

# Children's Cabinet

## November 17, 2020

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions (2 min)
- Vote on adoption of October meeting minutes (3 min)
- Early Childhood Update(10 min)
  - Public awareness campaign
  - Child care survey
- Housing Presentation and discussion (40 min)
- Public Comment (5 min)

# ECCE Strategic Plan Adopted in 2020

**Mission:** Rhode Island's comprehensive focus on Early Childhood Care and Education brings together providers, programs, advocates and families to ensure that our children prenatal through age five have equitable access to high-quality education, health and developmental care, and services and supports needed in order to enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

**Vision:** All Rhode Island children enter kindergarten educationally, social- emotionally, and developmentally ready to succeed, putting them on a path to read proficiently by 3rd grade.

## Objectives:

1. Rhode Island's early childhood programs meet high-quality standards for care and education as defined by our Quality Rating and Improvement System.
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.
3. All four-year olds in Rhode Island have access to high-quality Pre-K, inclusive of parental choice and student needs.
4. Secure the quality and delivery of ECCE through increased and sustainable funding and operational improvements
5. Expand the depth and quality of family and child-level data accessible to and used by agencies, programs, and partners to drive decisions.

**Reminder: we welcome feedback on our 2021 update to the strategic plan. Please share your feedback here:**

<https://forms.gle/rNWwtWTgS2ri9BRi7>

# Public Awareness Campaign

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## Phase I:

- Fun, engaging videos to encourage scheduling pediatric appointments & finding more resources at [kids.ri.gov](http://kids.ri.gov)
- Input from families & pediatricians to build the concept
- All social media campaign

## Phase II:

- Showing families going to the doctor to demonstrate it is accessible and safe



# RI Department of Human Services

**COVID-19 Impact Surveys**

**DHS Licensed Child Care Providers**

Caitlin Molina, DHS Deputy Director | External Affairs, Child Care & Community Partnerships

# Child Care Utilization & Enrollment During COVID-19

**Background:** In September, the RI Department of Human Services (DHS) contracted with the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to administer a series of three, statistically valid surveys to DHS-licensed child care providers to **assess the overall health and utilization of the RI child care system**. The survey also aimed to **better understand costs associated with reopening under the new COVID-19 DHS Child Care Licensing Regulations**.

**September's survey was completed on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The following are the high-level takeaways from the survey analysis:**

- **401 (52%)** of DHS-licensed providers submitted completed survey responses.
- **560** providers were individually contacted by either a DHS Child Care Licensor or RIAEYC BrightStars' staff member to support provider engagement and completion of the survey.

Through a series of statistically valid surveys, DHS believes there are **17,269 children actively enrolled in DHS-licensed child care** facilities statewide. This represents **74.9%** of the licensed slots available to families during the pandemic.

- **38%** of centers and **35%** of family child care providers report full utilization/capacity (enrollment at 90-100% utilization) upon reopening.
- **25%** of survey respondents (providers) reported increasing staff wages, in part by leveraging the CCAP COVID-19 Temporary Rate Enhancements.
- On average, child care providers report that costs related to cleaning supplies to adhere to DHS COVID-19 Child Care Licensing Regulations and CDC Guidelines have increased by **76%**.

# Utilization: All Enrollment During COVID-19

How does **September enrollment** (children registered to attend care) compare to capacity during COVID?

**Highlighted Finding:** **School Age care is highly utilized** while infant care in Centers shows the least utilization when comparing enrollment to capacity.

	FCC	CCC				
	Total	Total	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool	School Age
Pre-COVID Capacity	990	14859	1070	2106	6837	4846
COVID Capacity	960	10739	963	1831	5488	2457
September Enrollment	735	8346	612	1257	4014	2463 (983-B/A, 1480-FT)
Utilization: Enrollment as a Percentage of COVID Capacity	76%	77%	63%	68%	73%	102%

Utilizing these responses, it is estimated that approximately **17,269** children across Rhode Island are enrolled in care, utilizing approximately **74.9%** of the **23,057** slots available during COVID.

# CCAP Attendance During COVID-19

How does **attendance during COVID** compare to current enrollment?

**Highlighted Finding:** Among CCAP attendees, **part time attendance is down across all age groups** while full time school age care in family child care and full time infant care in center-based programs are up.

