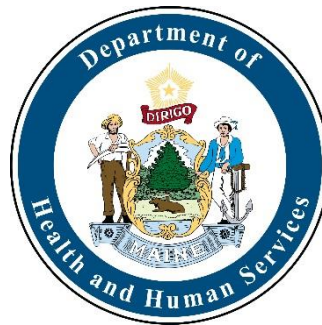


OCFS Updates

Bobbi L. Johnson, LMSW
OCFS Director

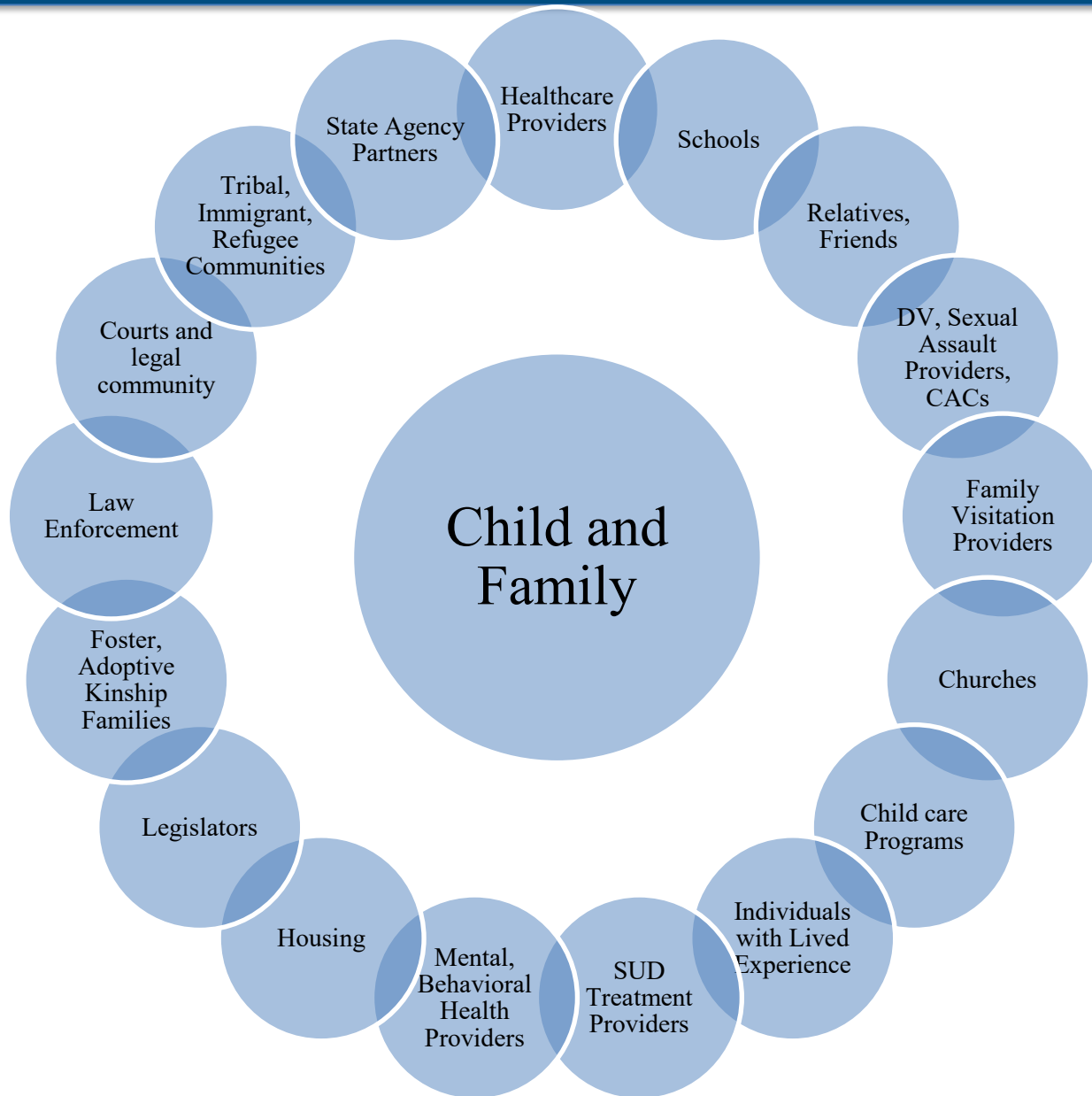
June 25, 2026



OCFS Priorities

“What would it take?”

