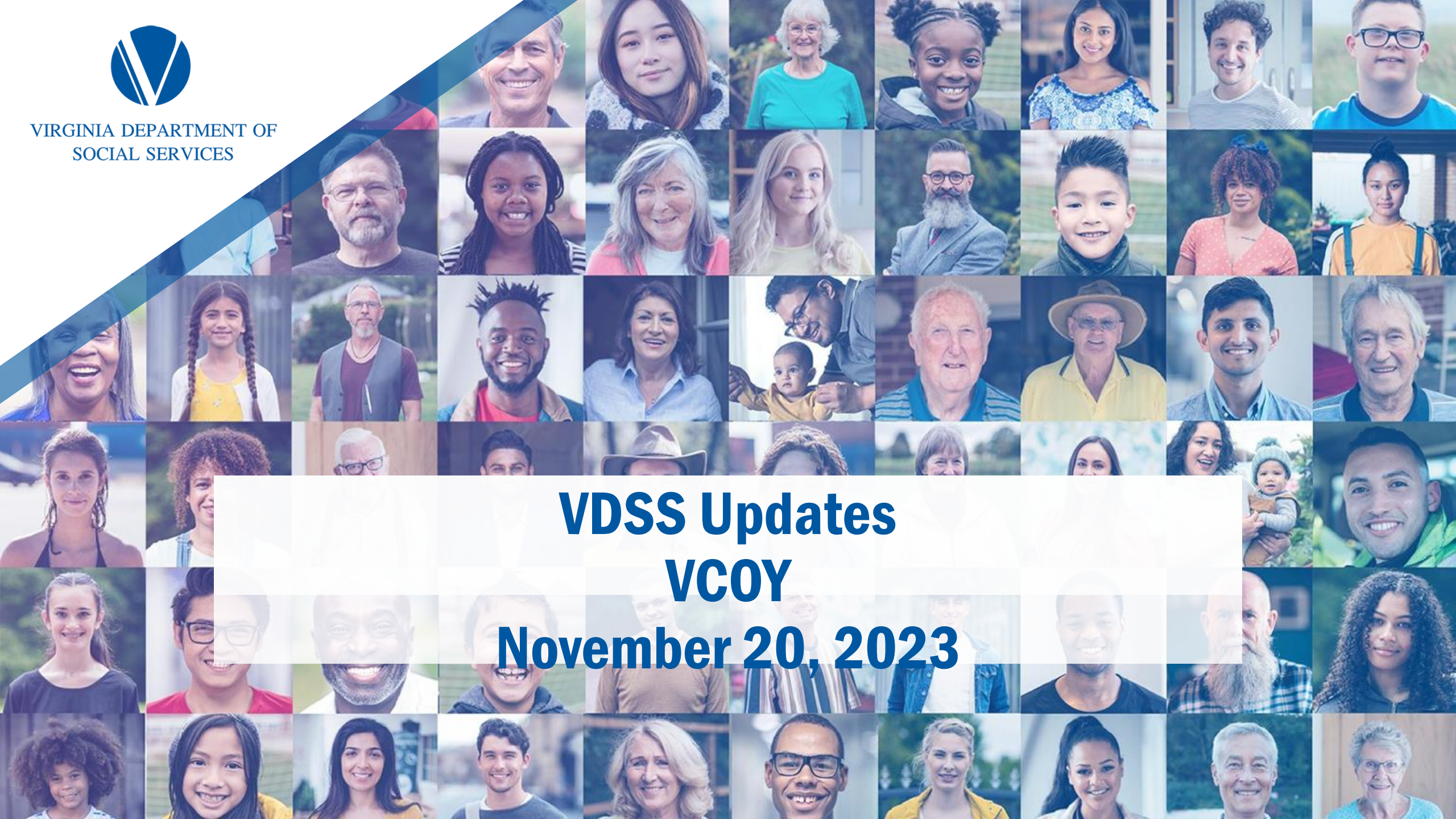




VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES



# **VDSS Updates VCOY November 20, 2023**



# KINSHIP UPDATES



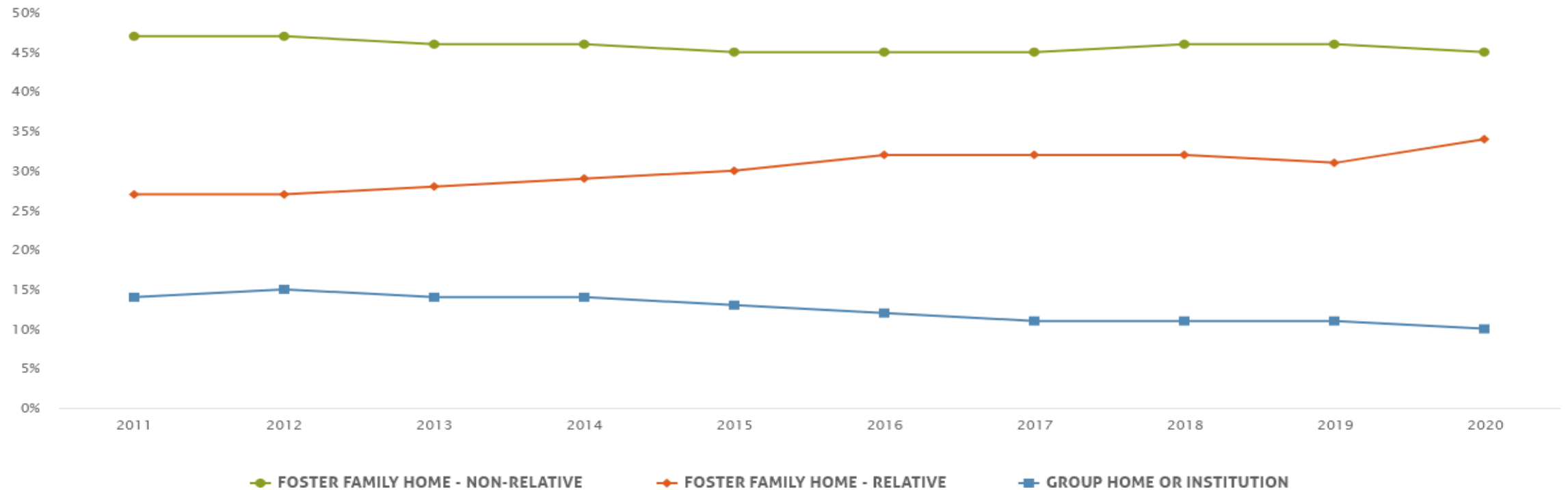
# New Evidence Requires a New System and Practices

- » Adults who lived in foster and residential care during childhood had a 40% chance of very poor health 10 years later. This rose to an 85% chance over the following two decades.
- » Those who grew up with a relatives saw their chances of reporting ill health range from 21% to 43% over the 30-year period.
