



CCAA
Commission on Court
Appointed Attorneys



Derrick Mason
Executive Director



About the Commission

Indiana has three state public defense agencies:

- **State Public Defender**
- **Public Defender Council, and**
- **The Commission on Court Appointed Attorneys (CCAA)
(formerly known as the Public Defender Commission).**



About the Commission

Since 1989, the Commission has served to create standards for public defense services in Indiana counties or regional systems that choose to uphold those standards in exchange for a partial reimbursement of county expenses in non-capital cases. The Commission also provides standards and partial reimbursement to all counties in capital (death penalty) cases and Federal Title IV-E Funding to ALL counties that request funding.

KEY STANDARDS

The Commission sets standards which participating counties must follow in order to receive up to 40% reimbursement on eligible non-capital cases. Three key standards are described below:

01

Caseload Maximums

To continue receiving reimbursement for eligible expenses, counties must ensure that their attorneys do not exceed these maximums.

02

Attorney Qualifications

The Commission defines specific education and experience requirements for adult felony, juvenile, DCS cases and appeals.

03

Compensation

Salaried and contract public defenders must be paid equal to the local prosecutor's office, or at state established minimums if no comparable positions exist.



Payments to Counties



Non-Capital 40%

The Commission provides reimbursement to participating counties up to 40% of eligible public defense expenses.



Capital 50%

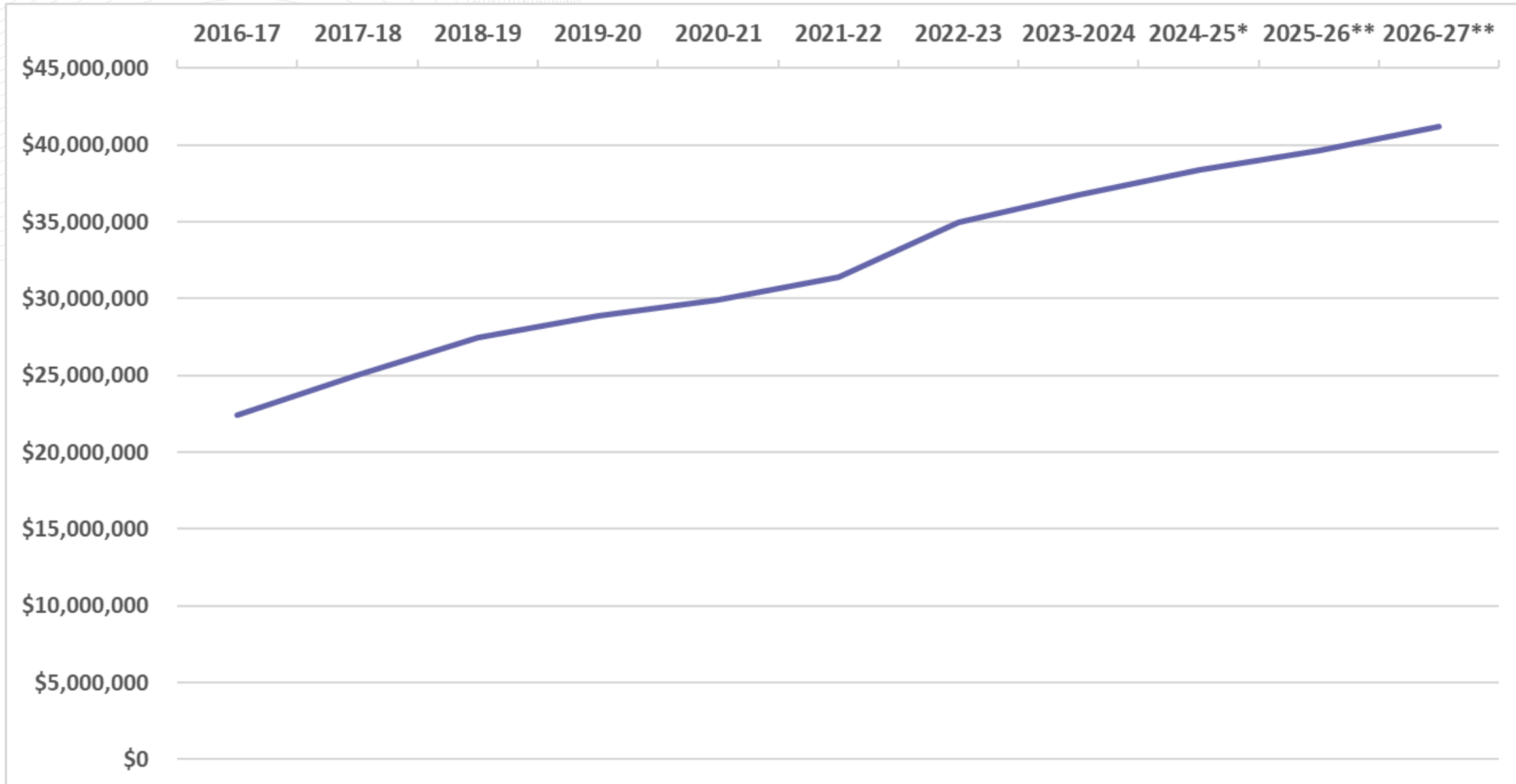
The Commission provides reimbursement up to 50% of eligible capital (death penalty) expenses to all counties.



