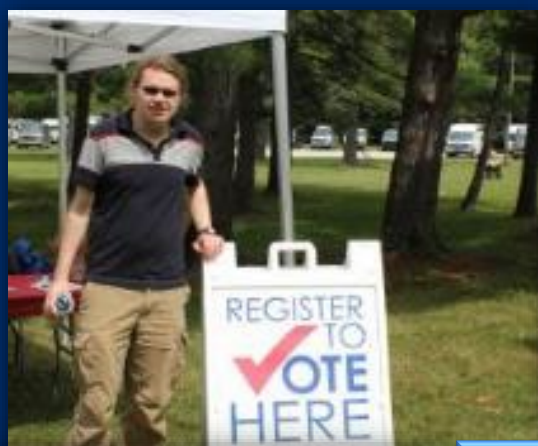




# DDRS Advisory Council

Wednesday, March 18, 2026



**ALL people are empowered to live, love, work, learn, play and pursue their dreams.**





# DDARS

Here for every life at every age.



# BCDS

Bureau of Child  
Development  
Services



# BRS

Bureau of  
Rehabilitation  
Services



# BDS

Bureau of  
Disabilities  
Services



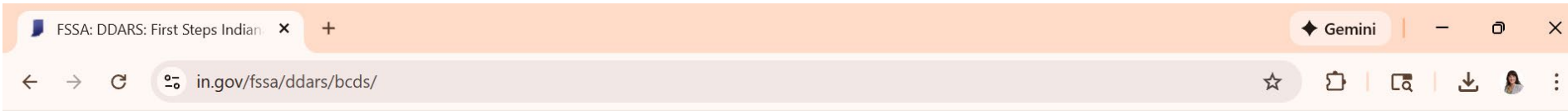
# BBA

Bureau of  
Better Aging



Topic	Time	Discussion Leader
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome/Introductions</li> <li>Video</li> </ul>	10 Mins	Jessica Harlan-York, Lexi Westerfield
Bureau of Child Development Services (BCDS) Update	45 Mins	Christina Commons
Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments	15 Mins	Holly Wimsatt
Break	15 Mins	
B4 Update	15 Mins	Holly Wimsatt
Waiver Capacity Update	15 Mins	Holly Wimsatt
Waiver Reset Update	50 Mins	Holly Wimsatt
Parking Lot Nex Meeting: May 20, 2026; IGC, Conference Room C	15 Mins	Jessica Harlan-York

# Video



## Family and Social Services Administration

Search FSSA

- Home FSSA Home > DDARS Home
- Our Bureaus
  - Bureau of Child Development Services (BCDS)
  - Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS)
  - Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
  - Bureau of Better Aging (BBA)
- About DDARS
- Our Initiatives
- Resources
- Learn More

## About the Bureau

BCDS is focused on ensuring families of children with developmental delays and disabilities have resources and support that promote their child's development. Eligible First Steps families are connected with local networks of education, health and social service professionals, receiving a comprehensive system of training and professional development.



## Programs and Resources



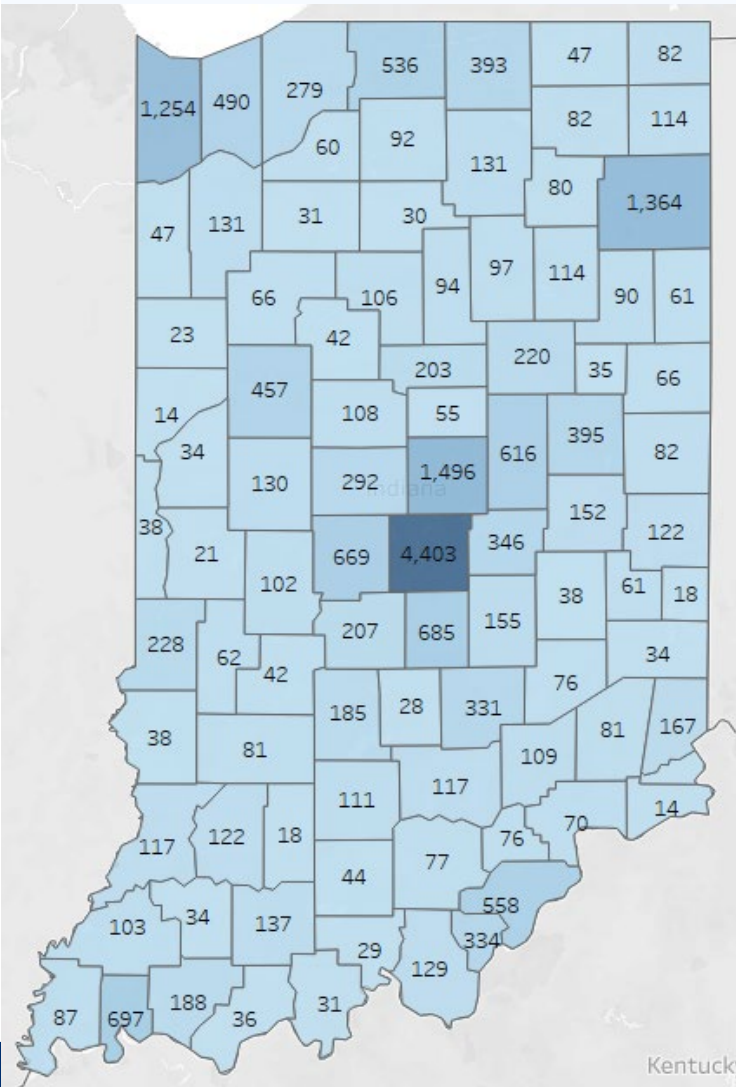
# Bureau of Child Development Services Update