	Age Group	Full Time		Part Time	
		Total	% Of Enrollment	Total	% Of Enrollment
Centers	Infant CCAP	231	127.6%	4	2.2%
	Toddler CCAP	375	92.8%	6	1.5%
	Preschool CCAP	690	85.3%	13	1.6%
	School Age (B/A) CCAP	-	-	169	60.1%
	School Age (FT) CCAP	506	80.2%	-	-
FCC	Infant CCAP	71	82.6%	28	32.6%
	Toddler CCAP	98	74.8%	37	28.2%
	Preschool CCAP	86	84.3%	32	31.4%
	School Age (B/A) CCAP	-	-	58	67.4%
	School Age (FT) CCAP	114	117.5%	-	-

# Addressing Housing Stability & Homelessness with Rhode Island's Vulnerable Children and Families

Presentation to the Rhode Island Children's Cabinet

November 2020

# Why are families experiencing homelessness?

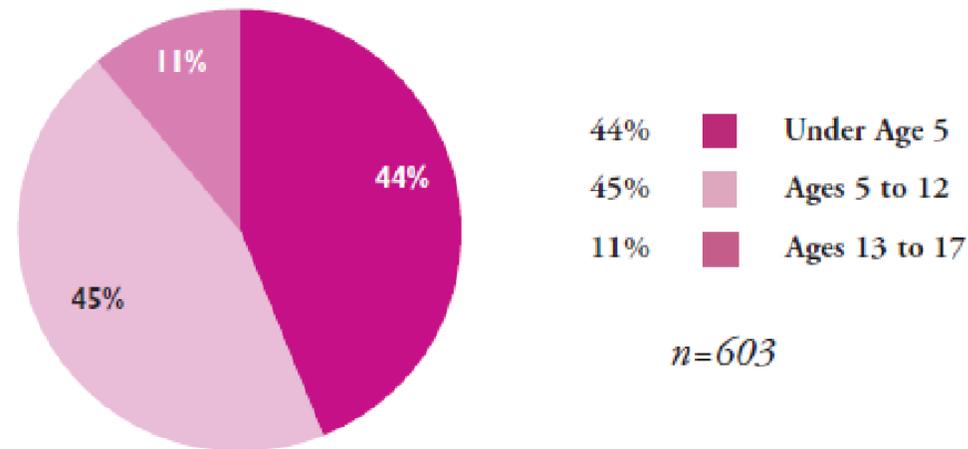
- ❖ High cost of housing
- ❖ Mismatch between the high cost of housing and low wages of families
- ❖ Insufficient funding for affordable housing
- ❖ Unemployment
- ❖ Loss of public benefits
- ❖ Domestic violence
- ❖ Impact of COVID-19



# Children Living in Shelters, 2019



## Children in Emergency Shelters, Domestic Violence Shelters, and Transitional Housing Facilities by Age, 2019



Source: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of data from the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, Homeless Management Information System, 2019 and Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2019.

In Rhode Island, 603 children in families experiencing homelessness used emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing in 2019.

# The Coordinated Entry System

## What is it?

- CES lead entities – Managed through Department of Commerce, Office of Housing and Community Development and led through a collaboration of Crossroads RI and the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless
- The Coordinated Entry System (CES) ensures that the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness receive assistance first, as required by HUD
- In Rhode Island, this means that all programs funded by the Continuum of Care, the Consolidated Homeless Fund, and the Emergency Solutions Grants must fill their housing and shelter beds through the CES Leads

