

Children's Cabinet

September 28, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (2 min)
- Vote on adoption of August meeting minutes (2 min)
- DCYF Key Indicators (15 min)
- RI Pre-K Expansion Planning Update (10 min)
- Preschool Development Grant Funding Opportunity (25 min)
- Public Comment (5 min)
- Adjournment



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Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families Selected Indicators

Children's Cabinet

September 2022

RI Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

Mission (Updated April 2022)

To partner with families and communities to raise safe and healthy children and youth in a caring environment and to engage respectfully and effectively with people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, classes, genders, sexual orientations, and faiths in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of all individuals, families, tribes, and communities, and protects and preserves the dignity of each.

Vision

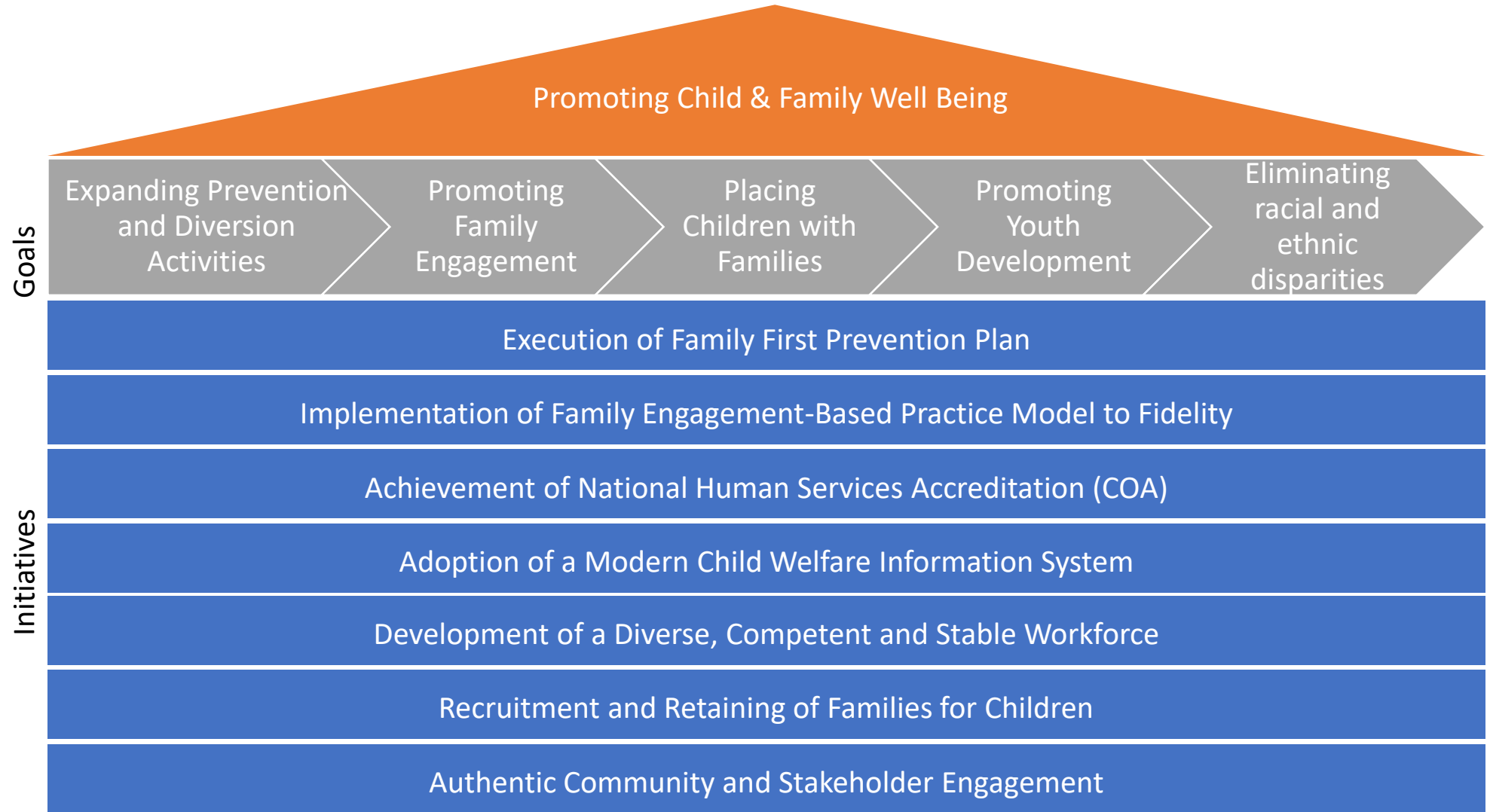
Promoting Child & Family Well Being

Responsibilities

- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Children's Behavioral Health

The agency uses a network of comprehensive, community-based programs to ensure for the safety and well-being of children and youth, and to prevent child maltreatment.

Core Goals and Initiatives



RI SAFE Practice Model



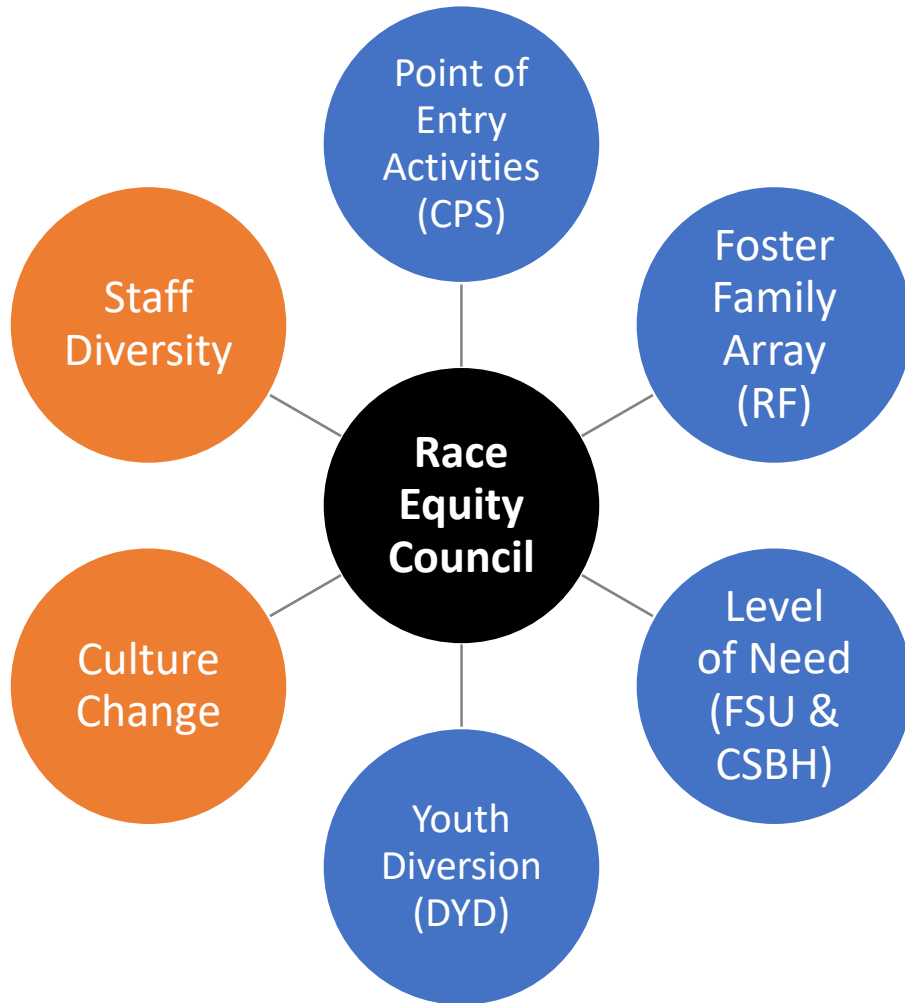
Safety Assessment through Family Engagement (SAFE) Practice Model

- Comprehensive safety decision-making model and intervention framework, implemented in Rhode Island in November 2019
- Promotes consistent decision making based on best practices focused on assessment and family engagement
- Shifts practice from determining child safety from an incident-based approach to a comprehensive assessment of family functioning across DCYF divisions, throughout the duration of involvement
- Shifts the measure of progress from compliance to observable behavioral changes

Expected Outcomes

Increased child safety, improved family functioning, increased active engagement with families and their supports, reductions in out-of-home placements, timeliness to permanency, future stability through the creation of networks of supports for families to rely on in times of crisis, reductions in re-maltreatment and recidivism

Race Equity Action Plan



In 2021, the Department launched its first-ever race equity plan with the long-term goal to ***eliminate disproportionate representation and disparate outcomes based on race and ethnicity*** in our child welfare, children’s behavior health and juvenile justice systems.