Christina Commons

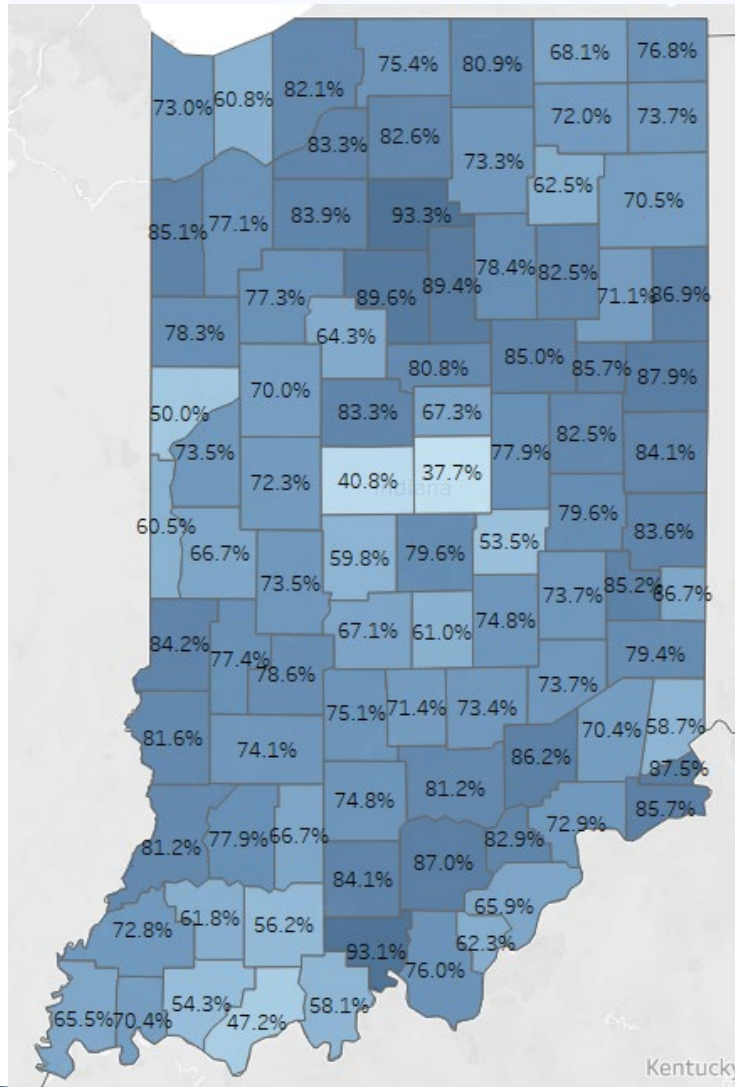
Director

BCDS

**Year to Date SFY 2026**  
**Total number of children served by county**



**Year to Date SFY 2026**  
**Percent of children served who are 250% or below federal poverty level by county**



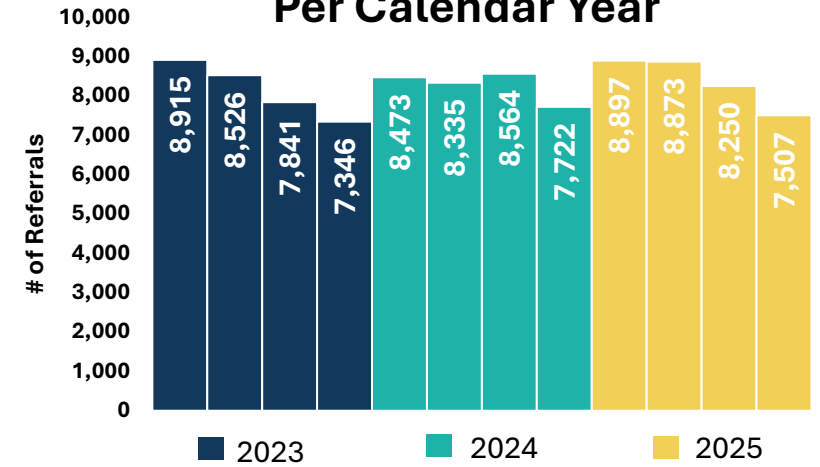
**Indiana's First Steps System** is a family-centered, locally based, coordinated system that provides early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities or who are developmentally vulnerable. First Steps brings together professionals from education, health and social services agencies to provide skilled therapeutic interventions that promote age-appropriate development of infants and toddlers experiencing developmental delays.



# First Steps Early Intervention Program Year to Date SFY 2026



## Referral Trends By Quarter Per Calendar Year



## First Steps Statewide Service Delivery System

9 central office staff

100 Independent Providers

9 System Points of Entry

- 250 Service Coordinators

- Nutrition, social work, psychology, audiology, ophthalmology, interpreter services

