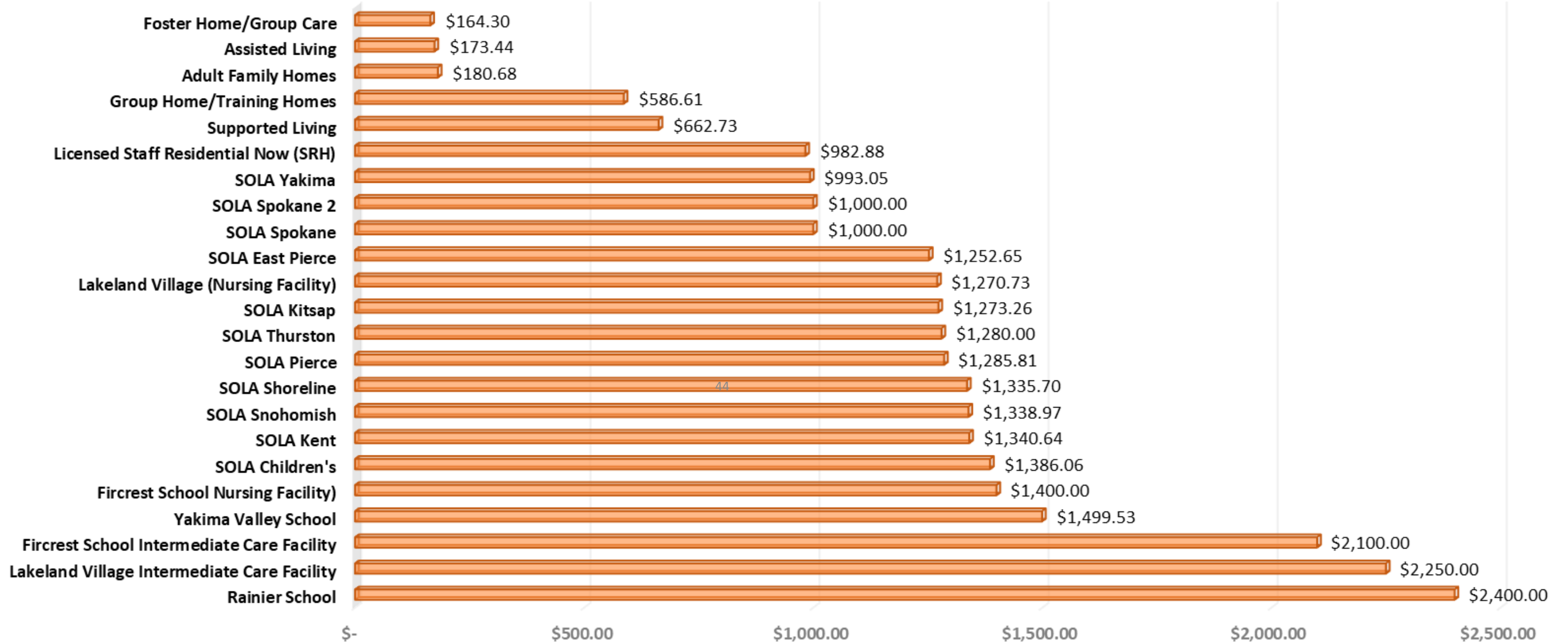


RHC Census

Setting	18 through 21	22 through 62	63 +
Lakeland Village	1	61	81
Rainier	2	50	19
Yakima Valley School	4	31	14