Action Teams

Divisional Teams (**Blue**) from each service division have selected foundational projects that address inequities at the beginning stages of their work. The agency has also formed teams (**Orange**) to increase staff diversity at all levels of the agency and support agencywide culture change activities.

Race Equity Council

The Department launched in Spring 2022 a governance council that will help set the agency’s race equity strategies and hold the agency accountable for its progress.

Family First Prevention Plan

The Family Prevention Services Act of 2018 is landmark federal legislation that offers a major opportunity for jurisdictions to strengthen prevention services by allowing IV-E reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training for children and youth determined to be at imminent risk of foster care and their parents and/or kin caregivers.



RI identified 8 candidacy populations around which to target prevention services because of each group's higher risk of foster care entry or re-entry.

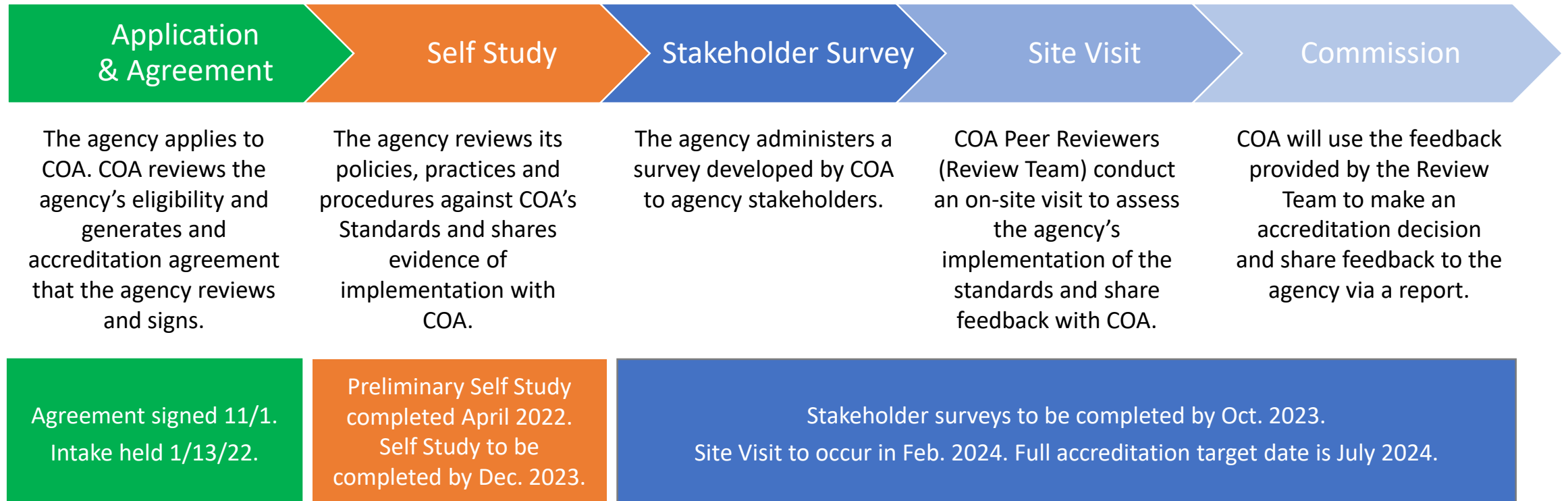
DCYF collaborated with stakeholders to design and finalize its 5-year Family First Prevention Plan.



Once Rhode Island's FFPSA 5-year plan is approved, RI will have the option to use federal Title IV-E funding for evidence-based prevention services/programs.

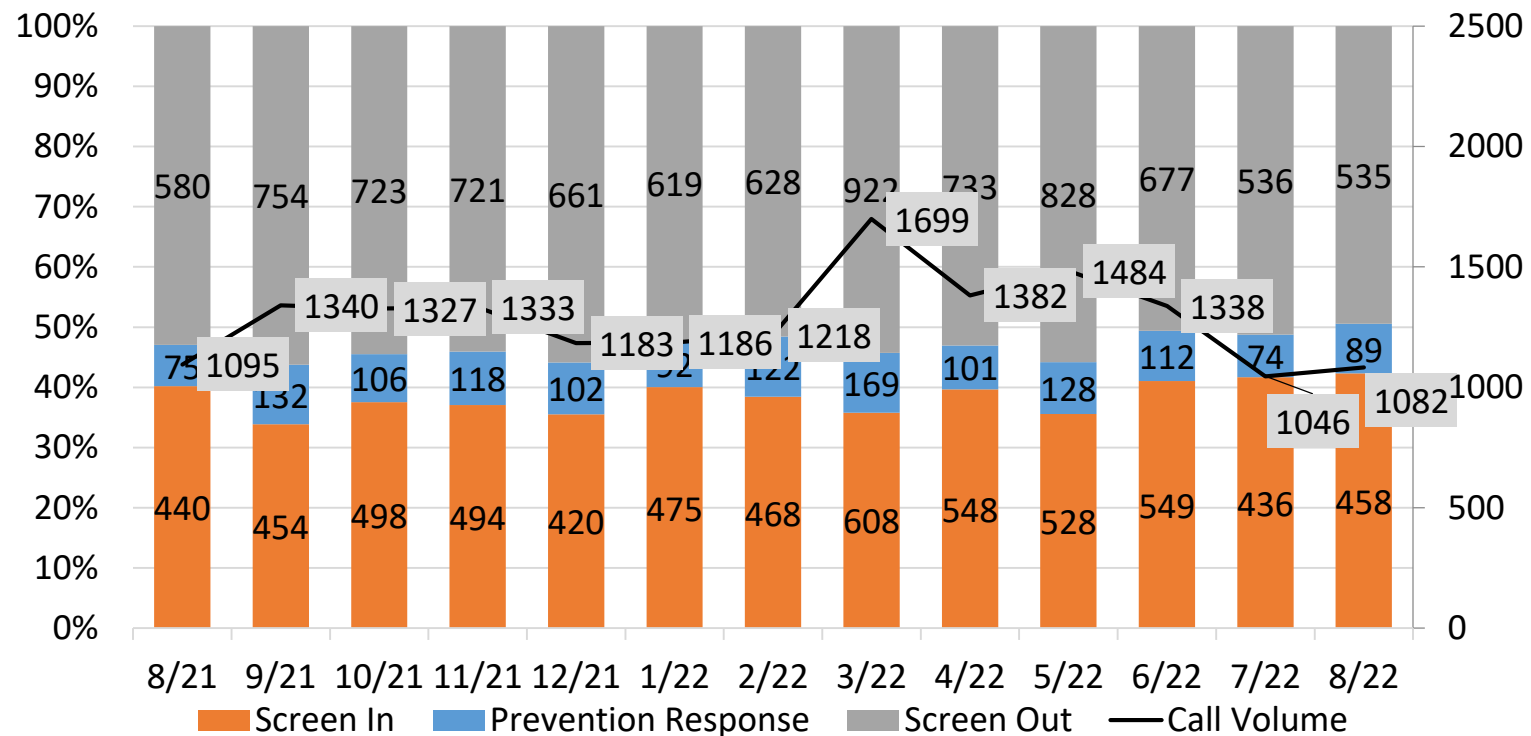
Human Services Accreditation (COA)

- RIGL 42-72-5.3 required DCYF to submit a plan no later than October 2020, to pursue national human services accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA). The plan was funded in July 2021.
- The Department hired for 91 new positions in FY 2022 to support COA standard achievement.



