



Senate Bill 2012

Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Bekkedahl, Chairman

Cory Pedersen, Children and Family Services Section – HHS
January 17, 2023



Health & Human Services

HHS Goal: Help ND become the healthiest state in the nation

We'll focus on three actions to accomplish this:

Invest in the
FOUNDATIONS
of well-being



Economic
Health



Behavioral
Health



Physical
Health

Ensure everyone has the
opportunity to realize
their **POTENTIAL**



Strong, Stable
Families



Services Closer
to Home



Early Childhood
Experiences

Efficiency
Through
Redesign

High-
Performing
Team

Give everyone the
OPPORTUNITY to
decide to:



Be Healthy



Be Active



Find & Prevent
Disease Early

Children and Family Services Program Purpose

Facilitate delivery of services that support child safety, child permanency, and well-being, which together are designed to prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and support family reunification and stability whenever possible.



Children and Family Services

What we do

Safety

- Child protective services
- Child Fatality Review Panel
- State Child Protection Team
- Parent Resource Centers
- Alliance for Children's Justice

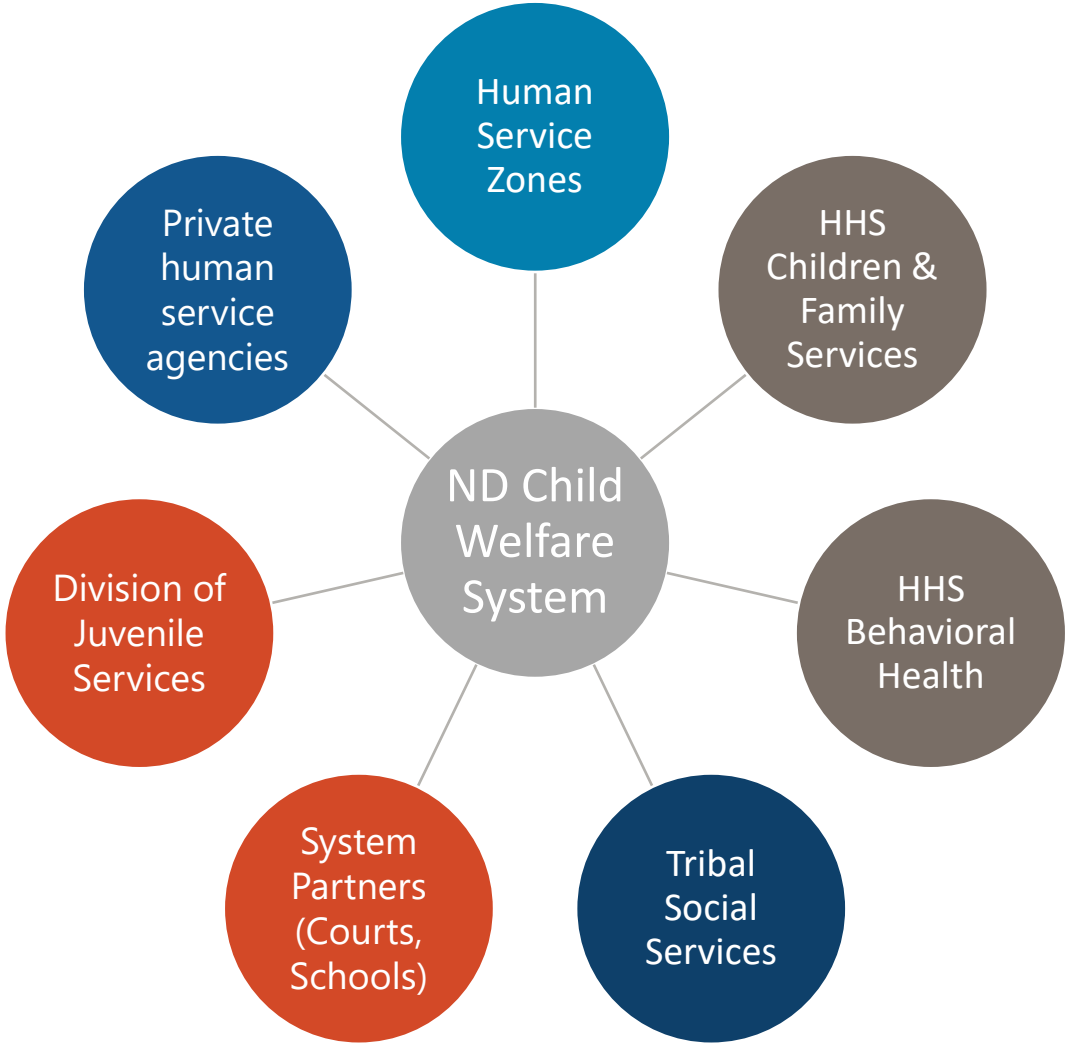
Permanency

- Foster care
- Adoption
- Guardianships
- Interstate compacts for the placement of children
- Unaccompanied minor services
- Independent living services
- Licensing for foster care providers, QRTPs and LCPAs

Well-being

- Family preservation services
- Intensive In-home therapy
- Nurturing Parent programs
- Healthy Families
- Parent aides
- In-home case management
- Respite care
- Family-centered engagement
- Children in Need of Services

The Child Welfare System in North Dakota Includes Both Public and Private Sector Partners



The MISSION of the child welfare system in North Dakota

**Safe Children
Strong Families**

Children and Family Services Section

Child welfare services are delivered by local, state, tribal and private providers using both federal and state funds