Title IV-E

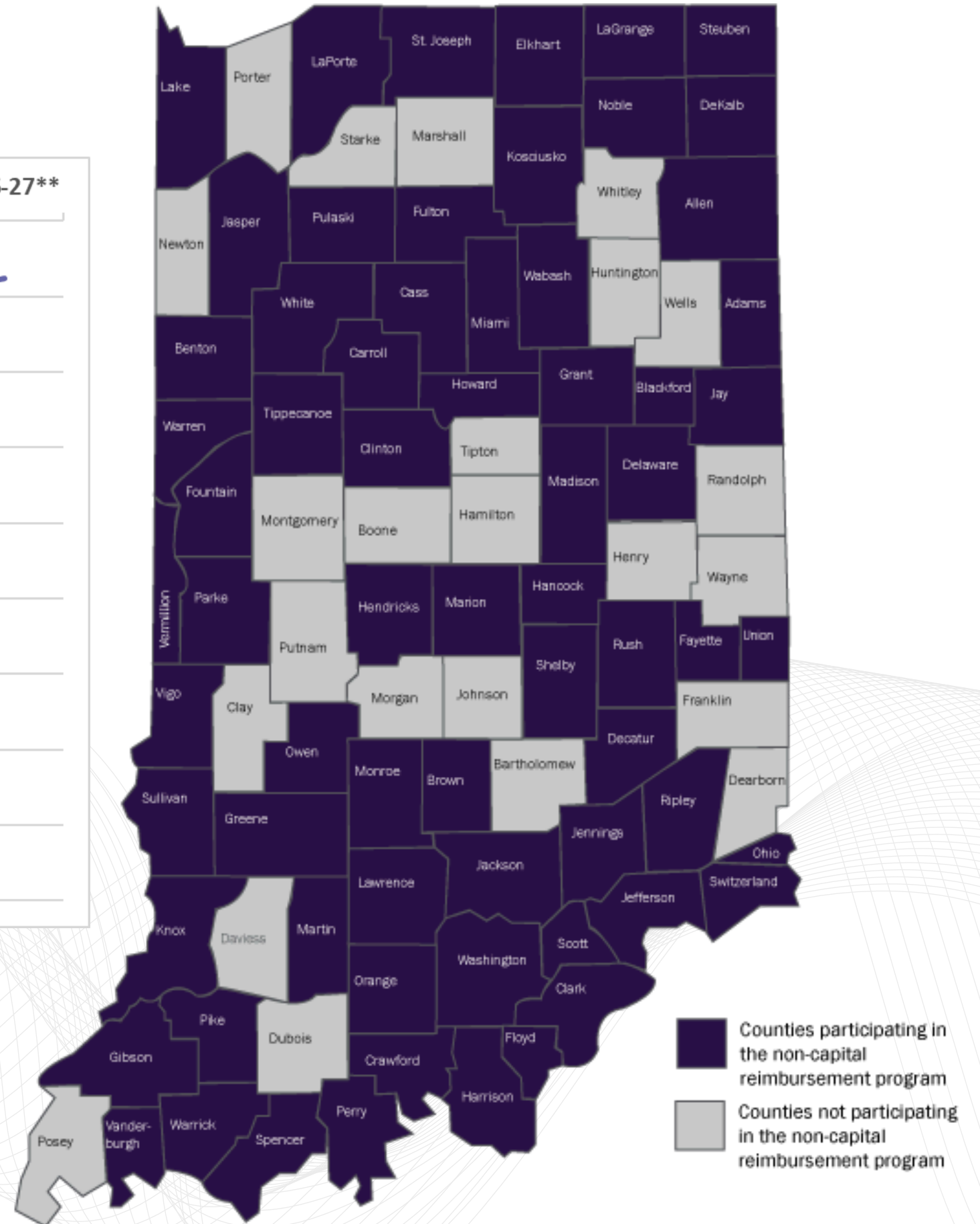
CCAA is the pass through entity for counties to receive federal funds for parental representation in eligible Title IV-E expenses.