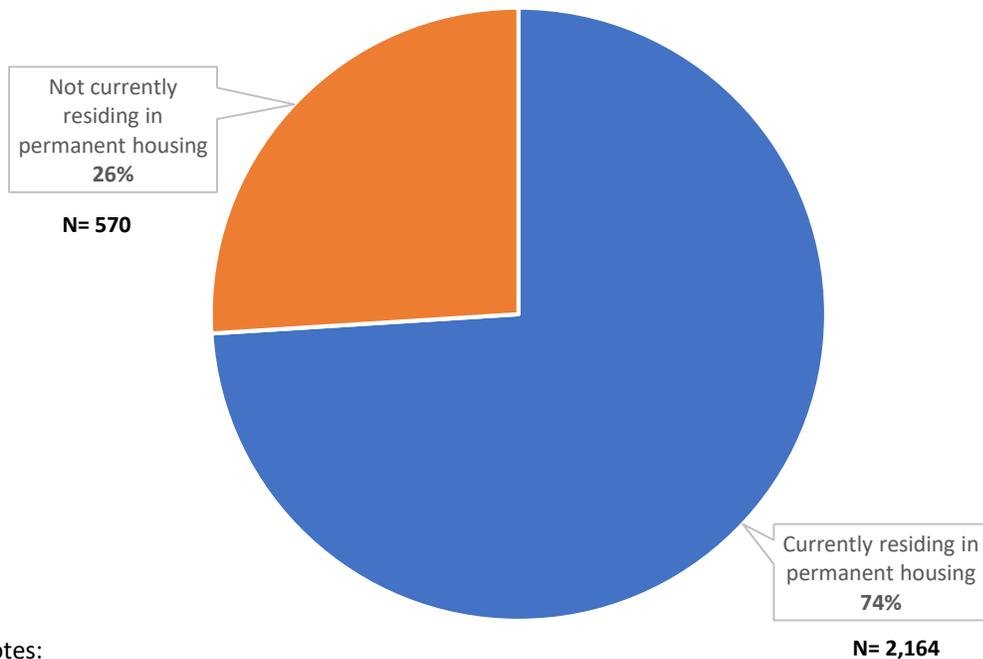
# Family Shelter System

January - September 2020

Families on Shelter Waitlist	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
# of Households on Shelter Waitlist	25	30	44	27	35	24	44	45	53
# of shelter placements (# of households)	15	10	8	4	10	11	10	6	7
Average waiting time between initial assessment and shelter placement (days)	14	11	14	16	15	14	14	15	14
Households successfully diverted (# of households)	14	26	10	16	15	21	15	13	10

# Housing Needs Across Family Care Community Partnership (FCCP) Families, CY 2019 Entry Cohort

**Figure 1. Families living in permanent housing at time of FCCP intake\*, CY 2019**



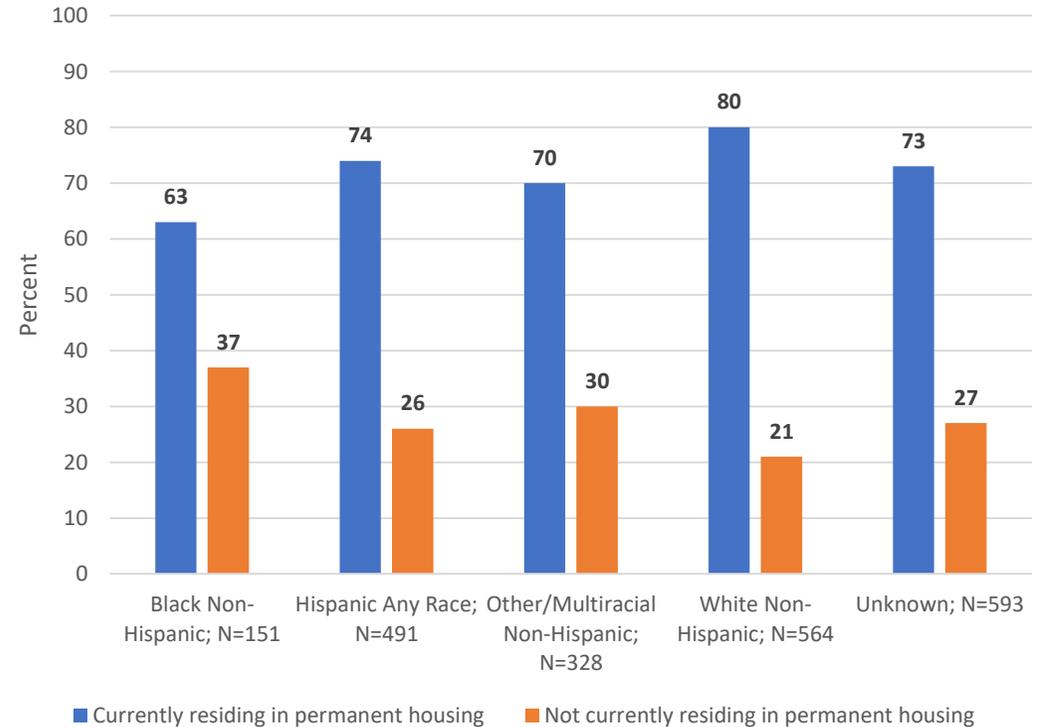
**Data Notes:**

Data source; RIFIS QA and Intake Reports; as of 9/25/20

\*Missing for 391 families (15.3% of 2,555 total families)