43 Provider Agencies

- ~1,800 providers

Over 31,000 Referrals Annually

Number of Children Referred YTD

18,535



Number of Children Served YTD

21,755

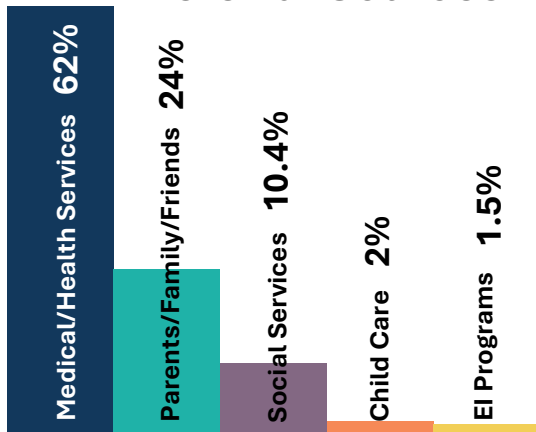


Number of Family Visits YTD

438,256

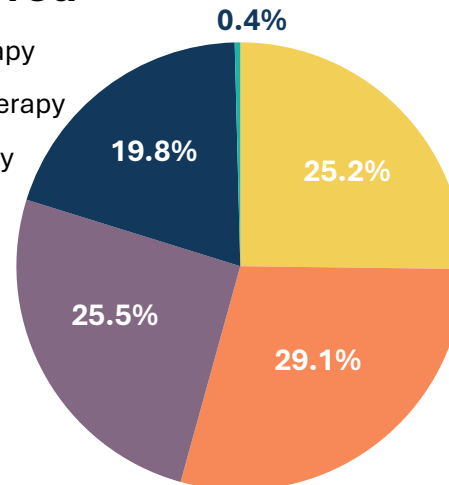


## Referral Sources

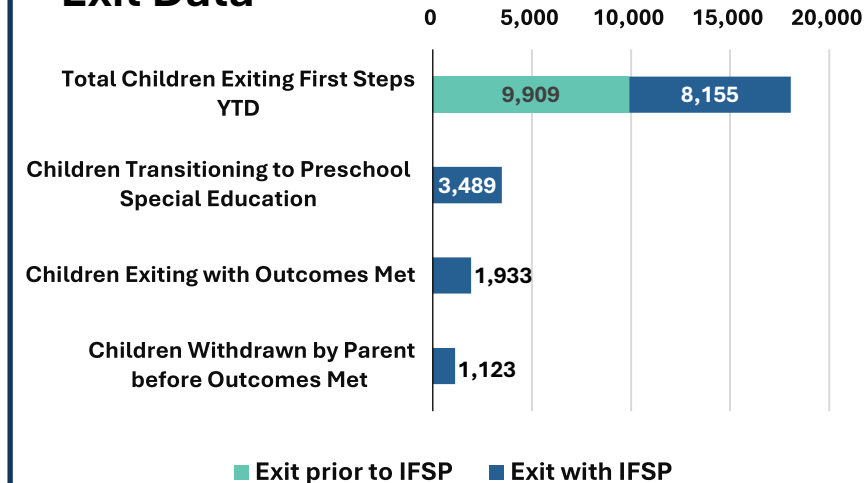


## Services Delivered

- Developmental Therapy
- Speech Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Other Services