ND Health & Human Services

Human Service Centers

- Crisis teams
- Intensive In-home services (therapy & treatment, skills training, behavior mod)
- Targeted case management

Children & Family Services

- Training and coaching of field staff
- Oversee quality service delivery
- Administration of policy
- License foster homes
- IV-E and Adoption Eligibility

Private Human Service Providers

- Safe shelter for crisis
- Human trafficking supports and safe beds
- Unaccompanied minor services
- Foster homes, including therapeutic
- Targeted case management

Tribal Social Services

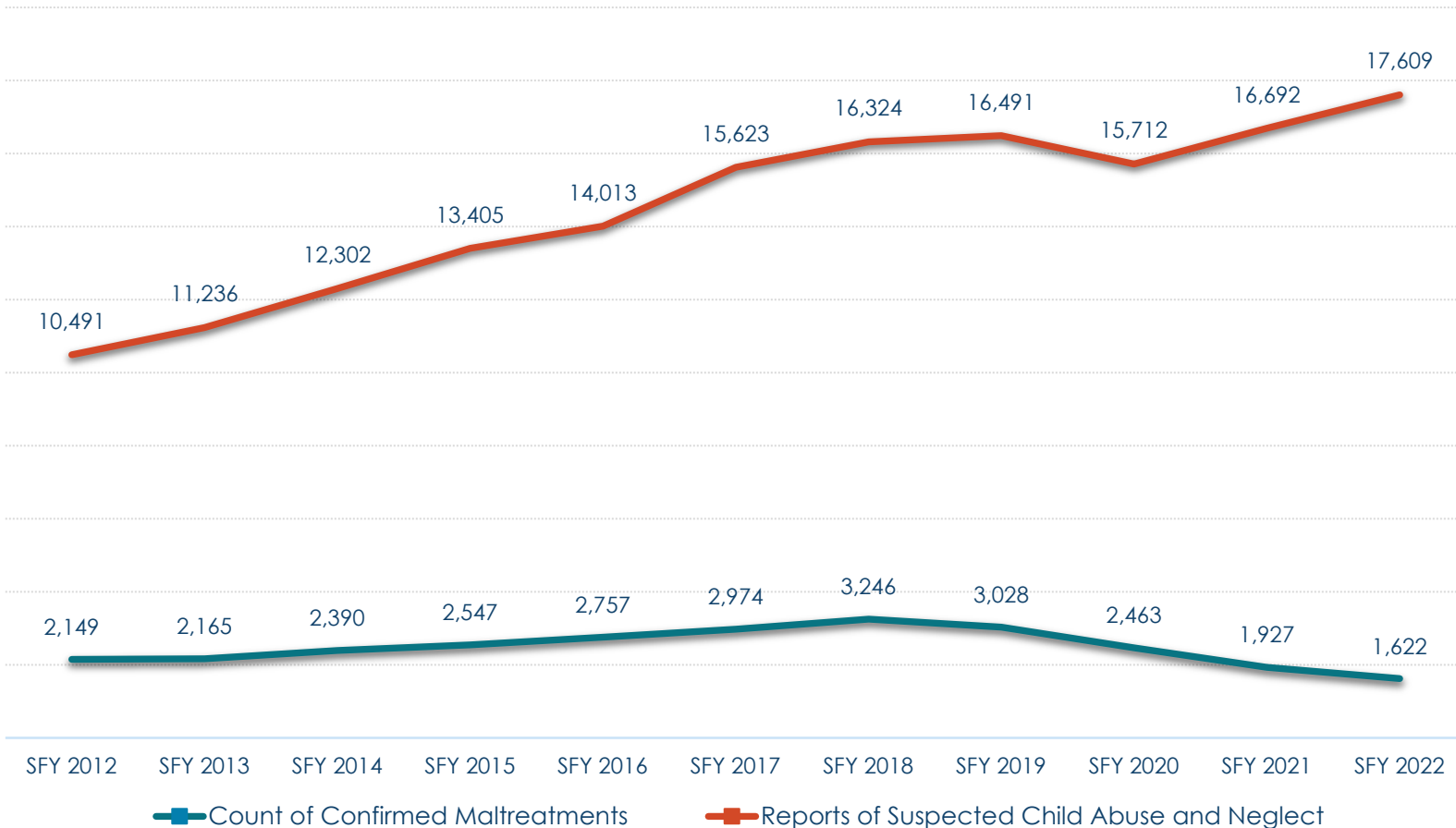
- FRAME entry and foster care eligibility determinations
- Joint practice model and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training
- Native American Training Institute supports (training, billing, IEP (IWCA Family Preservation))
- FMAP service contracting
- IV-E agreements boosting access to funding

Human Service Zones

- Assess present and impending danger
- Safety planning
- Case management
- Assess and build parent capacities
- Provide safe supports for children and families
- In-home supports
- Parent aides
- Intake for child abuse and neglect reports
- Children in Need of Services (CHINS)

Less than 10% of child abuse/neglect calls are ultimately substantiated as abuse/neglect

Counts of Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect and Confirmed Maltreatments
SFY 2012 - SFY 2022



