

# OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ADMINISTERING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT



The Children's Services Act (CSA, §2.2-2648 et seq) was enacted in 1993 to create a collaborative system of services and funding for at-risk youth and families.

The CSA establishes local multidisciplinary teams responsible to work with families to plan services according to each child's unique strengths and needs and to administer the community's CSA activities.

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) is the administrative entity responsible for ensuring effective and efficient implementation of the CSA across the Commonwealth.

Guiding principles for OCS include:

- Child and family directed care,
- Equitable access to quality services,
- Responsible and effective use of public funds,
- Support for effective, evidence-based practices, and
- Collaborative partnerships across state, local, public, and private stakeholders.

## IMPACT OF THE INCENTIVE MATCH RATE SYSTEM

*Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly, December 2016  
In accordance with the Appropriation Act, Item 285 (C)(3)(c)*

Funding for services to children and families under the Children's Services Act (CSA) is a shared responsibility of state and local governments. The incentive-based match rate system was designed to change practices so as to reduce reliance on residential care, serve children in their homes, and invest funds for the development of community based services. The incentive match rate system encourages the delivery of services consistent with the statutory purposes of the CSA, i.e., to:

- preserve and strengthen families;
- design and provide services that are responsive to the unique and diverse strengths and needs of troubled youth and families and;
- provide appropriate services in the least restrictive environment, while protecting the welfare of children and maintaining the safety of the public.

Under the incentive match rate system, a locality's share of residential services is 25% above its base match rate; the locality's share of community-based services is 50% below its base match rate.

### Total Net Expenditures Under the Children's Services Act



★ Implementation of the incentive match rate system

### Effective Match Rate

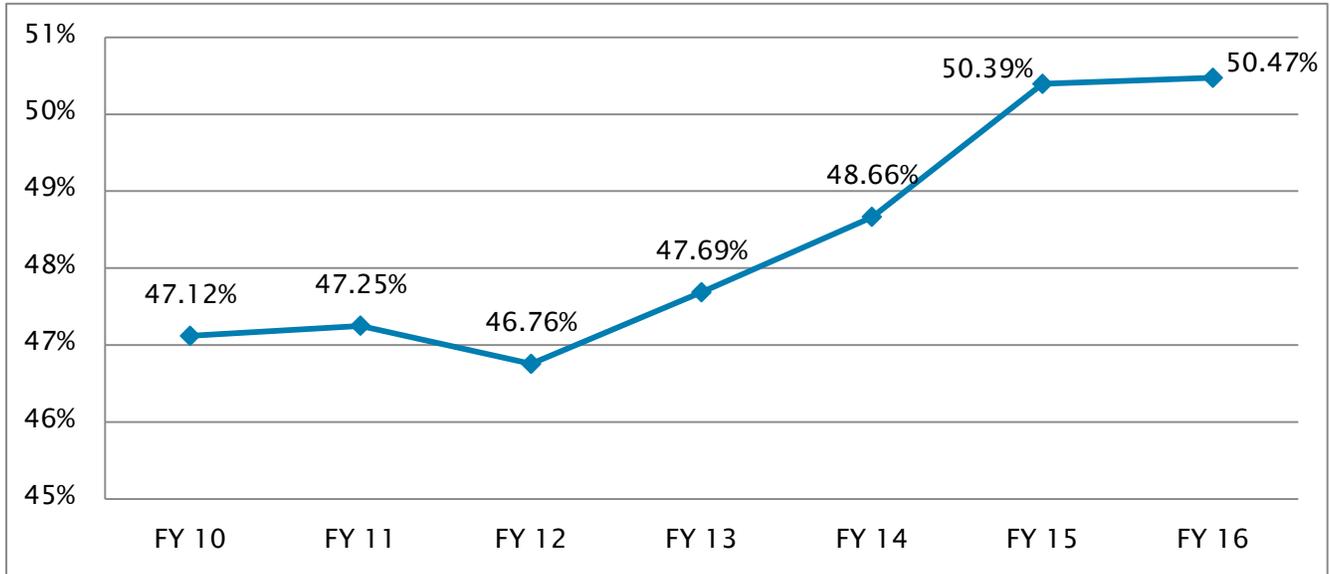
	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Effective Local Match Rate	33.5%	33.3%	34.8%	35.5%	35.3%	34.9%	34.9%	34.8%
Effective State Match Rate	66.5%	66.7%	65.2%	64.5%	64.7%	65.1%	65.1%	65.2%

The "effective match rate" reflects the impact of the mix of services at various match rates on the average match rate for all funded services.



## IMPACT OF THE INCENTIVE MATCH RATE SYSTEM ON THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF YOUTH

Percent of Youth Served in Community-Based Settings (Target = 50%)



This metric reflects youth who have been served within their families and communities (i.e., have not required out-of-home placement including foster care).