

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ADMINISTERING THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT



TREATMENT FOSTER CARE SERVICES UNDER THE CSA

Annual Report to the General Assembly, December 1, 2022
In accordance with the Appropriation Act, Chapter 2, Item 284 (K)(1)

K.1. The Office of Children's Services (OCS) shall report on funding for therapeutic foster care services including but not limited to the number of children served annually, average cost of care, type of service provided, length of stay, referral source, and ultimate disposition. In addition, the OCS shall provide guidance and training to assist localities in negotiating contracts with therapeutic foster care providers.

Treatment foster care (TFC) is a community-based program that addresses a child's placement and service needs while the child is in the custody of a local department of social services. Foster parents trained, supervised, and supported by a private agency (licensed child-placing agency, or LCPA) provide TFC. TFC is family-based, goal-directed, and results-oriented, emphasizing permanency planning for the child in care. Total TFC costs may be offset partially by federal/state title IV-E revenues to cover maintenance costs (room and board) for eligible children in foster care. Title IV-E revenues and payments are handled through the Department of Social Services.

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.

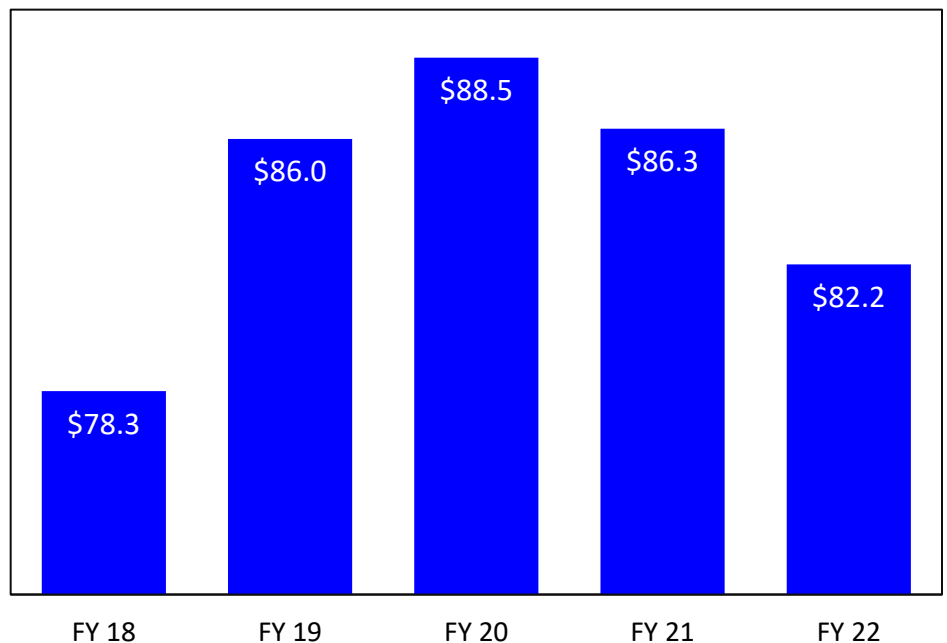
The CSA establishes local multidisciplinary teams responsible to work with families to plan services according to each child's unique strengths and needs and to administer the community's CSA activities.

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:

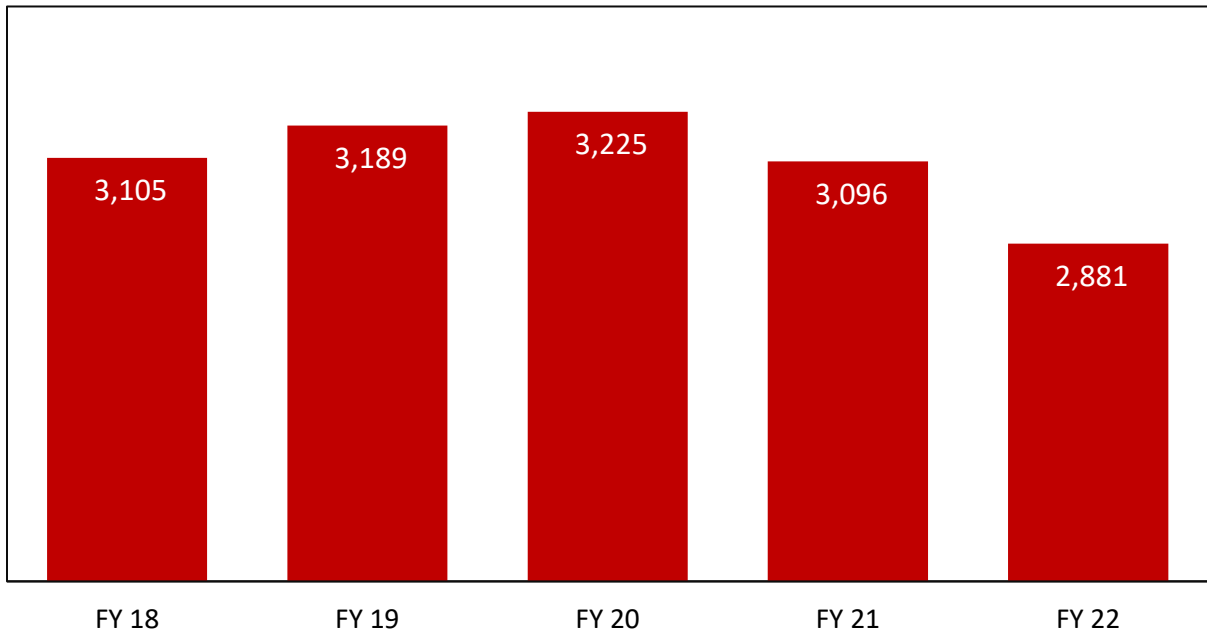
- Child and family directed care,
- Equitable access to quality services,
- Responsible and effective use of public funds,
- Support for effective, evidence-based practices, and
- Collaborative partnerships across state, local, public, and private stakeholders.

Total CSA Expenditures (Millions)
Treatment Foster Care (FY2018 - FY2022)