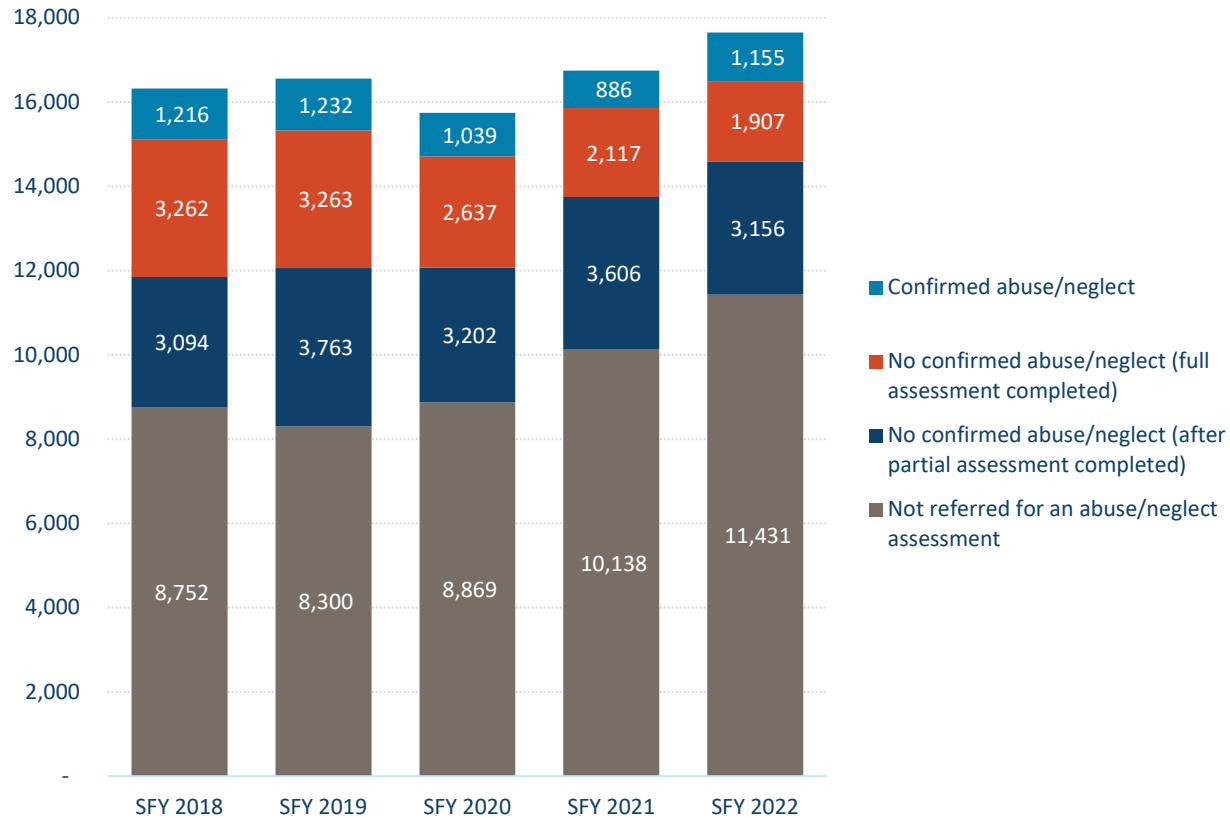
Rethink child welfare

People who call to report suspected abuse or neglect are seeing something that causes them to be concerned about a child's (and their family's) well-being.

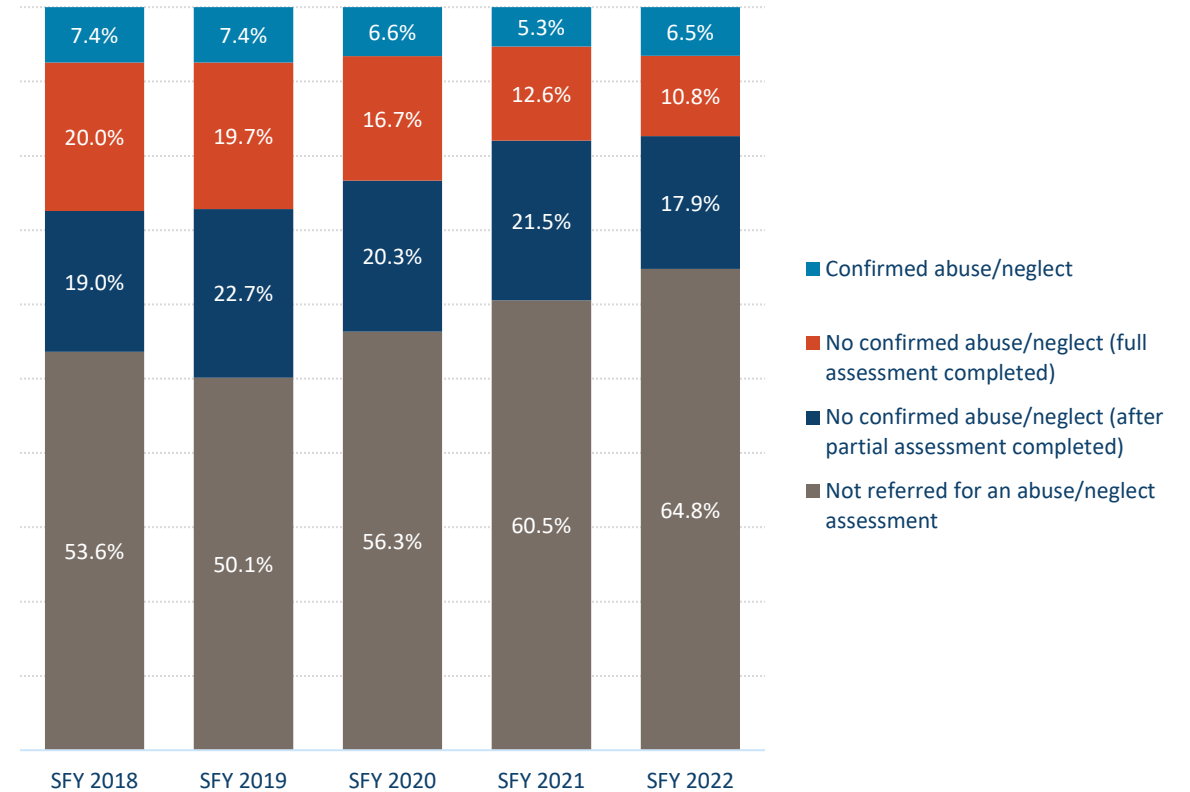
We need a different response for those often-valid concerns.