Cost Per Day By Residential Setting

FY25 Rate



State
Operated
Community
Residential

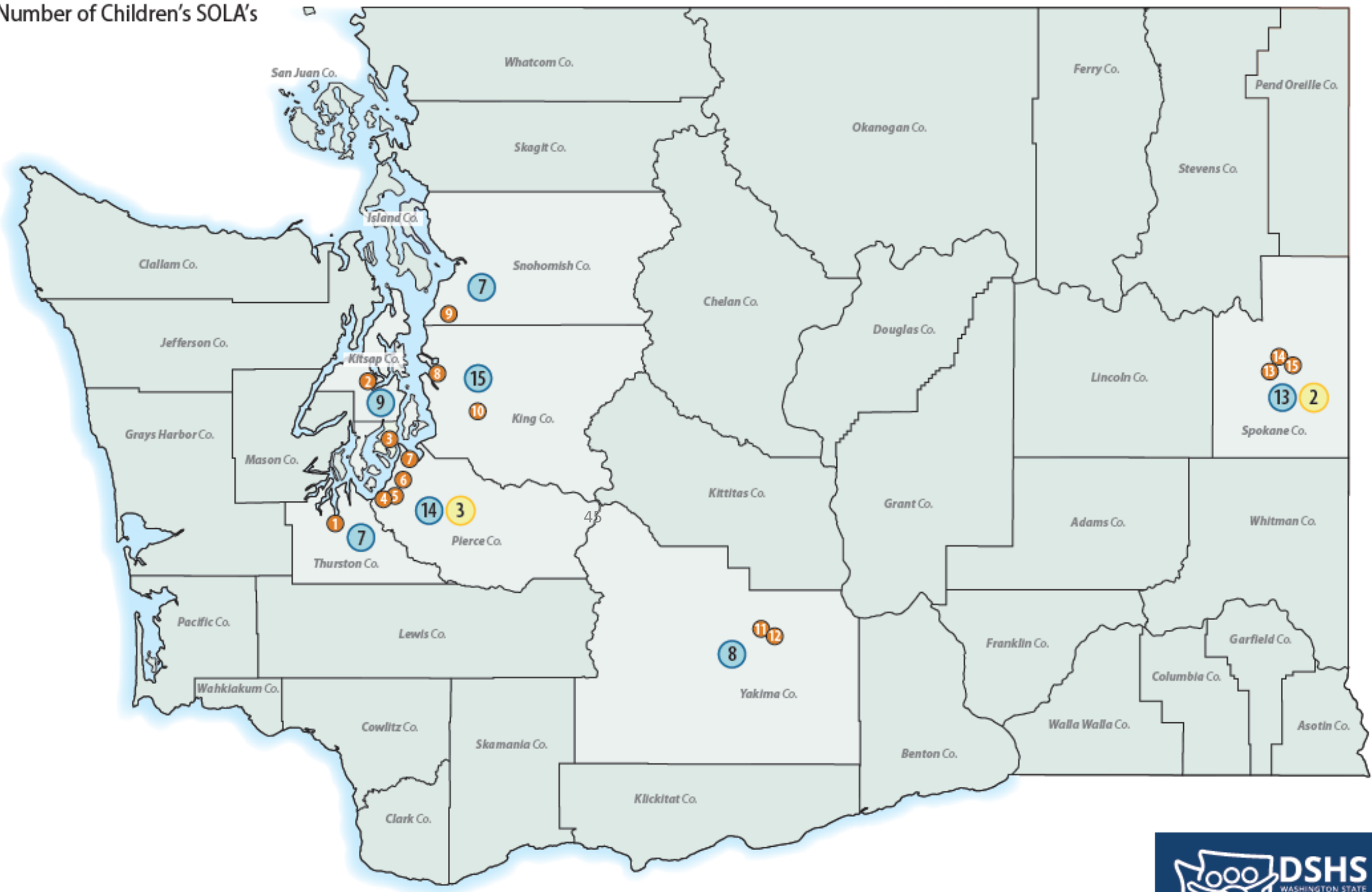
Our state-operated living alternative homes

