

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES OVERVIEW

HOUSE CHILD WELFARE & FOSTER CARE
SECRETARY LAURA HOWARD | 1.23.23

DCF MISSION STATEMENT



TO PROTECT CHILDREN, STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, AND PROMOTE ADULT SELF-SUFFICIENCY.



OUR MISSION:

To protect children, strengthen families and promote adult self-sufficiency.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:



PEOPLE HAVE THE CAPACITY:

- To progress
- To succeed
- To grow
- To do well in life



PEOPLE ARE THE EXPERTS ON THEIR LIVES AND HAVE:

- Voices
- Choices
- Needs
- Strengths
- Life Stories



WE VALUE COMMUNITIES AND THE PEOPLE THAT MAKE THEM UNIQUE:

- We honor the whole person
- We rely on each other
- We are partners, not competitors
- We all benefit from a collective impact approach
- Communities bring strength through relationships and resources



WE LEAD WITH AUTHENTICITY, CURIOSITY, AND RESPECT:

- We are innovative
- We are inclusive
- We are experts
- We are leaders
- We are authentic
- We are diverse
- We care about each other, our work and the people we serve
- We share success stories

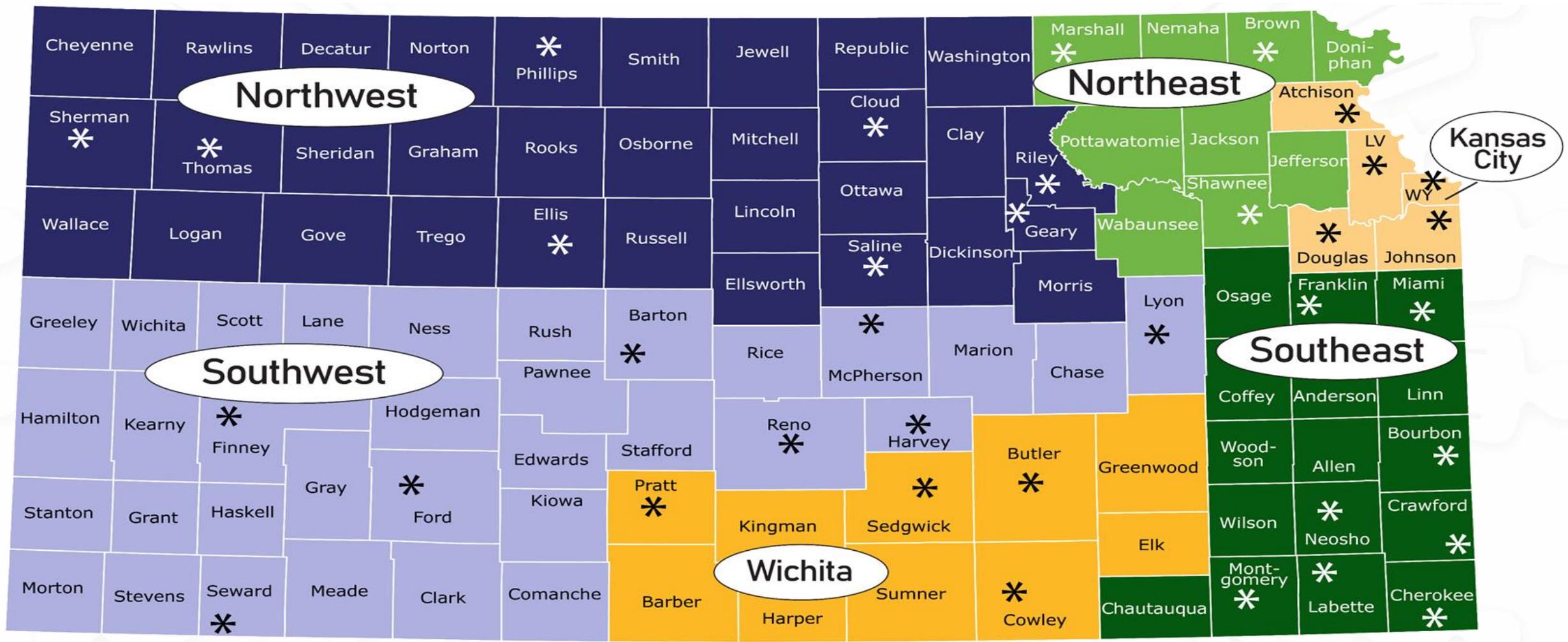
ORGANIZATION

DCF Major Programs

- Programs collaborate for family and individual outcome achievement
- Programs are supported by core operations.
- Program and practice are carried out by teams in 36 service centers across 6 Regional Offices



DCF REGIONS



Kansas City

* DCF Service Center

PREVENTION & PROTECTION SERVICES

PPS helps families and vulnerable adults by providing:

- Protection services (PRC and investigations)
- Family-based assessments
- Family support services
- Family preservation
- Families first prevention services
- Foster care
- Adoption services
- Independent living services for older youth
- Licensing foster homes

Kansas Protection Report Center



1-800-922-5330

KANSAS PRACTICE MODEL



Provides a consistent and customized framework to support engagement, safety planning, and decision making to guide our work alongside families, children, and youth.

- Foundation of the Kansas Practice Model:

- Team Decision Making
- Family Finding
- Signs of Safety
- Structured Decision Making
- Solution Focused Questions
- Resolutions Approach

- As a result of this work, we are seeing a dramatic drop in the need for foster care:
 - The state currently has 6,248 youth and children in care, down from 7,600 at the beginning of the Kelly administration.
 - In FY 2020, there were 15 percent fewer children entering foster care than in FY 2019.
 - In FY 2021, there were 11 percent fewer than in FY 2020.
 - In FY 2022, there were 2 percent fewer than in FY 2021.

