



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

# Chafee Advisory Group Kickoff Meeting

December 12, 2019



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# Welcome and Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Context Setting
- Chafee 101
- Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) 101
- CP&P Youth in Foster Care Data Overview
- 2020-2024 Chafee Plan and Activities
- Review of By-Laws
- Action Items
- Closing and Reflections



# Introductions and Icebreaker

- Name
- Preferred pronoun
- Title and Role
- Agency/Organization  
Affiliation or constituent  
group representative
- Favorite holiday cookie?
- Does Central NJ exist? Y/N



# Group Agreements/OAS Commitments

## Group Agreements

1. Listen to understand.
2. Respect diverse perspectives.
3. Stay on topic...or use the parking lot.
4. Lean toward solutions.
5. Comfort in asking questions
6. \_\_\_\_\_



## OAS Commitments

1. We will ensure these meetings are productive.
2. We will send meeting materials with ample time to review.
3. We welcome innovation, creativity, and constructive feedback.

# Context Setting: DCF Structure



# BUILDING A 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

FAMILY VOICE

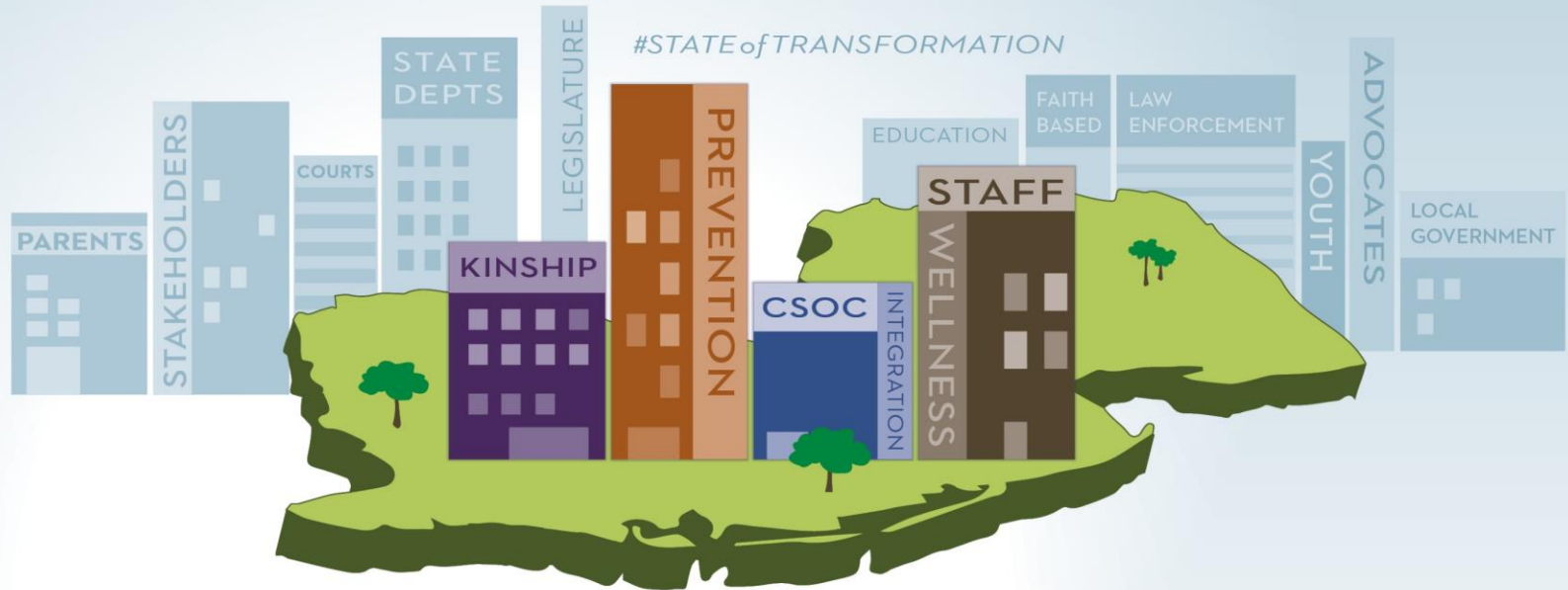
RACE EQUITY

HEALING CENTERED

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

COLLABORATIVE SAFETY

VISION: EVERYONE IN NJ IS SAFE, HEALTHY & CONNECTED



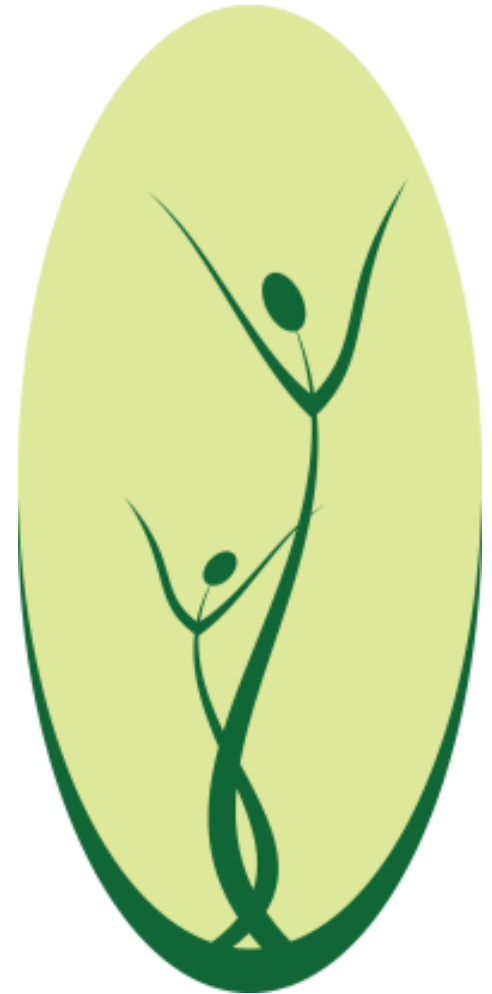
BUILT ON THE VALUES OF: EVIDENCE - FAMILY - COLLABORATION - EQUITY - INTEGRITY

# Office of Adolescent Services (OAS) and Youth Thrive

## *Youth Thrive Protective and Promotive Factors Framework*

- Personal Resilience
- Social Connections
- Knowledge of Youth Development
- Concrete Support in Times of Need
- Social, Emotional, Behavioral, Intellectual and Moral Competence in Youth

Center  
for the  
Study  
of  
Social  
Policy | Ideas  
into  
Action



# Chafee 101: Background

- “The John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (*Chafee program*) provides funds to states, territories, and Indian tribal entities (*states*) with material and other supports for current and former foster youth.”