Maine's Child Welfare System



Maine's Child Welfare System

Primary Prevention

Providing statewide access to a variety of prevention resources with the goal of supporting families to be strong and stable, thereby decreasing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. Addressing parental stressors and ensuring access to early intervention. Strengthen Mandated Reporters in their role as family supporters.

Secondary Prevention

For families that do become involved with child welfare, ensure an array of evidence-based services to address and resolve concerns related to child abuse and neglect before they escalate.

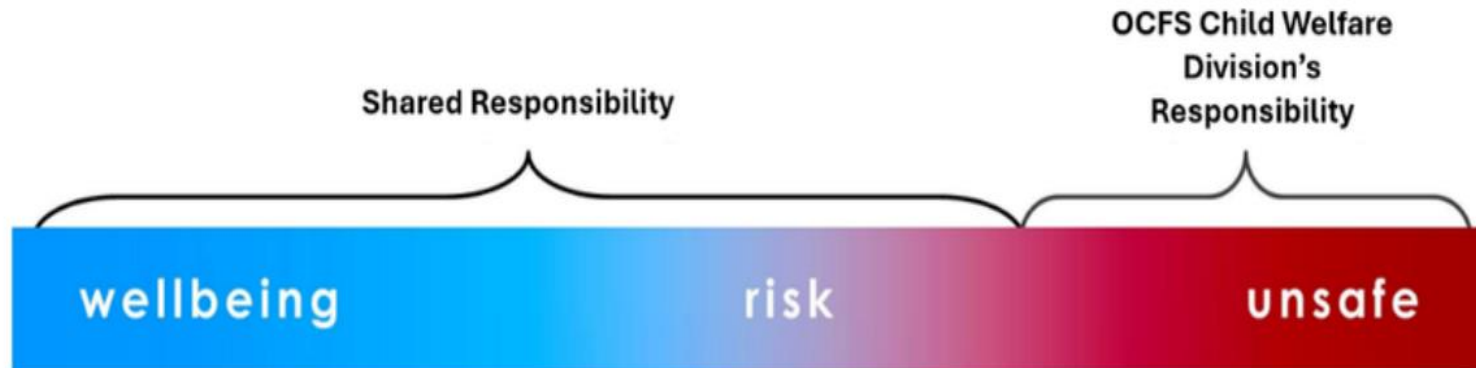
Tertiary Prevention

Engage in efforts to prevent removal (FTMs, safety planning, etc.).
When removal does occur, prioritize kinship placements and permanency

Maine's Child Welfare System

Child Safety and Family Well-Being

- Working together, we can create and sustain a shared commitment to creating the conditions for family well-being and child safety.
- There are strategies that individuals, families, communities and state agencies can all do to strengthen families in Maine.
- We can strengthen families by helping connect families with the tools and resources to meet their needs.



Be sure to check out [Maine's Child Safety and Family Well Being Plan](#)

Maine's Child Safety and Family Well-Being Plan (2025-2030)

A movement in Maine toward **what we want to promote in families**, not just what we want to prevent.

By working together to support families earlier, we can create the conditions for strong families and limit the need for involvement by the child welfare agency.



Office of Child and Family Services

Early Care and Education Programs



- Child Care Affordability Program (CCAP)
- Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
- ECE Workforce Salary Supplement System
- Maine Roads to Quality - early childhood education courses, health and safety training, technical assistance, peer to peer networks, child care program and workforce navigators, credentials, apprenticeships, and associate and bachelor degree scholarships
- Child Care Infrastructure Grants
- ECE Consultation for ME
- Help Me Grow Maine - early childhood resources, developmental screening, referrals to services for families
- Maine Parent Ambassadors Program - parent leadership
- Baxter Child Welfare Information System

Legislative Updates

- Title 22 Neglect Statute modified to differentiate between neglect and poverty “deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care necessary for the child's health or welfare by that person when that person **is financially able to** provide food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care necessary for the child's health or welfare **or is offered lawful and reasonable financial means or resources to do so.**”
- LD 2105 Mandated Reporting Statute Changes:
 - Clarify list of mandated reporters
 - 2 years training requirements
 - DA reports
 - Designated Agents