KANSAS PROTECTION REPORT CENTER



CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

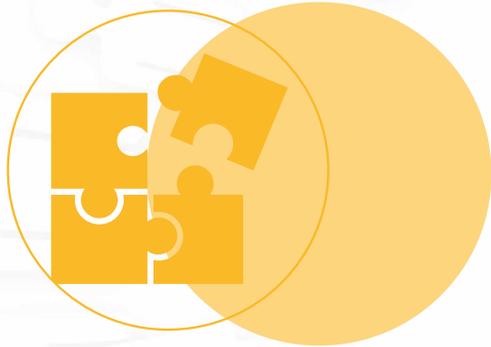
When a report of child abuse or neglect is made, an initial assessment is made to determine if Child Protective Services should become involved. If the report meets the criteria for agency involvement, the case is investigated by a social worker or special investigator. Law enforcement may also investigate if a joint investigation is warranted.

If it is determined that a child is unsafe, then a recommendation is made by Child Protective Services or law enforcement to the court regarding what action should be taken regarding the child's safety.

- The agency tracks several data points based on reports made to the Kansas Protection Report Center and publishes several data reports including:
 - Reports received
 - Reports assigned for investigation
 - Findings
 - Recurrence of maltreatment
- SFY22: Reports Received was 70,057
 - Of those 70,057 - 55% are assigned for assessment
 - Of those assigned, 69% are regarding alleged abuse or neglect and 31% are regarding family in need of services (FINA).

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION ACT

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT (FFPSA)



Created reimbursement pathway for federal funds to provide services to keep children safely with their families.



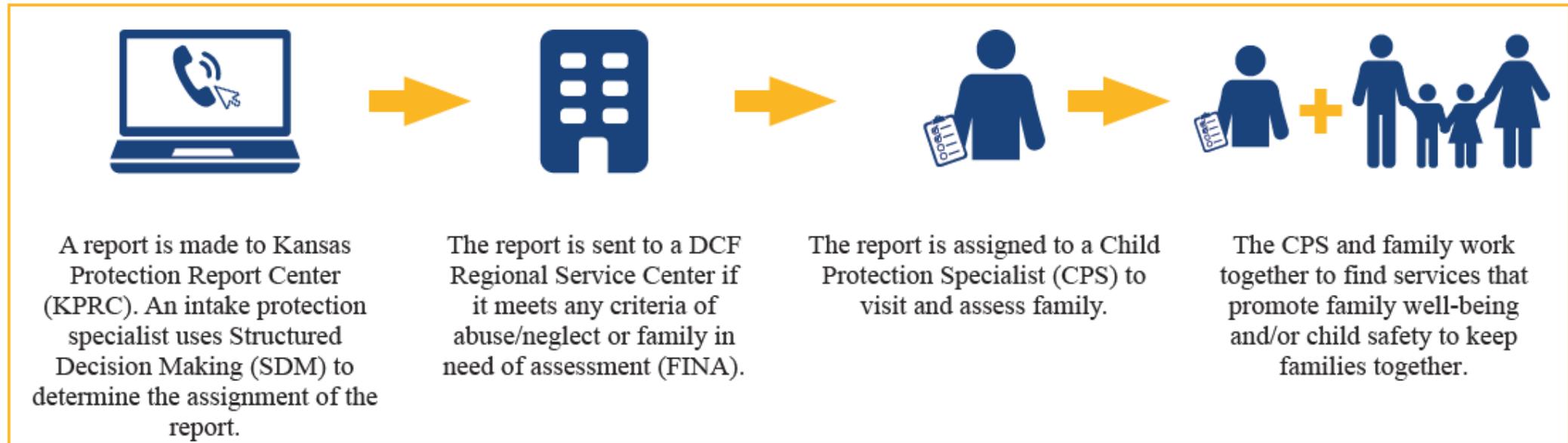
When foster care is needed, allows federal reimbursement for care in family-based settings and certain residential treatment programs.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

- Significant impact on reducing the need to bring children into the custody of the Secretary.
- The program provides grants to agencies providing services in:
 - Mental Health
 - Parent Skill Building
 - Kinship Navigation
 - Substance Use Disorders
- A chief measure of the program's success is the percent of children remaining at home after 12 months of referral. Initial data shows that overall, 89% of children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of referral have remained at home. The program goal is 90%. The rates for two categories, kinship navigation and mental health, were 100% and 90%, respectively.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION PLAN

PATHWAY



SERVICE TRACK

RISK LEVEL: NOT REQUIRED

Community-Based Providers

RISK LEVEL: AT-RISK OF REMOVAL

Family First Prevention Services

RISK LEVEL: AT-RISK OF REMOVAL

Family Preservation Services

FAMILY FIRST SERVICE EXPANSION



2024 RFP BID PROPOSALS

17 providers across 36 proposals with a prospective bid amount of \$44.4M

- The final selection process will not be completed until January 2023.

21 of 36 proposals are well-supported or promising per the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse.