- “The Chafee statute has been amended five times, notably in the early 2000s to include the Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program and in 2018 (Title VII, Division E of P.L. 115-123) to focus supports more clearly on youth who spend time in foster care at age 14 or older without regard to whether they ultimately age out of care.”

Source: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11070.pdf>





# Chafee 101: How can Chafee funds be used?

- States may use Chafee funding to provide supports listed in the authorizing law:
  - Educational assistance and career exploration
  - Mentoring
  - Preventive health activities and other services.
  - 30% of Chafee funds can be toward room or board for youth ages 18 to 21

Source: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IF11070.pdf>



# Chafee 101: Who are Chafee eligible youth?

## Eligibility Categories

- Children and youth in foster care between ages 14-21.
- Youth who aged out of foster care and are between 18-21 (or up to 23 in states that extend foster care to 21).
- Children and youth who left foster care at 16 or older for kinship guardianship or adoption, until they reach 21 (or up to 23 in states that extend foster care to 21).
- Children and youth who had been in foster care between 14-21 and left foster care for some other reason besides aging out of foster care, kinship guardianship, or adoption.
- Children likely to remain in care until 18, pertaining to the Chafee purpose area of providing “regular, ongoing opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities.”



# Chafee 101: Program Purposes I

## Supporting youth 14+ with experience in foster care:

- To support all youth who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older in their transition to adulthood through *transitional services*;
- To help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older *achieve meaningful, permanent connections with a caring adult*;
- To help children who have experienced foster care at age 14 or older *engage in age or developmentally appropriate activities*, positive youth development, and experiential learning that reflects what their peers in intact families experience.