Mandated Reporting

The Mandated Reporting/Community Support Initiative:

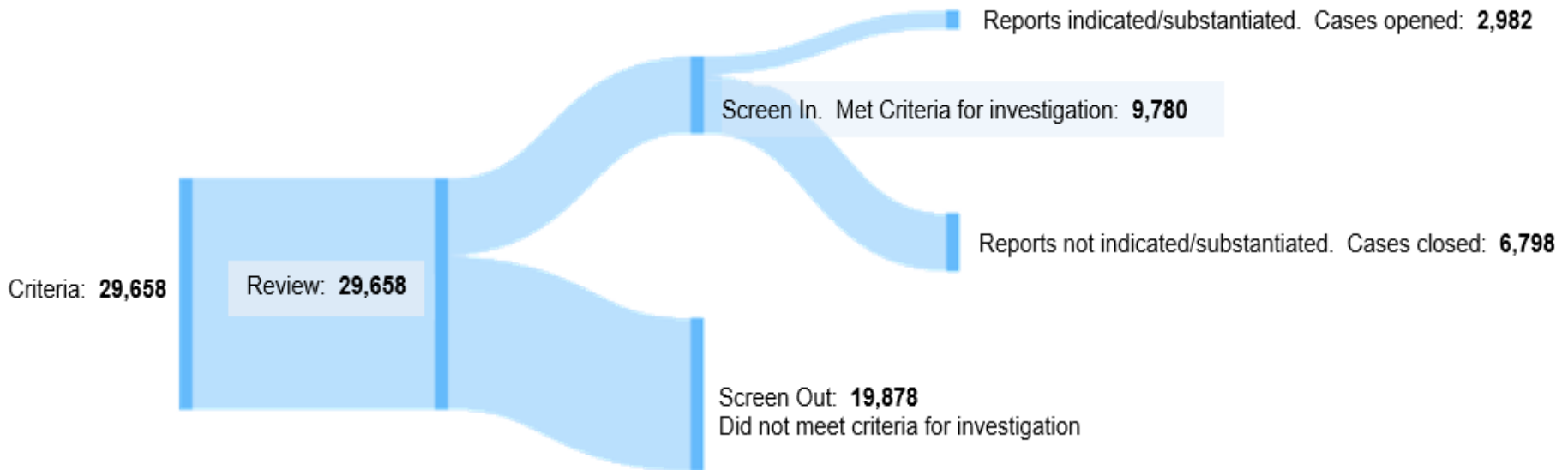
- Developed in response to feedback received during the development and implementation of CSFWB Plan.
- Collaboration between OCFS/MCWAN.
- Three areas were identified for the scope of work to improve mandated reporting and community support for families in Maine:
 - Defining Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Mandated Reporting Training
 - Community Support for Families