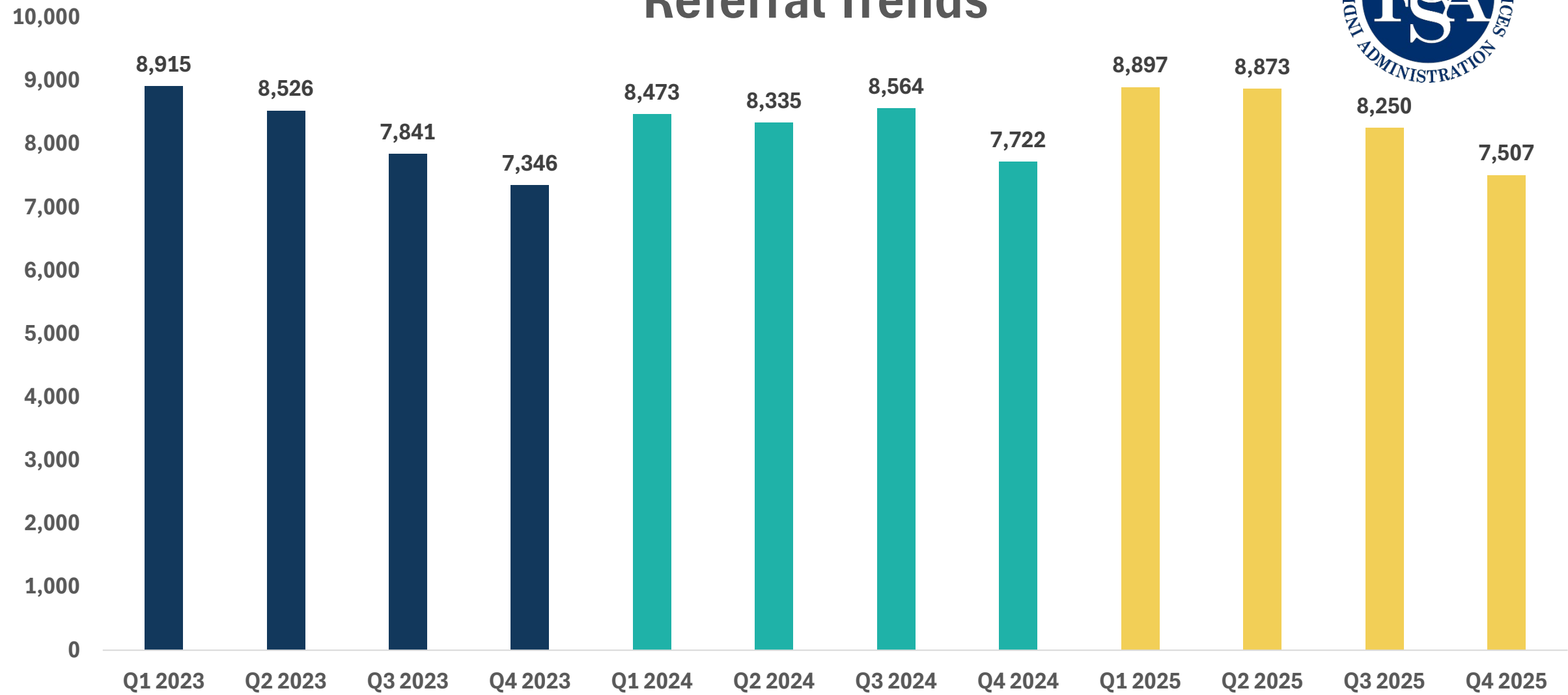


## Exit Data



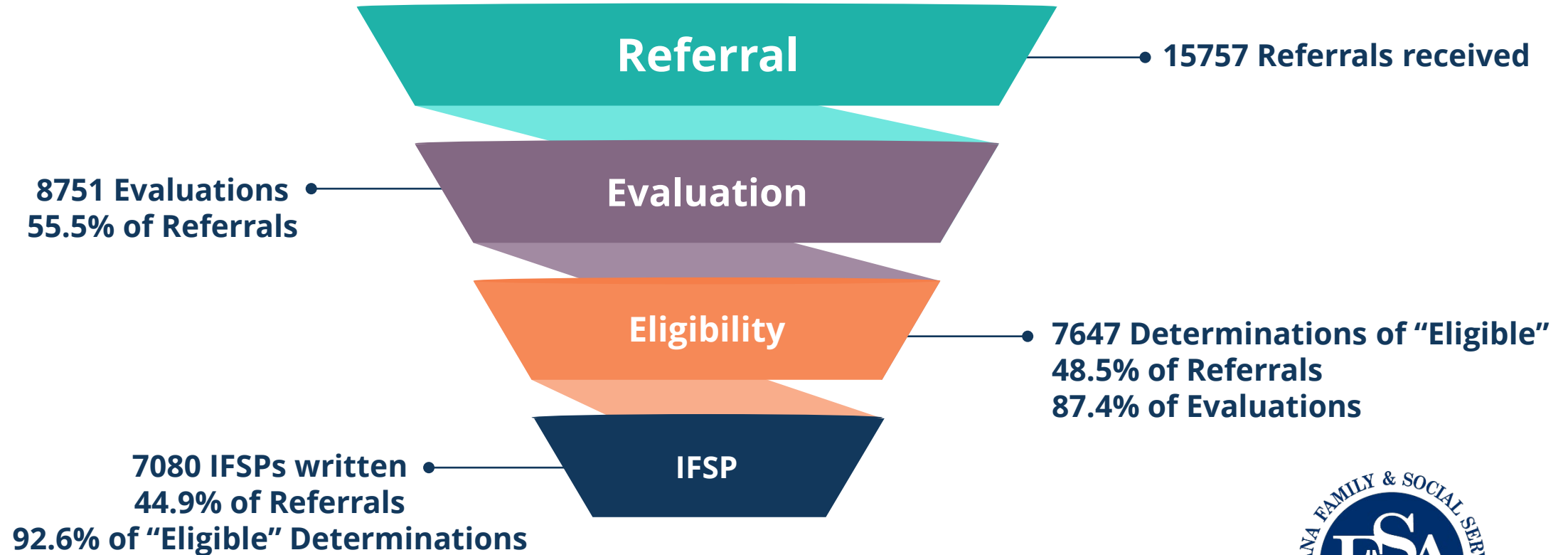


# Referral Trends



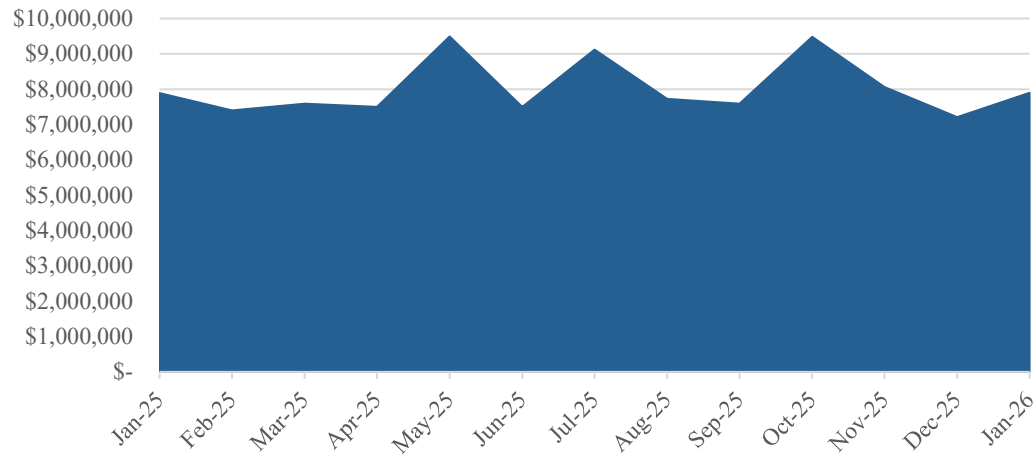
# Children Moving from Referral to IFSP

July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

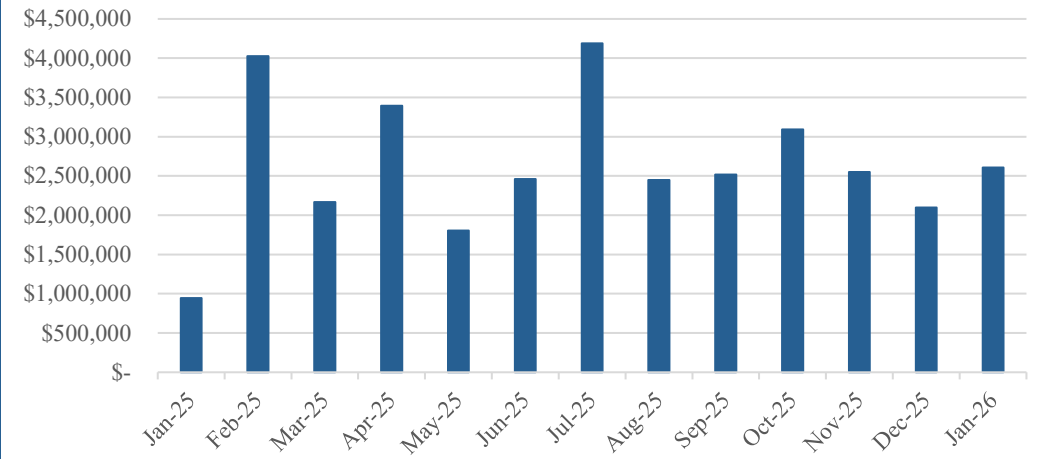


# Bureau of Child Development Services

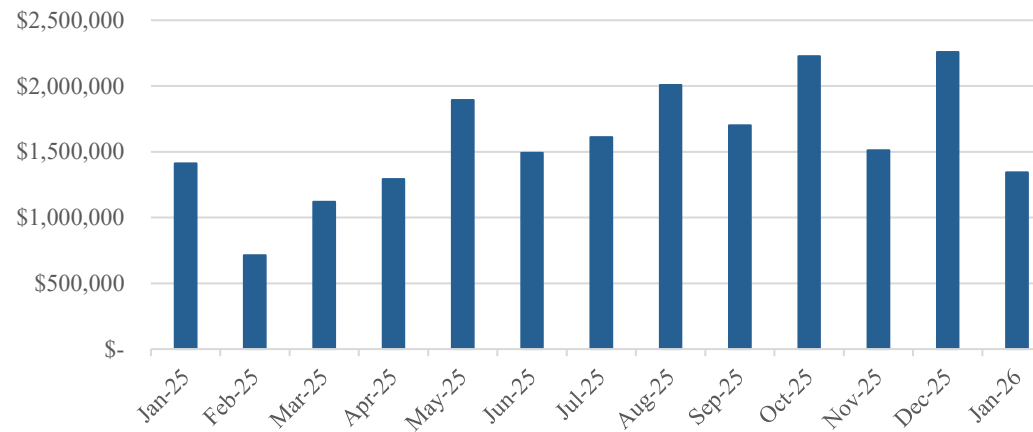
## Service Claims Costs



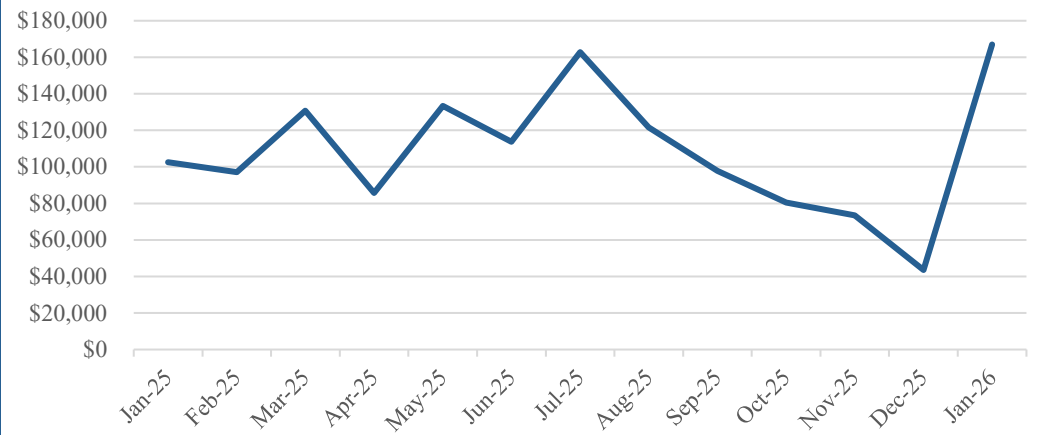
## Medicaid Recoupment



## Private Insurance Recoupment



## Family Cost Participation



# Current Initiatives

- Closing Federal Findings
- Family Guided Routines Based Intervention – Caregiver Coaching
- Tiered Technical Assistance – Building provider agency and SPOE and personnel skills
- Family Outcome Survey Review
- Data System Enhancements
- Data Driven Decision Making
- Family Resource Development
- Policy and Procedure Review/Update





# Bureau of Disabilities Services



Holly Wimsatt  
Director, BDS



# Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments

- Case Management b4 implementation
- Provider reimbursement rate modification for ATTC, PAC, and RHS when employee is a live-in caregiver