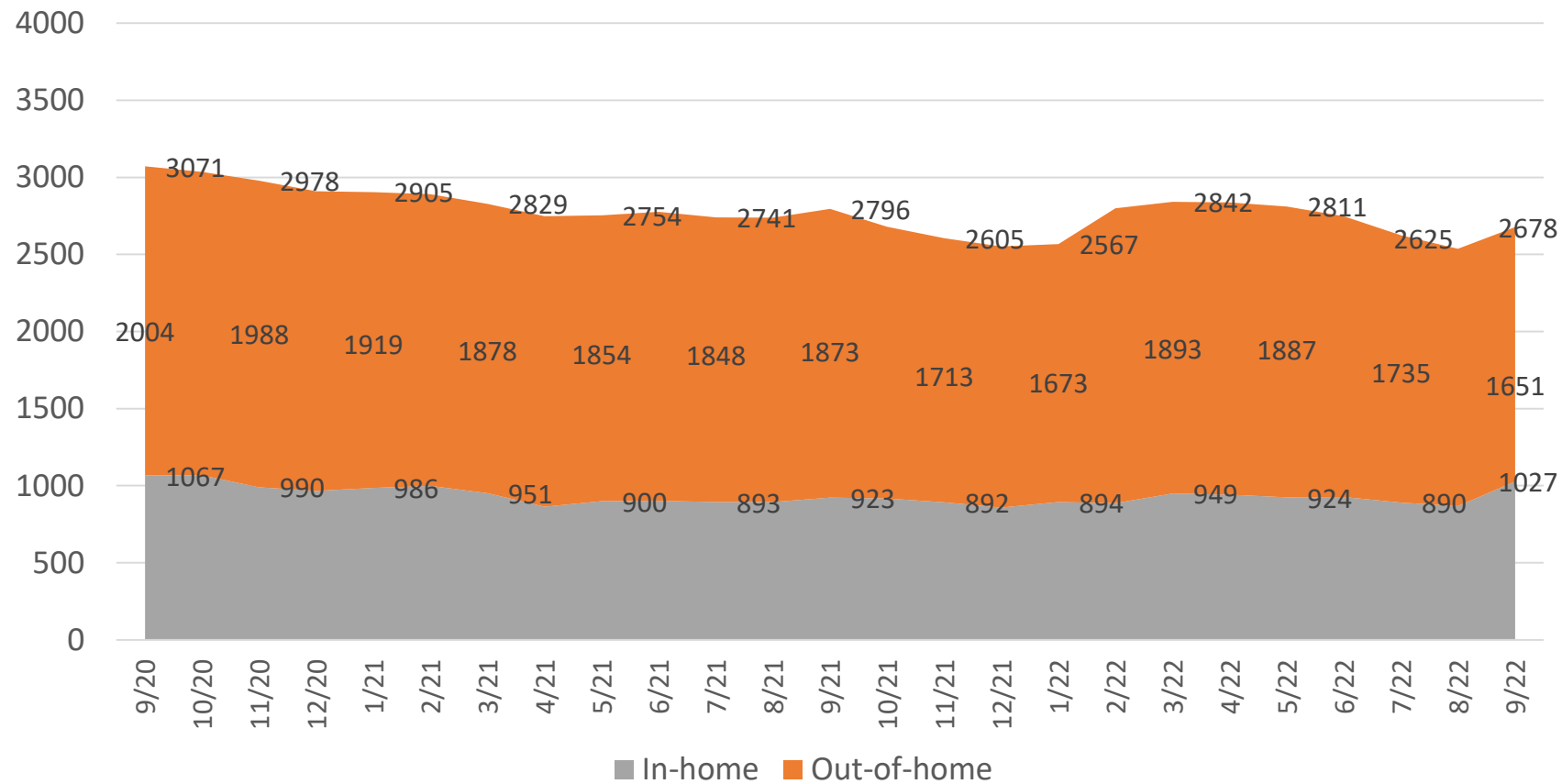
Child Protective Services, Reports to the Hotline, by Screening Disposition, and Average CPS Reports per Day, by Month, RI DCYF

The past two months experienced the lowest call volume over the 12-month period and will continue to monitor to see if this will show a trend

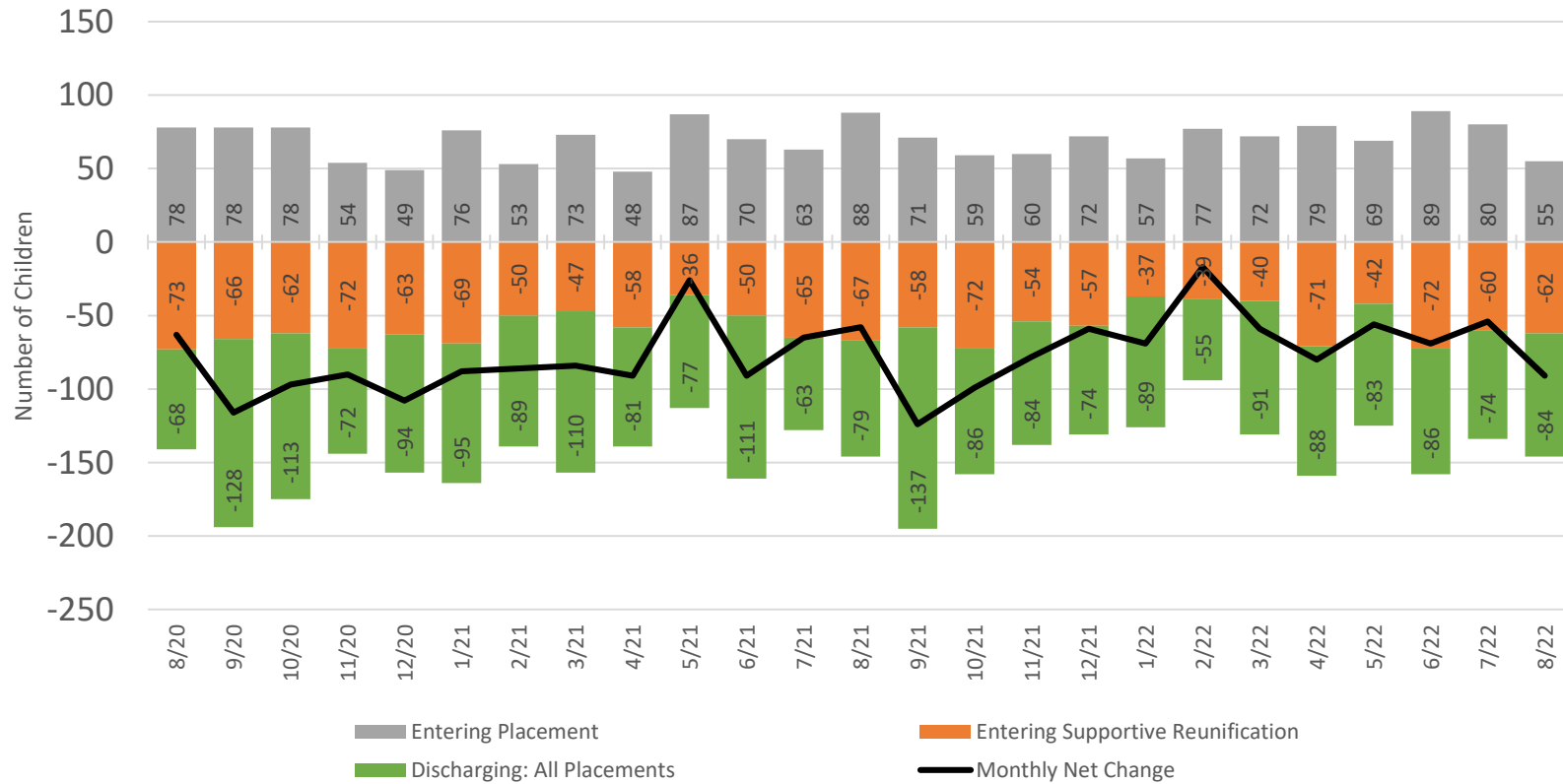


Children In Care on the First Day of the Month, by In-Home and Out-of-Home, by Month, RI DCYF

The number of children out-of-home and in-home decreased over time



Children In RI, Entering Placement, Entering Supportive Reunification, and Discharging from All Placements, by Month, RI DCYF