Non-Capital Reimbursements



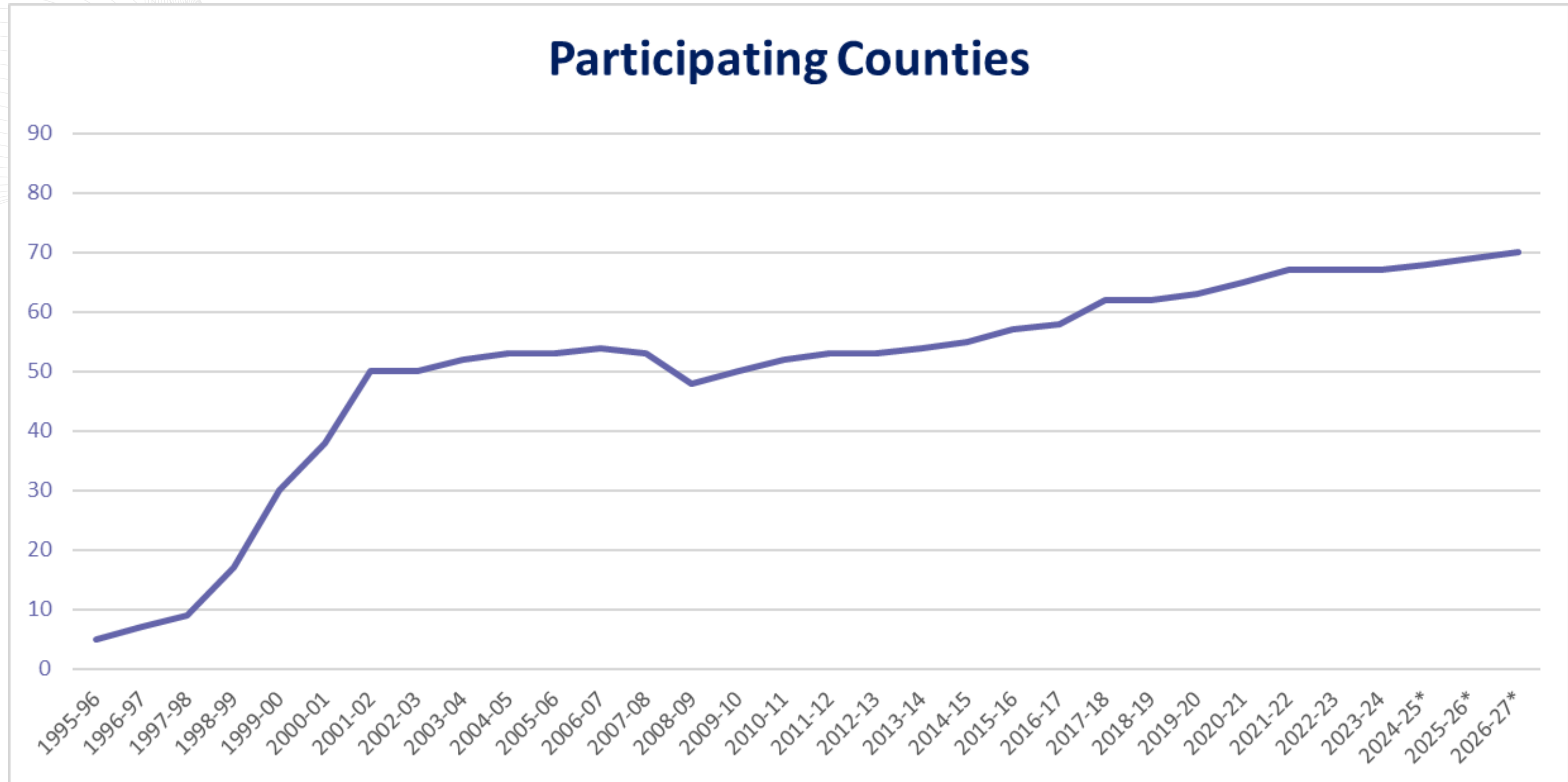
*Estimated through the end of the year

**Estimated with current cost trends and 3 new counties joining by year 2026-27



Counties participating in the non-capital reimbursement program
 Counties not participating in the non-capital reimbursement program

Non-Capital Reimbursements



*Expected number of participating counties

Non-Capital Case Reimbursement Participation Benefits

12% Lower per-capita jail population

20% Lower rate of “Low Recidivism Risk” individuals
in DOC

Nearly three weeks less time children are placed
outside of the home in CHINS cases

64 days shorter DOC commitments

Capital Reimbursement History

Capital reimbursements between FY17 and FY23 (excluding 2021*) ranges between \$71,547 and \$896,287.