# Chafee 101: Program Purposes II

## Supporting youth 16+ with experience in foster care:

- To provide *financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, and other appropriate support and services* to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age;
- To make *available vouchers for education and training*, including postsecondary training and education, to youth who have aged out of foster care;
- To provide *the services referred to in this subsection to children who, after attaining 16 years of age, have left foster care for kinship guardianship or adoption; and*
- To ensure children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age have regular, *on-going opportunities to engage in age or developmentally-appropriate activities.*



# Chafee 101: Public Child Welfare Agency Requirements

Implement a 5 year plan outlining how Chafee services will be provided to Chafee eligible youth, with the following considerations:

1. Flexibility
2. Positive youth development
3. Youth Voice
4. Adolescent brain development
5. Peer-to-peer opportunities
6. Innovative
7. Target/tailored
8. Role of adults
9. Transparency
10. Aligns with 2020-2024 Child Family Service Plan
11. Supports the Child and Family Service Review PIP



# Chafee 101: Public Child Welfare Agency Requirements

- Collect and analyze data regarding services provided and outcomes for Chafee eligible youth through the National Youth in Transition Database:

- NYTD Surveys
- NYTD Services



- State Independent Living and ETV Coordinator



# What are Education and Training Vouchers (ETVs)?

- ETVs are federal grants administered by states and awarded to eligible current and former foster youth to help pay for college, career school, or training.
- ETV funds distributed to each state based on its proportion of the nation's children in foster care. States must provide a 20% match (in-kind or cash) to receive their full federal ETV allotment.
- Overseen by the Office of Educational Support and Programs (OESP) within the Office of Adolescent Services (OAS).
- Administered via contract by the non-profit provider, Embrella.



# ETV Target Population

- Intended to serve:
  - Youth who are likely to remain in foster care until age 18
  - Youth who were adopted or under kinship guardianship at age 16 or older
  - Young adults ages 18–21 who have aged out of the foster care system.





# New Jersey ETV Eligibility

- Eligibility based on age and length of time in foster care placement.
- Students must be between 16-21 years of age, a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen and in foster care at:
  - 14 yrs+ with at least 18 months of foster care placement,
  - 16 yrs+ with 9 or more months of foster care placement or
  - Exited foster care for adoption or Kinship Legal Guardianship (KLG) after the age of 16.
- Must be accepted to a post-secondary institution (PSI)



# ETV Parameters

- Post-secondary school must be accredited to received Title IV funding (Federal Financial Aid)
- PSI may be:
  - In-state/Out-of-State
  - Public/Private
  - Academic/Vocational
- Student may attend school full or part time



# ETV Parameters

- Up to \$5,000 per academic year.\*
- Funding is split into \$2,500 increments for the Fall and Spring semesters.
- If a student attends a school that runs on quarters or trimesters, the funding is divided to reflect the terms.
- Cannot exceed cost of attendance and available funds
- Funding can continue until the age of 23 as long as the student is making continuous forward progress and enrolled at age 21.

\*current fiscal year's ETV funds may not be used to finance a youth's educational or vocational loans incurred prior to that year.



# ETV Parameters

- Tuition and fees must be funded first.
- If additional funding remains, it may be used for:



Room and Board (on or off campus)



Food Cards



Transportation (to and from classes only)



Childcare



Books and Supplies

Computer (one time only)



# Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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Help

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## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



### New to the FAFSA?

[Start A New FAFSA](#)

### Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

[Login](#)

# Additional ETV Parameters

- ❖ FAFSA Question 53: “At any time **since you turned age 13**, were both of your parents deceased, were you in foster care, or were you a dependent or ward of the court?”
  - Selecting “yes” qualifies student as independent
- ❖ Ward of the Court Letters
  - OESP will provide to student and/or post-secondary institution
- ❖ Independent students – only report their own financial information
  - To qualify one of the following must be met:
    - Orphan or Ward of the Court: have an open DCPD case
    - Has legal dependents: Have children of their own
    - Emancipated Minor
    - Homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