- RHS Daily Rate mandate for eligible individuals with Algo Level 3 or higher
- Allowable service provision by relatives (non-LRIs)
- Update on documentation requirements
- Benefits counseling service limit
- Addition of reserve capacity on CIH for MFP
- Removal of certain reserve capacity categories
  - Transition from 100% state funds
  - Choosing to leave ICF/IID



# Case Management (b)(4)

- Allows for regional coverage, with preferred statewide coverage
- Includes value-based payment elements
- Up to 9 case management entities
- Awards expected in April
- Transition period from April through July
- Anticipated effective date of August 1, 2026

# Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments



<b>Public Comment Period</b>	<b>February 12 – March 18, 2026</b>
<b>Tribal Comment Period</b>	<b>January 28 – March 29, 2026</b>
<b>CMS Submission</b>	<b>No later than April 30, 2026</b>
<b>Anticipated Waiver Effective Date</b>	<b>August 1, 2026</b>



# Waiver Capacity

Waiver	Waiver Capacity	Slots Assigned (as of 2/28/26)	Open Invitations/Re served Capacity	Remaining Capacity  (as of 2/28/26)
Family Supports	26,199	25,451	548	200
Community Integration & Habilitation	9,438	9,438	0	0
Health & Wellness	16,127	14,329	1,209	589