*FY2021 is excluded due to COVID

Title IV-E Reimbursement History

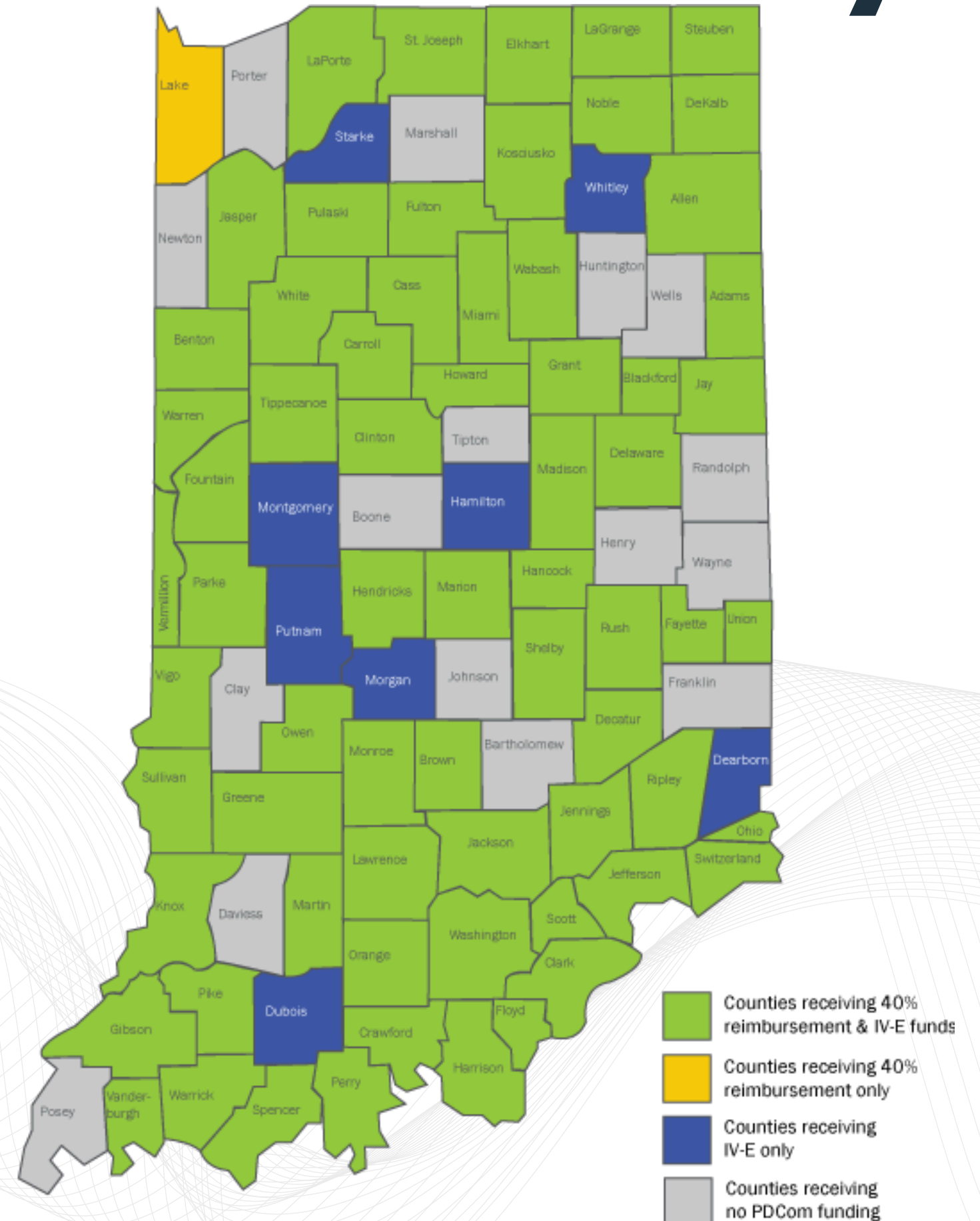
Federal funds returned to counties

Calendar year

2022 \$554,778

2023 \$879,124

2024* \$907,000



*Hamilton County will start receiving Title IV-E funds in 2025

Title IV-E Reimbursement History

State funds offset by Title IV-E participation

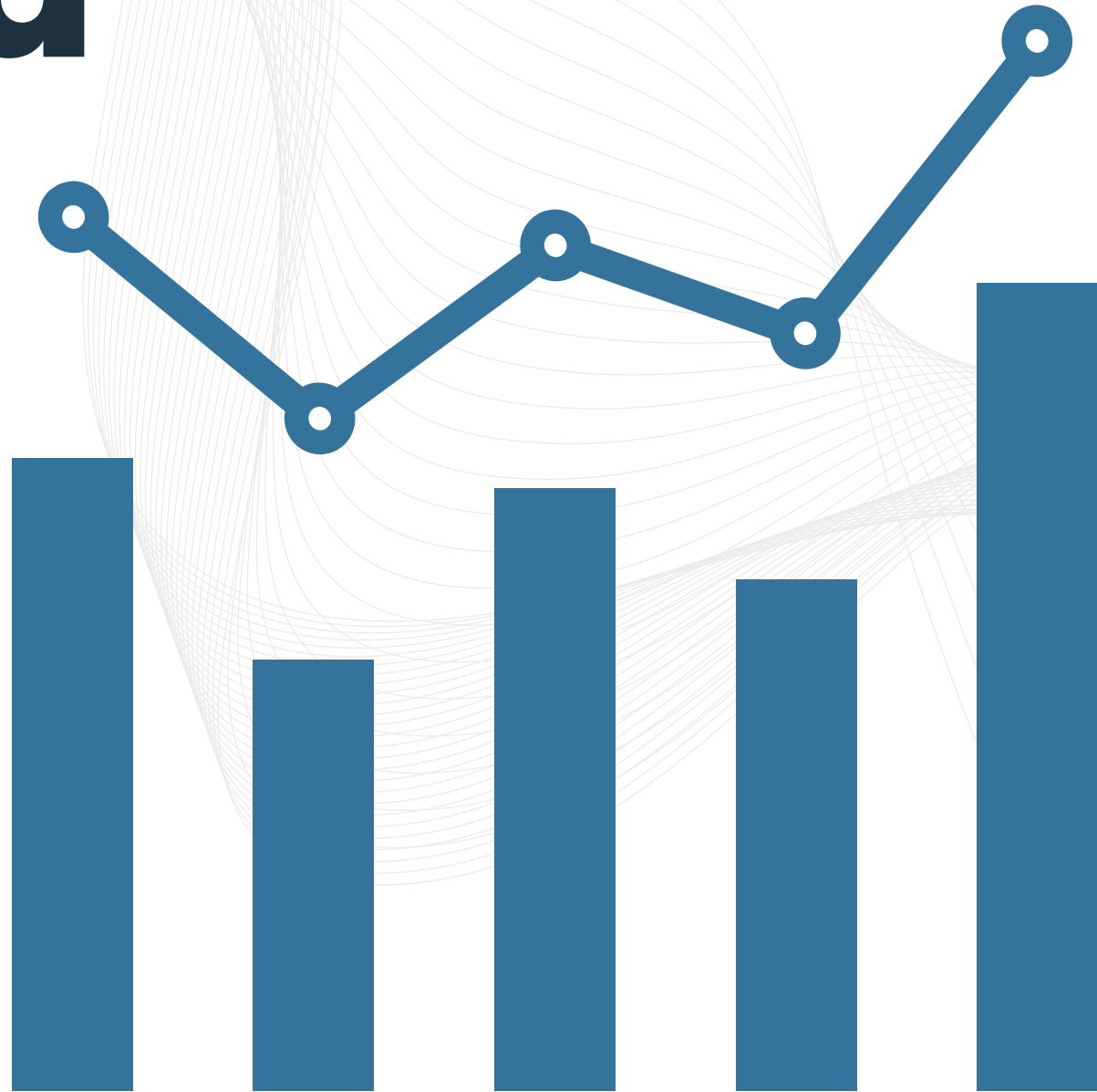
Calendar year

2022	\$369,852
2023	\$586,083
2024*	\$604,667



*estimated through the end of the year

At Risk Youth and Family Project Data



At Risk Youth and Family Funding

- Starting in July 2021, the Commission was given \$2M/fiscal year to support at-risk youth and families
- Primary purpose was to prevent or reduce DCS and juvenile court involvement
- CCAA has used funds for:
 - Title IV-E roll-out
 - Pilot initiatives on DCS and juvenile cases
- In 2023, reduced to \$1M/fiscal year and folded into base budget



