

**Child
Welfare:
County
Placement
Strategies**

**CCAO/CEAO Winter
Conference**

December 4, 2024

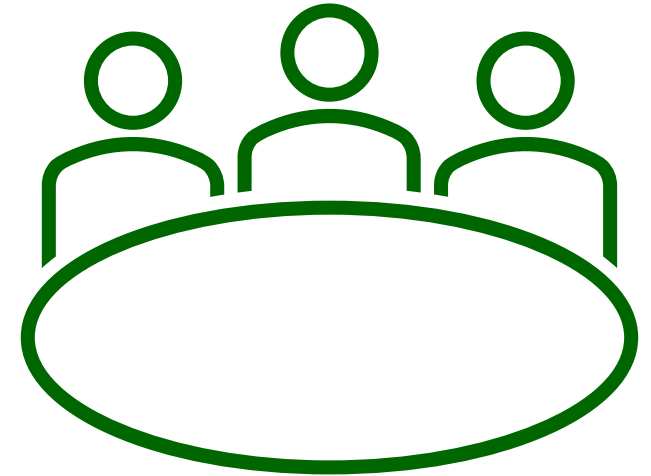
Presenters

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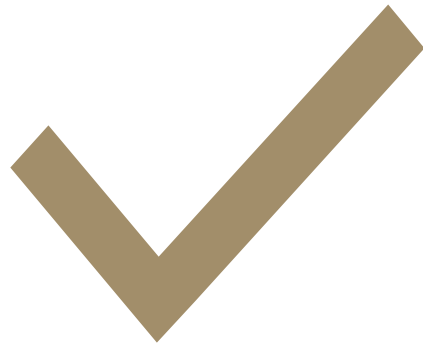
Mary Wachtel (PCSAO) mary@pcsao.org



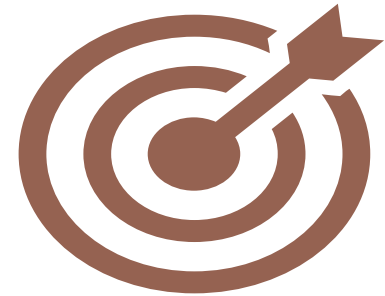
We'll cover



Placement costs



State initiatives



County strategies

THANK YOU

What Are Placement Costs?

Placement costs ARE
(per diems, foster care maintenance
(FCM), boarding costs, etc.)

- Expenses associated with the 'care and maintenance' of a child in foster care (room and board)
- Other items such as clothing, special diets, personal incidentals
- A portion of the placement setting's administrative costs

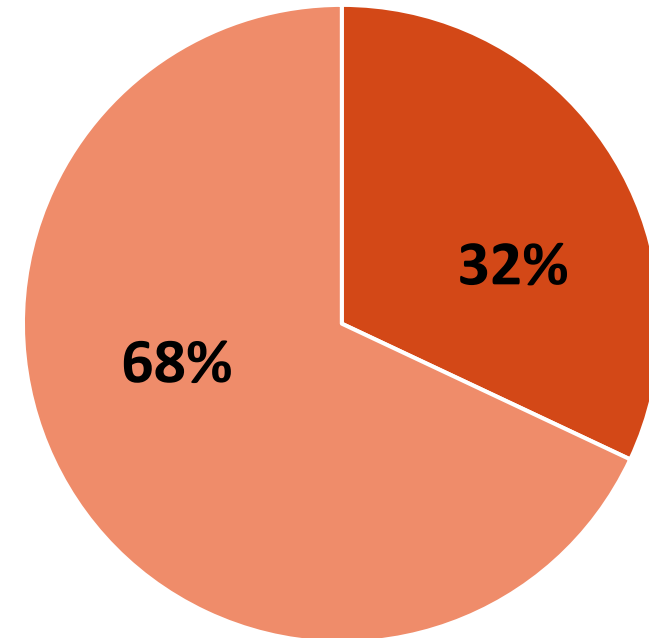
Placement costs are NOT

- Treatment

Who pays placement costs?