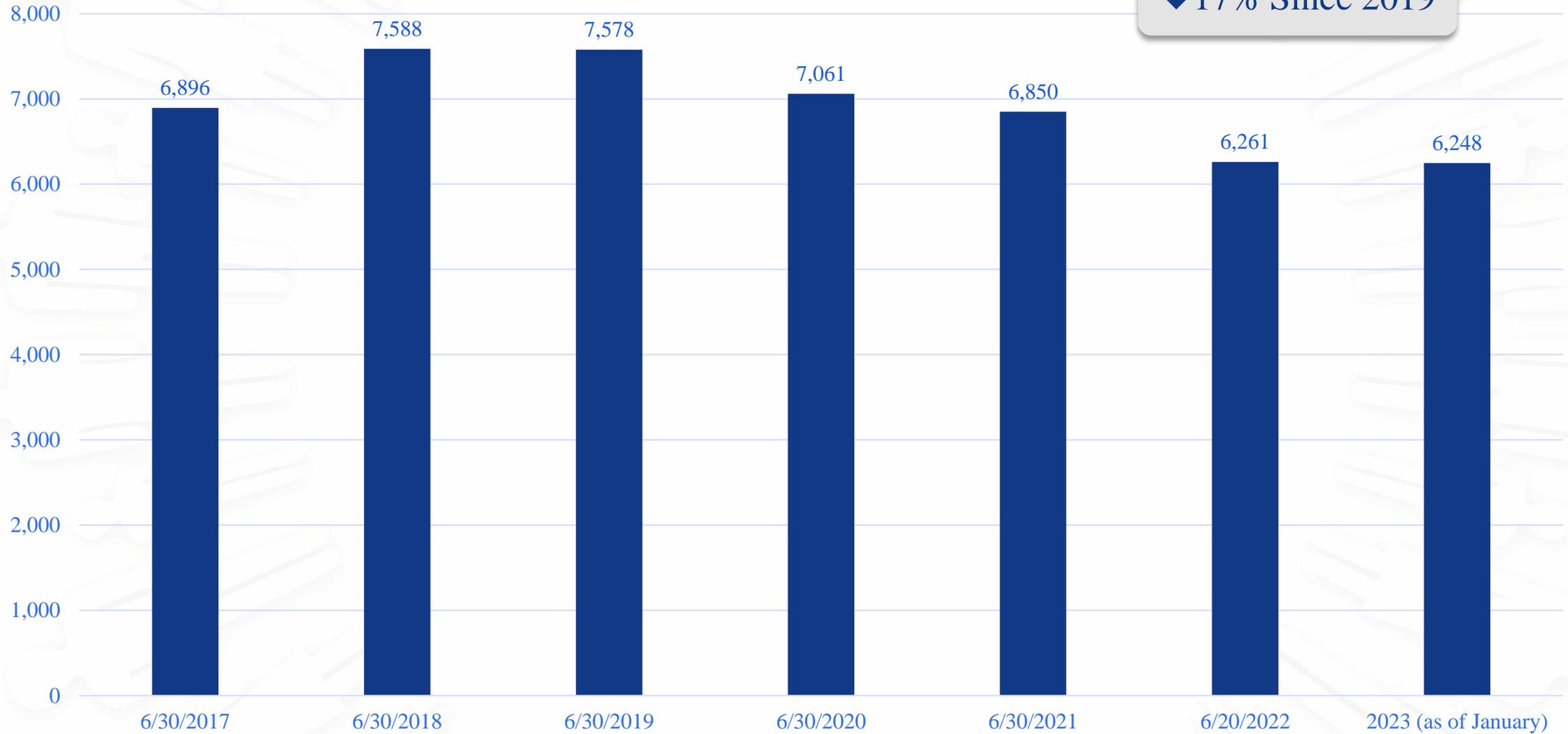
- 15 of 36 are not a program rated by the California Evidence-based Clearinghouse.

17 of 36 (at the time of proposal) are rated per the Title IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse – which is used for federal funding.

- The remaining 21 are not yet rated.
- 14 are rated as supported/well-supported
- 3 are rated as promising