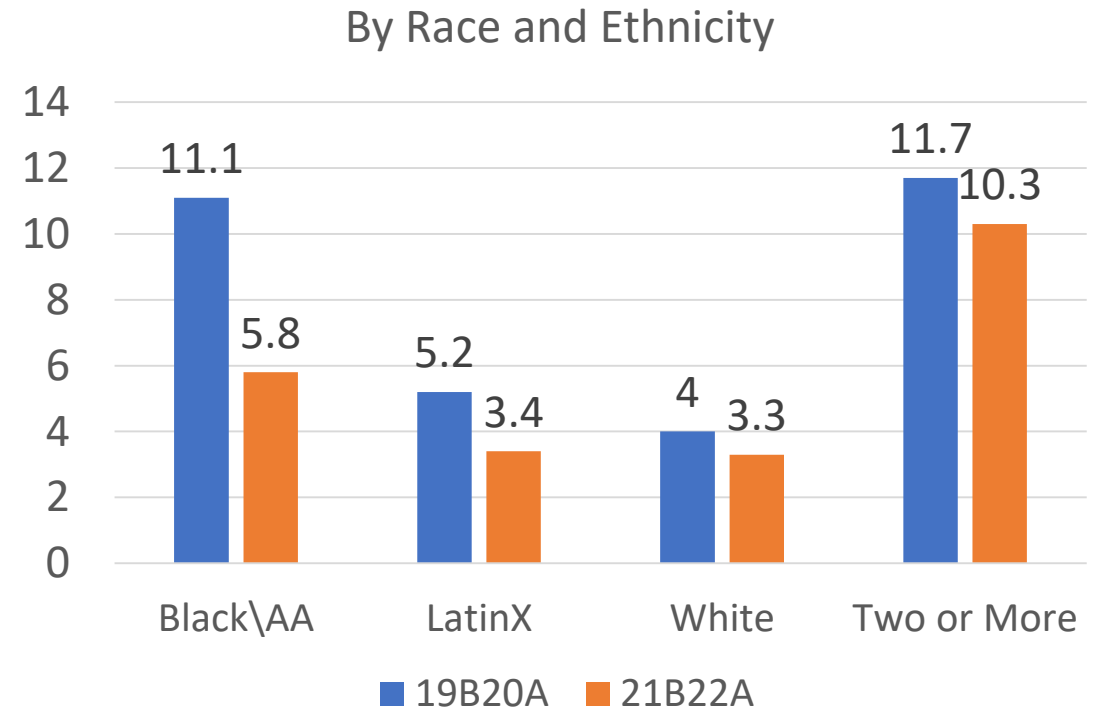
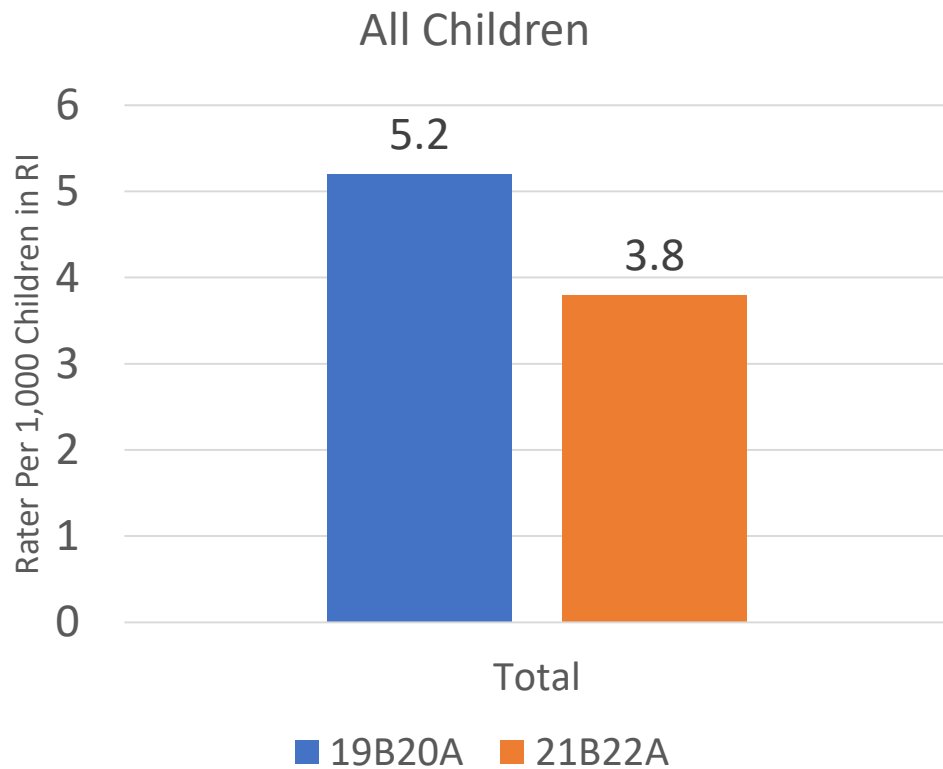


Federal Fiscal Year and Data Files

- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) begins October 1 and ends September 30
- State data submitted to the Children's Bureau is presented in terms of the Federal Year data file A and B
 - A file represents October 1-March 31
 - B file represents April 1-September 30
- Example: 19AB is FFY 19: spans October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019
- Example: 21B22A: spans: April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022

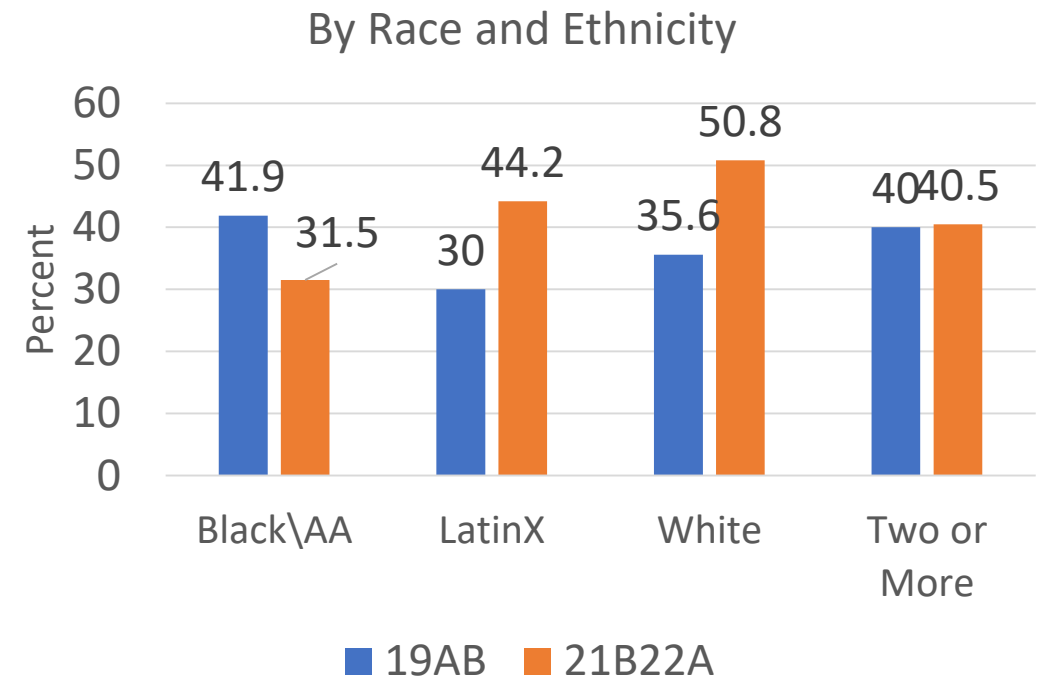
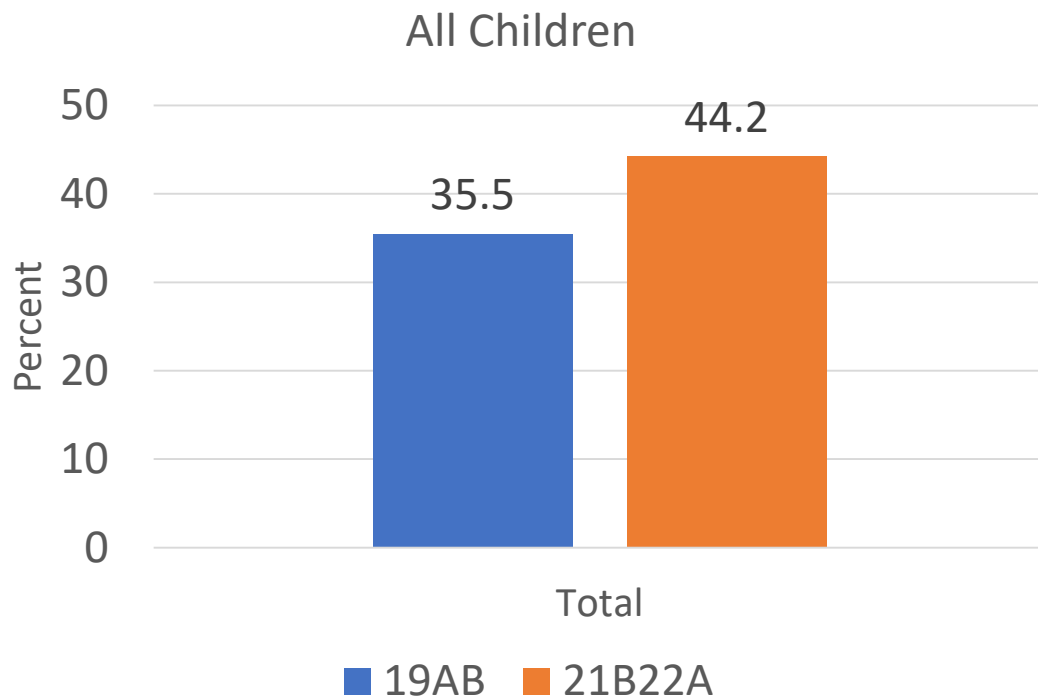
Entry Rate Into Foster Care* Out of Home Placement per 1,000 Children in RI, RIDCYF