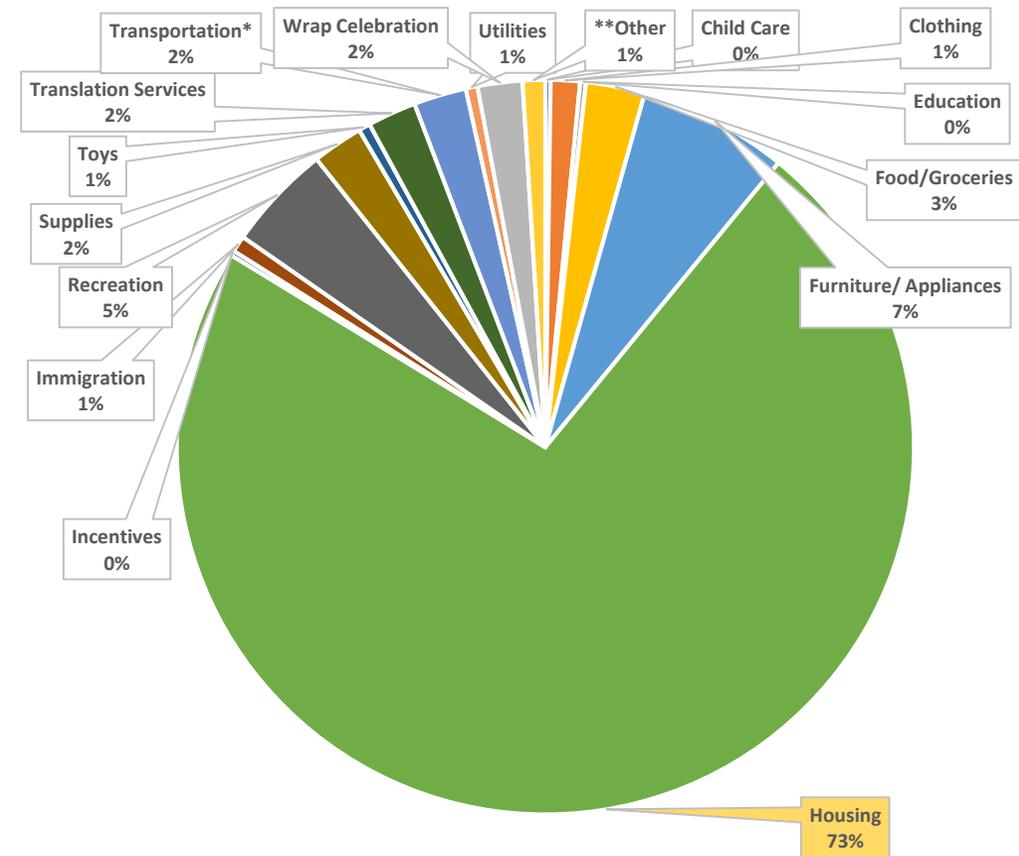
- Question of permanent housing asking at time of FCCP intake
- Measure is self-reported
- Only captures housing status at beginning of FCCP program, not changes throughout

**Figure 2. Families living in permanent housing at time of FCCP intake\*, by race/ethnicity of Primary Child CY 2019**



# Flex Fund Expenditure Categories, All FCCP Regions, CY 2019

Total Flex Fund Expenditure	\$238,235.89	
Flex Fund Categories of Spending (\$, %)		
Child Care	\$544.00	0.2%
Clothing	\$3,054.05	1.3%
Education	\$599.88	0.3%
Food/Groceries	\$6,149.46	2.6%
Furniture/ Appliances	\$15,617.93	6.6%
<b>Housing</b>	<b>\$173,523.38</b>	<b>72.8%</b>
Incentives	\$509.76	0.2%
Immigration	\$1,720.97	0.7%
Recreation	\$11,077.49	4.6%
Supplies	\$5,319.15	2.2%
Toys	\$1,215.00	0.5%
Translation Services	\$5,088.01	2.1%
Transportation*	\$5,497.05	2.3%
Utilities	\$1,224.77	0.5%
Wrap Celebration	\$4,676.86	2.0%
**Other	\$2,356.13	1.0%



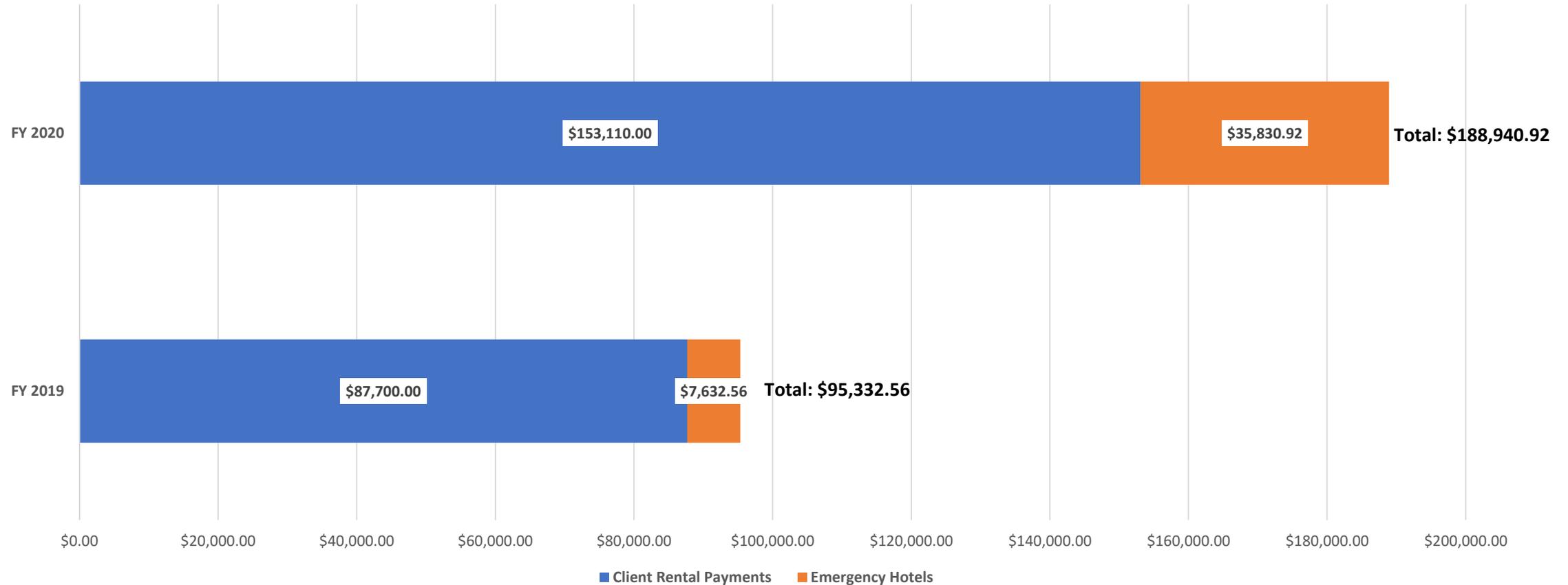
Data Notes:

- Data Source, RIFIS, FCCP Flex Fund Report, 10/5/2020
- Expenditures include in kind donations in total; value determined by "Estimated Total Value" input by FCCP Regions

\* Transportation includes transportation services and automobile

\*\*Other includes: Advocacy, Crisis Intervention (Parent), DHS Services, CRU, Faith-Based, Environmental Modification, Legal Services, Medical Visit, Medication Management, Natural Support (Parent), PINS Categories, Respite Cost, Therapy (Sibling), Training (Parent, Child or Sibling)

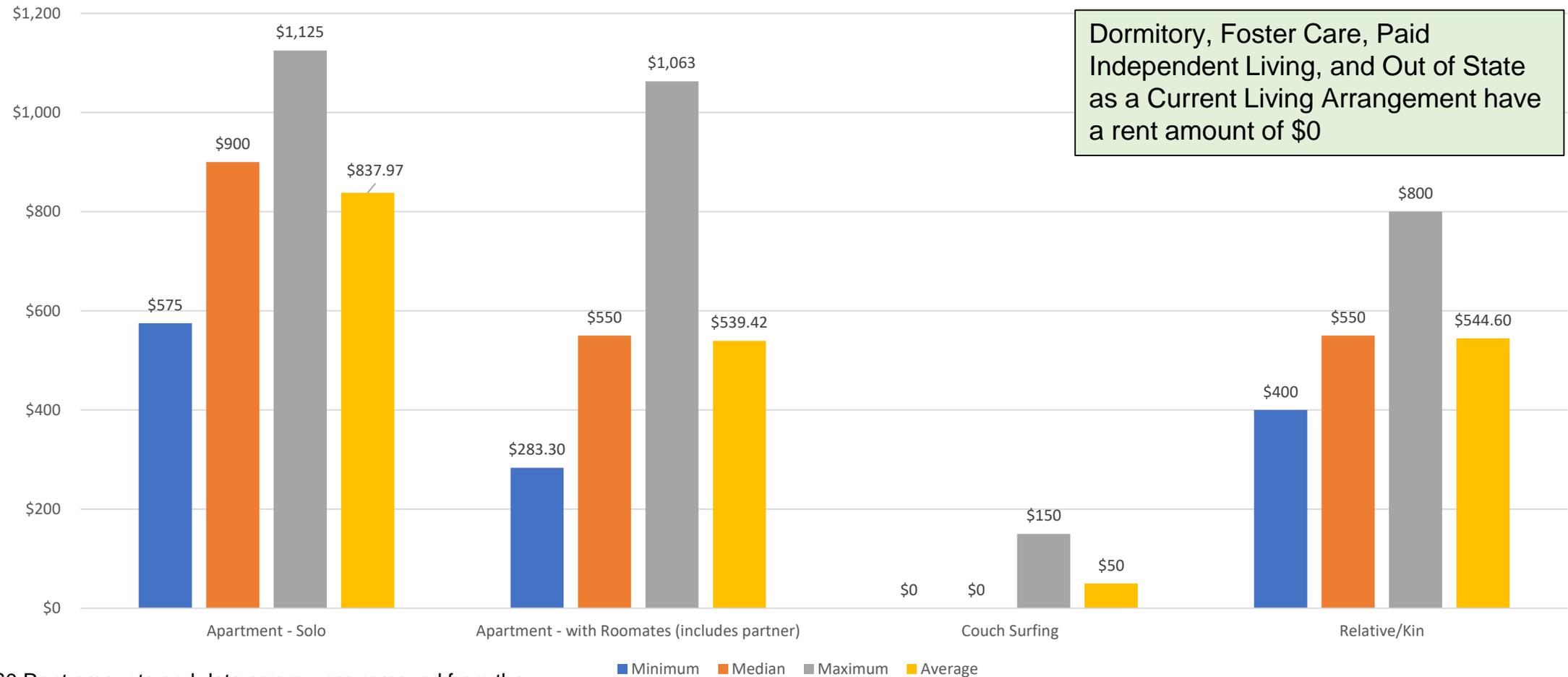
# DCYF Dollars Spent on Housing Needs, FY 2019 & FY 2020