- » Adults who grew up with their parents had only a 13% chance of reporting poor health after 10 years, rising to 21% at both 20 and 30 years.
- » Results from King's College and UCL found that adults who spent time in care as children were 70% more likely to die prematurely than those who did not. Most of these deaths were from unnatural causes.

Source: A joint study by University College London (UCL) and King's College London analysed the data from 350,000 people who self-reported their health after 10, 20 and 30 years.

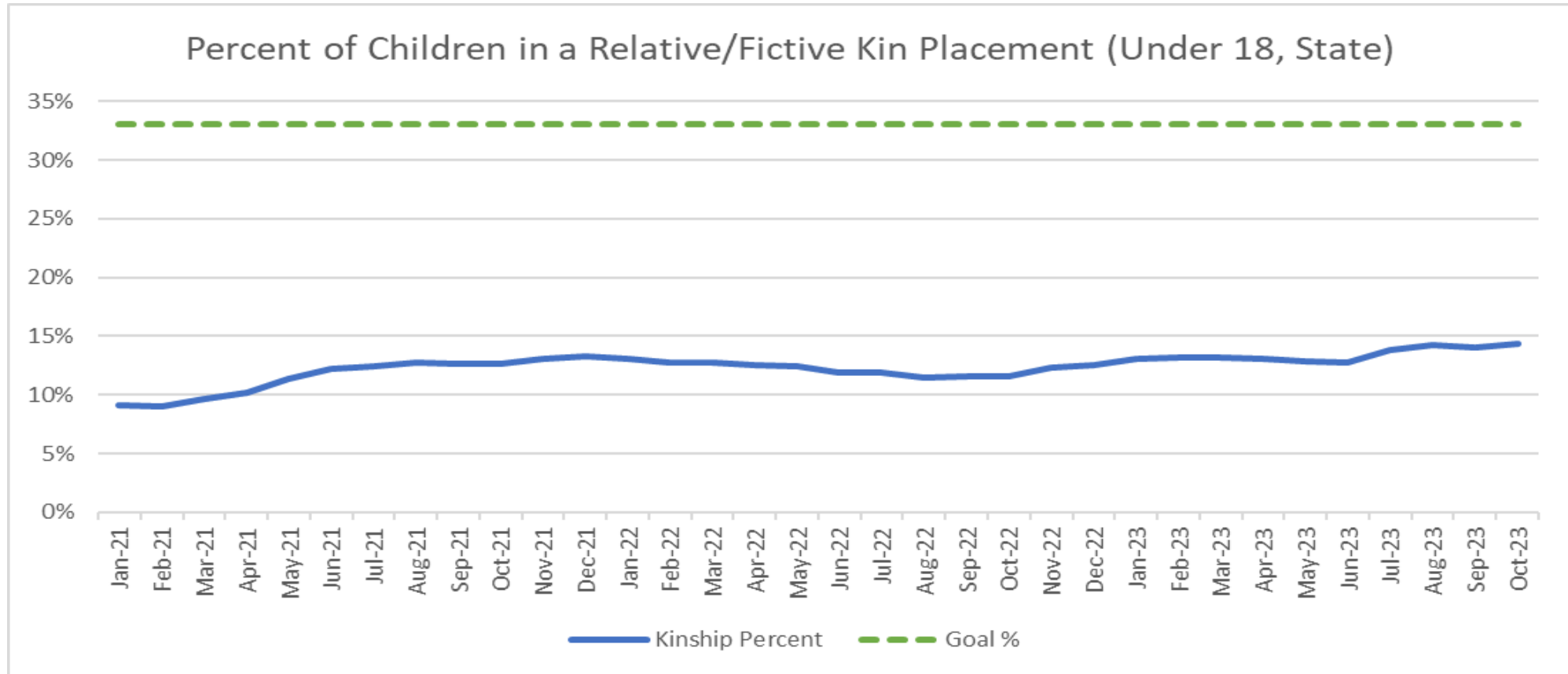
# National Kinship Foster Care Averages

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY PLACEMENT TYPE (PERCENT) - 2011-2020