Entry rate decreased for all children combined and among all race and ethnicity groups



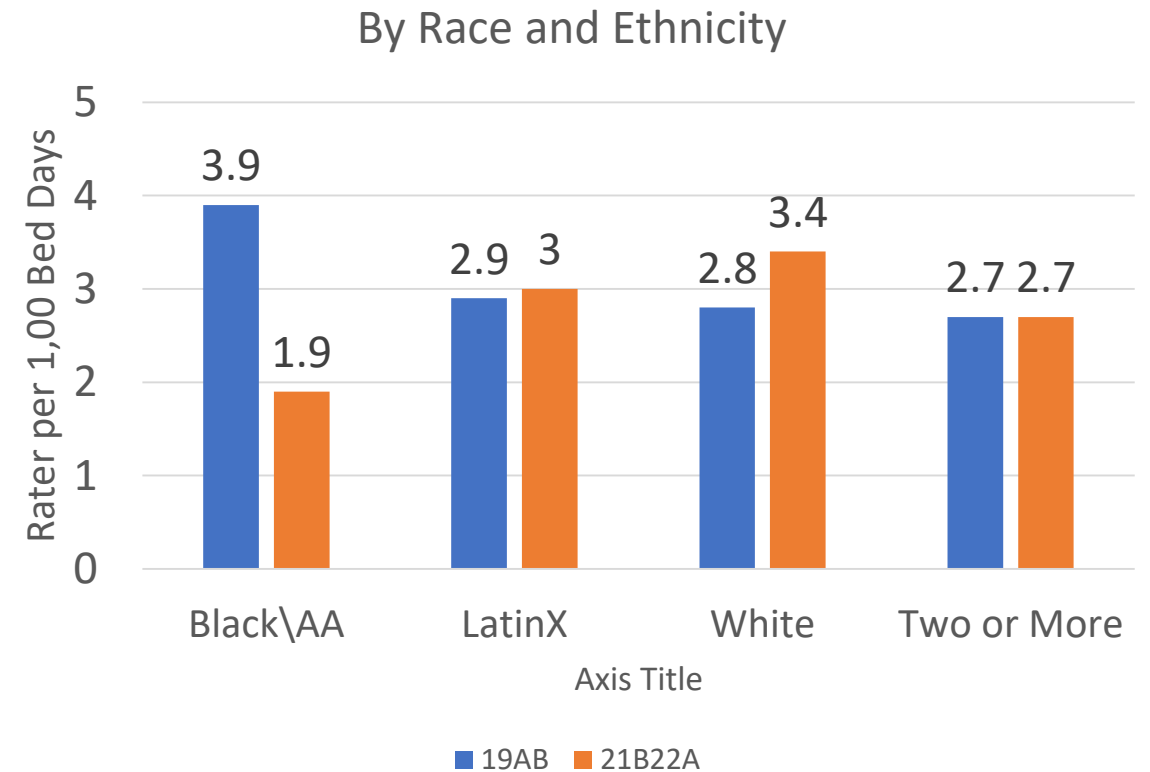
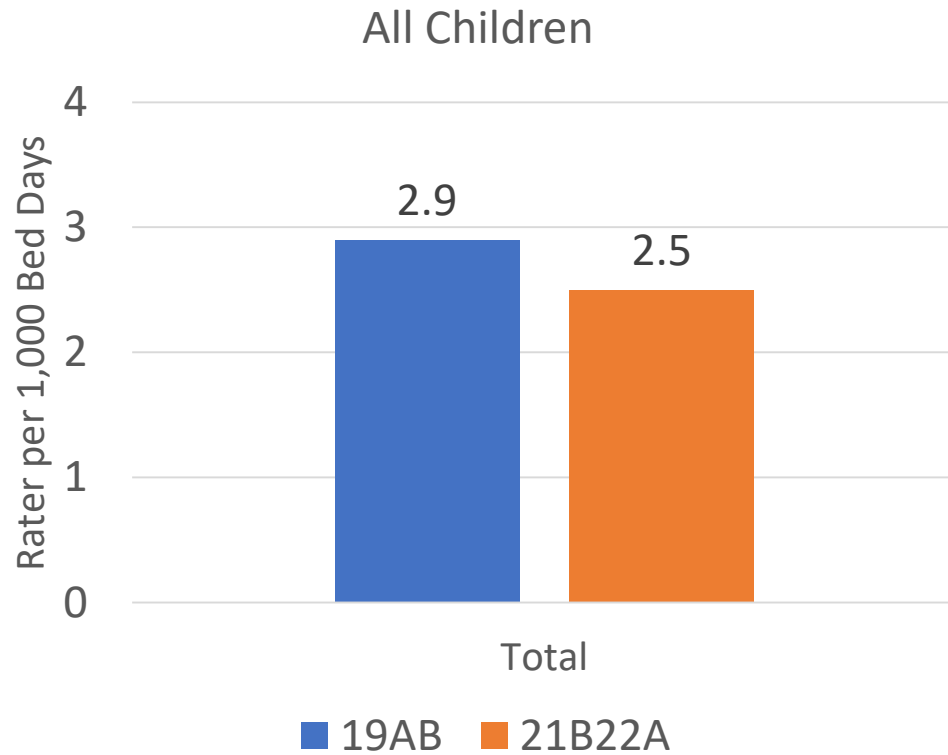
Permanency Achieved in 12 Months Among Children in Out of Home Placement (12-23 Months), RIDCYF

Permanency achievement increased for all children combined although not for Black\AA and Two or More races