- In Ohio, placement costs are shared by feds and locals
- Federal Title IV-E funds are available on a reimbursable basis for eligible youth
- Eligibility is based on income **AND** on a set of requirements regarding circumstances and process of removal
- Reimbursement rate = FMAP

Total Placement Spending By Source
SFY2023
\$432M

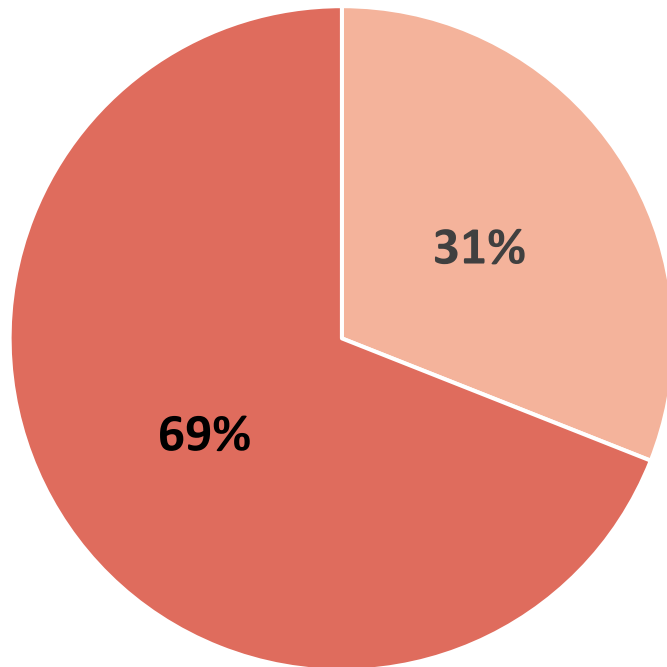


■ Federal \$137,868,438
■ Local \$294,401,291

Placement Costs/Context

Placement Cost accounted for 31% of the Public Children Services overall spending