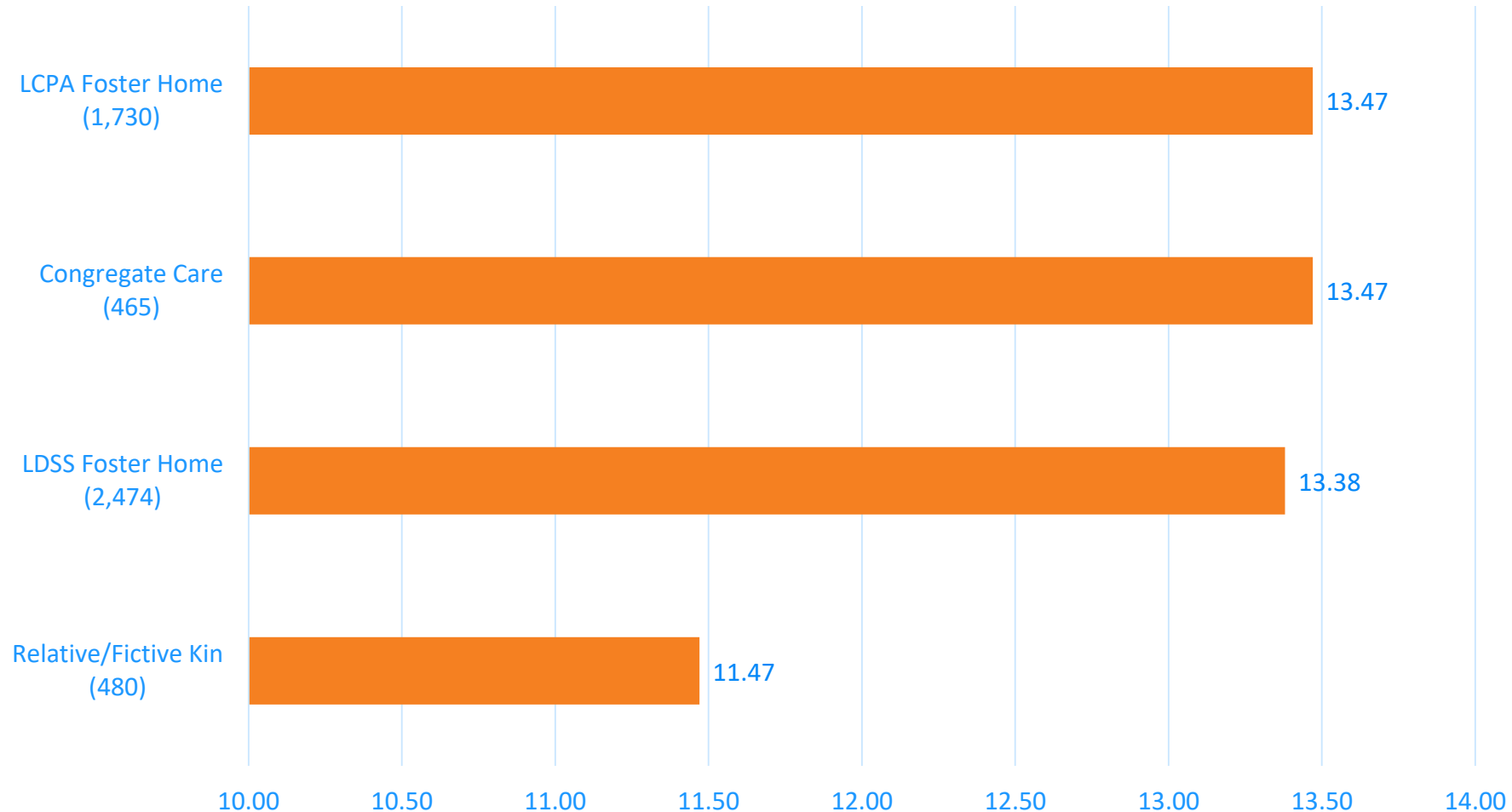
National KIDS COUNT from [datacenter.kidscount.org](https://datacenter.kidscount.org)