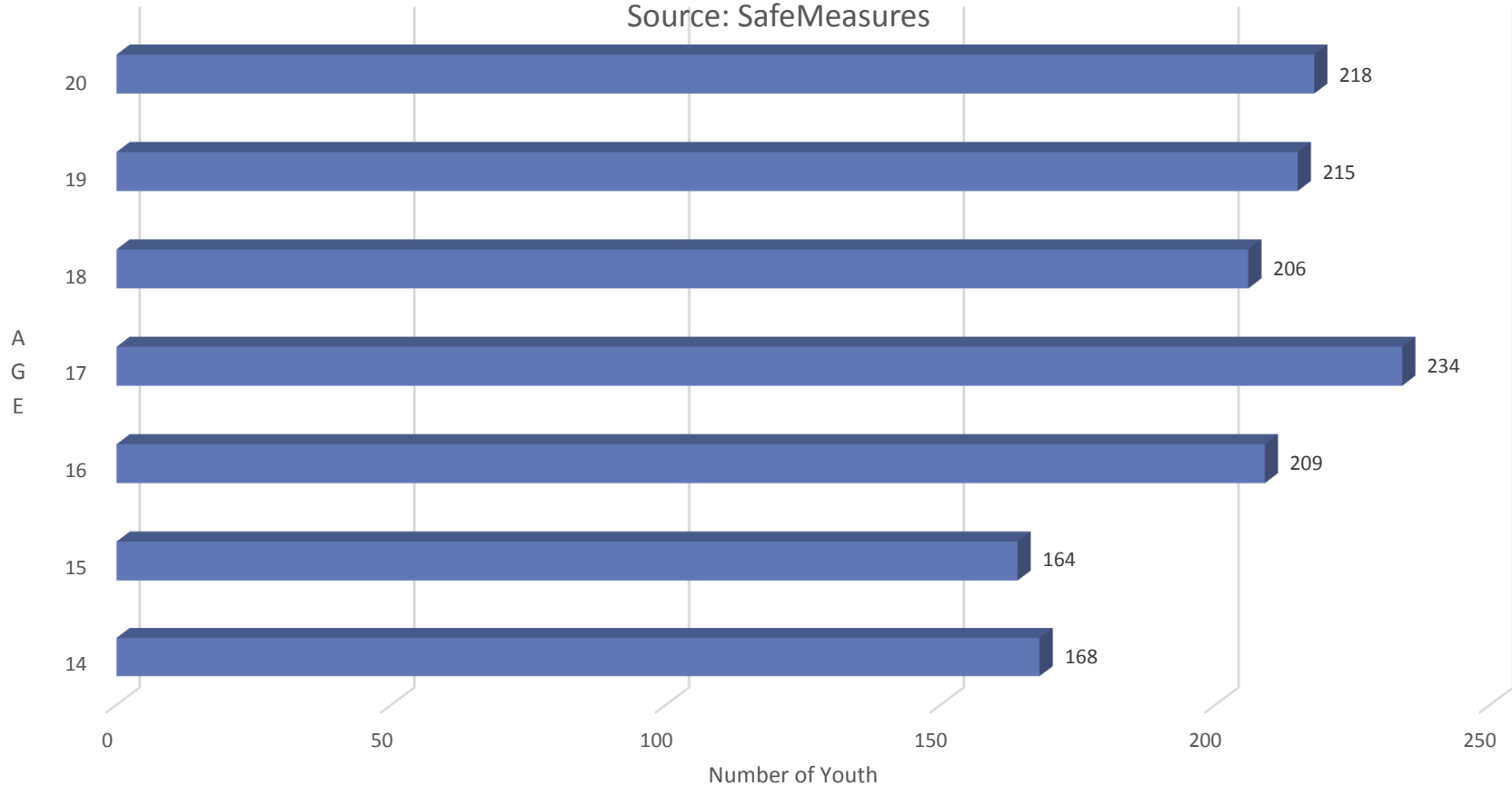


# CP&P Youth Data Overview

New Jersey Statewide Number of Youth in Foster Care by Age

N=1414

Source: SafeMeasures

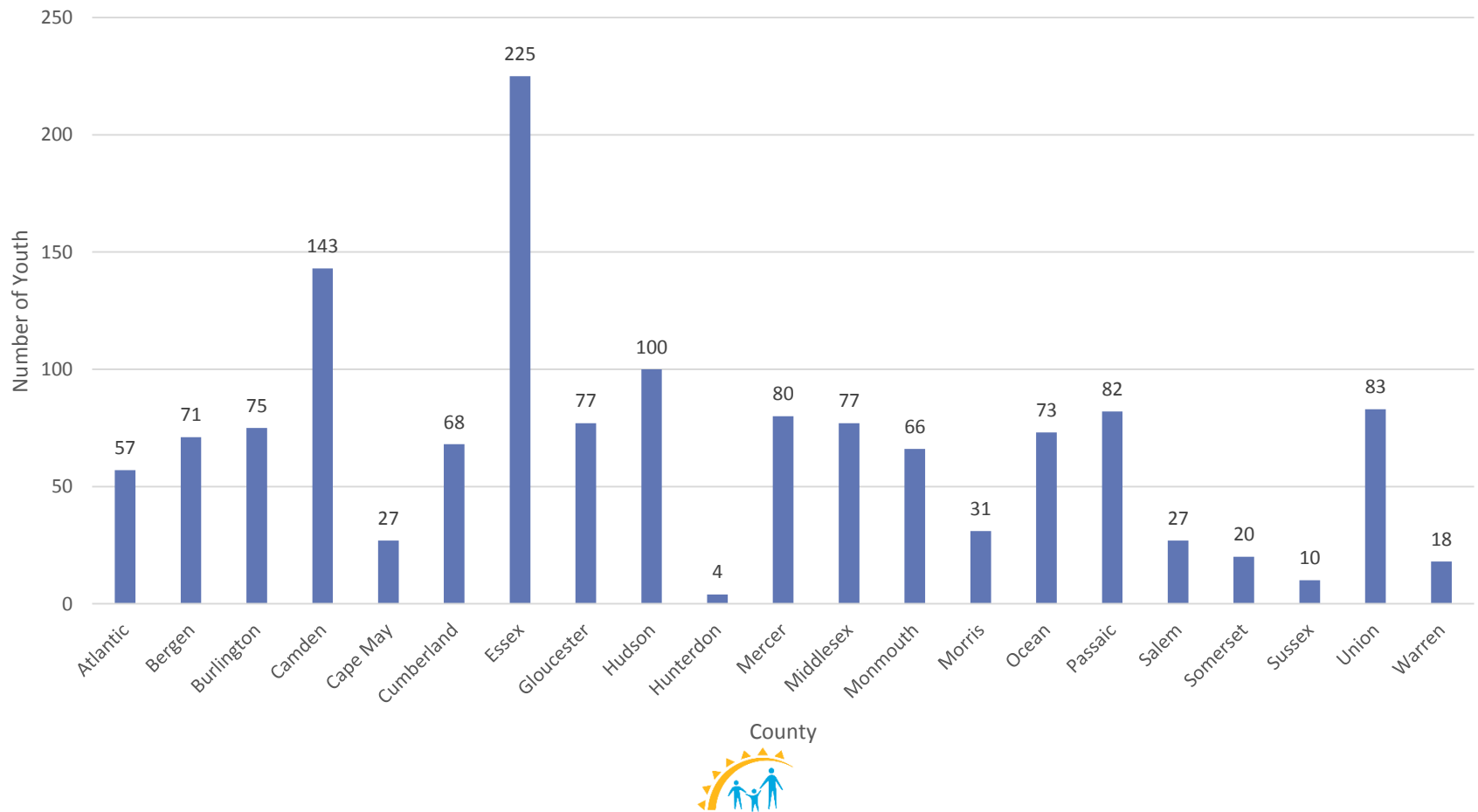


# CP&P Youth Data Overview

Number of 14-21 Year Olds by County

N=1414

Source: SafeMeasures



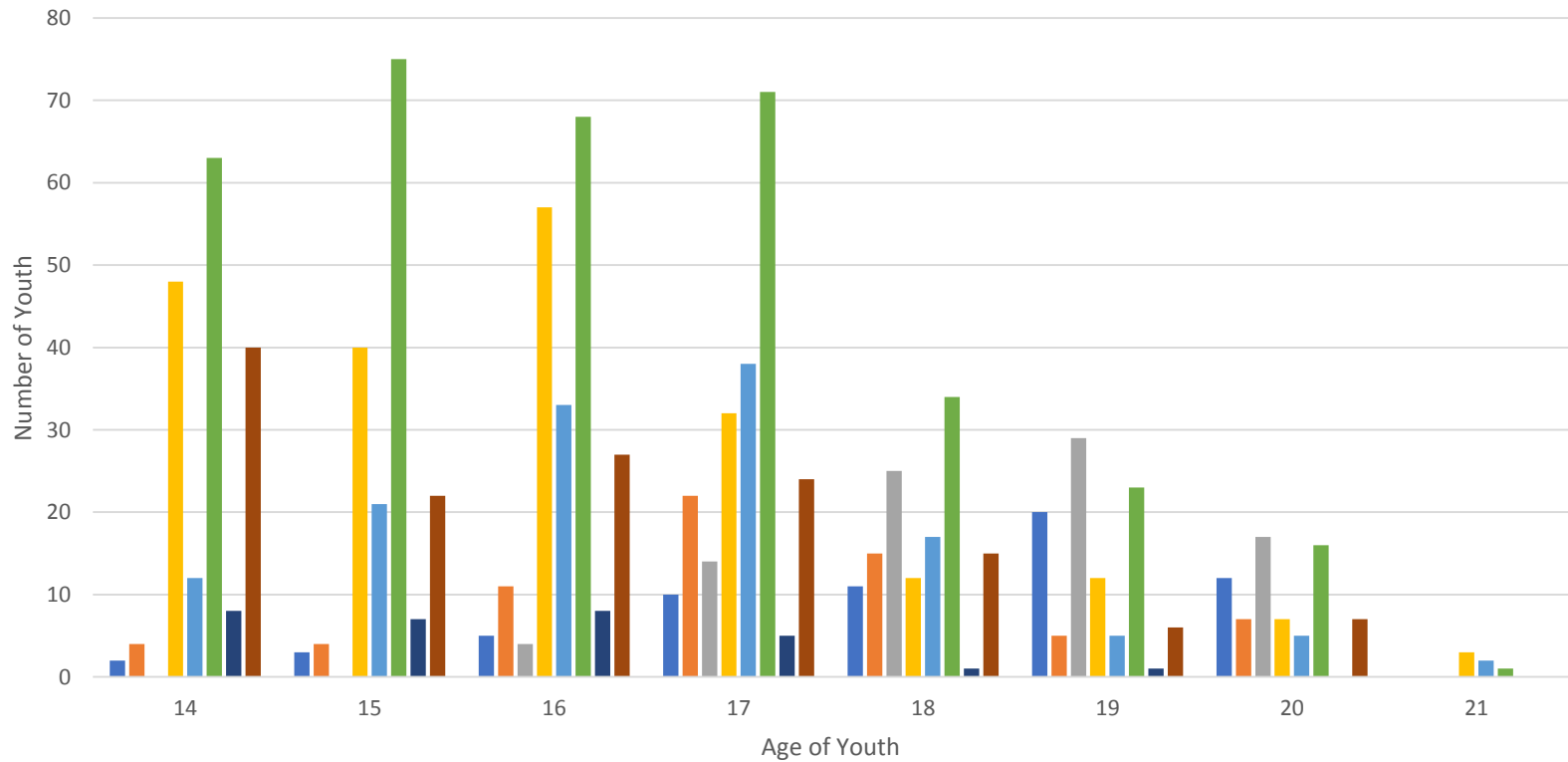


# CP&P Youth Data Overview

Placement Type by Age

N= 1086

Source: SafeMeasures

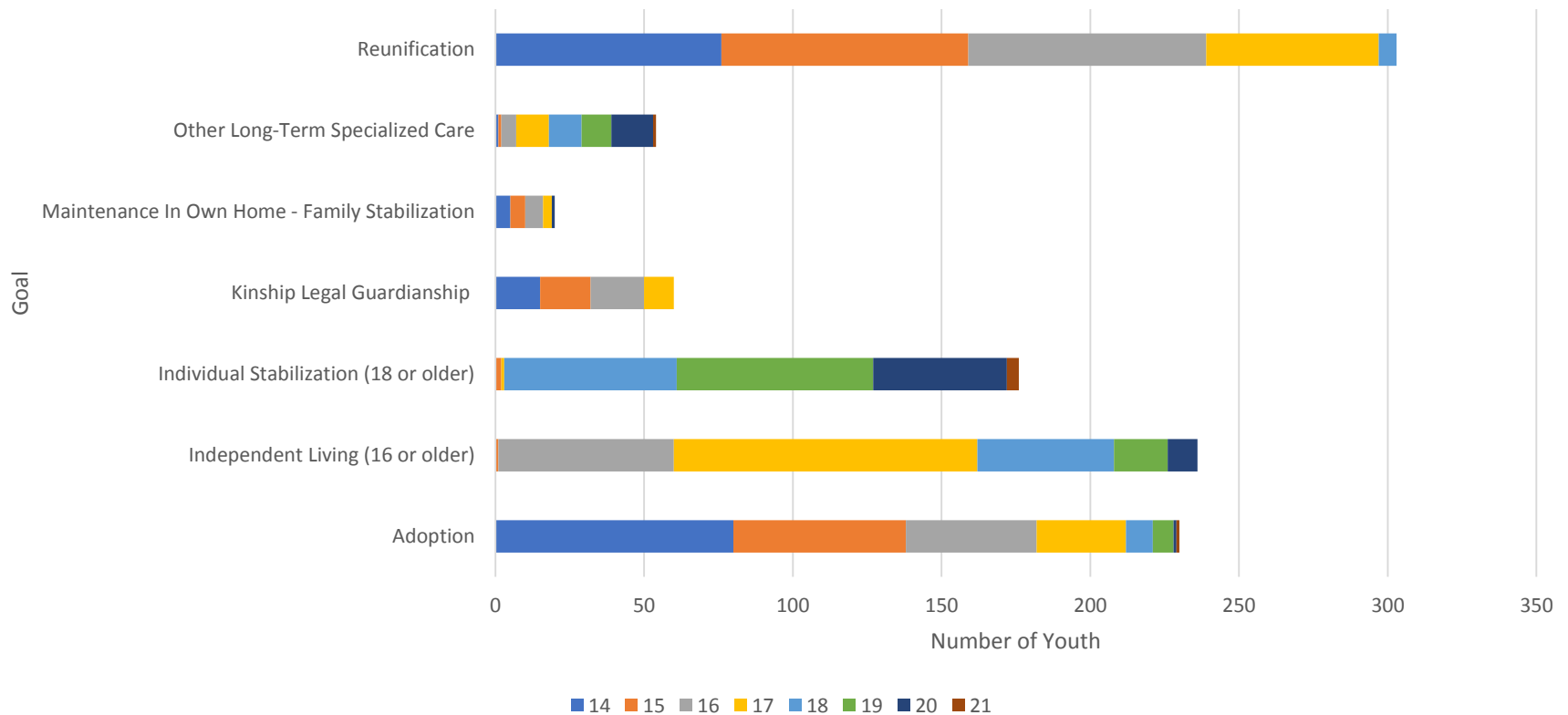


- Blank
- Group Home Care
- Independent Living
- Kinship Care Placement Services
- Residential Treatment
- Resource Family Care
- Shelter Care
- Treatment Home Care



# CP&P Youth Data Overview

Goal by Age  
N=1079  
Source: SafeMeasures



# 2020-2024 Chafee Plan: Strategies and Activities

- Chafee Plan submitted in June 2019, federal approved fall 2019