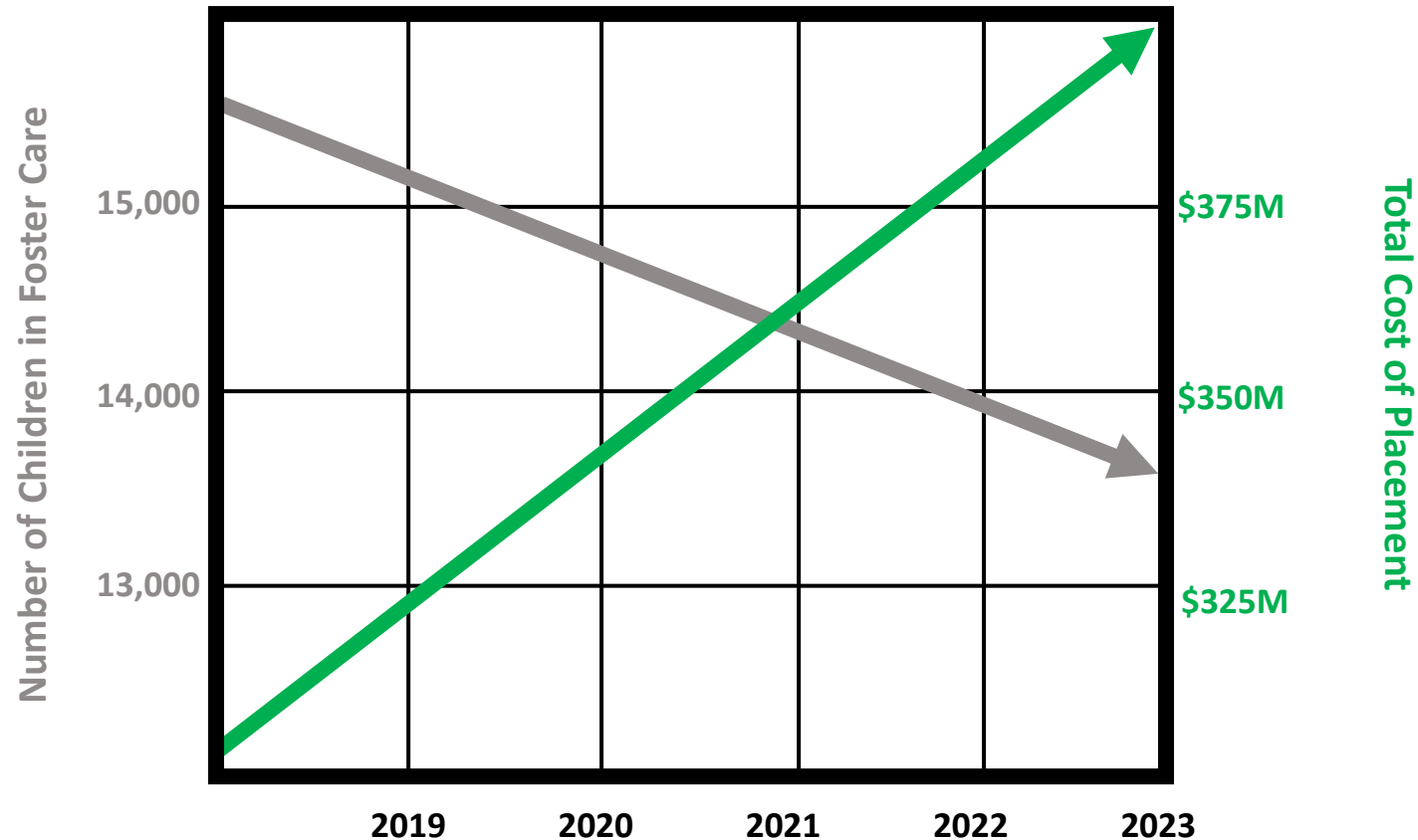
SFY2023 Overall Spending
\$1.4B



■ Placement cost \$432M ■ All other spending \$943M