# VA Relative/Fictive Kin Placement: Overall



# Impact of Placement Location

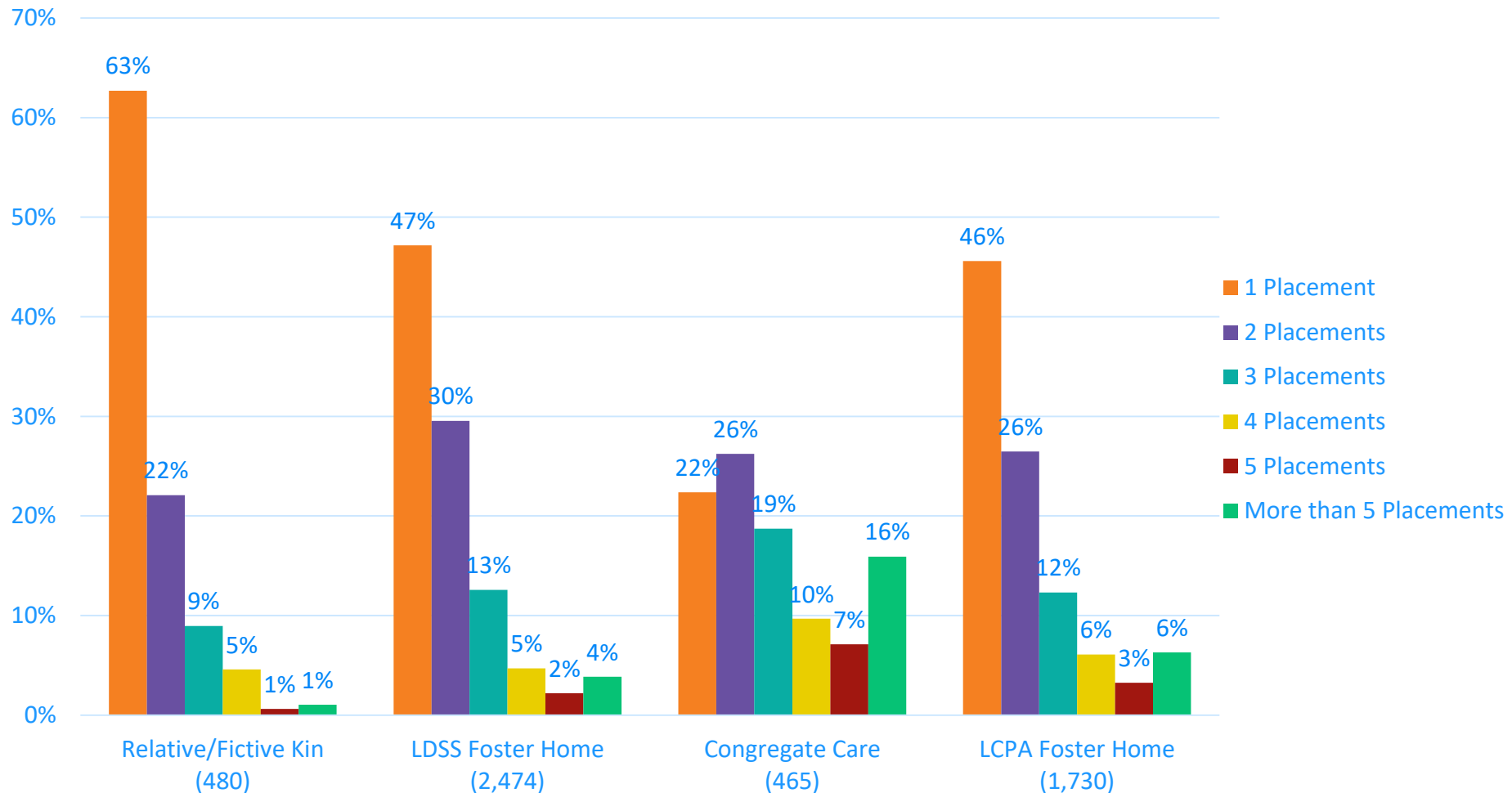
Average Total Time in Care by First Placement Location (in Months)



Includes children under 18 who entered care between CY2020-2022. Average months in care is based on the days spent in care based on most recent date of removal to their first discharge date or end of CY2022. Exported data from Oasis on 4/3/2023.

# Impact of Placement Location

Number of Placement moves by First Placement Location



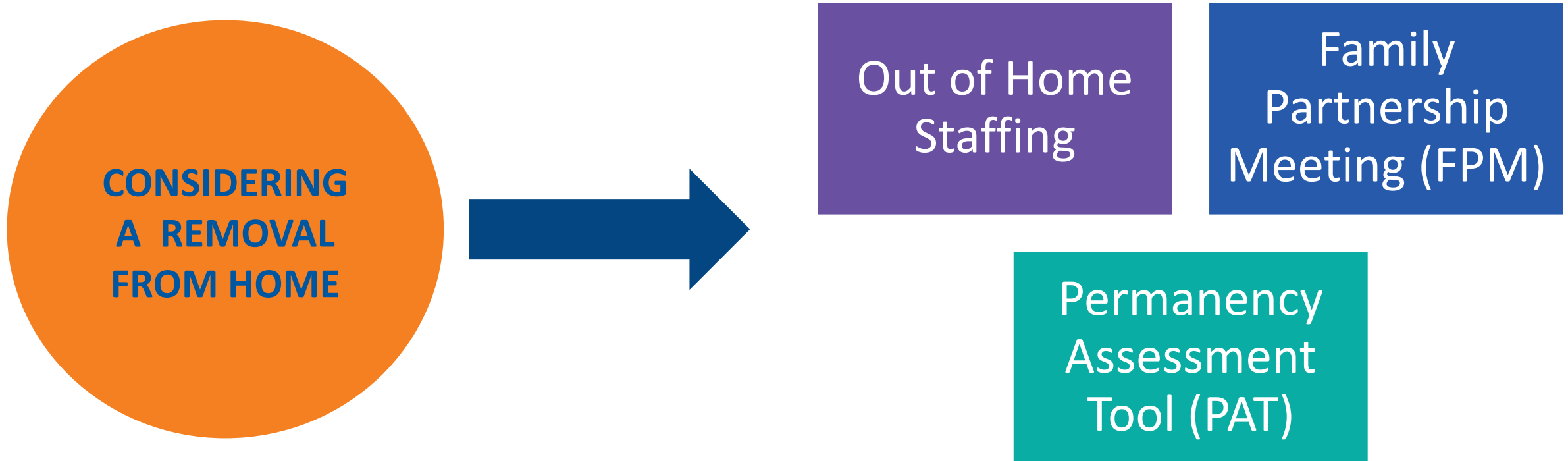
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## ***KIN FIRST NOW***