- Chafee Plan has been restructured from previous 5 year cycles
- Chafee Advisory Group is new
- Teams will be developed on each Chafee Plan strategy
  - Chafee Advisory Group Members will participate in at least one strategy Team



# Chafee Advisory Group Teaming Structure



## Strategy #1: Chafee Advisory Group

Strategy  
Teams #2:  
Youth  
Voice

Strategy  
Team #3:  
Changes  
to Chafee  
Program  
Philosophy

Strategy  
Team #4:  
Promoting  
Kinship  
Care,  
Permanency  
, and  
Connections

Strategy  
Team #5:  
Services  
for Young  
Adults 18+

Strategy  
Team #6:  
Marketing  
Chafee  
Services  
to Eligible  
Youth

Strategy  
Team #7:  
Technology

Strategy  
Team #8:  
Using Data  
to  
Measure  
Service  
Delivery

Strategy  
Team #9:  
Mental  
Health,  
Substance  
Use, and  
Domestic  
Violence

Strategy  
Team #10:  
Expectant  
and  
Parenting  
Youth

# What are Teams?

A group of stakeholders that oversees, attends to, and is accountable for, key results in the implementation of a strategy.

## What it is NOT

An advisory body

A group that provides only periodic input or meets during crisis

Technical work group

Learning collaborative

# Team Membership

## TEAM MEMBERS

- Collectively have the knowledge, skills, abilities, and time necessary to succeed
- Provide a structure for communication and feedback loops
- Co-leadership of team members

Size: 8-10  
individuals



# February Meeting: Team Charters

- Develop a written team charter that outlines:
  - Goals and Functions of the team
  - Membership
  - Values and ways of work
  - Roles and responsibilities of team members, including workgroups
  - Logistics (Agenda, Minutes, Meeting Frequency, etc.)
  - Communication Plan: linking across all teams

## Team Charter:

- ✓ Are proactive
- ✓ Clarify roles
- ✓ Protect all voices
- ✓ Maintain focus



# Strategy and Team #2: Continue to Elevate Youth Voice

- Develop and implement 2 Youth Advisory Councils (North and South).
- Develop and implement a strategic sharing training for youth and adults to prepare young people to participate in communities, workgroups, etc.
- Youth are informed of, prepared for and attend family court hearings.
- Increase opportunities for youth with lived experience to serve as peer supports for youth currently in care.
- Increase opportunities for youth with lived experience to be included in training initiatives (informing curriculum, serving as trainers).
- Continue implementation of the Youth Advisory Network (YAN).