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

↓ 17% Since 2019



■ Number of Children In Foster Care

ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

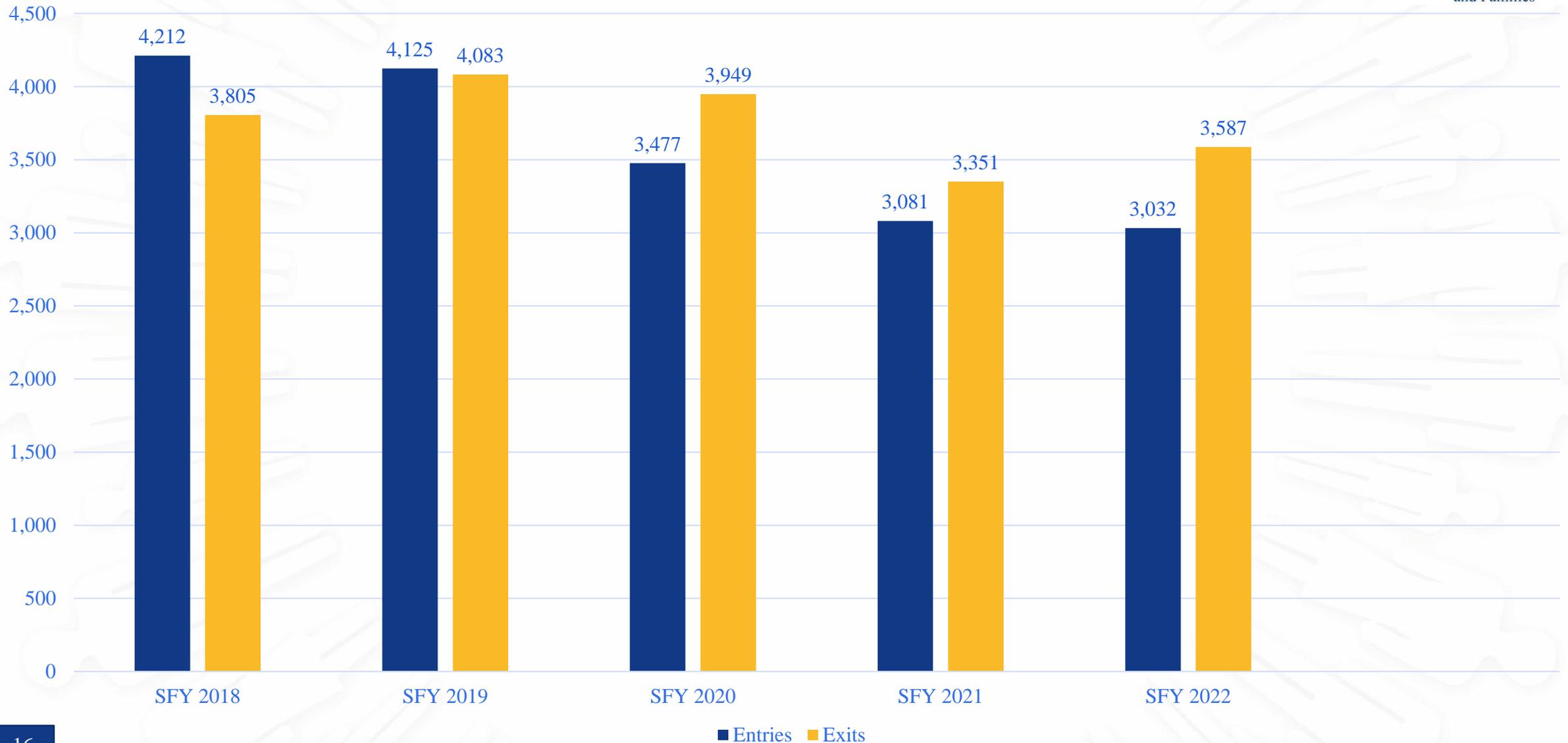
FOSTER CARE

- Only law enforcement and the court can remove a child from a parent's custody.
- DCF does not remove children or decide to take children into state custody.
- During an assessment or prevention service delivery, when there is a concern a child may need to leave the home due to safety concerns, a Team Decision Making meeting is held.
- There are times when the safest decision for a child is protective custody removal into foster care.
- If DCF determines it is not possible to protect a child through services or other actions it recommends that the county or district attorney file a Child In Need of Care, or "CINC," petition

CHILDREN ENTERING FOSTER CARE ACROSS YEARS



Children Entering & Exiting Foster Care Across Years



ENTRY INTO FOSTER CARE

INITIAL LEGAL PROCESSES

- Temporary custody hearing held within 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after CINC petition filing to determine if the child shall remain in the home or come into DCF custody
- An adjudication hearing to formally find the child of being “in need of care” usually must be held within 60 days of the filing of a CINC petition
- The state’s burden of proof is clear and convincing evidence

FOSTER CARE CASE MANAGEMENT



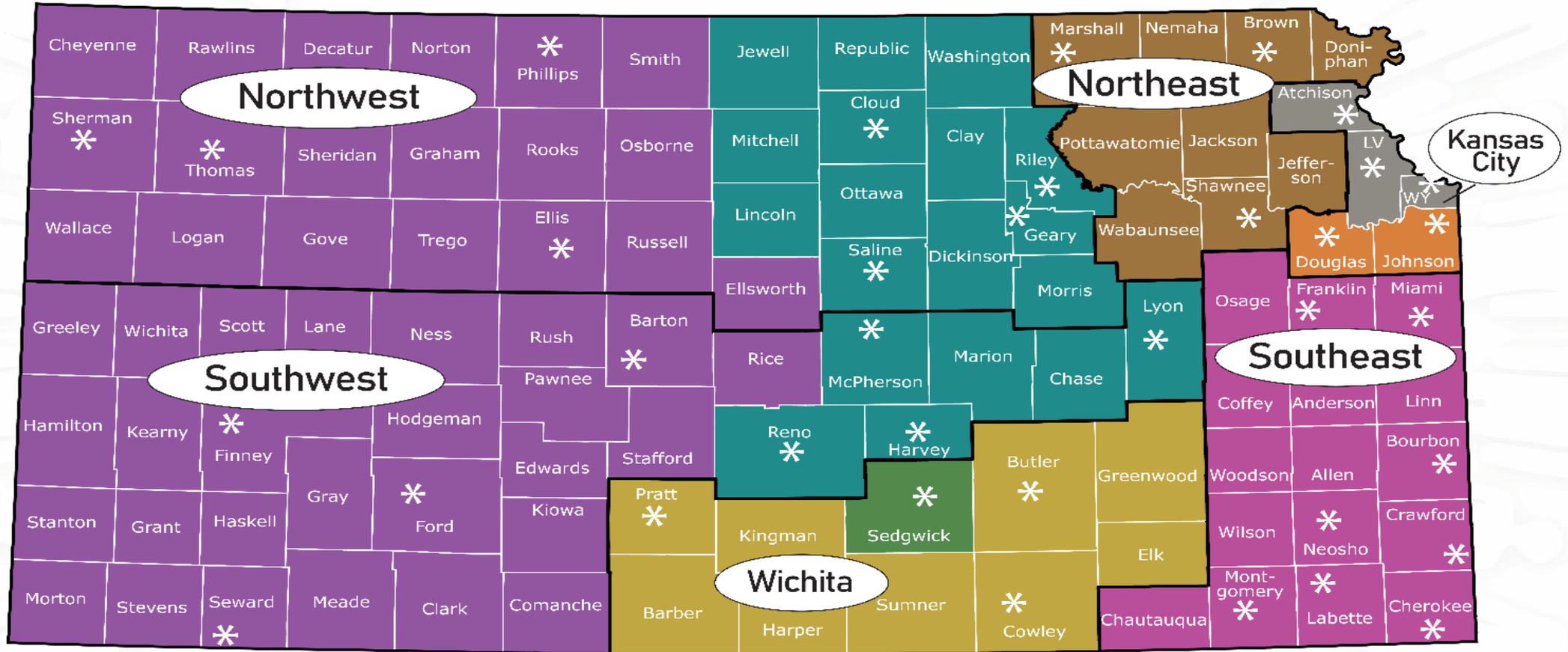
AGENCIES

Foster Care Case Management grantees work with grantees to support families, manage individual cases, and achieve case plan goals. Four case management grantees:

- Saint Francis Ministries
- KVC Health Systems, Inc.
- TFI Family Services
- Cornerstones of Care

Direct service to the child and family including case planning, placement, service delivery, reporting to court, and collaboration with community resources to ensure appropriate services are available near the child's home.