- Urgent efforts to discover and engage family at first point of contact
- Enhance and/or create internal processes that reinvest staff time on search, discovery, and assessment of relatives/fictive kin through a teaming approach
- Engaging family and natural supports in planning for permanency



# KIN FIRST NOW PRACTICE ELEMENTS



# FIRST FIVE AGENCIES

**IN-PERSON FRANKLIN**  
**10/12&13**

**IN-PERSON**  
**CHESTERFIELD-**  
**COLONIAL HEIGHTS**  
**11/16 & 17**

**IN-PERSON PRINCE**  
**WILLIAM CO .**  
**12/7&8**

**IN-PERSON WISE 10/23&24**

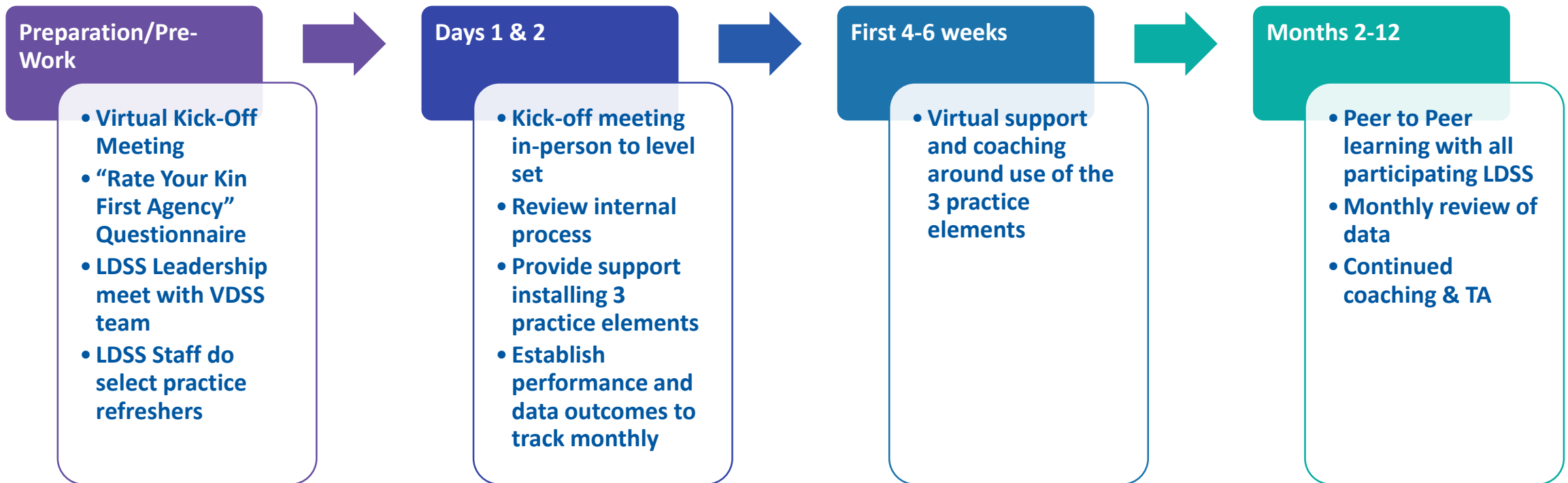
**IN-PERSON**  
**NEWPORT NEWS**  
**between 11/29&30**

# COHORT 1

There are 15 agencies in Cohort 1 (3 agencies from each region)

- » **Central**-Chesterfield/Colonial Heights, Richmond City, and Hanover
- » **Eastern**-Newport News, Chesapeake, and Norfolk
- » **Northern**- Harrisonburg/Rockingham, Prince William County, and Alexandria
- » **Piedmont**-Franklin County, Lynchburg, and Roanoke City
- » **Western**-Buchanan, Washington, and Wise

# KIN FIRST NOW PLAN FOR EACH LDSS



# Relative & Fictive Kin Recruitment for Youth in Foster Care

Service available to accept referrals from Local Departments in September 2023

**Primary Goal:** Establish a model for collaborative partnerships between private Child Placing Agencies and Local Departments to support the reinvestment in family search and discovery for youth in foster care who are not placed with Kinship Foster Parents. Minimum of 80 relatives will identified within 30 days.

**Eligibility:** Youth ages 12-17 currently placed in congregate care or who have been in foster care from 12 months or more and are not placed with Kinship Foster Parents. These children are at greatest risk of aging out of foster care with no family connections.

**Child Placing Agency Partners:** Jewish Family Services, C2Adopt, United Methodist Family Services Provide statewide coverage with capacity to serve 10 children every 90 days.