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

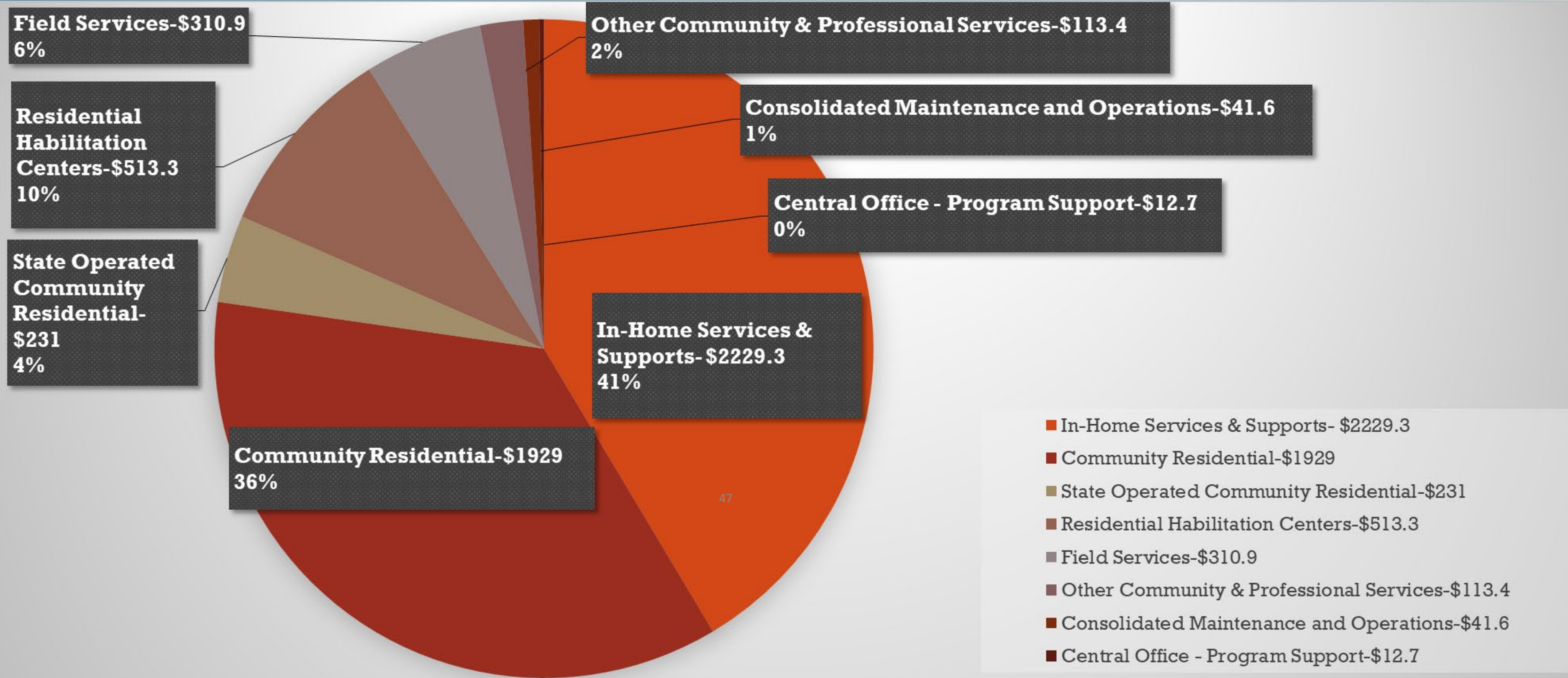




DDCS Budget



DDCS's Budget FY 2024

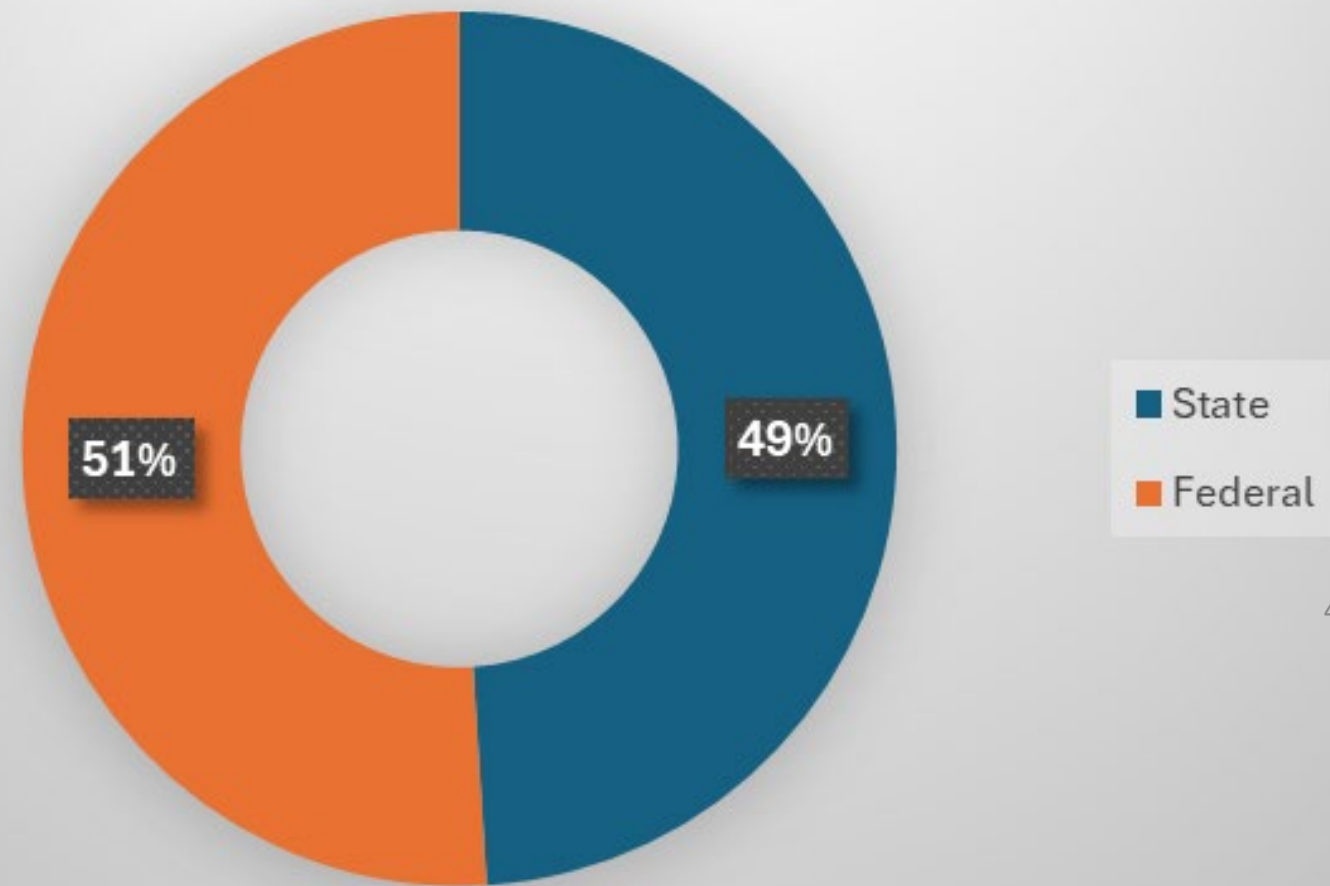


TOTAL: \$5381.2 Million

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



State Funds are Federally Matched



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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)