ND sees approximately 1,000 – 1,200 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect each year

ND sees approximately 1,000-1,200 confirmed cases of child abuse and/or neglect each year



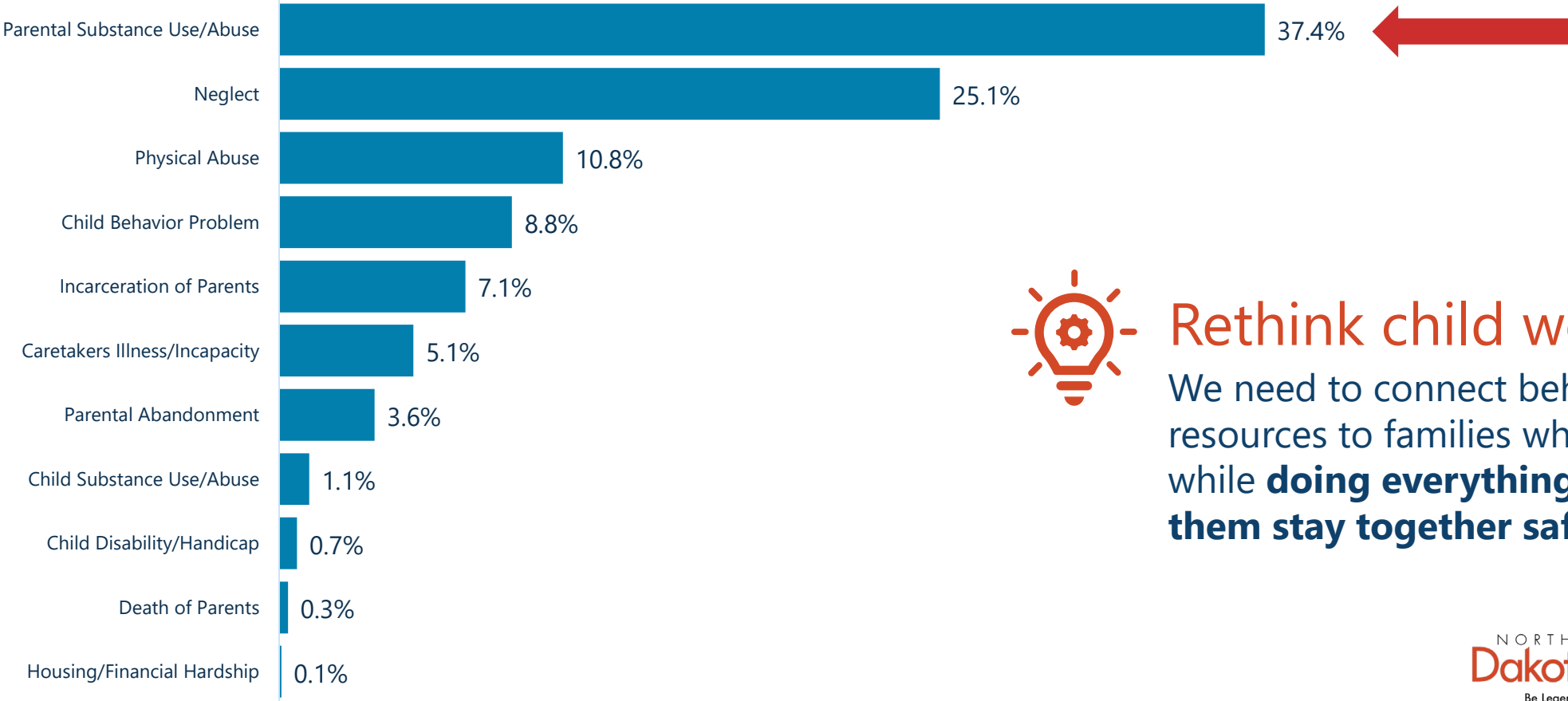
Approximately 7% of reports of suspected child abuse/neglect are ultimately confirmed



Substance abuse and unaddressed mental health needs are major de-stabilizing forces in families