# VEC Participants Rent by Current Living Arrangement, September 2020, RIDCYF

Data Source: Initial Entry VEC Microsoft Form & Update VEC Microsoft Form

RIDCYF: VEC Participants Rent by Current Living Arrangement, September 2020



Data Note: \$0 Rent amounts and data errors were removed from the calculation above for Apartment – Solo. Apartment with Roommates and Relative/Kin did not have \$0 Rent amounts.

# Why are youth and young adults experiencing homelessness?

- ❖ Family conflict (parental abuse, lack of acceptance of gender or sexual identity)
- ❖ Housing instability after exit from foster care system, criminal justice system, or mental health facility
- ❖ High cost of housing
- ❖ Insufficient funding for affordable housing for youth/young adults
- ❖ Mismatch between the high cost of housing and low wages of youth/young adults
- ❖ Unemployment

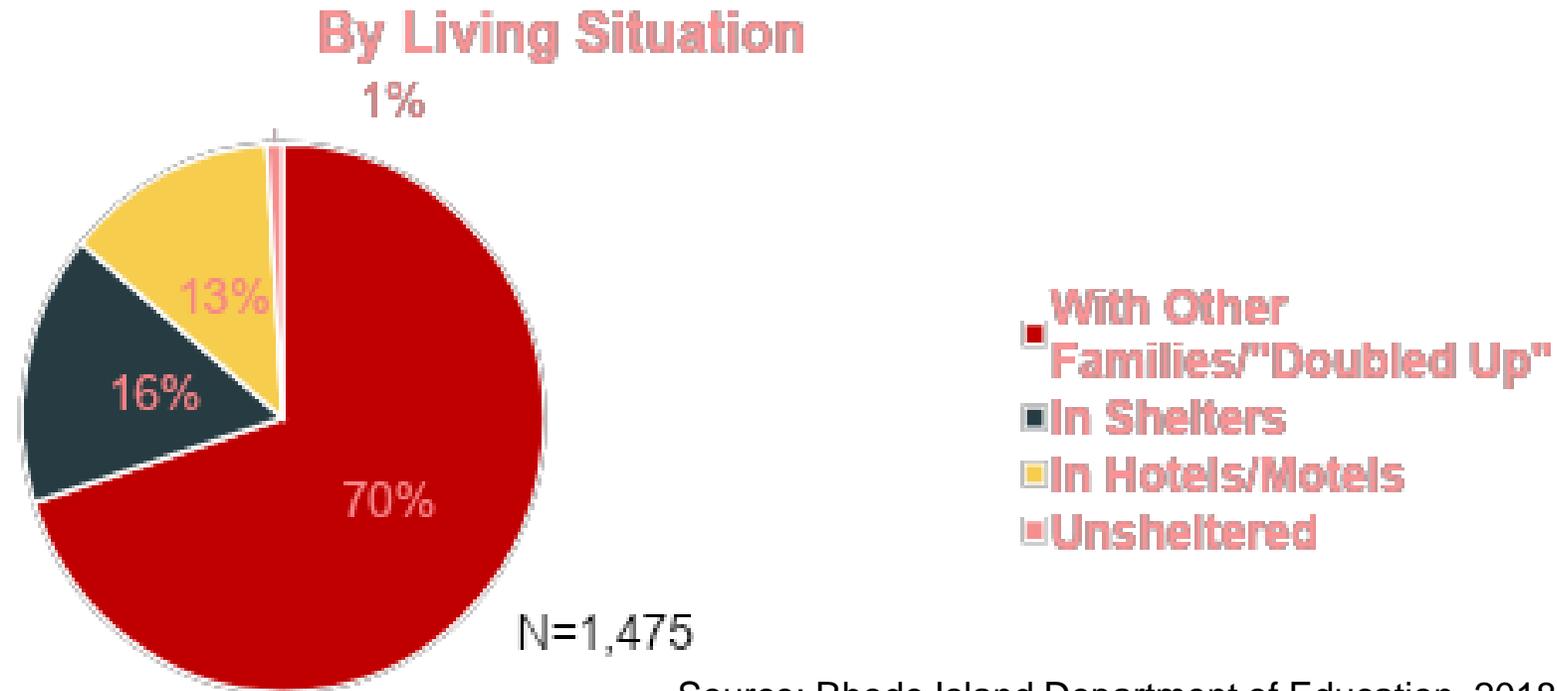
# Homelessness & Effects on Children and Youth