DCF Regions & Catchment Areas



- * DCF Service Center**
- AREA #1**
Saint Francis Ministries
- AREA #3**
KVC
- AREA #5**
Cornerstones of Care
- AREA #7**
Saint Francis Ministries
- AREA #2**
Saint Francis Ministries
- AREA #4**
TFI Family Services
- AREA #6**
KVC
- AREA #8**
TFI Family Services

SERVICES PROVIDED

FOR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Services provided by case management grantees include:

- Initial and ongoing screenings and assessments
- Facilitation and engagement for family meetings
- Case plan development
- Placement stability support
- Facilitation of parenting time and parent/child interactions
- Parent skill building
- Coordination/referral to other services (ex: mental health, disability)
- Coordination with MCOs

CASE PLANS

FOSTER CARE

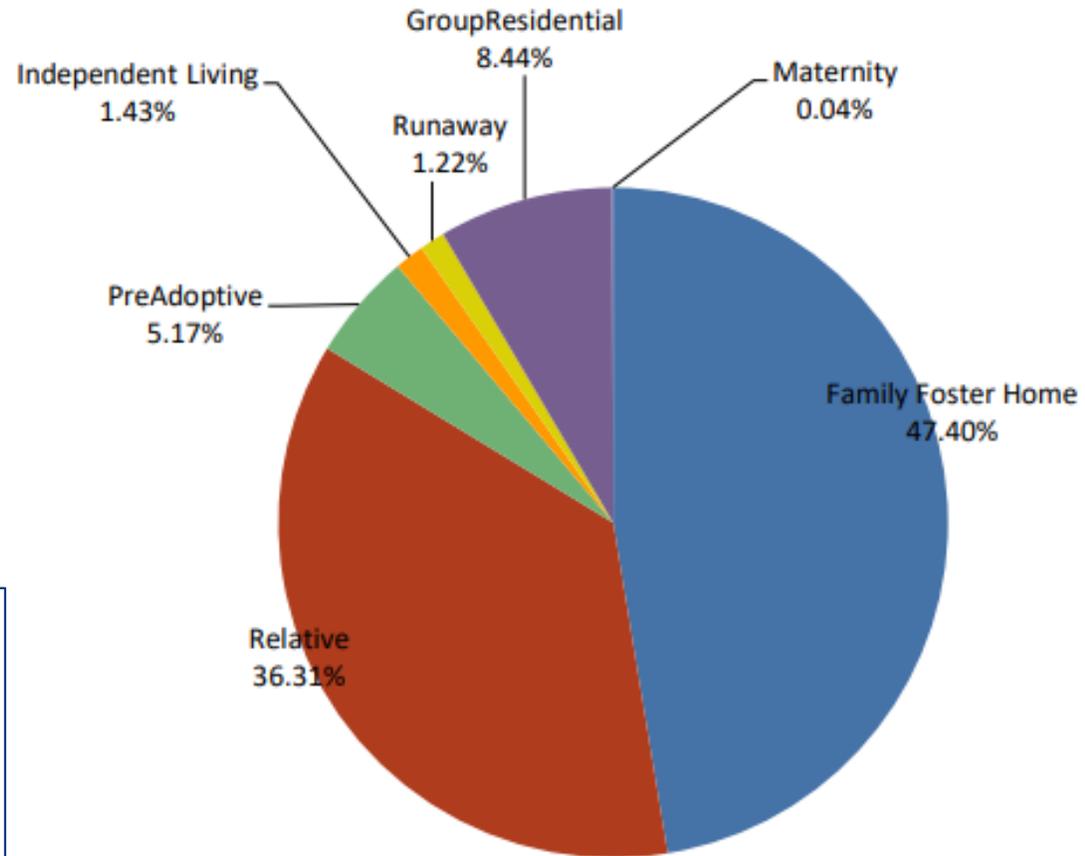
- After a child is adjudicated to be a CINC, a disposition hearing is held in which the court will set the case plan goal for the child
- Placement decisions are a responsibility of case management providers.
- Following disposition, courts must have permanency hearings to evaluate progress towards case plan goals at a minimum of every 12 months
- The court will continue to have final say over the child's case plan
- Case plan goals include: reintegration with the family, permanent guardianship/adoption, and other planned permanent living arrangements (OPPLA)

FOSTER CARE PLACEMENTS

- After a child has come into state care they will be placed in the setting with a level of care most appropriate for their individual needs
- Placements are reimbursed by DCF based on the type and the child's level of care needs.
- Types of placements include:
 - Relative placement
 - Family foster home
 - Residential facilities
 - Emergency shelters
 - QRTPs
 - Staff secure facilities

NOVEMBER 30, 2022, PLACEMENTS

*Pie Chart showing Placement Setting by percentage.