REMOVAL REASONS

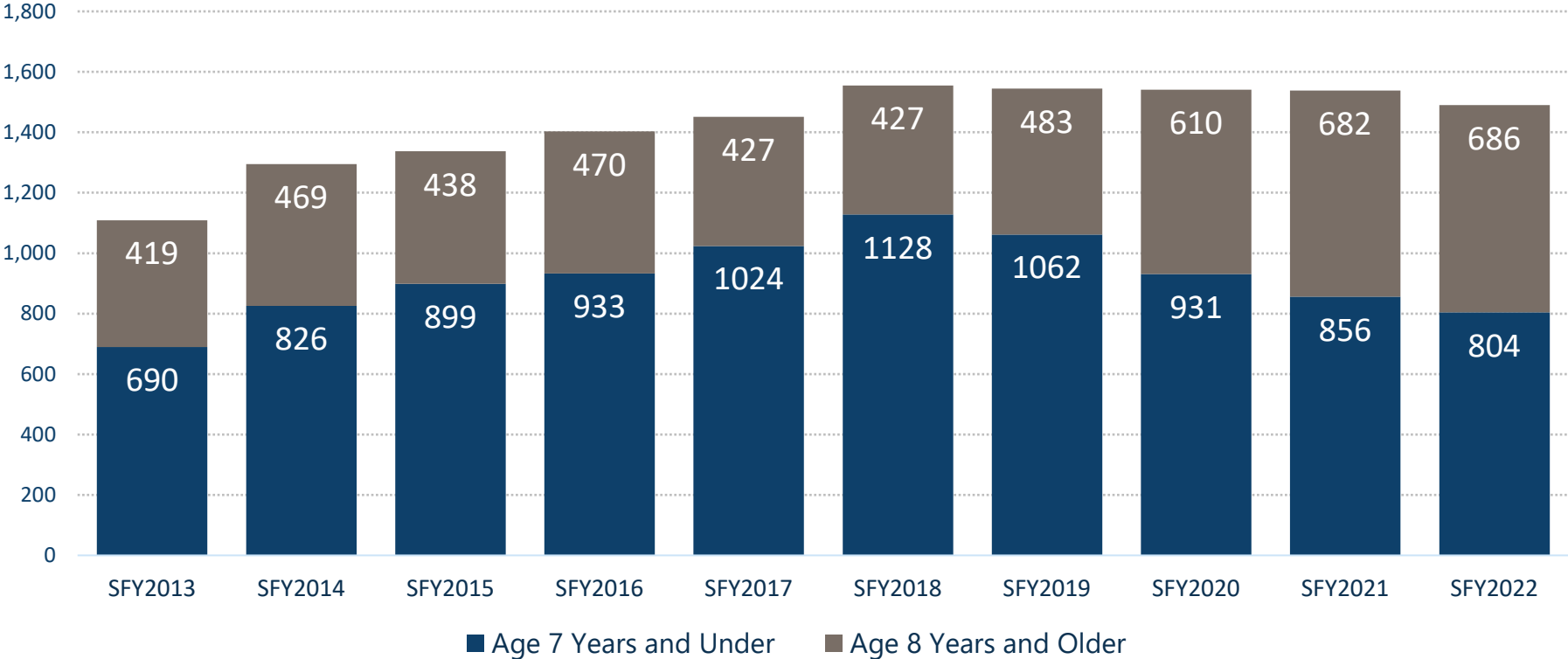
Percent of children entering care for each removal reason: SFY2022



Rethink child welfare

We need to connect behavioral health resources to families who are struggling while **doing everything we can to help them stay together safely.**

In FY22 54% of the 1,490 children in foster care are younger than age 7



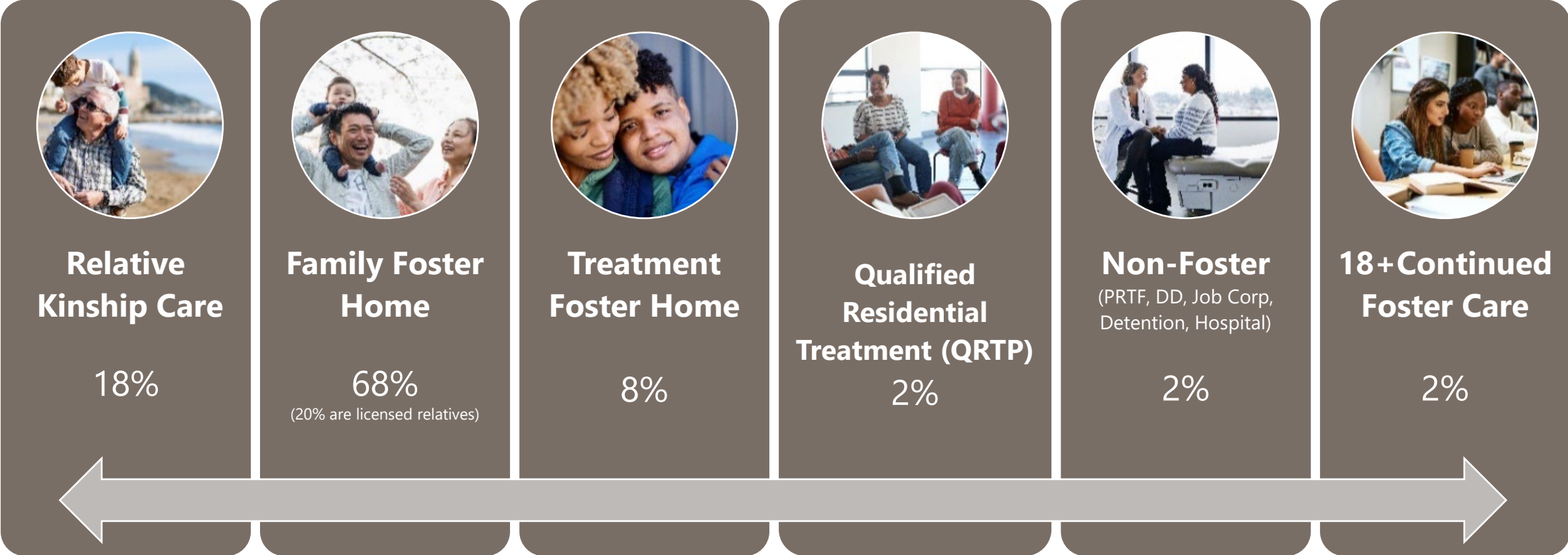
Point-in-Time Average of ND Foster Care census and those age 7 years and under, FFY 2013-2022