Current ARYF Pilots

System Navigators

Monroe

Vigo

Washington

Juvenile Early Intervention Team

Marion

CHINS/TPR Mediation

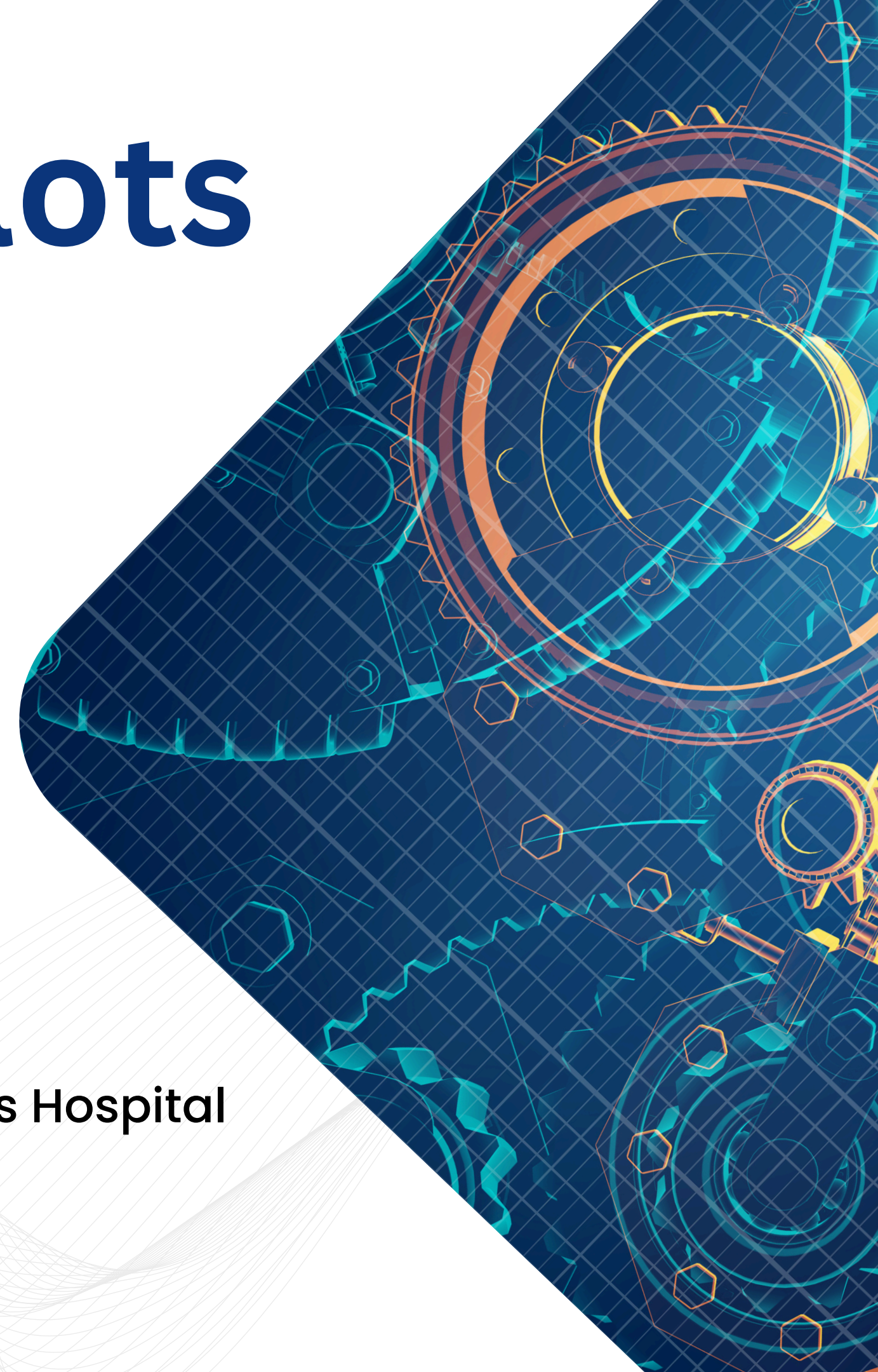
Partnership with Child Advocates

Multi-county, primarily Marion and Madison

Medical Legal Partnership

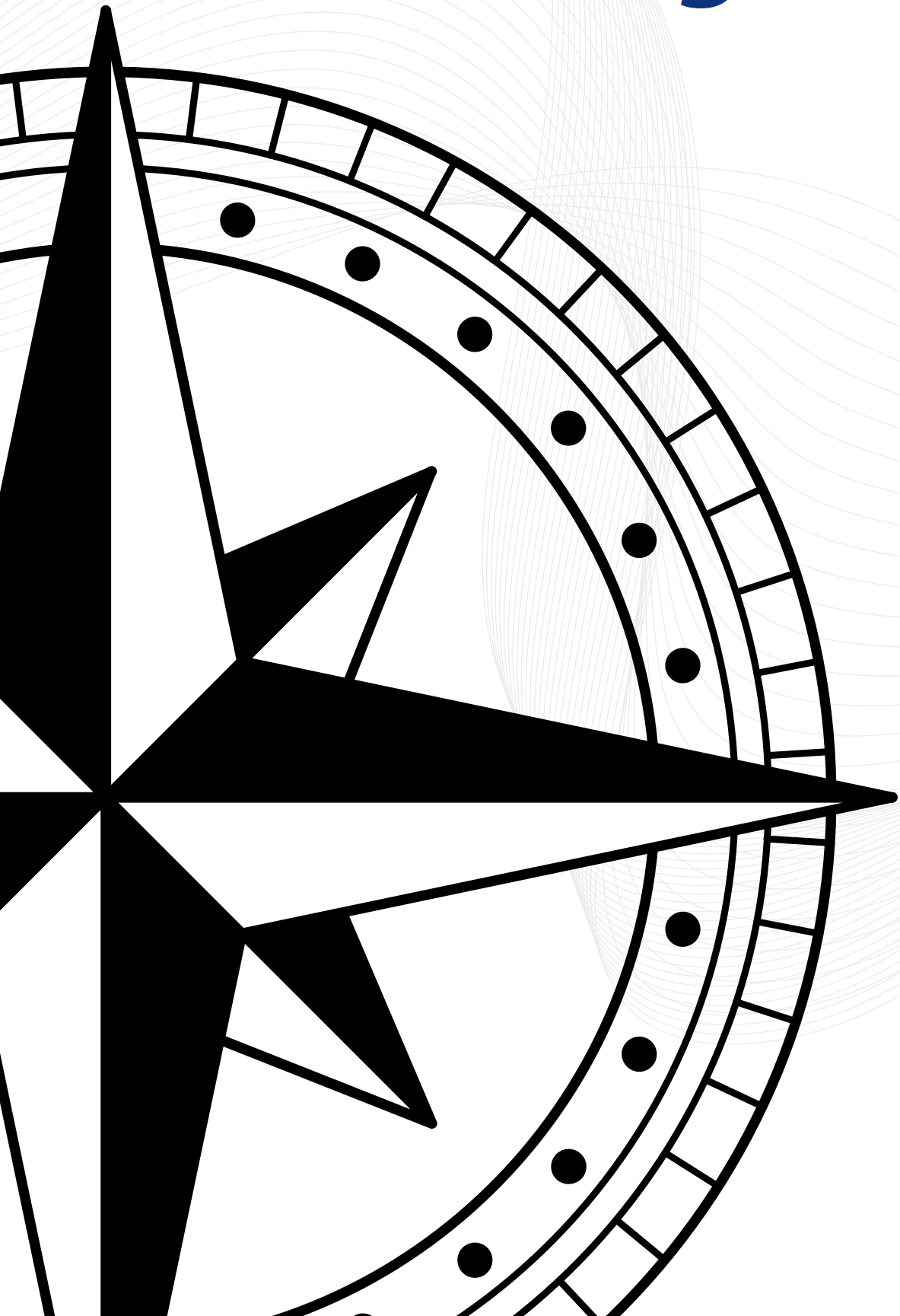
Partnership with Child Advocates and Riley Children's Hospital