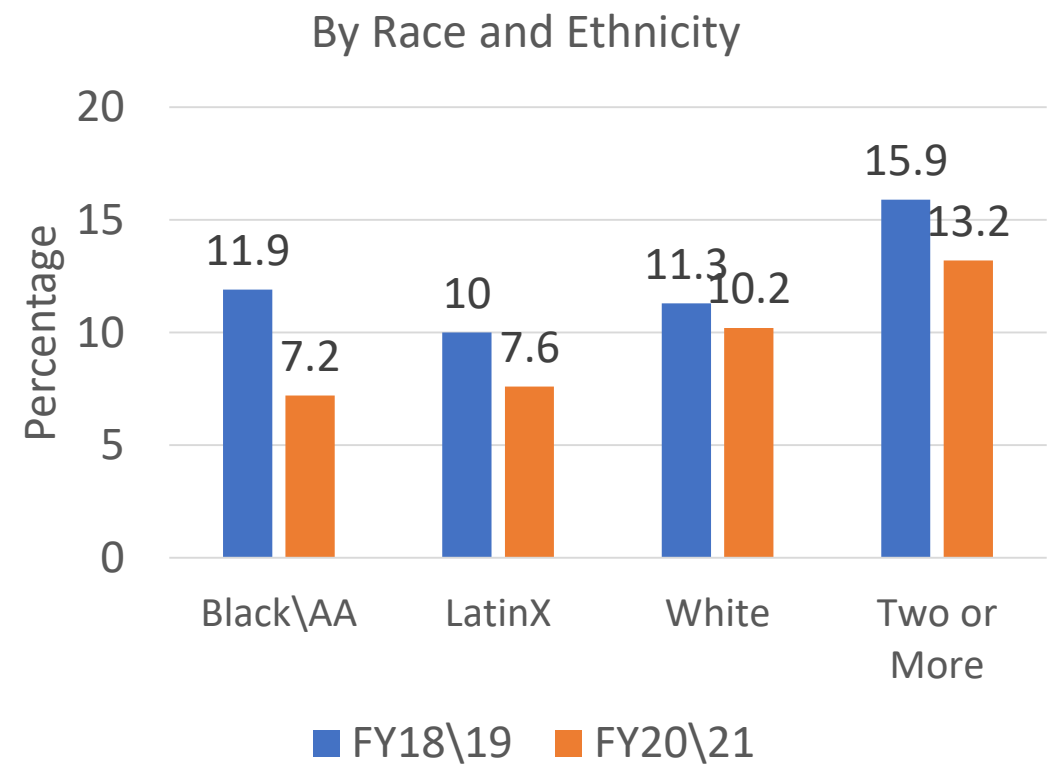
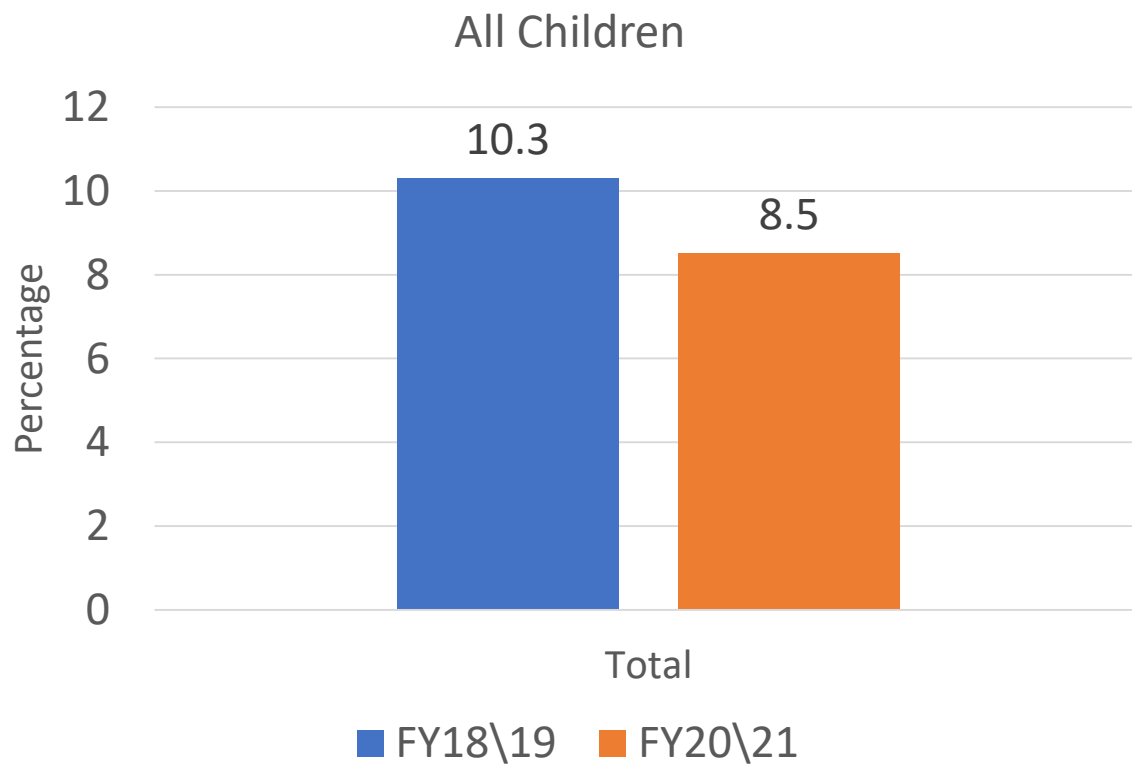
Placement Stability, Number of moves per 1,000 Days In Foster Care*, DCYF

Placement stability improved for all children combined, number of moves decreased, although increased for LatinX and White



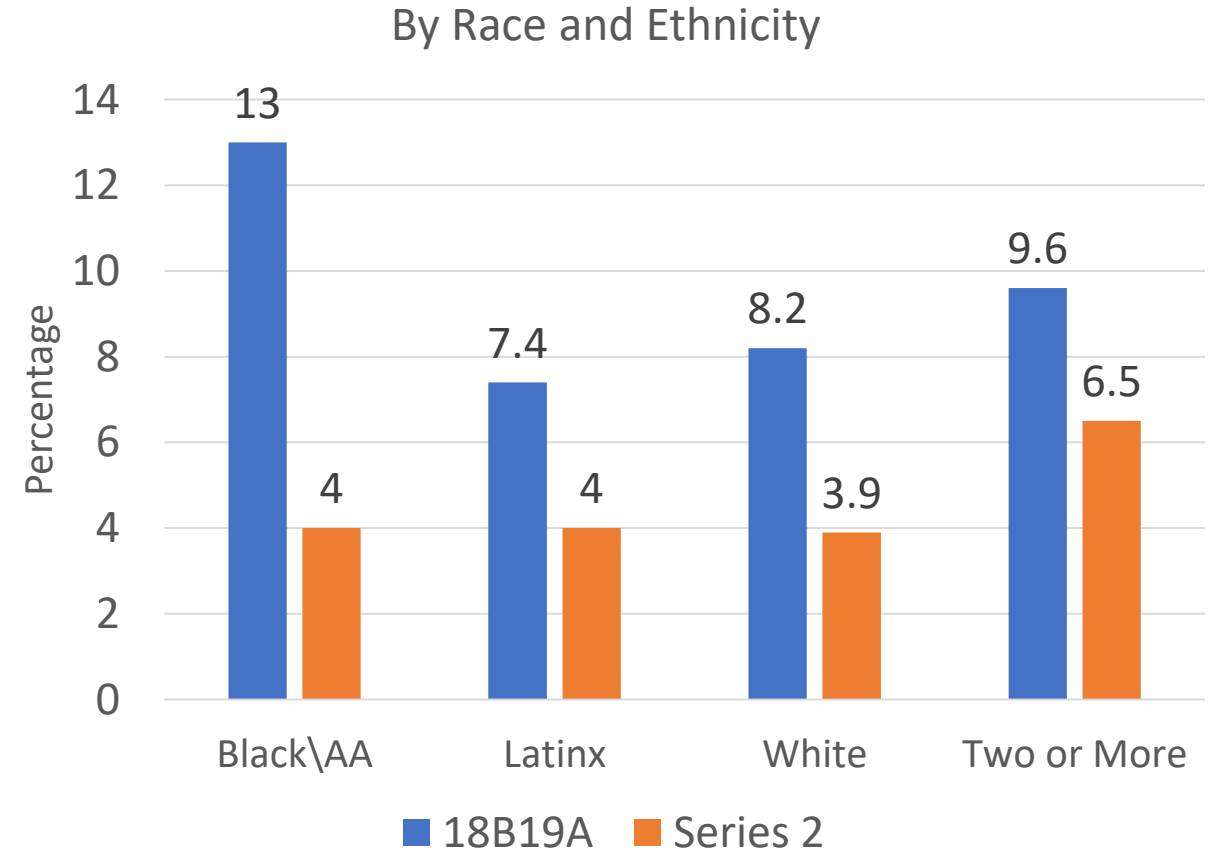
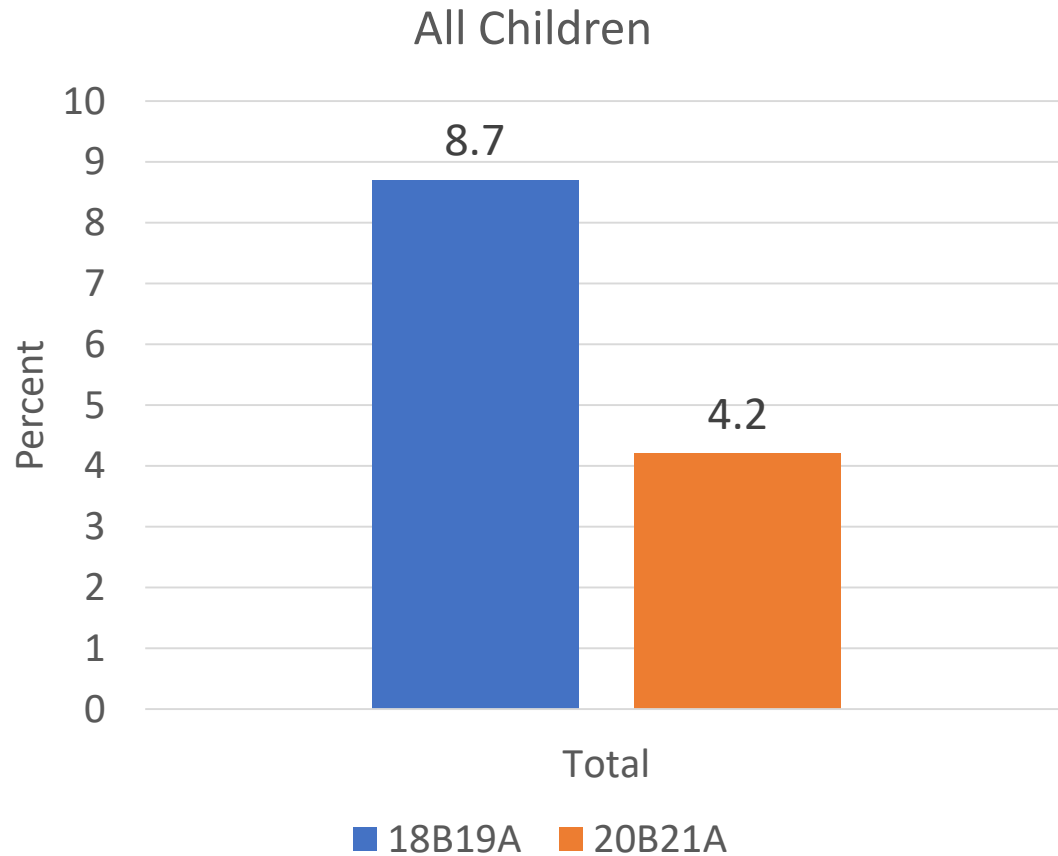
Recurrence of Maltreatment[^], RIDCYF

Recurrence of maltreatment decreased for all children combined and among all race and ethnic groups



Foster Care Re-entry, RIDCYF

Foster care re-entry has decreased for all children combined and among all race and ethnic groups









RI Pre-K Expansion Discussion

RHODE
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The ECCE Strategic Plan is focused on achieving universal Pre-K in Rhode Island.

ECCE Steering Committee

Objective 1:

Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System

Objective 2:

Children and families can equitably access and participate in the early childhood care, services, and supports that will help them reach their potential and enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

Objective 3:

All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.

Objective 4: Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements.

Objective 5: Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

The FY23 budget includes a charge to develop a plan to reach 5000 RI Pre-K seats by 2028.

Statute Overview

By December 31, 2022, develop an annual growth plan to expand the **state prekindergarten program to five thousand (5,000) seats, for three- and four-year-old children, over five (5) years**, beginning in FY 2024, as well as recommendations for achieving universal prekindergarten in the state. The growth plan shall detail annual targets and projected funding needs, as well as how the state will:

- Equitably distribute prekindergarten funding to eligible providers
- Ensure that access to infant and toddler care is not at risk as the state prekindergarten program is expanded
- Prepare, recruit and retain a highly-qualified early childhood workforce, including adequate wages for early childhood educators, regardless of setting
- Build capacity among new and existing providers to ensure quality standards are met in all settings
- Ensure providers in the mixed-delivery system have sufficient facilities to expand access to high-quality prekindergarten services

Where we are now: RI Pre-K – the state prekindergarten program -- is an effective & nationally recognized program, but we trail nationally in terms of access.

Overview

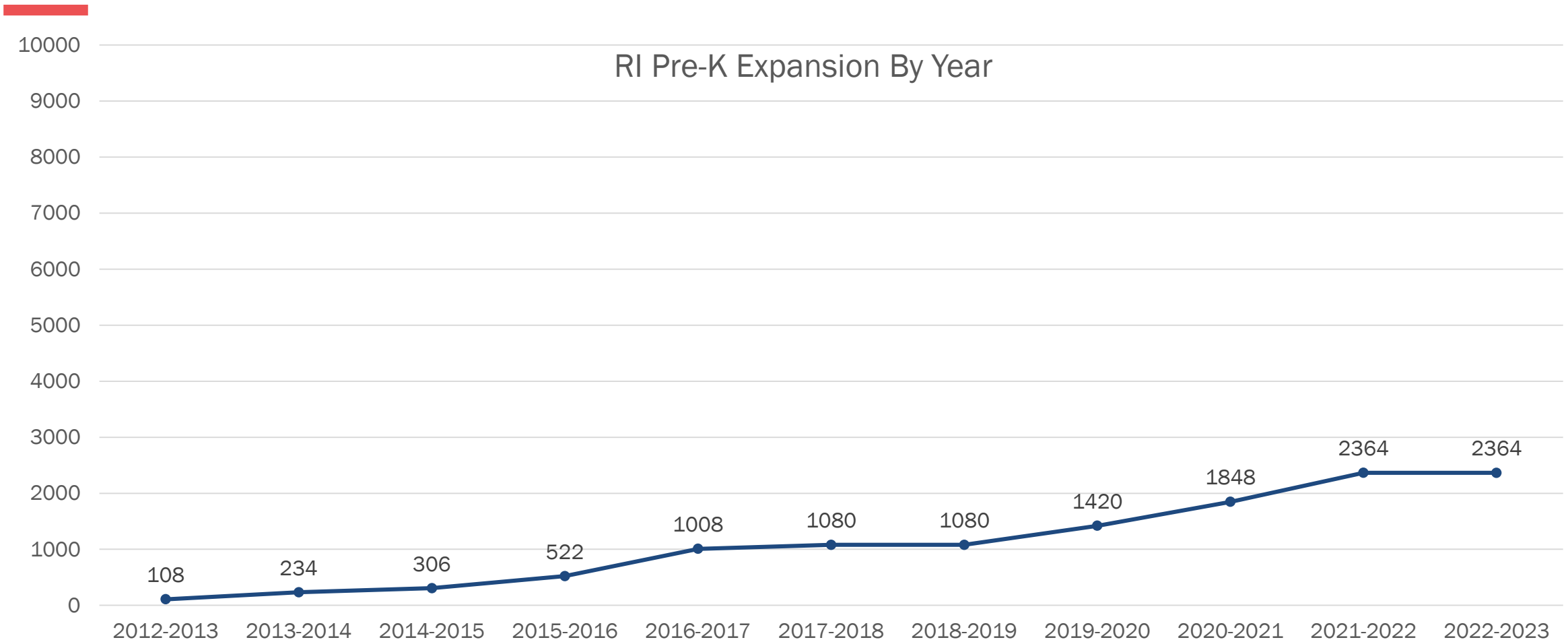
RI Pre-K is a tuition free, inclusive high-quality standards-based program, built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure and aims to strengthen the birth through five system as a whole.

RI Pre-K is one of only 6 programs in the country to meet all 10 of the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) quality standards.

- RI Pre-K programs serve children who are **4 years of age by September 1st** of the current year, prior to entering Kindergarten, who live in the community where the Pre-K is located.
- RI Pre-K uses a **mixed delivery system** that includes public schools, Head Start programs, and community-based childcare programs with coordinated recruitment efforts.
- RI is recognized as a national Pre-K leader because RIDE requires and supports all RI Pre-K classrooms to achieve the same high-quality standards and **achieve Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) regardless of setting**. This includes:
 - Bachelor-degree teacher
 - 6-hours a day, 180 days a year
 - High-quality, RIDE-endorsed curriculum
 - Participation in all Professional Development and Technical Assistance (PDTA) activities
 - Participation in all RIDE monitoring activities

Yet, we are trailing in access and rank #32 in the nation. In addition, the current program only serves 4 year olds.

Where we are now: RI has consistently expanded RI Pre-K. As of 2022-2023, RI Pre-K reached 2364 four year olds in 18 communities.



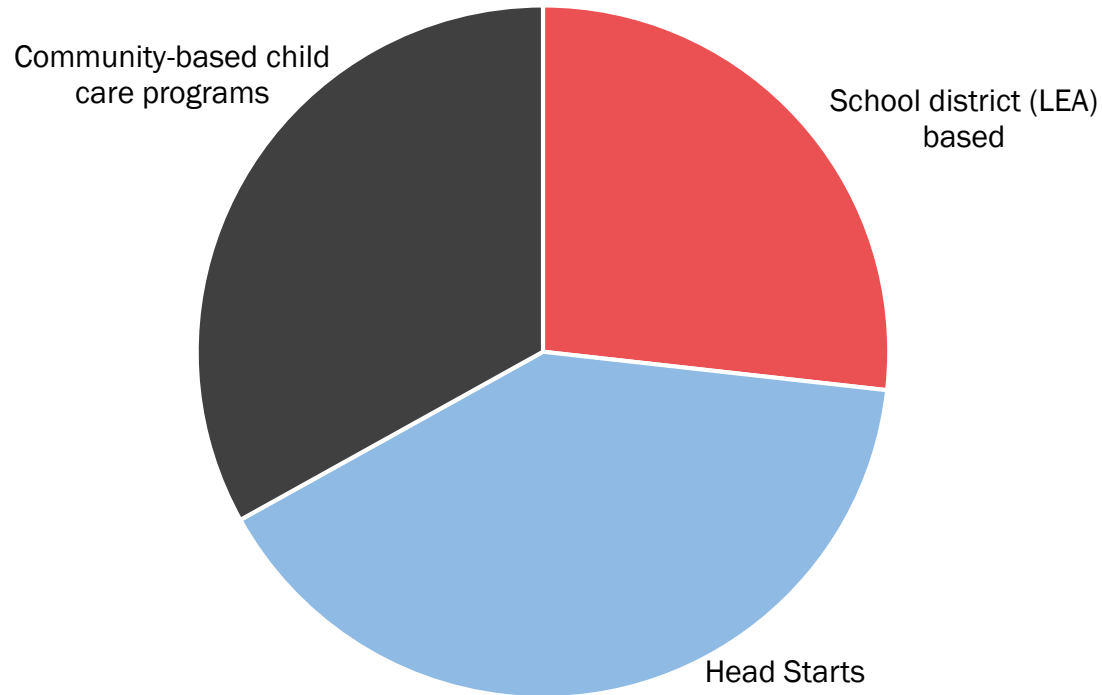
High quality program delivery has fixed costs.

RI Pre-K costs approximately \$235,000 per classroom. While the funding for the classroom may be braided across different fund streams, the fully loaded cost is relatively fixed.

Category	Description	Cost
Classroom Costs	Staff salaries and benefits, curriculum costs, furniture, equipment, materials, education supplies and food	\$195,500
Program Costs	Includes rent, building maintenance, janitorial, utilities and insurance	\$19,500
High-Quality Assurance Monitoring	Includes PD/TA, valid and reliable assessment observations, such as ERS and CLASS, LISC, ECMH supports and on-site yearly monitoring from RIDE	\$20,000

RI Pre-K is delivered through the mixed delivery system. At this time, the distribution of seats is relatively equal across Head Start, LEAs, and community-based programs.

RI Pre-K Classrooms by Setting, 2022-2023



Pilot Funding Models

Beginning 2021-2022, we piloted four new service delivery models to support more providers to be eligible to participate in RI Pre-K and increase choice for families:

- *New Head Start options:*
 - Braid funding to have **above-income children** in a Head Start classroom, placed via the lottery
 - Braid funding to **extend the school year or school day** to meet the RI Pre-K 180 days, 6-hours a day
- *New CBO option:*
 - Allow children with a CCAP voucher to matriculate within the program at age 4, and blend CCAP and RI Pre-K funds to fund the classrooms
- *New LEA options:*
 - Support LEAs in moving current special education classrooms to General Education classrooms, braiding RI Pre-K funds with local funding

As we think about expanding to another 2700+ RI Pre-K seats and include 3-year olds, there are many questions to consider. At ELC this morning, we had robust discussion on the below.

RI Pre-K is:

...tuition free: The program is free to families, with no tuition or co-pay for families.

...inclusive: Families face no structural barriers to participating in RI Pre-K and all families who want an RI Pre-K seat are able to secure one and the children enrolled in RI Pre-K reflect the communities the program is in, and is inclusive and welcoming for children of all backgrounds and developmental abilities.

...high-quality standards-based program: All classrooms meet the NIEER standards RI Pre-K quality standards.

...built on the existing early childhood education infrastructure: RI Pre-K is delivered through the mixed delivery system including Local Education Agencies, Community Based Organizations, Head Starts, and Family Child Care.

...aims strengthen the birth through five system as a whole: RI Pre-K supports increased quality, access, and stability for the entire birth through age five early education system, across all ages and components of the mixed delivery system.

Key Considerations for Expansion:

- **Expanding RI Pre-K with Equity Lens:** How do we ensure that expansion is done with an equity lens? How can the program center families and maximize choices for families?
- **Incorporating 3 Year Olds + Early Childhood Special Education + Transitions:** How can the program – which currently only serves 4 year olds – incorporate 3 year olds? How can we ensure equitable access to RI Pre-K for children who have IEPs? How can we best facilitate transitions for children across years?
- **Early Childhood Workforce: Preparing, Recruiting, Retaining a Highly Qualified Workforce with Adequate Compensation Regardless of Setting:** How can we support our existing workforce and support a pipeline of new Pre-K teachers?
- **Improving and Ensuring Quality Across Settings + Equitably Supporting the Mixed Delivery System:** What supports does each part of the mixed-delivery system need to support Pre-K expansion?
- **Infant/Toddler System:** How do we strengthen the Infant/Toddler system and ensure that Pre-K expansion supports the system as a whole?

Next steps:

- State team to collect all input from ELC meeting + other meetings and develop a draft report
- Discussions at upcoming early childhood related meetings (*list below includes ones where dates have been identified*):
 - Early Childhood Special Education meeting (Oct 3)
 - Head Start Association Meeting (Oct 4)
 - + will be reaching out to others to set up a time! If your group would like to host a conversation, please email Kayla (kayla.s.rosen@governor.ri.gov)
- State team to post a DRAFT report for feedback (mid-October)
- We will host two open Zoom input sessions – one in October and one in November – for anyone who is interested in providing feedback and will share dates via the ELC and Children’s Cabinet listservs
- Input and ideas can also be submitted virtually on a survey form, which will be included in the draft document
- As always, feel free to reach out to any member of the interagency team with thoughts or ideas!



New PDG Funding Opportunity

Gathering Input + Priorities

New funding opportunity for early childhood systems development.

New Preschool Development Grant – Planning Grant

- **Overview:** The funding is available to support states in revising or enhancing needs assessments, strategic plans, and capacity building efforts to support the comprehensive birth through age five system. This includes but is not limited to activities such as quality investments, workforce investments, needs assessments, strategic planning, family engagement and empowerment, or other systems level work. The grant cannot pay for direct services for children, such as RI Pre-K seats.
- **Amount:** up to \$4M, with likely award being \$3.6M
- **Duration:** 1 calendar year (December 31, 2022 – December 30, 2023)
- **Application Due Date:** November 7, 2022
- **Context:** RI currently has a PDG Renewal Grant that is \$27M over three years. We are entering our No Cost Extension year in 2023. This new Planning Grant is an opportunity to do systems review and enhancement work. Hopefully, there will be another Renewal Grant for a 3-year, multi-million dollar implementation effort in 2024, but that is not guaranteed.

Our current Renewal Grant activities are aligned to our State Strategic Plan. A summary of key achievements below show how PDG has supported our overall early childhood system.

ECCE Strategic Plan Objective Area	Number of PDG Activities
Objective 1: High Quality Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS created an on-line platform for providers to access trainings. In 2021 more than 1,050 completed one course • 12 child care sites to participate in a model based on the evidence-informed Early Head Start Child Care Partnership model • 16 providers received grant funds and technical assistance for facilities planning • Access to trainings for infant/toddler mental health • Supported various workforce career pathways 	5
Objective 2: Equitable Access and Targeted Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased capacity of Parents as Teachers program by 300 seats • More than 1,170 families participated in evidence-based direct programming at HEZs • More than 400 families received support from Family Navigators at HEZs 	9
Objective 3: Universal Pre-K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDG funds 658 RI Pre-K Seats across the mixed-delivery system • Funds professional development and technical assistance for RI Pre-K classrooms 	4
Objective 4: Sustainable Operations and Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to support implementation and planning 	3
Objective 5: Data Systems and Performance Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned for improvements to operational data systems • Began development of data metrics specific to early childhood 	4

Of note, there are many planning processes underway in ECCE.

Planning Processes Underway

Title	Owner	Due Date
RI Pre-K Expansion Plan	RIDE in collaboration with DHS and Children's Cabinet	December 31, 2022
Early Learning Facilities Report	DHS	December 31, 2022
Early Childhood Workforce Pathways	Governor's Workforce Board (GWB)	April 1, 2023
Infant/Toddler Mental Health Plan	EOHHS	June 30, 2023
Early Childhood Governance Working Group	Children's Cabinet, DHS, RIDE, OPC, DOA, RIDOH KidsCount	October 1, 2023

Discussion: What are your priorities for investment for this new funding opportunity?

Activities of the grant include:

- Activity 1: Needs Assessments
- Activity 2: Strategic Planning
- Activity 3: Parent engagement, empowerment, and knowledge
- Activity 4: Workforce + Provider capacity + quality
- Activity 5: Implementation of Needs Assessment / Strategic Plan

Please email additional ideas to Kayla at kayla.s.rosen@governor.ri.gov.

Public Comment