Rethink
child
welfare 

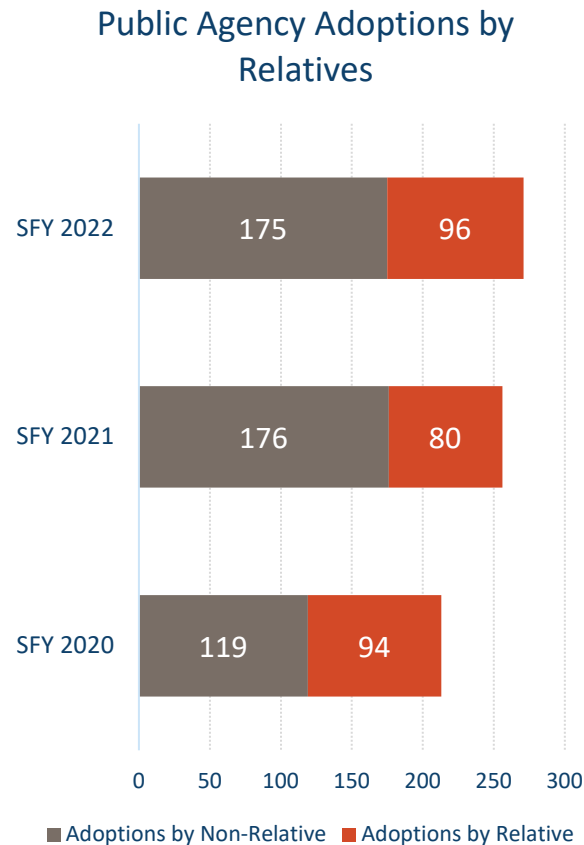
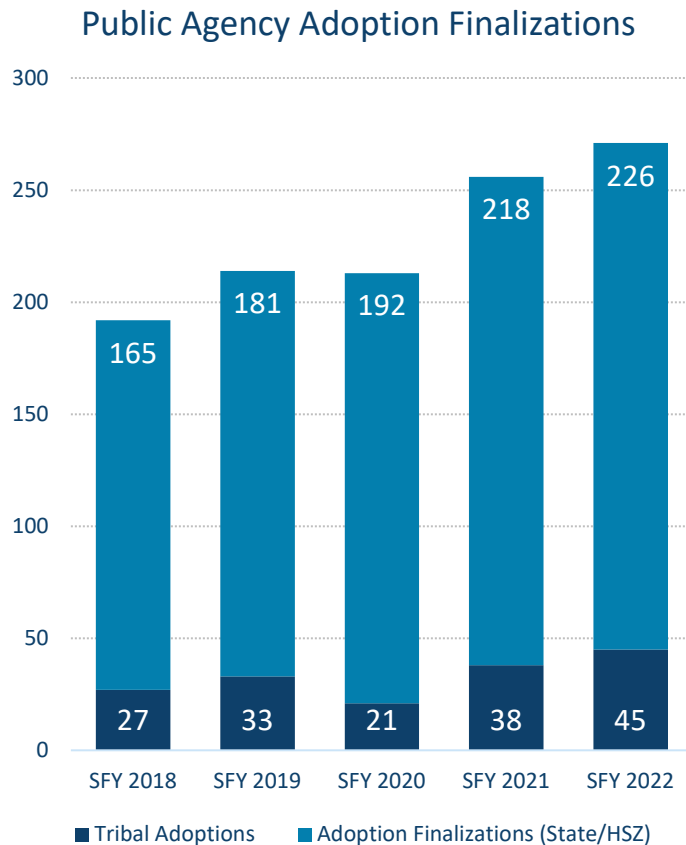
Early interventions with young families are key to reducing foster care placement for the youngest children.

Family foster homes provide care for 68% of children affected by an out-of-home placement

North Dakota Child Welfare System Continuum of Care



Relative adoptions accounted for 35% of all public agency adoptions in FY22



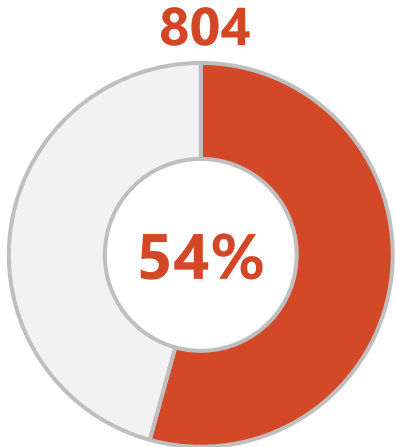
Rethink child welfare

Ongoing cost for caring for children.

Reducing foster care usage safely can provide children with permanency, keep families together and reduce ongoing costs long term.