Currently rolling out to multiple Riley locations

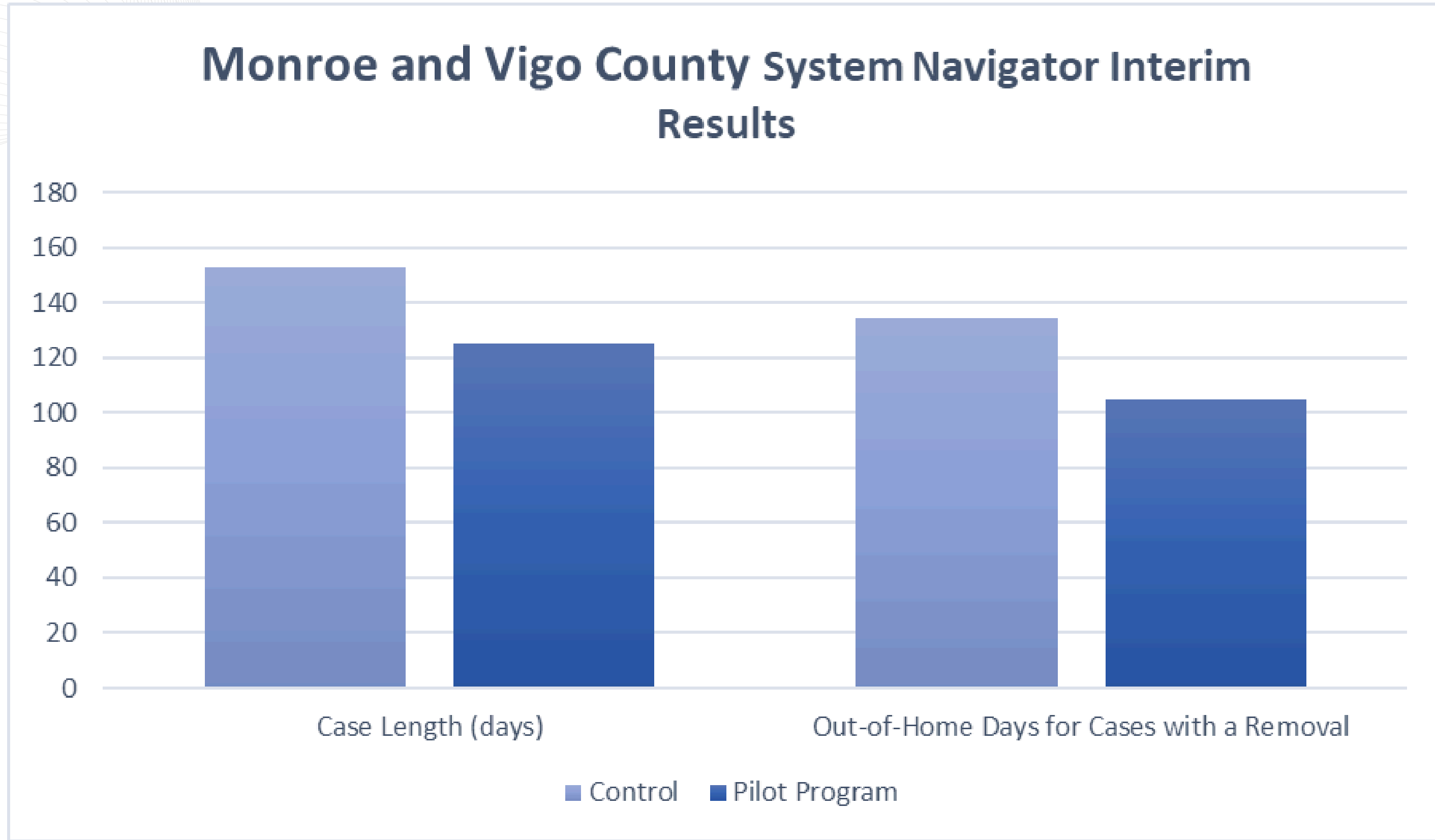


System Navigators

- **Goal:** Help parents in CHINS and TPR cases navigate and understand the complex DCS system
- **Services:** Provide social workers, case workers, or other DCS system experts to parents and their public defenders in CHINS and TPR cases
- **Monroe and Vigo** began around the same time in early 2022, and have been extended for continued data collection, both programs are now partially county funded through 2025
- **Washington** started in 2023 with a 2-year grant, and expands system navigators to juvenile cases