FY 23: \$696,716 consists of \$375,273 reinvestment of Adoption General Fund Savings with an additional 43% or \$284,443 as a federal and state match related to the Social Services Block Grant

# KinGAP and State Funded Kinship Subsidy

KinGAP	State Funded Kinship Subsidy
IV-E & CSA (funding dependent on youth's eligibility in foster care)	CSA (youth who were eligible for IV-E or CSA in FC would receive CSA funding- no federal funds)
Basic & Enhanced Maintenance; Non-recurring Costs	Basic Maintenance Only
Kinship Provider must be approved as Foster Home-placement at 6 mos.	Kinship provider can qualify for exception from foster home. Youth must have been in foster care for 90+ days.
Return Home & Adoption goals determined to be not appropriate.	No requirement for Return Home & Adoption goals to be determined not appropriate.
Possibility to continue after 18.	Ends at 18.



# KinGAP

- As of July 1, 2018, kinship guardian assistance is available to eligible relative custodian(s) as an additional path to permanency for youth in foster care. As of July 1, 2020, fictive kin are also potentially eligible for kinship guardianship assistance if they meet other eligibility requirements.
- **In state FY2023 66 youth and their families participated in KinGAP. 25 of the children were CSA and 41 were title IV-E eligible.**
- **The net CSA expenditure was \$154,529.19.**

# State Funded Kinship Subsidy

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- The State Funded Kinship Subsidy program was established in 2021 to facilitate placements with relatives and ensure permanency for children who are ineligible for KinGAP. Fictive kin are also eligible for state funded kinship subsidy.
- Since the inception of the program, 21 youth and families have participated in State Funded Kinship Subsidy.
- In state FY2023, 15 youth and families participated in the program. The net expenditure was \$84,381.86.

# Support of Local Agencies in Utilization of Kinship Subsidy Programs

- While the programs are being under-utilized as indicated by the youth discharging to relatives without either program in place, in FY2023 the CSA expenditures for State Funded Kinship program increased by 214.59% and 358.96% as compared to FY2021 and FY2022.
  - VDSS consistently seeks input from the local departments to enhance utilization of KinGAP and State Funded Kinship through the Permanency Advisory Committee.
  - VDSS is currently reviewing guidance and forms to ensure that the differences in the programs are clear and concise and are simple for the local agencies to navigate.
  - VDSS is providing training to local departments regarding the differences between the two programs and the importance of concurrent planning.



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**Commission on Youth Briefing**  
**November 20, 2023**



## PROBLEM

HOW DO WE END THE PHENOMENON  
OF KIDS WITH HIGH, UNMET NEED  
SLEEPING IN OFFICES, ERS & HOTEL  
(324 KIDS IN 2021)

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## SOLUTION

SHORT-TERM: MAKE IT A PRIORITY  
LONG TERM: REFORM THE SYSTEM

# PHASES, GOALS & TIMELINES



**April 2022-June 2022:**  
**Functionally end displacements**

**July 2022-May 2023:**  
**Test the system & determine reforms**

**June 2023-January 2025:**  
**Propose & execute  
system reforms**



## 1 GOVERNOR'S OFFICE PRIORITY

Governor Youngkin used the power of the Governor's Office to solve this crisis. This was a crucial factor because it created a sense of inevitable success and brought a much needed sense of urgency. A 90 day deadline was set for success.

## 2 MULTI-AGENCY CORE TEAM

The Task Force built a 10-member multi-agency team of subject matter experts that tore down siloes. The team reflected the complexity of the challenge.

## 3 APPOINTED PROJECT LEAD

The Task Force project manager created a space marked by transparency, creative problem solving, and a solid belief that this challenge was able to be solved.

## 4 COMMUNICATED GROUND RULES

Expectations, ground rules, guiding principles and objectives were clearly set at the beginning and reiterated often throughout the project.

# Safe and Sound Task Force

## Phase 1 Best Practices

### BUY-IN FROM STAKEHOLDERS

After identifying an inclusive group of stakeholders, the Task Force built buy-in during two hybrid meetings (70 in person; 30 online) at the Governor's Office.

## 6 MODELED CREATIVE BARRIER BUSTING

At every turn, we modeled the problem solving skills that we wanted the local DSSes to emulate. The Task Force members consistently asked providers, "How can we get to a 'Yes'?"

## 7 CLEARLY IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM

The Task Force conducted an innovative workshop-style, post-it note exercise to assure the loudest voices didn't dominate, resulting in 500 data points on problems. We also developed and read 3 narratives to build empathy for other stakeholders.

## 8 CLEARLY IDENTIFIED A SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROCESS

Although the full Task Force met to develop solutions, the Core Team developed most of the solutions, based on categorizing and assigning phases to the 500 "problem" data points. Most importantly, the Core Team developed a process and rhythm to address this crisis.

## 9 CLEARLY DEFINED & MEASURED SUCCESS

With a crystal clear objective, the Task Force sent a daily tracker to keep goals in the forefront and celebrated victories when they reached milestones along the way.

## 10 HUMANIZED THE PROCESS

The Task Force was committed to showing appreciation, praising good work, building trust, prioritizing relational capital, and verbally rewarding creativity, courage and core values.