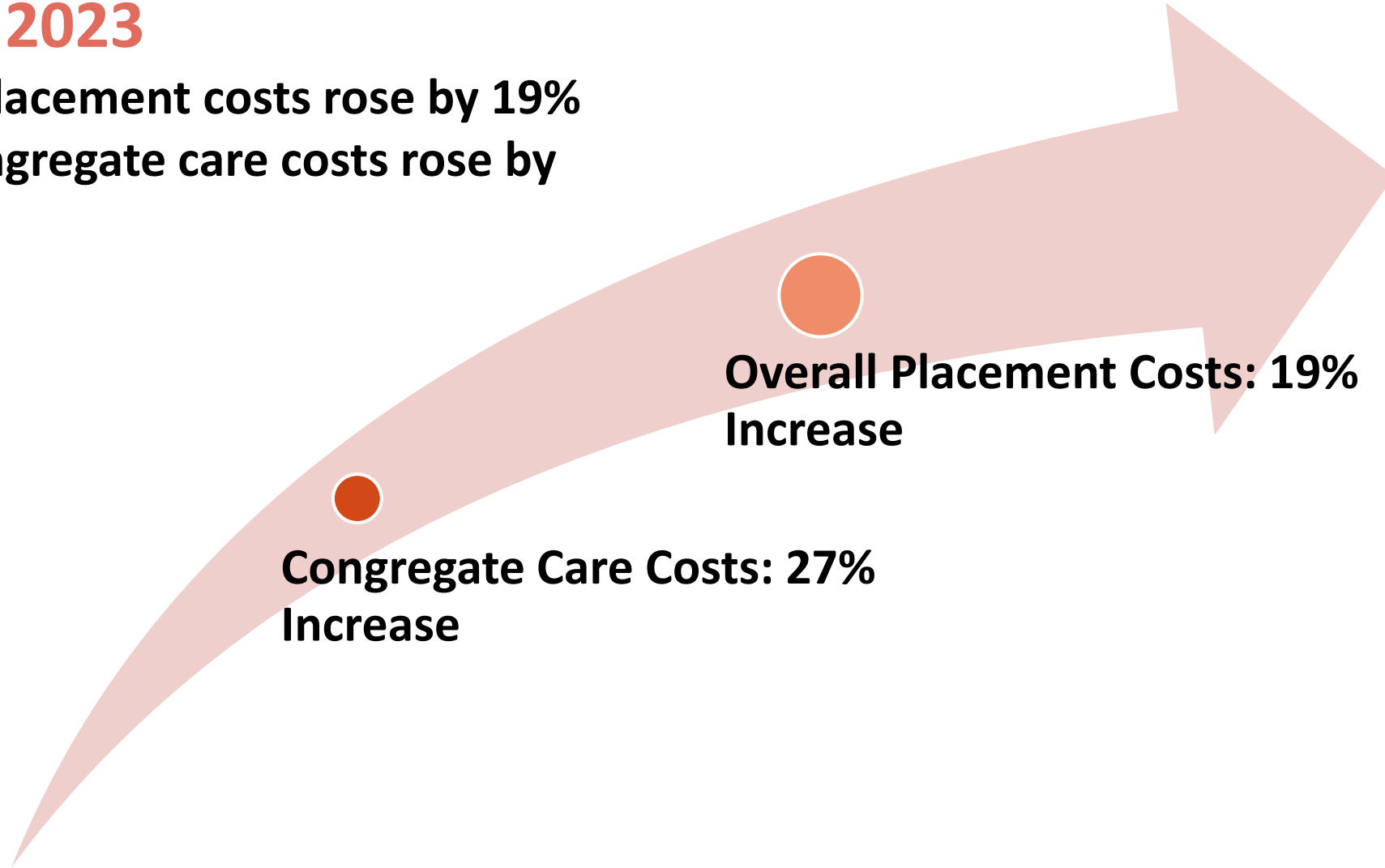


Placement costs are increasing even as the number of children in custody has declined