Traumatic Brain Injury	200	186	12	2



# Goals of Waiver Reset

- **Simplify the System**
  - Make it easier to understand the waiver program
  - Reduce the number of assessments, paperwork, and administrative steps
  - Update the services that are offered
- **Improve Support Coordination**
  - Understand how all the different supports available connect and work together
  - Offer more help in finding and maximizing unpaid and paid supports
- **Enhance Quality Outcomes**
  - Help providers get ready to offer new and updated services that help people reach their goals
  - Develop a way to pay providers for quality and not just quantity
- **Implement a Sustainable Service Delivery System**
  - Use one assessment to fully understand people's support needs
  - Set up supports budgets so available funding is shared in equitable manner
  - Lay the foundation to address the growing group of individuals eligible and waiting for services

# A Sustainable Framework

## Three Levers for Quality Assurance and Cost Containment

### Support Needs Tiers

Established by assessed need, age, living situation, & other factors

Model Service Matrix

### Supports Budget Tiers

Determined within Medicaid Appropriation

Budget Range w/ cap according to Support Need Tier

### Waiver Design and Number of Waivers

Number and Type of Waiver(s)

Simplification of Service Array across Waivers

Established Budget Tiers with caps within each Waiver

Slots Assigned According to Population Need and Medicaid Fiscal Capacity





# Waiver Reset Engagement

- **Phase 1** stakeholder engagement – September through December 2025
  - Facilitated 36 small and large group conversations
  - Conducted 13 one-on-one interviews
  - Connected with approximately 2,275 individuals
- **Phase 2** – Supports Budget Community Advisory – February 2026 through January 2027
  - Initial meeting of SBCAB took place at end of February



# Questions

Thank You

# Parking Lot





# Next Meeting!

- Wednesday, May 20, 2026, IGC, Conference Room C; BDS will be giving update.

# DDRS 2026 Advisory Council Calendar



Date	Location	Bureau Update
May 20, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room C	BDS
July 15, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room B	BRS
September 16, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room B	BCDS
November 18, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	Virtual Only	BDS