# Safe and Sound Task Force

## Phase 2 Best Practices

1

### **MULTI-AGENCY CORE TEAM**

Phase 1 core team collaboration has gone deeper into the agencies and has expanded to include DJJ.

2

### **PROCESSES ESTABLISHED**

Phase 1 processes are being implemented for kids at risk of sleeping in offices. 35 Safe and Sound Task Force Meetings or Rapid Response meetings occurred in 2023.

3

### **FOLLOW UP IMPLEMENTED**

Started a 30/60/90 day follow up process for youth who were at risk of being displaced or displaced.

4

### **HIRED SPECIALIZED STAFF**

S&S is providing additional support to localities to get involved earlier to support needs of high acuity youth

5

### **SPONSORED RESIDENTIAL**

S&S recruited sponsored residential providers to build networks for youth in foster care without ID/DD waivers.

6

### **ENGAGED PROVIDERS**

S&S held 6 forums with a range of providers to better understand and address their needs and barriers in serving high acuity youth.

7

### **SPECIALIZED CCCA ENGAGEMENT**

S&S streamlined coordination and processes with local and state partners regarding youth in foster care at CCCA regarding discharge barriers to less restrictive placements.

8

### **UNIVERSAL REFERRAL PROCESS**

Developed and launched universal referral pilot to support localities seeking admission to residential treatment for youth in foster care.

9

### **TRAINING OFFERINGS**

S&S developed and held a training on “What would it take?” system of care framework to build capacity.

10

### **PREPARED FOR PHASE 3 REFORMS AND PRIORITIES**

S&S helped the Governor’s office develop recommendations and strategies for systemic reforms to shift to Phase 3.



# Safe and Sound TASKFORCE

**STRENGTHEN  
WORKFORCE**

**EXPAND CAPACITY  
VIA KINSHIP CARE**

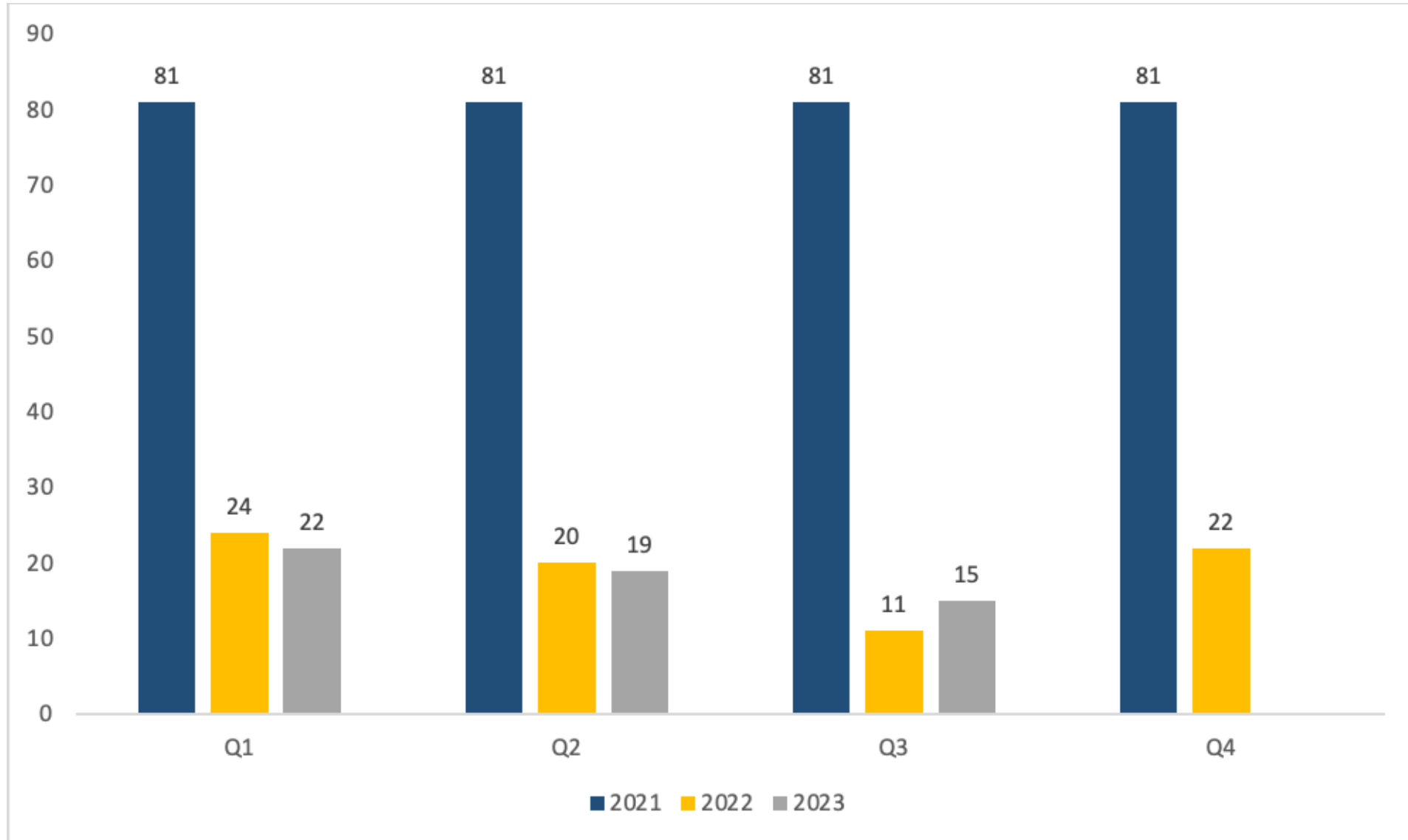
**INSTITUTIONALIZE  
CROSS AGENCY  
COOPERATION**

**LEVERAGE  
PUBLIC  
PRIVATE  
PARTNERS**

# SAFE AND SOUND TASK FORCE

## KIDS DISPLACED BY QUARTER - YEAR BY YEAR COMPARISON

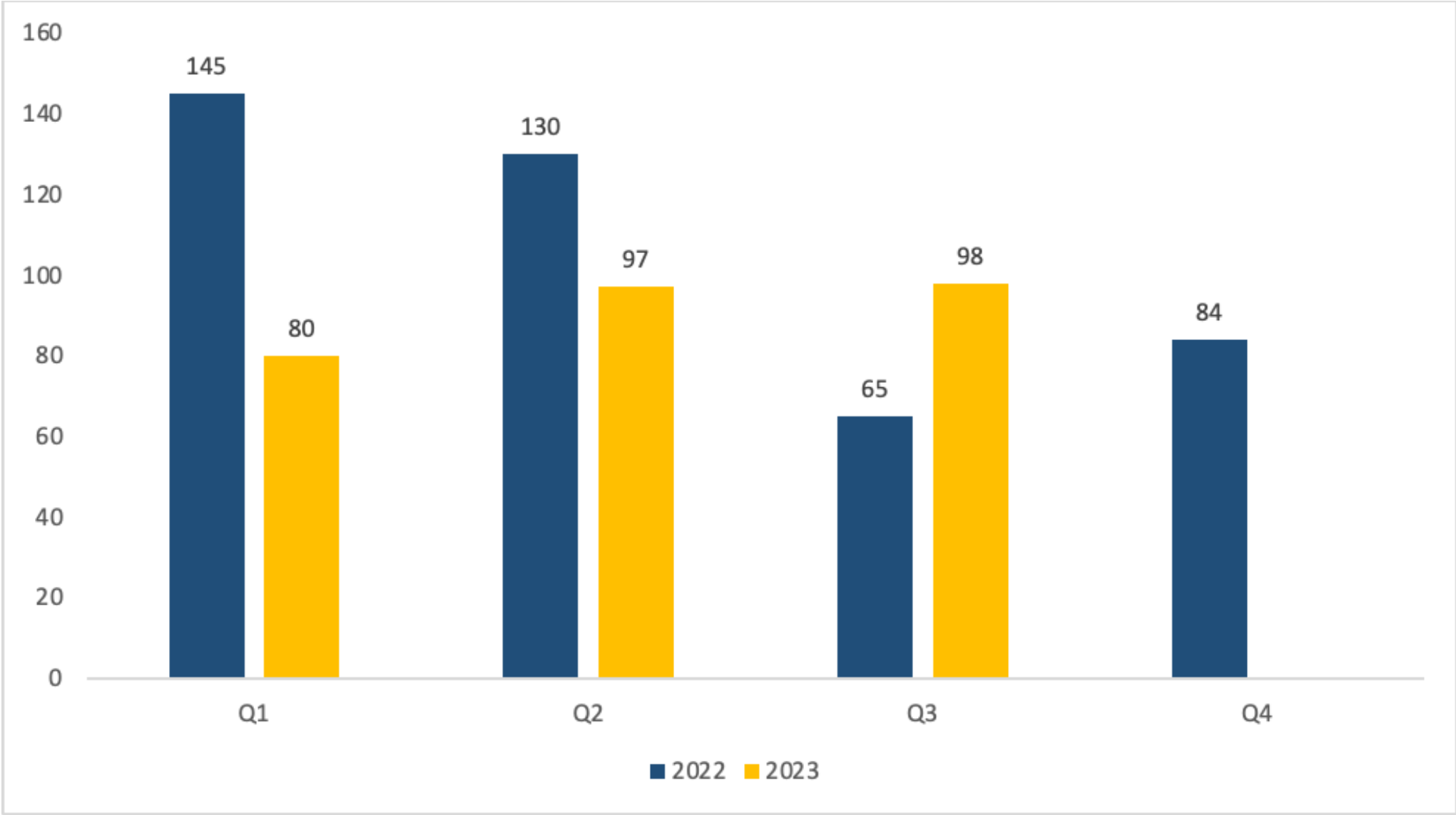
**76%**  
REDUCTION



# SAFE AND SOUND TASK FORCE

## DAYS DISPLACED - YEAR BY YEAR COMPARISON

**20%**  
2022 TO 2023  
REDUCTION





**LOWEST POINT  
REDUCTION  
(Q3 2022)**

**89%**

**2022 & 2023  
ANNUAL  
REDUCTION**

**76%**

**REDUCED  
LENGTH OF STAY  
2022 TO 2023**

**20%**





## **BOTTOM LINE**

**After testing the system to see what would stick from Phase 1, the Core Team concluded that, while the short-term gains from 2022 were significant and sustained in 2023, truly ending the boarding crisis will not occur without long-term infrastructure changes.**