Maine Child Welfare
Action Network

Mandated Reporting

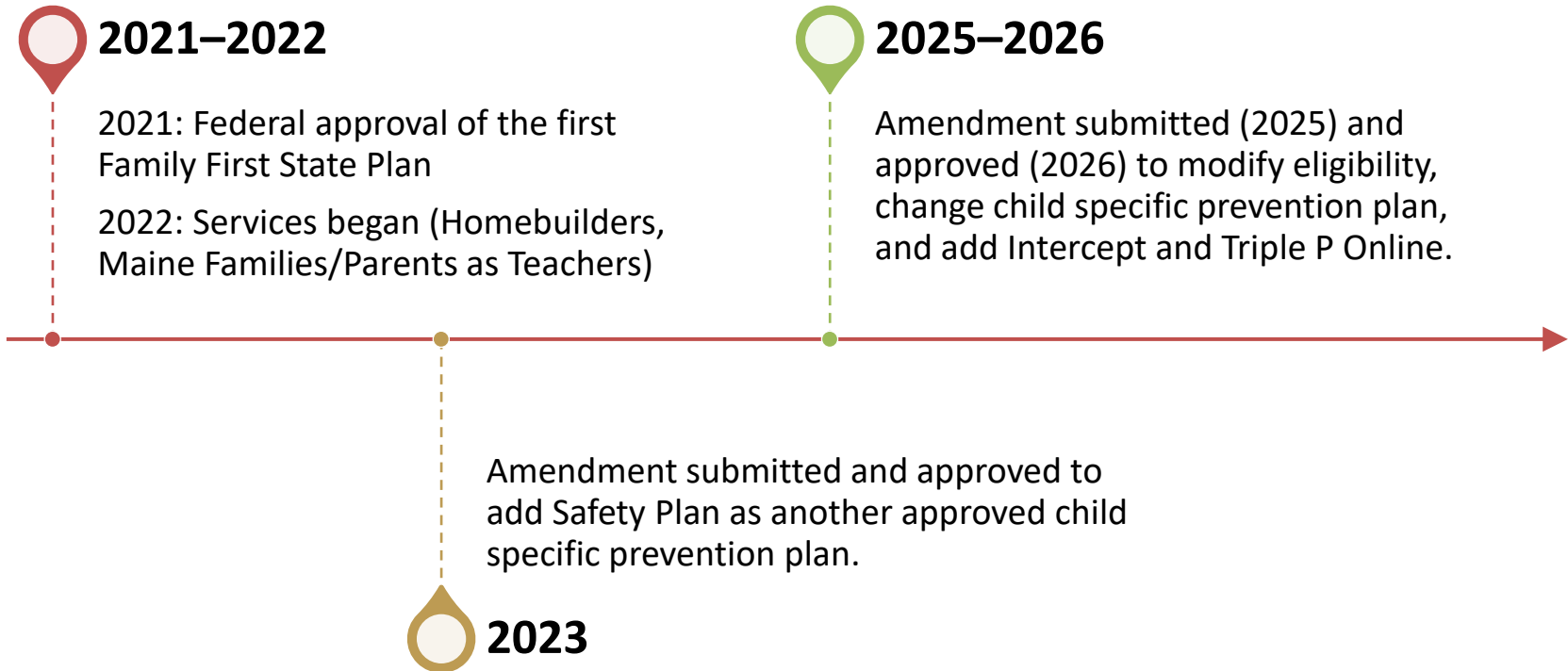
Reports of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect: Process and Outcomes (2024)



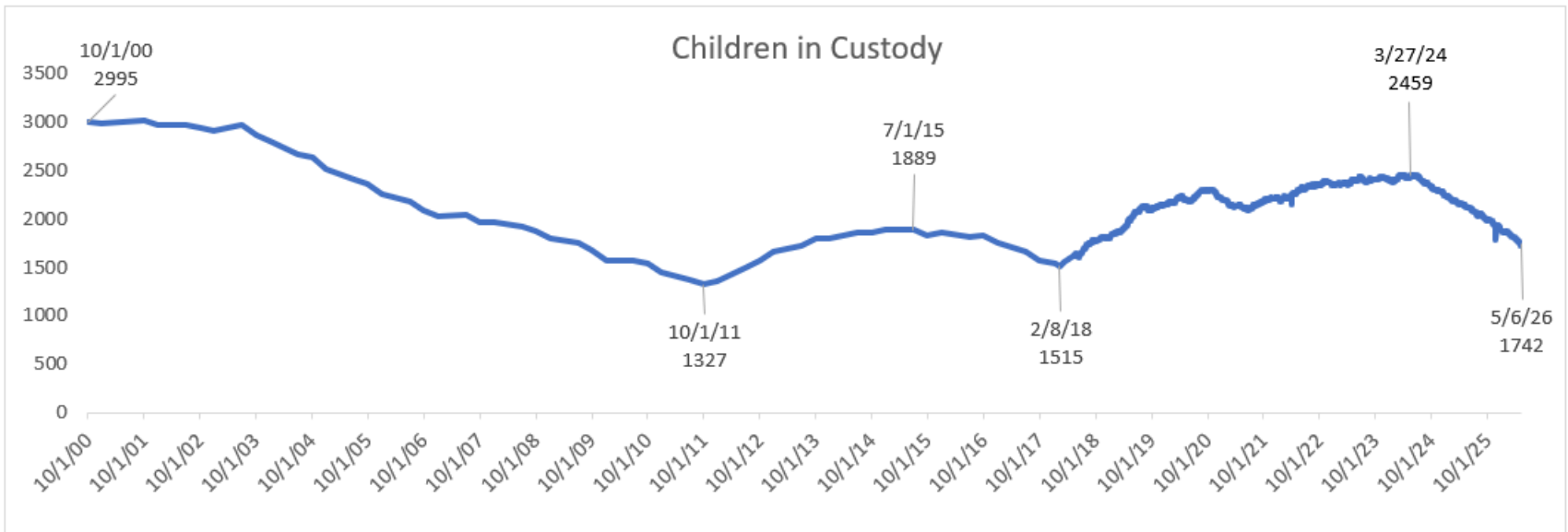
90% of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect did not result in findings.