System Navigators - Results

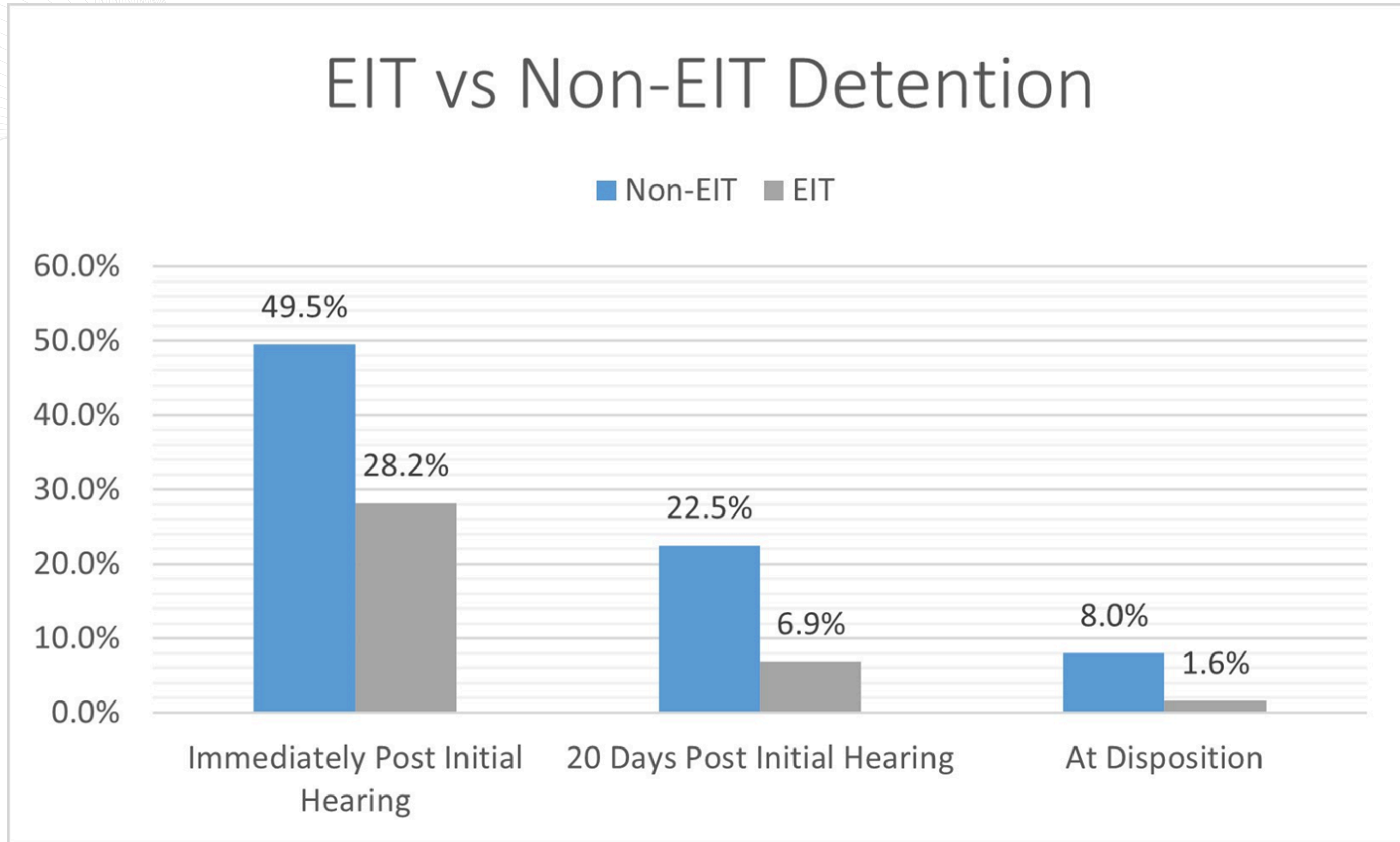


Juvenile Early Intervention Team

- **Goal:** Reduce the number of juveniles in secure detention and the number of juvenile delinquencies approved for filing
- **Services:** Provides a multidisciplinary team to clients in juvenile delinquency cases as early as possible, before the initial hearing
- **Timeline:** Began in March 2022, and has been partially extended for a third year
- As of April 2024, 954 clients had been represented

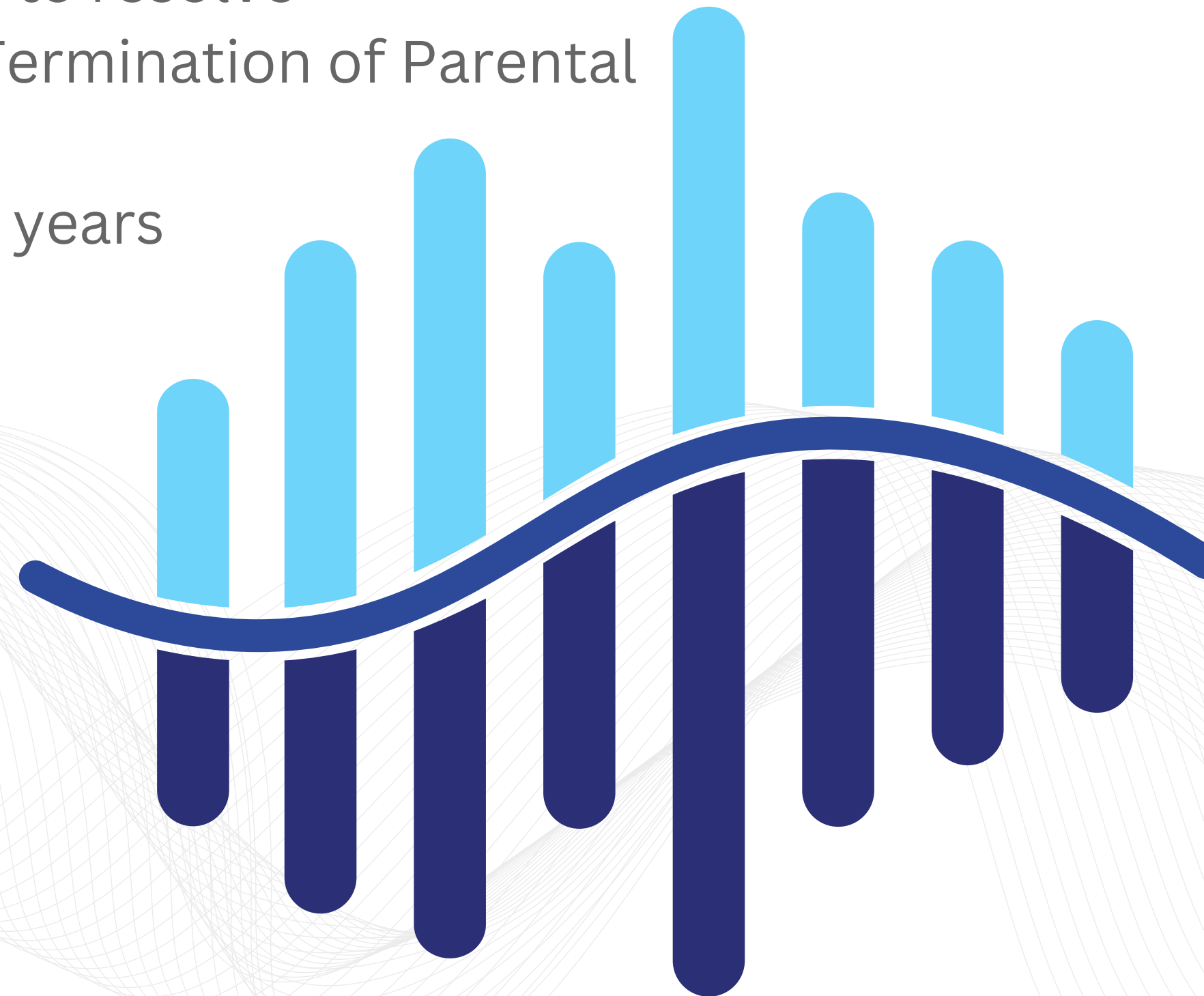


Juvenile EIT- Results



CHINS/TPR Mediation

- **Goal:** Use mediations and facilitations to provide efficient, collaborative resolution to cases that can often take years to resolve
- **Services:** Provides mediators in CHINS and Termination of Parental Rights cases
- **Timeline:** Pilot starting in late 2023, lasting 2 years
- **Interim results:**
 - Total Mediations/Facilitations so far: 212
 - Total Settlements: 111
 - Partial Settlements: 42



Medical-Legal Partnership

- **Goal:** Provide multi-disciplinary support to parents that are at risk of DCS involvement in order to prevent any future involvement
- **Services:** Provides a social worker-attorney team to referred at-risk parents
 - Referrals are made by an embedded social worker at Riley Children's hospital
 - Problems addressed include guardianship, custody orders, social security, benefits applications, eviction and other housing issues, and more
- **Timeline:** Pilot started in early 2024, lasting 2 years
- **Interim Results:** 25 accepted referrals in the first 2 quarters of operation, with referral rate accelerating over time



Public Defense Fee changes

Indigent defense fees assessed under IC 35-33-7-6 were increased effective July 1, 2024.