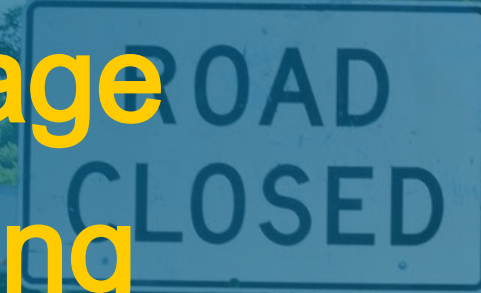


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Challenges Ahead

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



Bricks & Mortar Housing



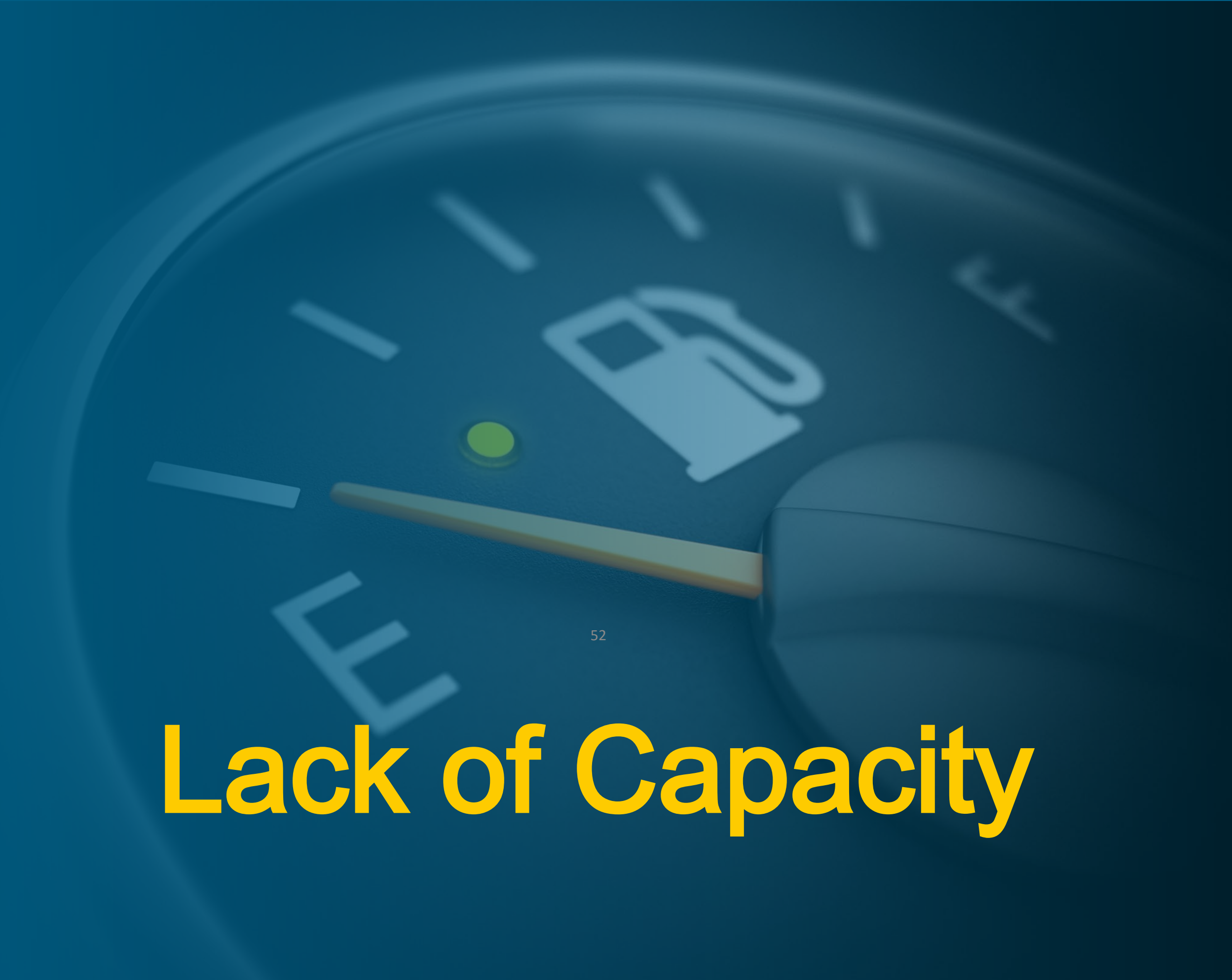
Supports & Services



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

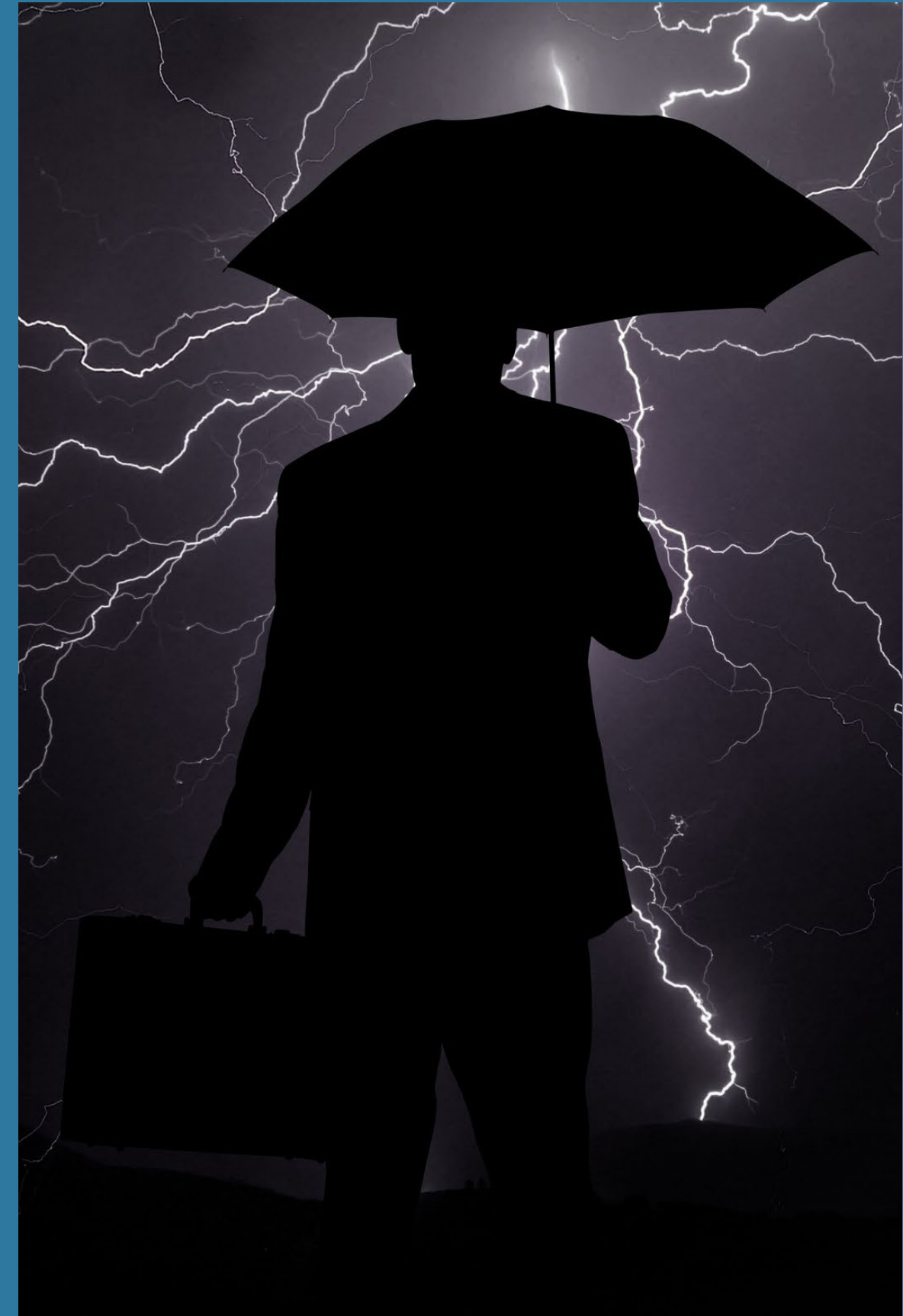
- **Agencies**

- 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

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Workforce Shortage

Lack of Appropriately and Adequately Trained Caregiving Professionals

Low Wages/Rates

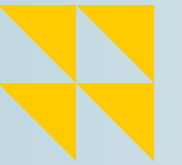
Less available care AND lower -quality care



The Workforce Shortage Affects ALL Services

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Mental/Behavioral Health
- 3 Employment
- 4 Local Community Programs
- 5⁵⁵ 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

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Inadequate Family Supports

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



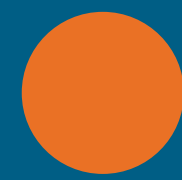
56.5% of adult clients live with and receive care from a parent or a relative



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



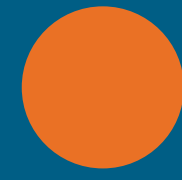
Families Need.....



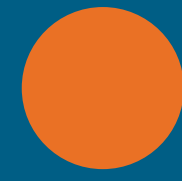
Affordable, Accessible, Reliable Childcare and after school programs



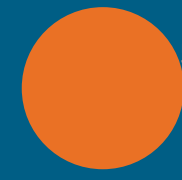
An Occasional break from caregiving (respite)



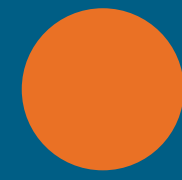
A reliable network of well trained, care providers



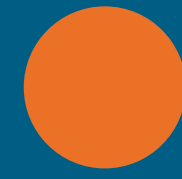
Timely and easy to use services



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

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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 ⁶⁰disproportionately 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.

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#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 ⁶⁴multiple 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 ⁶⁶ with your legislators



Thank You!

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