Children & Family Services

Foster Care in North Dakota – 2022 Snapshot



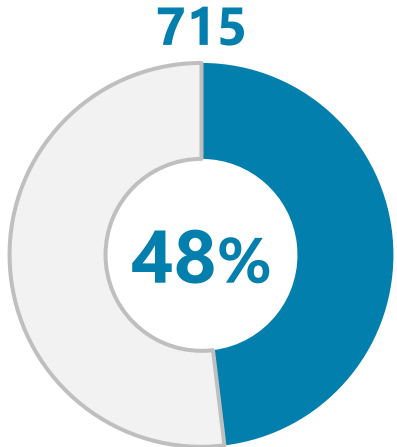
1 in 2 age 0-7

Half of the 1,490 children in foster care in North Dakota are age 7 or younger. (2022)

42%

Intense level of care

Of the **192** kids receiving treatment foster care in SFY2022, 81 (42%) were age 7 or younger.



5x more likely

Native American children make up **48%** of the total number of children in foster care in ND (715 of 1,490). Native American children make up **9%** of kids under age 18 in ND.

Improving the lives of North Dakotans

Funding evidence-based programming and streamlining systems helps to keep children in their home communities and with family whenever possible



Foster Care License Team

- Centralized Foster Licensing from the Human Service Zones to HHS
- Consistent recruitment and supports to providers
- Certified shelter beds
- Ongoing provider supports



IV- Eligibility Team

- Automated foster care and adoption payments
- Error proofing for state and federal audits and reduction of payment errors
- Specialized team with Tribes and adoptive families



Right Service, Right Time IV-E Prevention Services

- \$1 million in grants
- 13 agencies
- 200 children served

Evidence-based Prevention Services

- **Healthy Families**
 - 20 Counties
- **Brief Strategic Family Therapy**
 - 10 Communities
- **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy**
 - 6 Communities
- **Family Check-up/Everyday Parenting**
 - 7 Communities
- **Multisystemic Therapy**
 - Fargo Region



Children & Family Services: Overview of budget changes

Description	2021 - 2023 Budget Base	Increase/ (Decrease)	2023 - 2025 Executive Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$6,798,097	\$2,196,557	\$8,994,654
Operating	6,172,806	115,268	6,288,074
IT Services	1,814	(1,814)	-
Capital Asset Expense	-	-	-
Capital Assets	-	-	-
Grants	141,499,313	20,179,075	161,678,388
Total	\$154,472,030	\$22,489,086	\$176,961,116

General Fund	\$67,590,033	\$23,425,640	\$91,015,673
Federal Funds	83,010,867	94,231	83,105,098
Other Funds	3,871,129	(1,030,784)	2,840,345
Total Funds	\$154,472,029	\$22,489,087	\$176,961,116

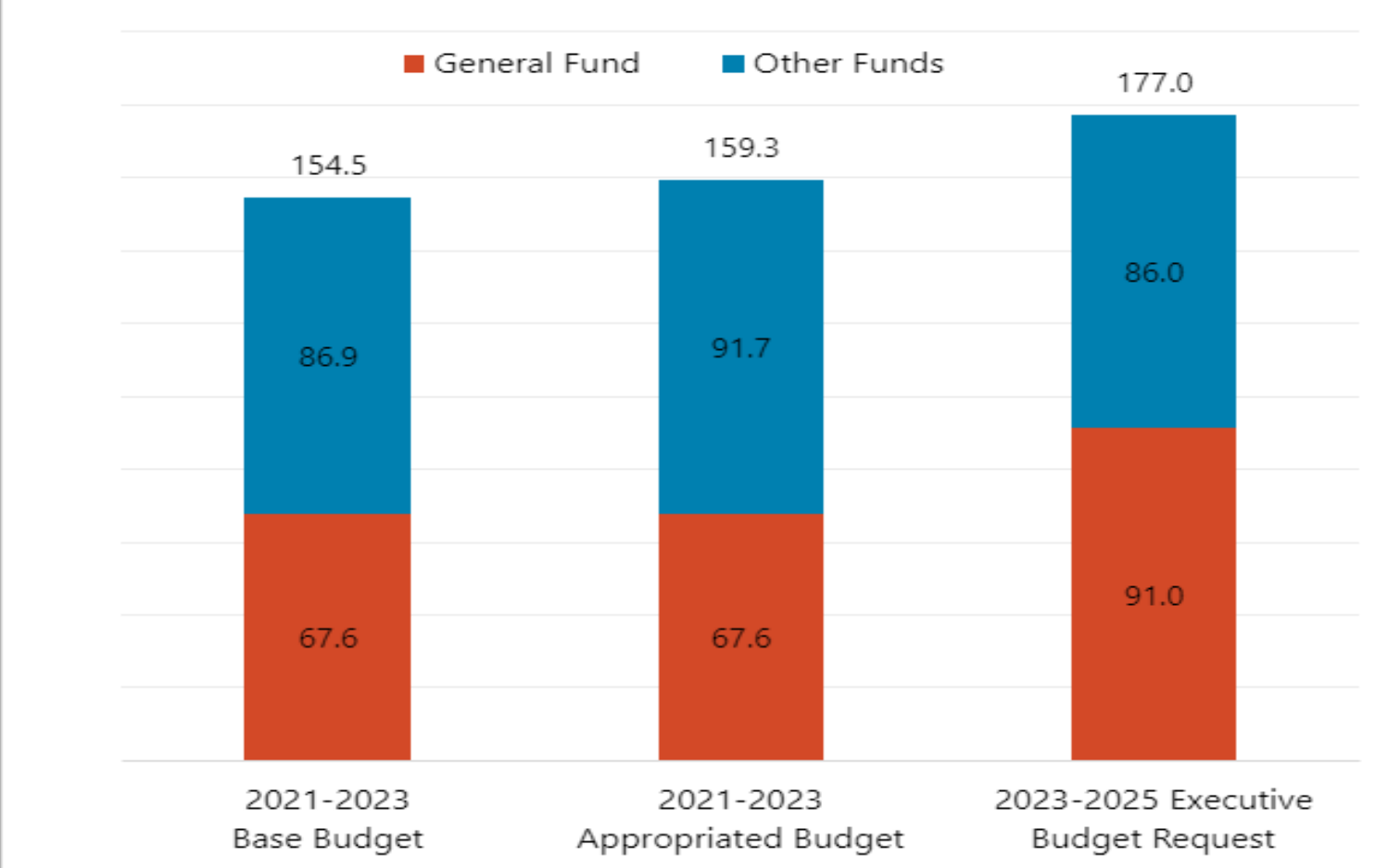
Full Time Equivalent (FTE)	33.00	4.00	37.00
----------------------------	-------	------	-------

Children & Family Services: Overview of budget changes

(IN MILLIONS)

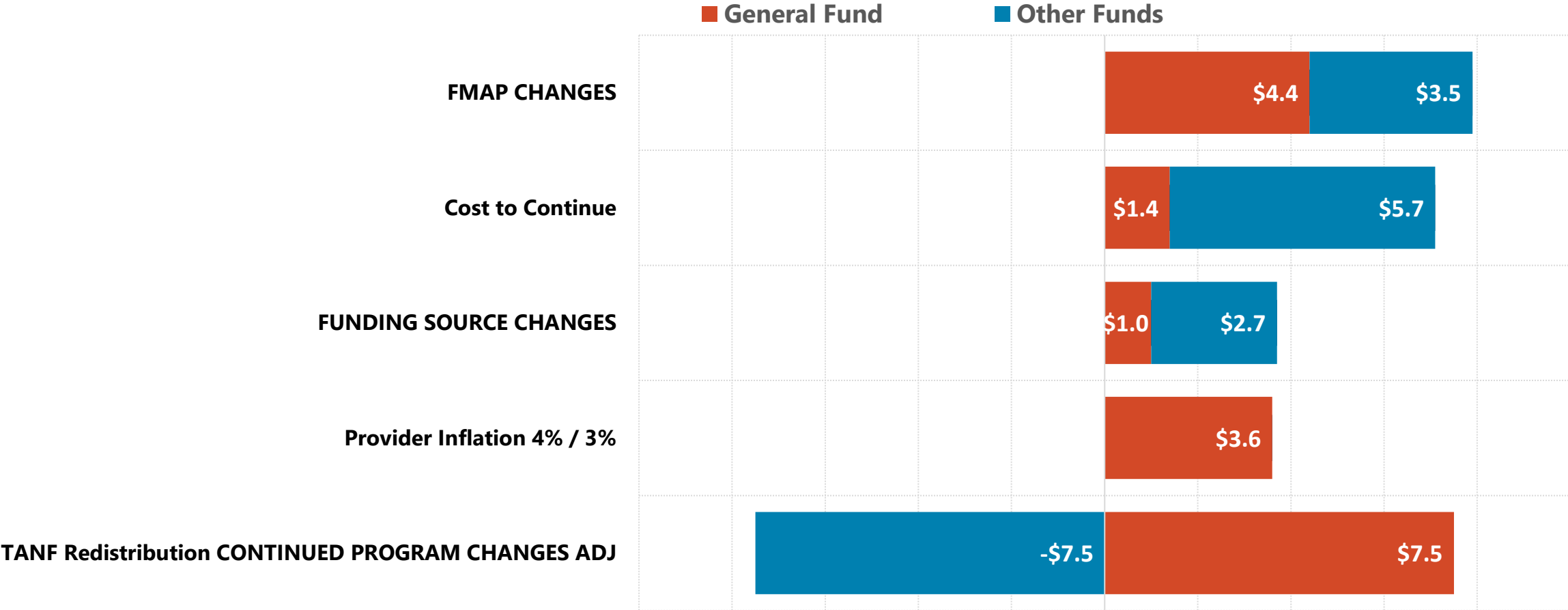
INCREASE FROM BASE TO EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION
\$ 22.5 MILLION

- FMAP changes related to IV-E
- Provider Inflation
- TANF funding shift
- Cost to continue and expand services
 - Kinship care
 - Evidence base Prevention services
 - Prevention Shelter Care Services
 - Safety Deployment Team
 - Enhanced Case management Team



Children & Family Services: Overview of budget changes

(IN MILLIONS)



Continued progress includes an enhanced focus on prevention and right services at the right time



Evidence-based Prevention Services

Provide opportunity for families to access services to keep families together



Certified Shelter Care/Foster Homes

Use safe housing for children as a prevention strategy to keep children close to home and in home communities



Enhanced Case Management Team

Build a team to work with Human Service Zones to provide service to children with the most complex needs



Child Protection Team

Build a deployment team to support child protection work in Zones with highest needs



Safely keep children with family

Continue to redesign how child protective and wellbeing services are delivered to improve lives of families and children in North Dakota



Contact information

Cory Pedersen

Director, Children & Family Services

ctpedersen@nd.gov

www.hhs.nd.gov