These families may be experiencing challenges to well-being and are being reported to the child welfare agency when community-based services, supports, services, or resources might be more appropriate to meet a family's needs.

Family First Prevention Services Act Update



Efforts to Prevent Removal Children in Custody

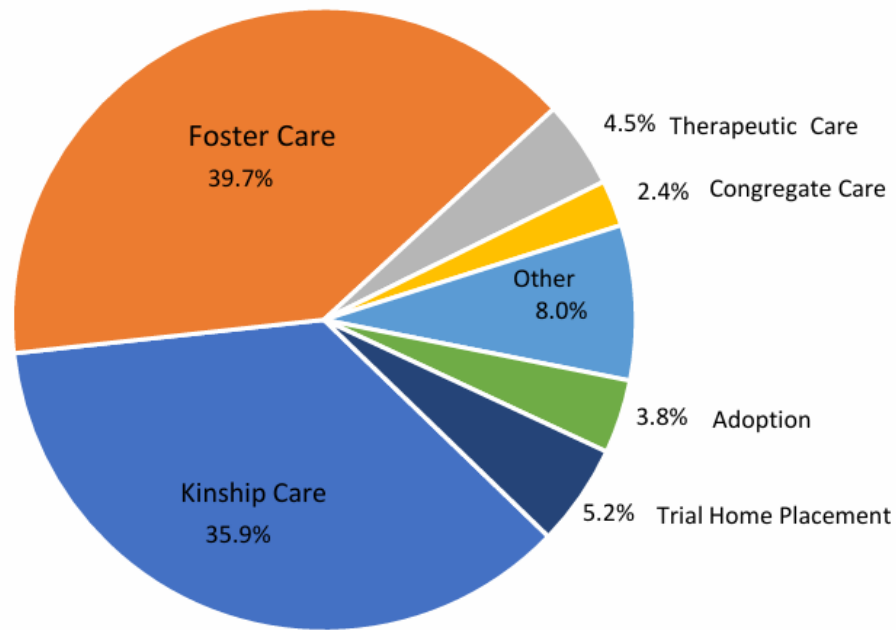


Maine Department of Health and
Human Services

Snapshot of Placements

Monthly Snapshot of Children in DHHS Custody by Placement

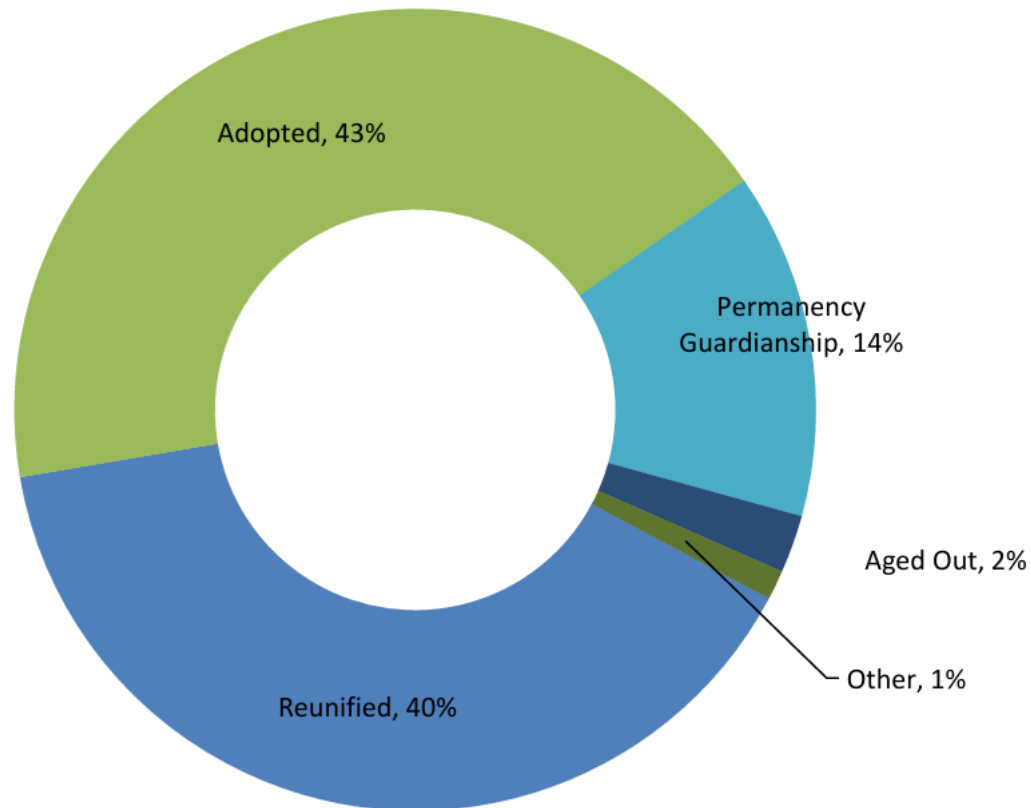
Data as of May 1, 2026



Snapshot of Permanency Outcomes