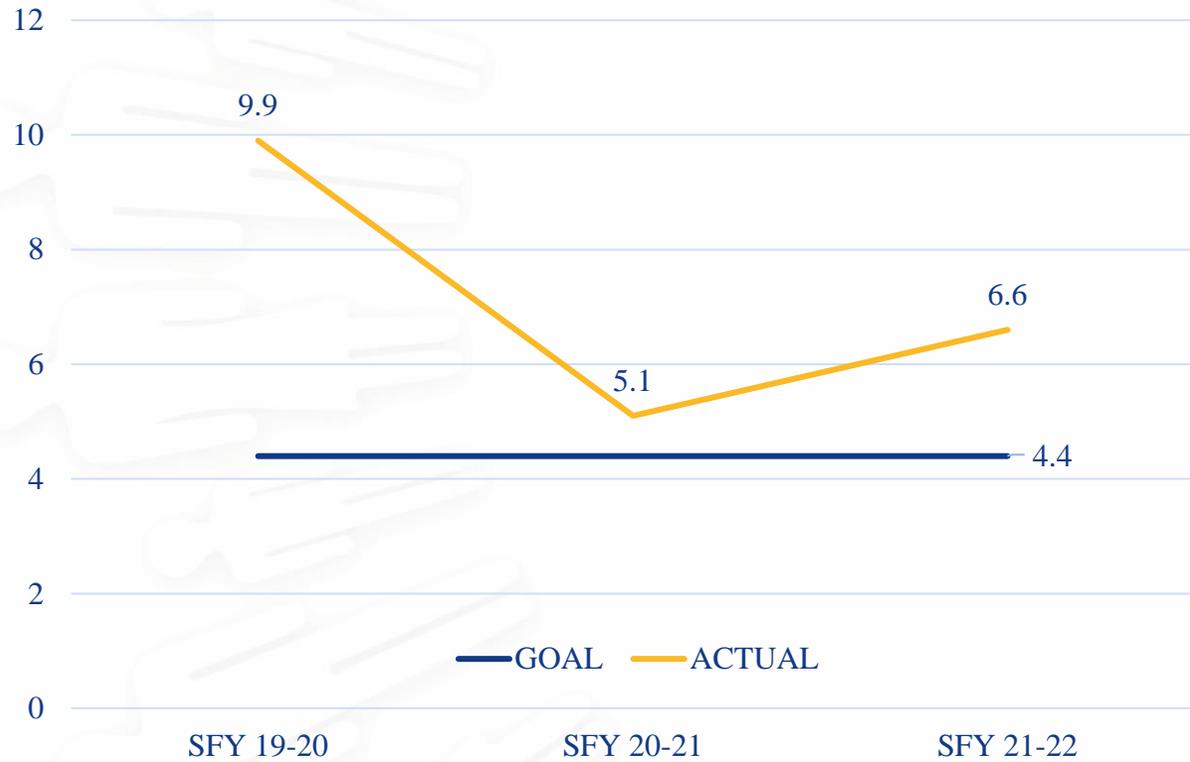
Not shown in the pie chart is that 44.7% of children were placed with relatives or non-related kin on 1/30/22