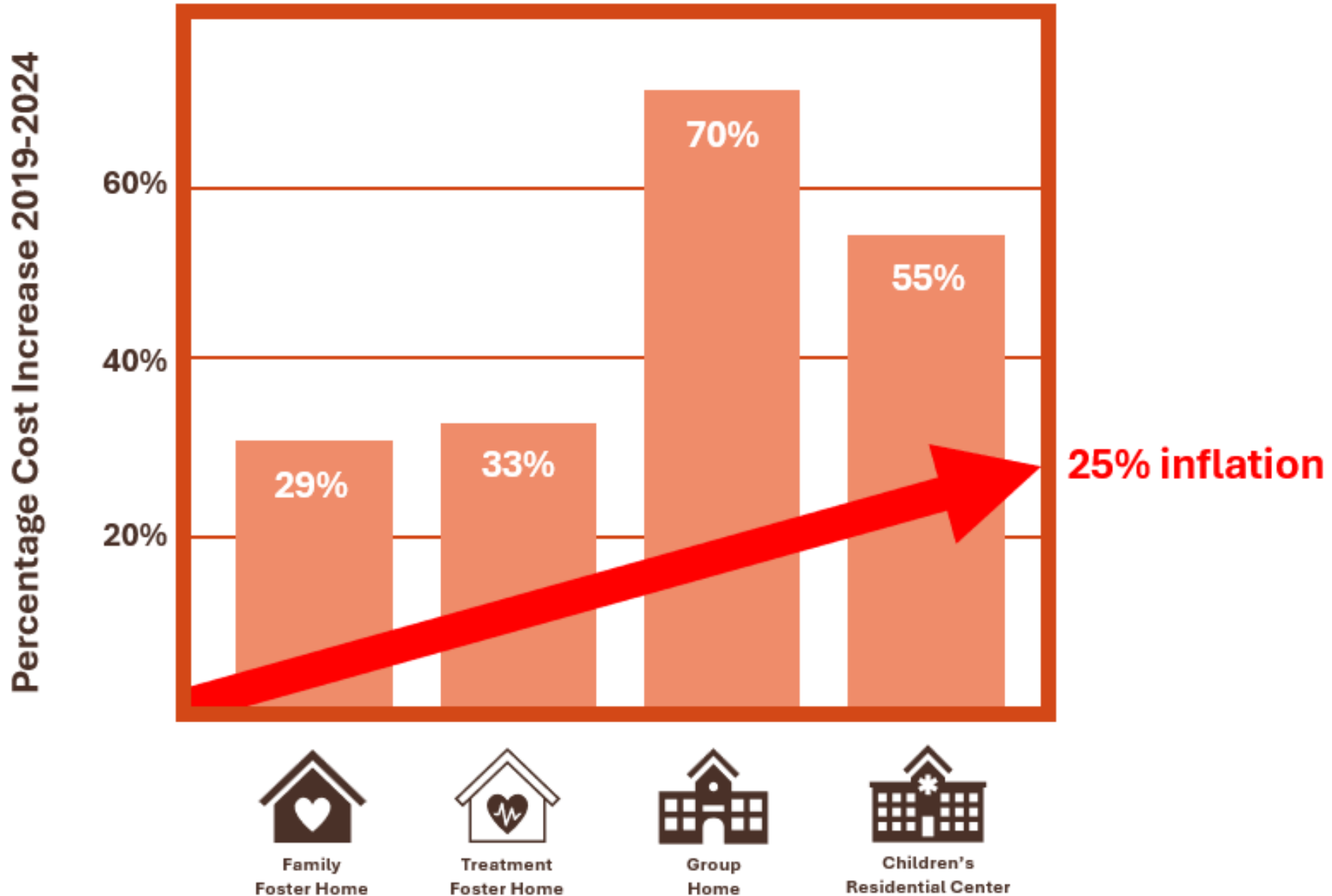


2019 – 2023

Overall placement costs rose by 19%
while congregate care costs rose by
27%



Cost increases for Congregate Foster Care over five years have far outstripped inflation

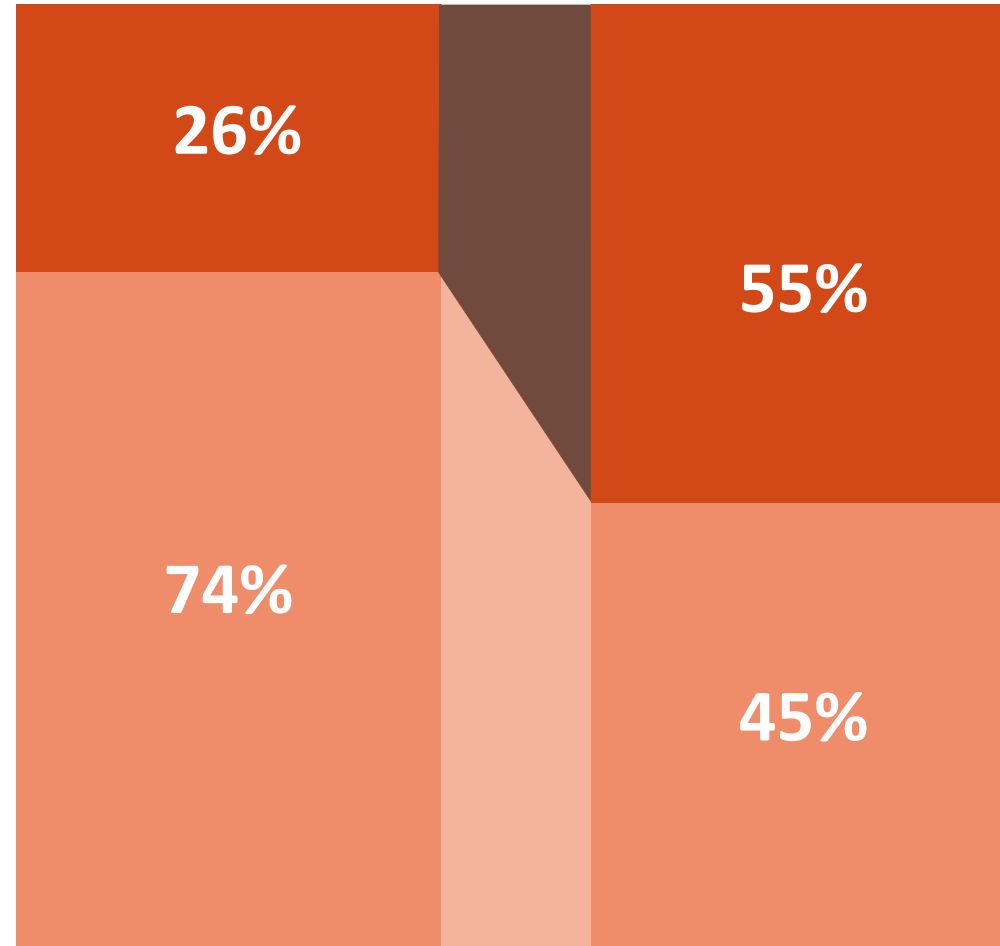


Congregate care settings consume more than half of placement costs even though only a quarter of children are placed there