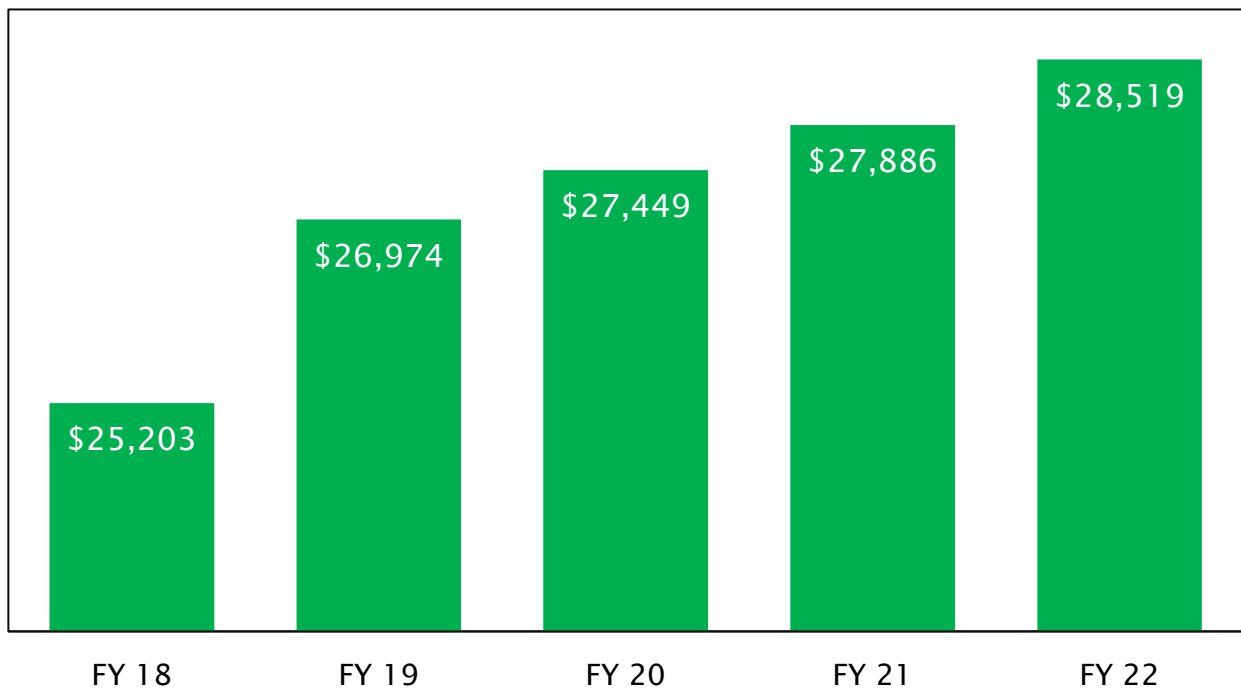


Office of Children's Services
Empowering communities to serve youth

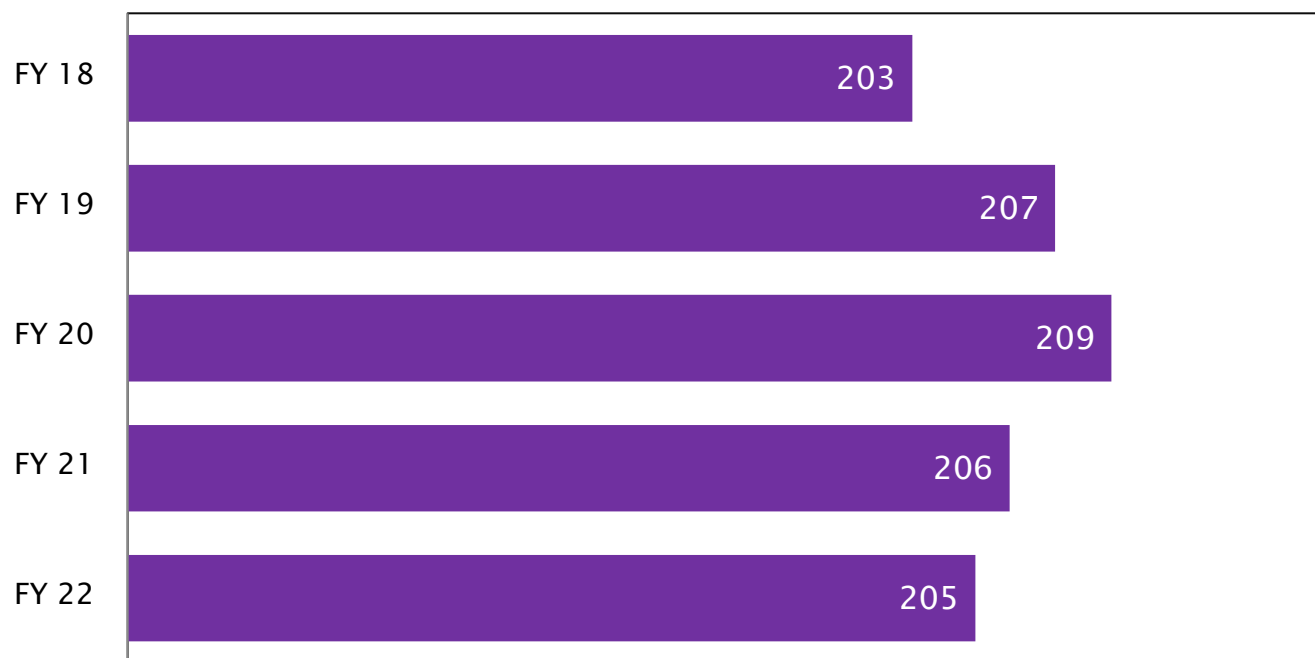
Number of Youth Served
Treatment Foster Care (FY2018 – FY2022)



Average Annual CSA Expenditure per Child – (Includes Foster Care Maintenance Costs)
Treatment Foster Care (FY2018 – FY2022)



Average Length of Stay (Number of Days/Year) Treatment Foster Care (FY2018 – FY2022)



Discussion

In FY2022, utilization of treatment foster care (TFC) continued a decrease seen over the past two years (11% since FY2020). TFC remains a primary resource for foster care placements in Virginia. This reflects ongoing challenges in local departments of social services' ability to establish "agency foster homes" (foster families recruited and supported by the local department) and the needs of children in foster care for higher levels of support than typically provided in agency foster homes. Approximately 53% of children in foster care are placed in a TFC arrangement through a licensed child-placing agency (LCPA). LCPAs are private agencies that, among other services, provide for foster home placements through referrals from the local departments of social services. In FY2022, a TFC placement (exclusive of monthly maintenance and enhanced maintenance payments) averaged \$109 per day or approximately \$22,400 per year. While foster care maintenance costs may be supported by CSA pool funds or the federal title IV-E program, TFC-specific costs (CSA Service Name = "Private Foster Care, Support, Supervision, and Administration") are paid exclusively from the CSA state pool and local matching funds.