# Strategy and Team #3:

## Changes to Chafee Program Philosophy

- Race Equity Informed Policy, Practice and Programming.
- Healing-Centered Engagement.
- Ensure that the Chafee program serves youth statewide.
- Refining eligibility for benefits and services.
- Update assessments and tools to determine individualized needs.



# Strategy and Team #4: Promoting Kinship Care, Permanency, and Connections

- Develop a formalized process and create resources to train and increase knowledge of judiciary staff regarding adolescents and young adults in foster care.
- Support youth in kinship care through system and direct service intervention strategies that support both the youth and caregiver.
- Update life skills via appropriate skill development within the context of family, peer, and community relationships.
- Refine efforts to ensure that youth in foster care experience developmentally appropriate activities that will assist in building and strengthening relationships in their home, promote stability, and support effort towards legal permanency (normalcy).



# Strategy and Team #5: Services for Young Adults 18+

- Review and update the housing program model for youth 18+.
- Review and update aftercare services for youth 18+ to support a youth's transition to adulthood.



# Strategy and Team #6: Marketing Chafee Services to Eligible Youth

- Develop and implement a strategy to market Chafee services to newly eligible youth that achieved reunification 14+.
- Refine and implement marketing strategies of Chafee services to Chafee eligible youth whose child welfare cases are closed.
- Explore the possibility of providing services to adolescents who are not in placement but involved with child welfare to prevent placement.
- Strengthen strategy to ensure Medicaid continuity of coverage for youth eligible for the Medicaid extension for young adults.



## Strategy and Team #7: Technology

- Update content and functionality of the NJ Youth Resource Spot website ([www.njyrs.org](http://www.njyrs.org)).
- Develop a mobile application specific to youth in foster care.
- Post NYTD data on public DCF and NJYRS websites.
- Develop online access for youth to complete the NYTD follow up survey.



# Strategy and Team #8: Using Data to Measure Success and Improve Service Delivery

- Analyze NYTD data and share with stakeholders (e.g. CAG, Youth Advisory Network, and Youth Councils).
- Incorporate NYTD data into trainings and presentations.
- Develop system to capture NYTD services being provided by resource parents and child welfare staff.
- Incorporate NYTD data in contract monitoring
- Develop NYTD QA process.
- Use youth specific data to inform programming.
- Refine outcomes that will be tracked and identify measurement tools.



# Serving Youth of Various Ages and Stages of Permanency

- Team #9: Mental Health, Substance Use, and Domestic Violence
  - Develop a stakeholder informed plan to review supports and services currently available and used, while also identifying areas that need to be strengthened and tailored to meet the needs of youth in foster care.
- Team #10: Expectant and Parenting Youth
  - DCF will update and improve policy, practice, and programming to best meet the needs of these youth to promote successful parenting and prevent maltreatment with their own children.
  - DCF will develop a stakeholder informed plan to improve these systemic efforts.



# Collaborations with Other Private and Public Agencies

- Review data to inform refinements to ETV program and measure outcomes.
- Coordinate and leverage education, training, financial aid/scholarship programs through public and private resources.
- Enhancing career planning and supports.
- Initiatives related to adolescent health.
- Preventing homelessness and promoting housing stability for youth in foster care.
- Promoting developmentally appropriate activities and experiential learning (e.g. driving instruction, cell phones/cell phone plans, transportation, and savings accounts).





# Chafee Training Plan

## Existing Training

- Youth Thrive
- Got Adolescents?
- Transition Plan for Youth Success (TPYS)/Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA)
- Post-BA Certificate in Adolescent Advocacy
- Safe Space Training and LGBTQI Cultural Competency Training
- Youth Leadership and Advocacy Foundational

- Adolescent Networking Conference

## New Trainings

- Normalcy
- Expectant and Parenting Youth
- Chafee training for resource and adoptive parents
- Strategic sharing training



# Chafee Advisory Group

- Review By-Laws
- Action Items
- Closing and Reflections



*Thank you!!*

Next meeting will be  
February 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am-  
12pm.