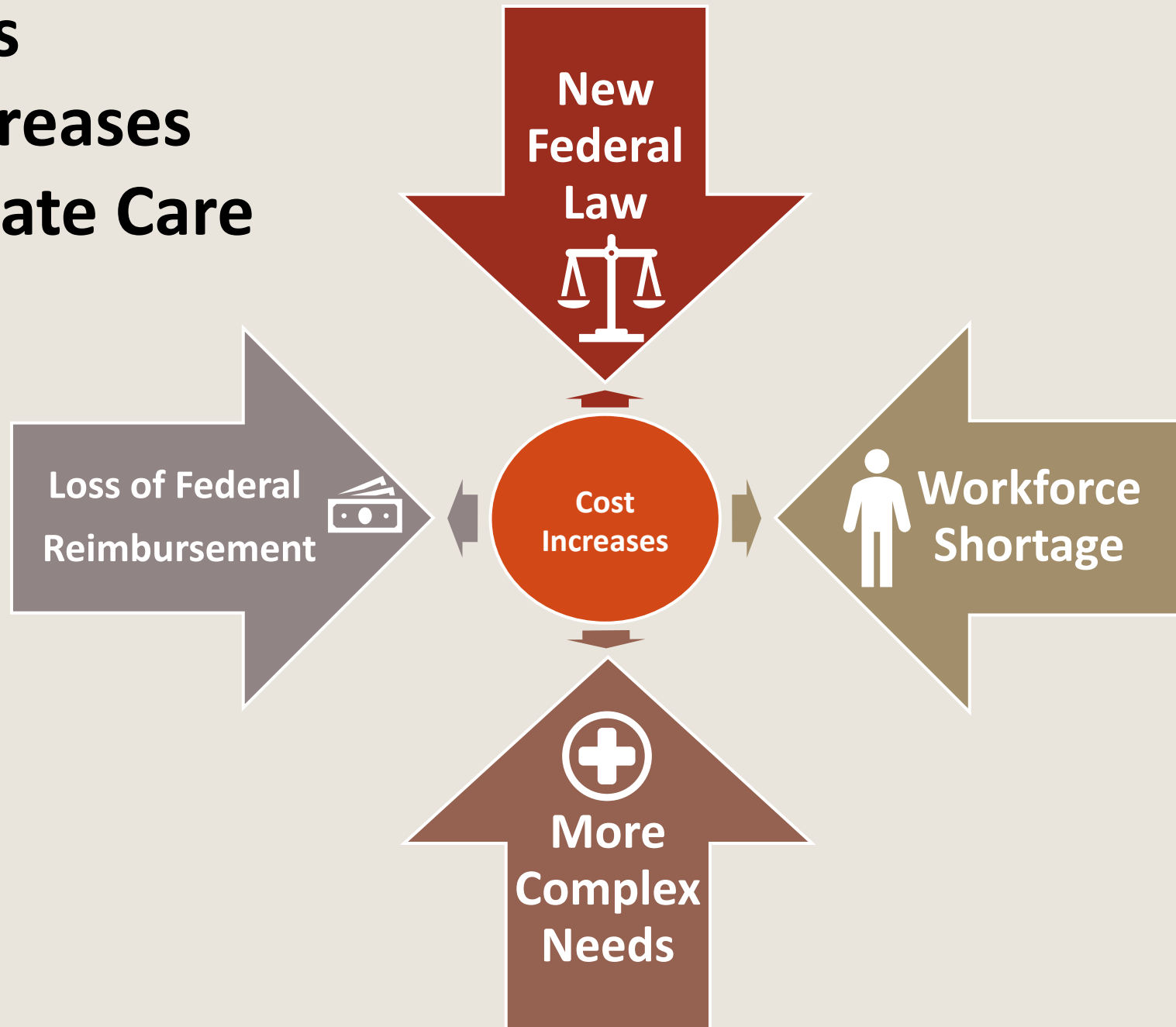


Children in Care

Portion of Overall Costs

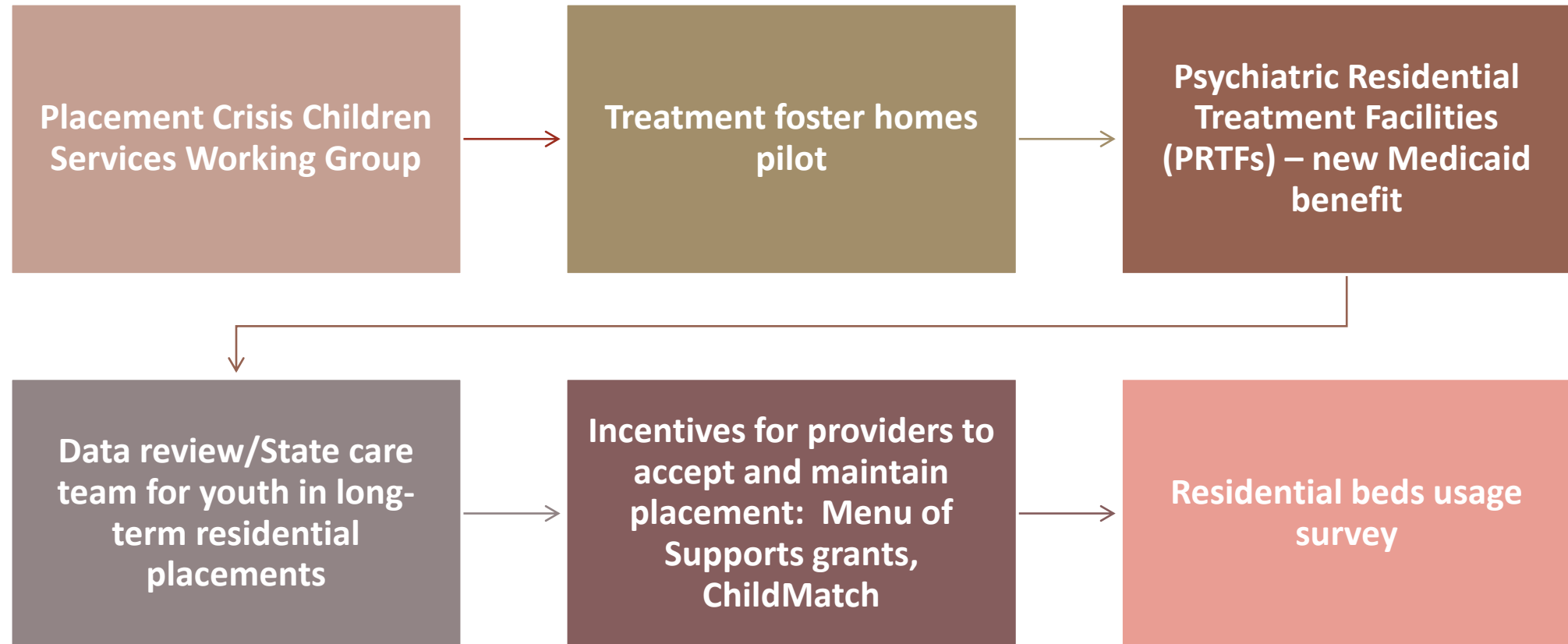


Key Drivers of Cost Increases in Congregate Care



QUESTIONS?

State Initiatives: Current



State Initiatives: 2026-2027 Budget Asks

Funding:

- Establish regional children's crisis stabilization centers
- Increase State Child Protection Allocation (SCPA)
- Increase Multi-System Youth line item (in DCY)
- Support and expand the Treatment Foster Home program

Policy:

- Stabilize placement costs
- Improve QRTP quality
- Address juvenile justice crossover

COUNTY STRATEGIES

ALLEN

OTTAWA

STARK

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU