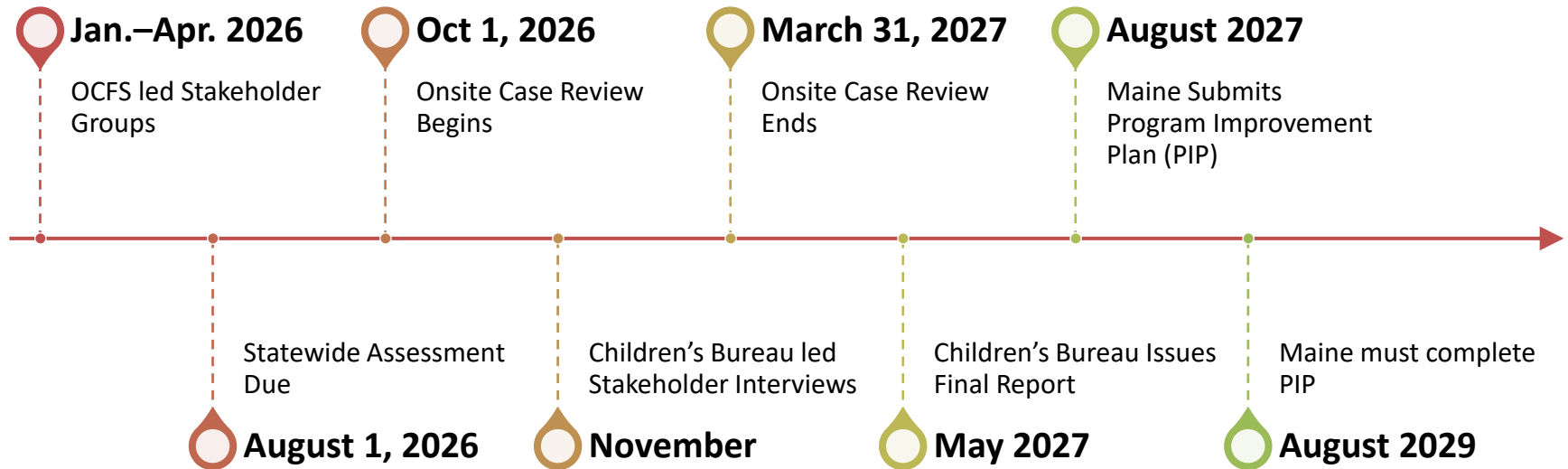
Outcomes for Children Exiting Custody

State



Maine CFSR Timeline

Maine CFSR Timeline

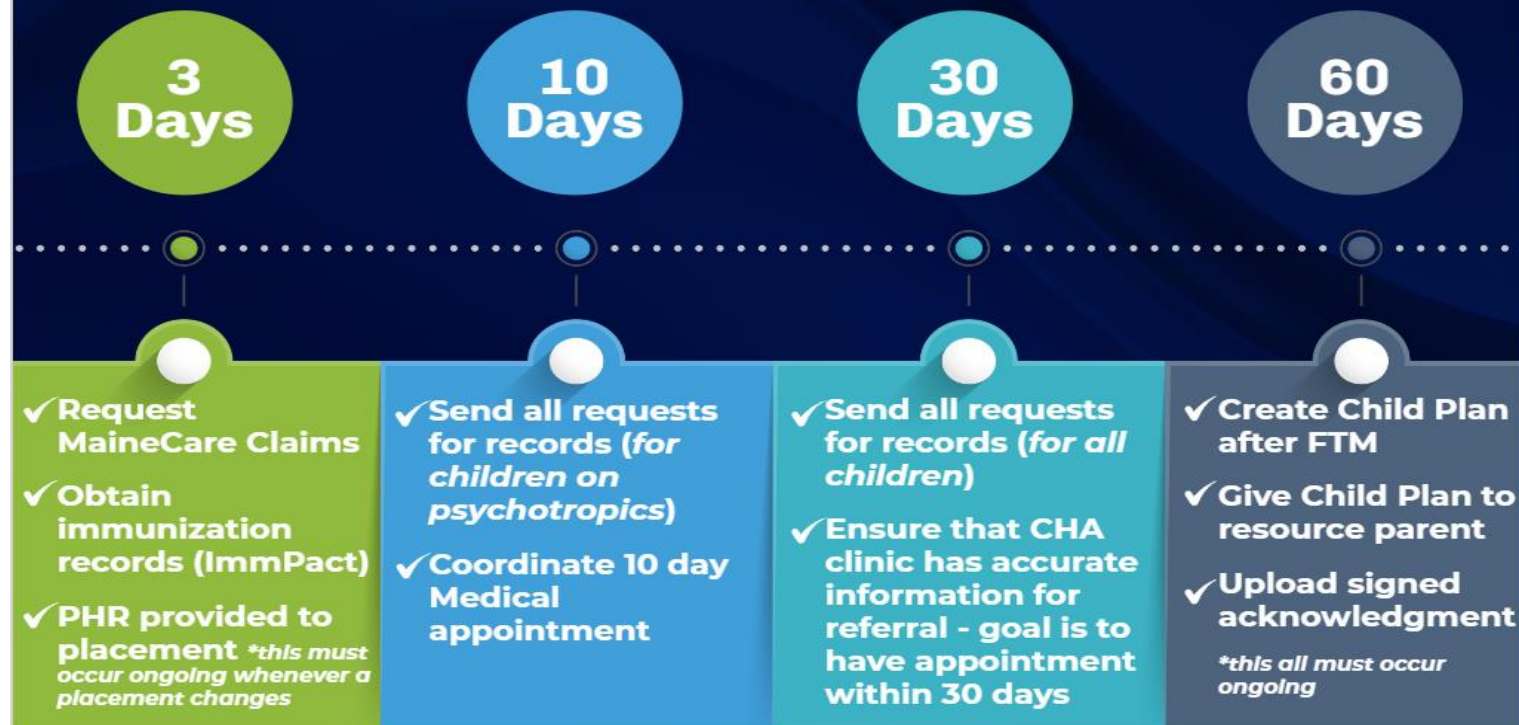


CFSR Process As Defined By Regulation (45 CFR 1355 31-37)

Maine Department of Health and
Human Services

Oversight of Psychotropic Medication

When a child enters care, the following must occur within:



Key Terms

PHR: Portable Health Record which is generated in Katahdin and pulls information from the necessary fields and provides a snapshot of a child's health information.

Other Updates

Social Security

- Governor included funding in the budget to set aside and establish accounts for Social Security death and disability benefits for youth in DHHS custody.

Staff Support

- Caseworker Vacancies - 8%
- Supervisor Trainer positions
- Reduced workload
- Field Instruction Unit Class of 2026-2027 – 13 interns confirmed of 15 slots (6 interns in 2025-2026, 4 hired)

Partnerships with Individuals with Lived Expertise

- Youth Leadership Advisory Team / Ambassadors
- Family Engagement Advisory Team (FEAT)
- Resource Parent Advisory Team

Questions/Closing Remarks



Maine Department of Health and Human Services