*According to national studies, children and youth experiencing homelessness are more likely to experience:*

- ❖ Physical health effects
- ❖ Mental health effects
- ❖ Educational impacts
- ❖ Family separation/barriers to reunification
- ❖ Difficulty obtaining and retaining employment (youth/young adults)
- ❖ Sexual exploitation or criminal behavior to meet basic needs (youth/young adults)



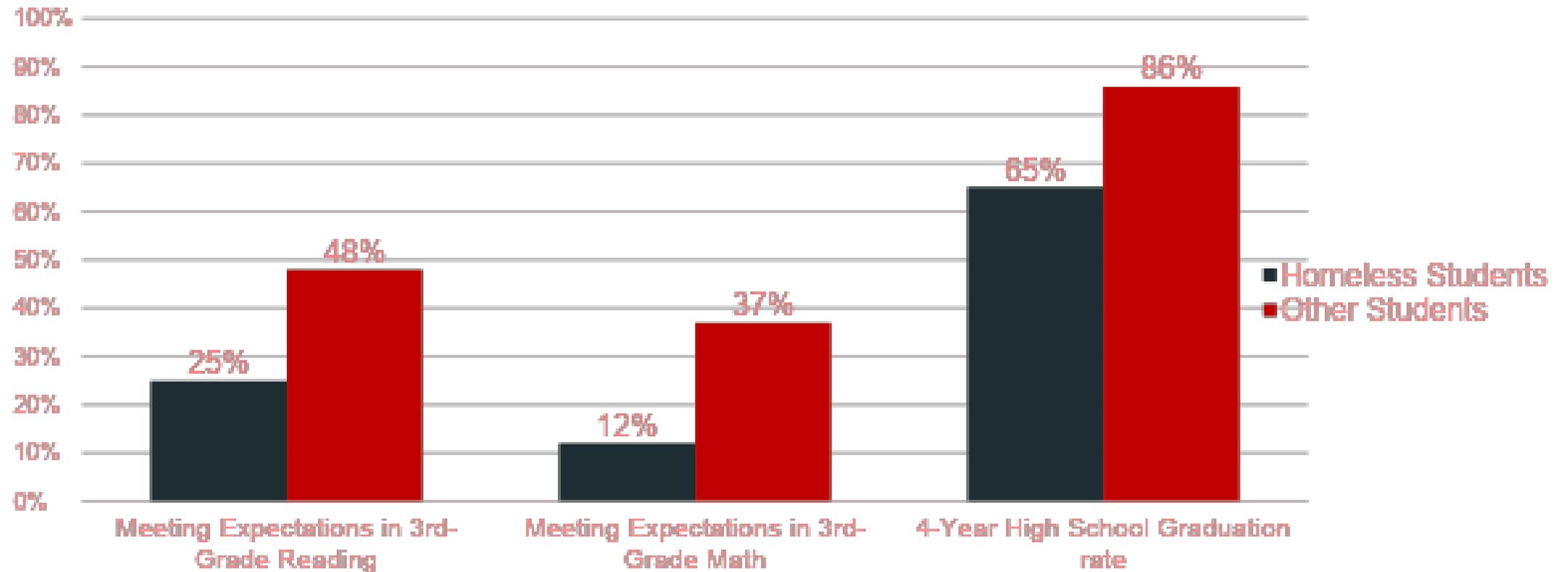
# Children Experiencing Homelessness Identified by Schools, 2018–2019 School Year



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2018-2019 school year

- The federal *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act* defines a child as experiencing homelessness if he or she does not have a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”
- During the 2018-2019 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,475 children experiencing homelessness.

# Effects of homelessness on school achievement



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2018-2019 school year.

The federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires schools to report on student achievement and graduation rates for students experiencing homelessness.

# Examples of Current Efforts for Addressing Family & Youth Housing Instability & Homelessness

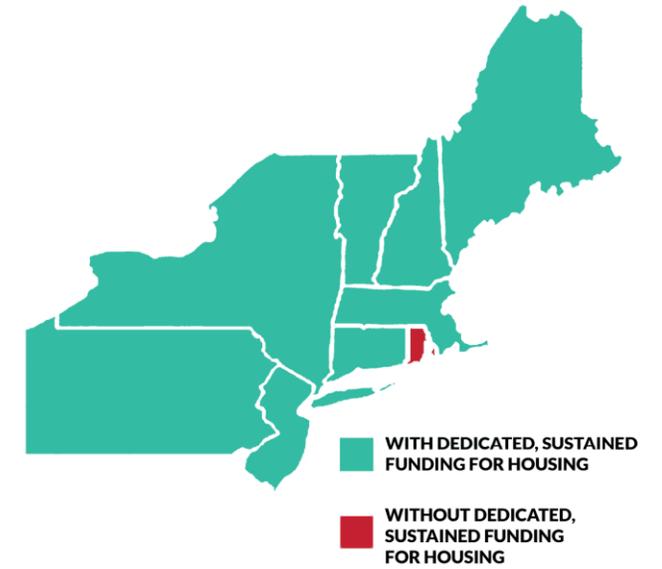
- Continuum of Care
- Voluntary Extension of Care (VEC) Program
- HUD Foster Youth Initiative MOU
- Public Housing Authorities and CDC
- Medicaid reimbursement for Home Stabilization support services
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data and state's Ecosystem Data Warehouse.

# **Policies & Practices Designed to Address Housing Instability & Homelessness During COVID-19**

- **Federal eviction moratorium and Informal court eviction moratorium**
- **Rental assistance provided through Safe Harbor and Housing Help RI**
- **Use of hotels and expansion of Rapid Rehousing vouchers to house people experiencing homelessness**
- **Landlord Challenge brought 108 new apartments into the system**
- **Medicaid Emergency Case Management assistance for homeless services providers**
- **Collaborative efforts to keep families together through DCYF managed Quarantine and Isolation Site at Zambarano**
- **Governor's Executive Order for youth in Voluntary Extension of Care and YESS**

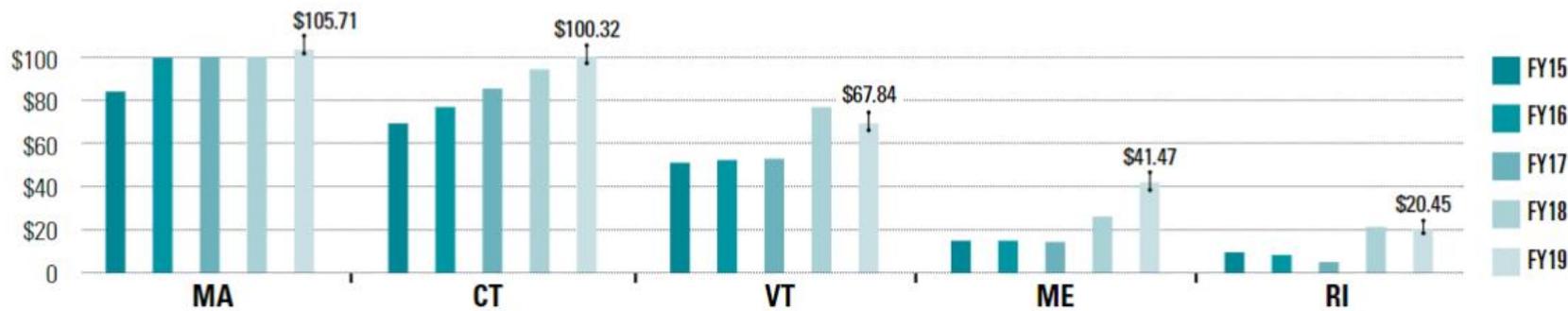
# Rhode Island's Investments in Affordable Housing

THE ONLY STATE IN NEW ENGLAND WITHOUT DEDICATED, SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING



## Per Capita Spending on Housing in New England, FY2015-FY2019<sup>54</sup>

As of the end of 2019, Rhode Island had committed all of the third round of BHRI bond funding approved by voters in 2016. This funding provided a temporary boost to the state's investment in affordable homes for the last two years. However, at \$20.45 per capita for FY19, it is still less than half of the next highest state, and the lowest of the five states with investments.



RI NEEDS SUSTAINED FUNDING FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES!



# Recommendations and Discussion

RI has made great strides during the COVID-19 crisis in prioritizing and addressing housing needs during the crisis, and in highlighting the pre-existing gaps in the system. How do we build on these efforts and address housing issues long-term?

Recommendations for discussion:

- Effective Use of Systems' Data
- Redirection/Reinvestment of resources and savings for community based housing solutions
- Use Contracting mechanisms/incentives to develop housing navigators
- State/Federal advocacy for increased housing resources, including housing bond referenda
- Address the lack of affordable housing and the impact on families and young adults exiting from the DCYF system
- Address policy/procedure barriers to housing stability for communities of color

# Public Comment