

Department Name	Children, Youth, and Families
Account(s)	2960, 4046, 4059, 6071, 6110, 6119, 6120, 6129 7310

Department Function
The Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) provides integrated services focused on strengthening and supporting children and their families. Organizationally, DCYF is unique in that services for children are consolidated into an independent County agency. The following Divisions comprise DCYF: Children Services (Child Welfare), Children's Mental Health Clinic, Division of Special Needs, Youth Bureau, Administrative Services, and Staff Development.

Current Year Highlights
• In alignment with NYS' "Families First" legislation in 2019, DCYF has created a Triage Unit focused on kinship foster care recruitment and certification. Additionally, we implemented our "Kin-First Firewall" policy to initially devote resources to exploring kinship placements before outside placements to ensure children can safely remain with a family member. Through these efforts, foster care placements in kinship homes increased from 17% to 30% last year. • Additionally, the "Family First" legislation has made the DCYF more cognizant of the number of children being placed in congregate care. By implementing congregate care reviews, we have been able to cut such placements in half– from 65 to 28 children. Research shows that children placed with kin achieve greater permanency and less re-entry into foster care. • Children Services in conjunction with our Children's Mental Health Clinic also created a procedure to complete Qualified Individual (QI) assessments for children being placed in Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) facilities, a congregate care option. DCYF has been a leader across the State by having our QI's completed in house as opposed to contracting out, which is a cost saving measure for the County. • Despite the challenges with COVID-19 and virtual court appearances, the Child Welfare Division was able to finalize 26 adoptions in 2021. DCYF also finalized 3 KinGAP (Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program) placements with relatives, a program designed for foster children to achieve a permanent placement with a committed adult who had been the child's foster parent for at least six months beforehand.

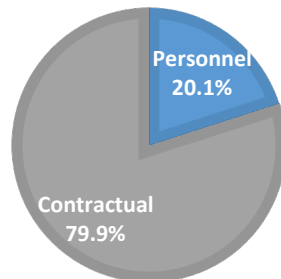
Next Year Projects
• Continue "Family First" implementation through the development of our "Prevention Planning" program in collaboration with the Redlich Horowitz Foundation. This program strives to meet child and family needs without the removal of the child from the home through evidence-based supportive programming. • Collaborate with Trinity Alliance on the roll-out of the "Family First Mobile Response Team" to provide conflict de-escalation for children at risk of removal from their foster placement or at risk of disruption from a kin placement. • The Child Welfare Division will examine existing policies through an equity lens to ensure alignment with industry best practices. DCYF hopes to launch a "Blind Removal Process," wherein a caseworker does not disclose any personal and demographic information about a child/family when information about the case is presented to facilitate an unbiased decision-making process. • DCYF will review operations and make technological investments in support of more efficient casework practice. • Through its Single Point of Entry (SPOE) – a way for women, teen girls, children, and families to connect with programs available through Albany County and community agencies – DCYF continues to identify and highlight the remaining health disparities, risk factors and barriers for high-needs populations living in Albany County. • DCYF will reduce overdue Child Protective Service (CPS) reports by completing investigations within 60 days. • The Early Intervention Team will be transitioning to the new data management system (EI-Hub) and work with the NYS Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) regarding strategies to cope with the issue of provider capacity.

Link to Website	www.AlbanyKids.com
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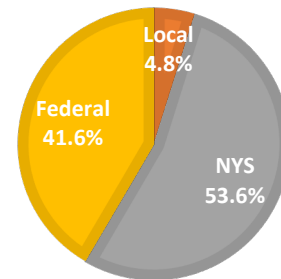
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Financial Charts

FORECASTED COSTS, BY TYPE



FORECASTED REVENUES, BY TYPE



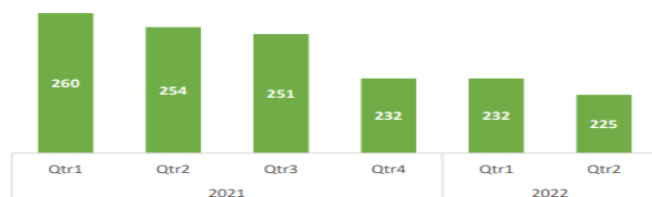
The Department's annual contractual costs are attributable to procuring services for their clientele under the different mandated programs DCYF oversees. As the chart indicates, only a small portion of the annual appropriations (20%) stem from the County personnel, who manage all aspects (applicant intake, review, etc.) of the services and programs provided.

Revenues flowing into DCYF are overwhelmingly State or Federal reimbursement for mandated services provided. Reimbursement percentages are split between NYS and the Federal Government are formulaic and remain quite consistent. The Department does receive a small amount of local revenue in the form of repayments from citizens.

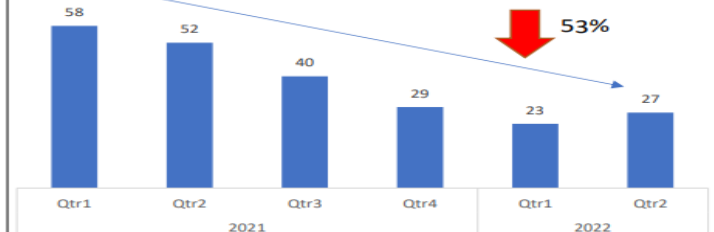
The 2023 Budget has a forecasted County Share of \$21.8 million for the DCYF.

Programmatic Highlight

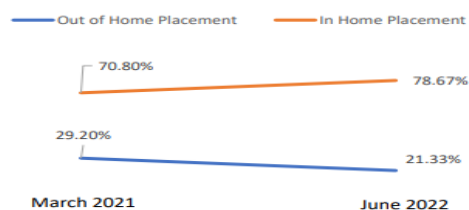
Total Number of Youth in Foster Care by Quarter



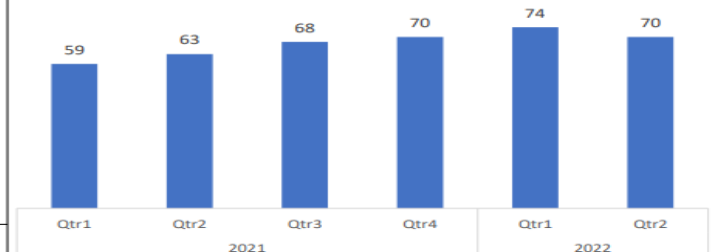
Total # of Youth in QRTP Placements by Quarter



% of Youth in Foster Care in Home Based Settings (March 2021- June 2022)



Total # of Youth in Kinship Foster Homes by Quarter



Data Sources: NYS Office of Children and Family Services FFPSA Data and Resources available at: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/sppd/family-first-data.php#h3-outcome-monitoring>

The Family First Prevention Services Act took effect on 10/1/2021. The goal of this legislation is to reduce the number of children in congregate care and to increase the number of kinship and foster care homes. The charts above depict the Department's efforts to successfully decrease the number of congregate care (QRTP placements) by 53%. In addition, the Department has increased the number of youth placed into kinship foster homes.