PLACEMENT STABILITY

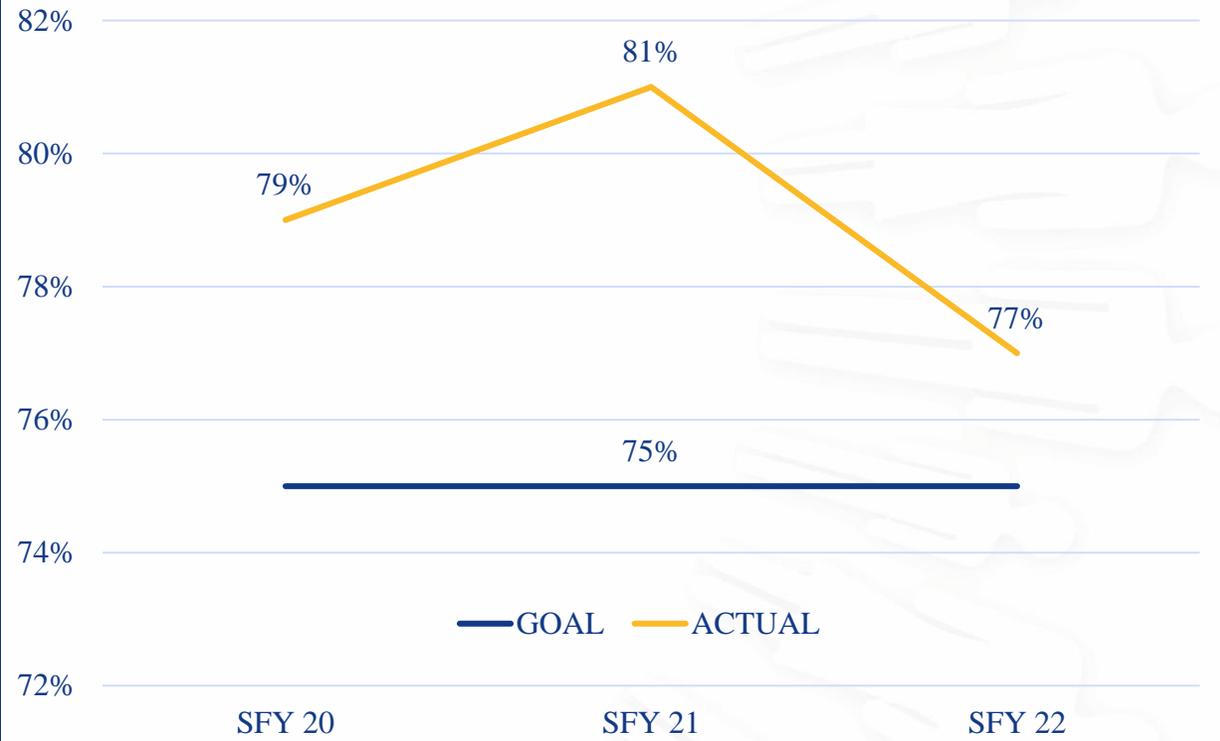
FOSTER CARE



CFSR RATE OF MOVES



1 OR FEWER MOVES IN PRIOR 12MO



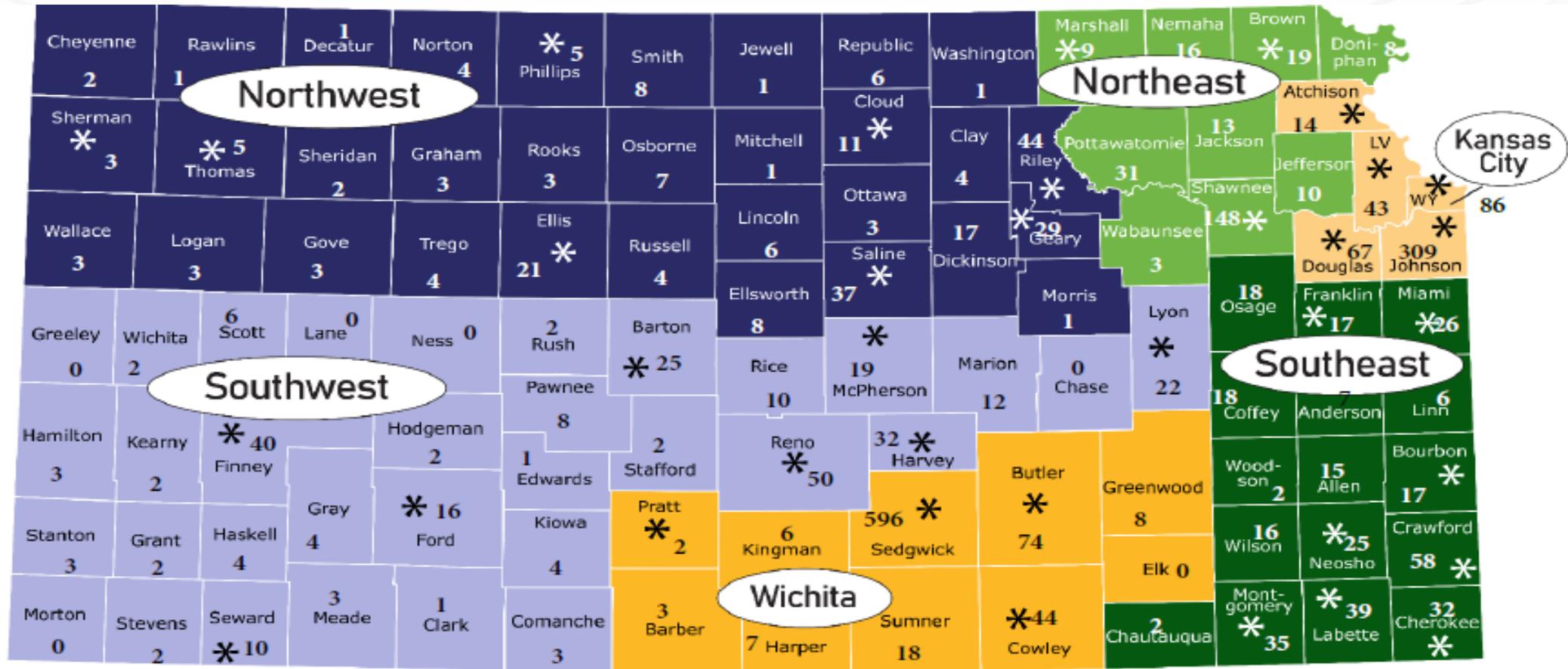
LICENSED FAMILY FOSTER HOMES

CAPACITY

There is great capacity in the number of foster homes; however, there are some gaps and/or barriers when it comes to available placements able to meet specialized identified needs, including but not limited to children and youth experiencing:

- High acuity
- Older than age 12
- Reservations about or refusal of a placement
- Medical or developmental disability concerns
- Emotional crisis to prevent PRTF/Acute care

LICENSED FAMILY FOSTER HOMES



* DCF Service Center

Foster Homes Per County as of
12-19-2022 Total: 2,407

Failure to Place

DEFINITION

A child or youth is considered to have experienced a failure to place (temporarily housed or maintained overnight at a case management provider office) when that child has arrived at a case management agency office before 12:00 a.m. midnight of one day and there is failure to place the child in an appropriate placement before 6 a.m. of the following calendar day absent extraordinary circumstances

- No placement is located; or
- Placement located, but youth declines the placement

While we are pleased with the reduction in the number of moves children and a reduced use of offices since 2019, due to failure to place there are still too many youth who face instability.

FAILURE TO PLACE A CHILD

Notice Procedures

Case Management Provider submits a Critical Incident to DCF. Within 48 hours DCF (both Administrative and Regional staff) discuss the incident with the CMP

Topics include:

- Family Finding efforts
- Lessons learned
- Opportunities/ Barriers with which DCF or KDADS can help

There is continued encouragement to engage youth in where they would want to stay or feel the most safe

FAILURE TO PLACE PREVENTION NETWORK



FOSTER CARE

Enhanced Agreements with Child Placing Agencies (CPA) and DCF Facilities

- Creating a failure to place prevention network with shared goals to prevent any instances of failure to place (children overnight in offices)
- Adding 1 full time recruiter to each CPA
- Added an option for CPA and Facilities to join a network to prevent failure to place through
 - Grants to cover costs of stand by services of an available bed
 - Incentive grants for every month when their catchment area has zero (0) failure to place instances

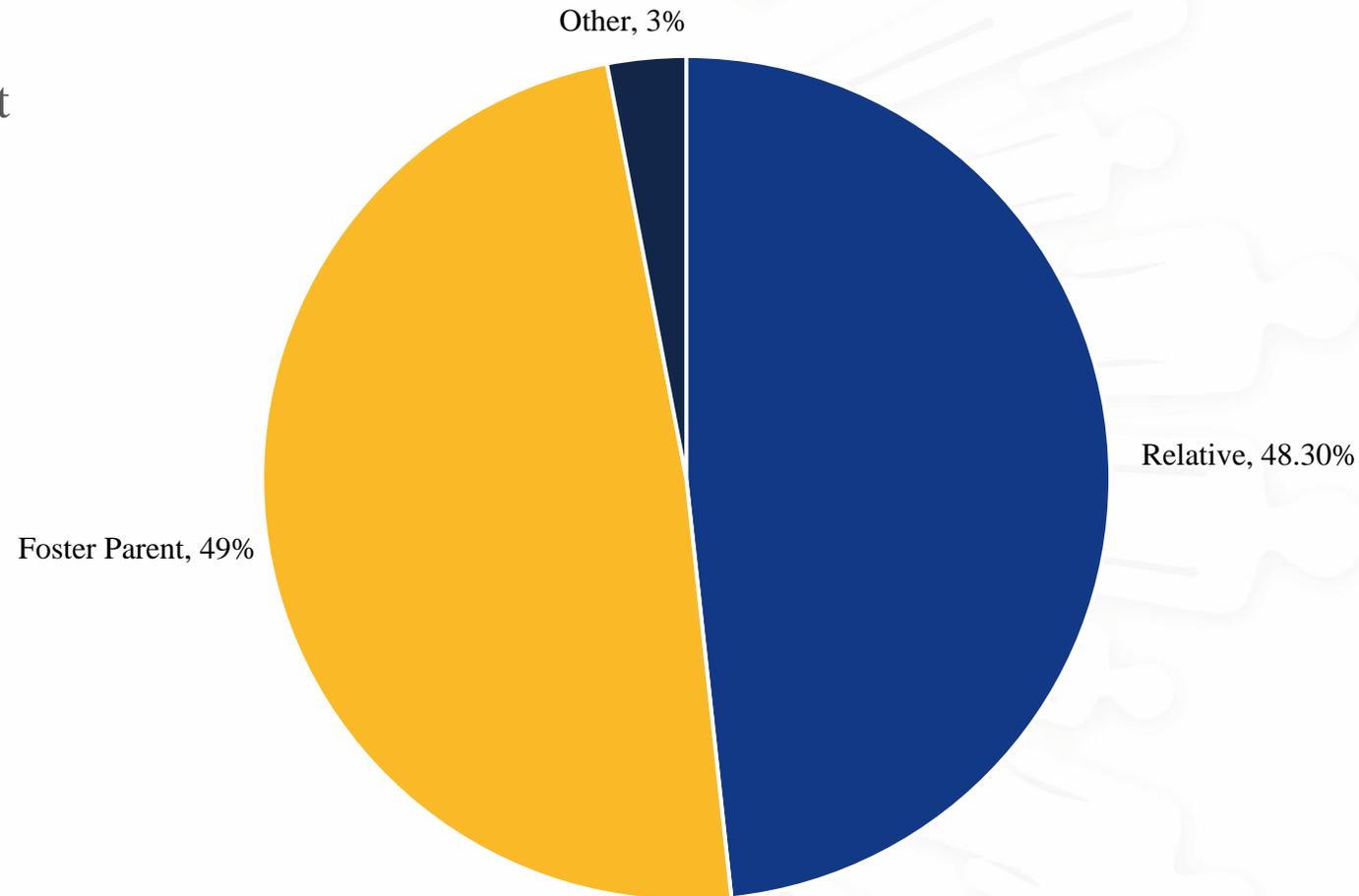
SUCCESS STORIES

FINALIZED ADOPTIONS

Adoptions increased in SFY2019 averaging just over 1,000 annually the past 4 years.

- The average age of a child at the time of the finalized adoption is 7 years with two-thirds of children adopted age 8 or younger (65%).
- The average length of time in care is 39 months and over half of children (59%) are adopted as part of a sibling group. \

In SFY 22, Nearly all 948 adoptions were finalized with a relative or foster parent and in SFY 22, 48.7 % were with a foster family and 48.3% were with a relative.



Adoptive Parent Relationship, SFY 2022

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM



- The new Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) will modernize state child welfare systems and develop interfaces between the various agencies serving the Child Welfare and Adult Protectives Services programs.
- Currently, there are five legacy systems of varying ages and capabilities supporting child welfare programs. Major components of the existing systems use aging mainframe technology, unsupported operating systems, and obsolete programming languages. This makes the present systems difficult and costly to maintain, modify, or improve.
- Funding was added by the Legislature for FY 2021 to FY 2023 for the planning and design phase with the understanding that an estimated \$100 million would be needed for the development phase lasting 3 to 4 years.
- High Level Plan has been finalized by the Department of Administration for RFP issue.

COMPREHENSIVE CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM



Design, Development and Integration RFP

- Seeks bidders who will lead the CCWIS effort alongside State resources to design, develop and implement the CCWIS system

Quality Analysis RFP

- Seeks bidders who will provide quality analysis services of project deliverable from the DDI vendor, such as the validation of system functionality delivered compared to the system requirements provided by the State

Independent Verification and Validation RFP -

- Seeks bidders providing services for Independent Verification and Validation on the project. The IV&V vendor will review overall project performance such as adherence to project schedule and scope and provide analysis and feedback based on regularly scheduled interviews with Project team members, leaders and vendors

Key Priority Areas

- Community based primary prevention and family supports
- Safely preventing the need for foster care
- Reducing the need for foster care through timely permanency for children in care
- Manage re-bid process for family preservation contracts and foster care grants
 - Release Request for Proposals (RFP) Spring 2023
 - Award December 2023
 - New grants or contract term begins July 1, 2024.

QUESTIONS?