Adult Felony (old)

\$100; County retains 100% in the Supplemental Public Defense Fund



Adult Felony (current)

\$200; County retains first \$100; Remaining \$100 sent to CCAA.



Adult Misdemeanor (old)

\$50; County retains 100% in the Supplemental Public Defense Fund



Adult Misdemeanor (current)

\$100; County retains first \$50; Remaining \$50 sent to CCAA.

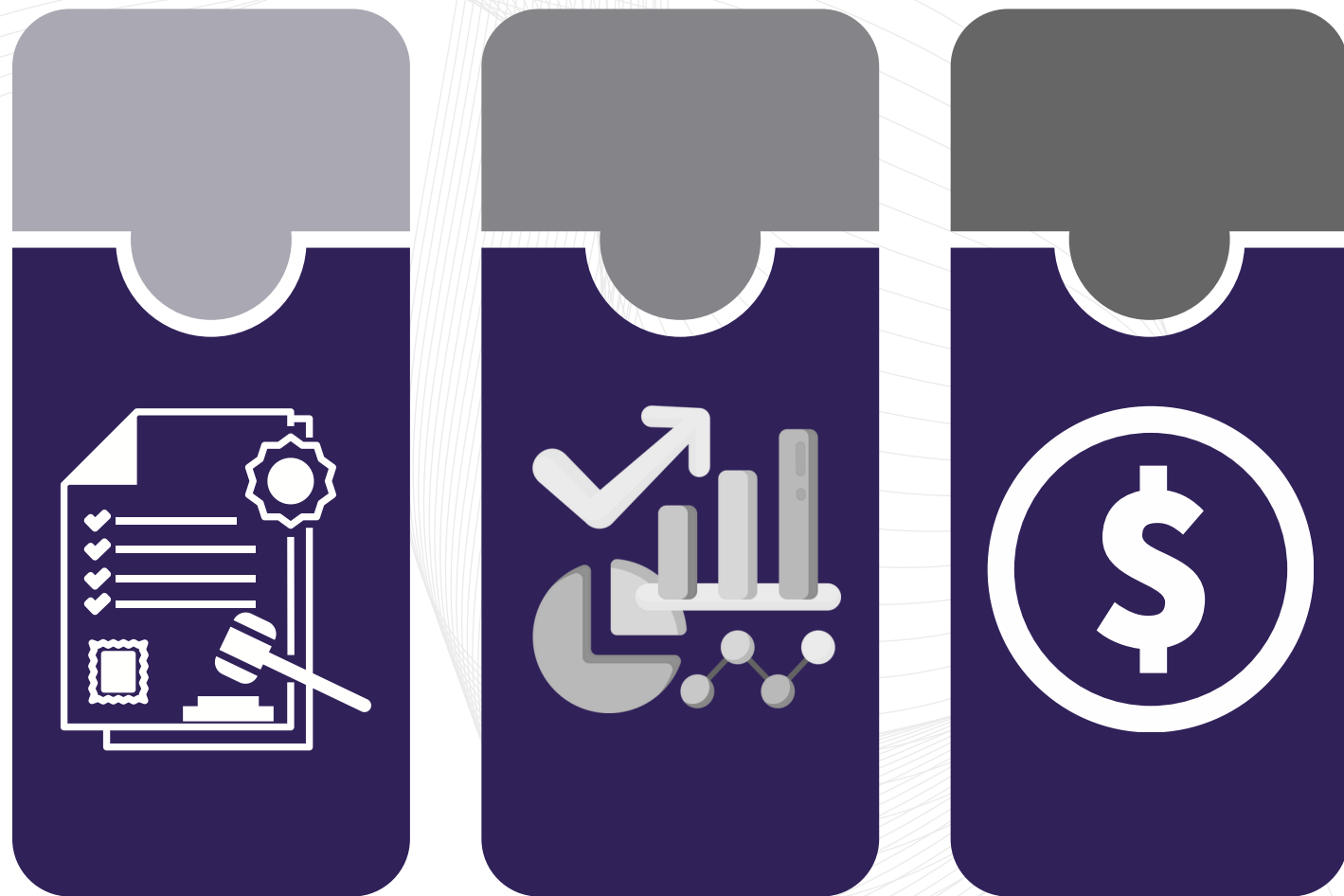
Public Defense Fee

(No change) The first \$50/\$100 of public defense fee remains at the county level.

(New) the second \$50/\$100 is remitted to CCAA twice a year. The first distribution to will occur in December 2024 and cover the time period of July 1 through November 30. Deposits will occur in June and December each year going forward, covering the preceding six month collection period.

Revenue estimates remain unclear. As one of the last distribution priorities, it will likely be years before the full impact of the fee change will be seen.

Misdemeanor Pilot Program



Overview

CCAA received approval last session to launch a pilot program offering misdemeanor reimbursement for up to 12 counties. The program was authorized to begin July 1, 2025 and conclude on June 30, 2029.

Data Tracking

The Commission will provide a report to the legislature which includes data and statistics on how the reimbursement has impacted attorney appointment rates, jail population, trial rates, and case outcomes.

Funding

Counties may receive up to 40% of the public defense system's expenditures on public defense services provided in misdemeanor cases. CCAA is using its existing funding to cover the cost of this program.

CCAA 2026–2027 Budget Request

Current Appropriations

FY24 General Fund \$34,073,811

FY24 Dedicated (court fees) \$7,400,000

TOTAL \$41,473,811

FY25 General Fund \$34,073,811

FY25 Dedicated (court fees) \$7,400,000

TOTAL \$41,473,811

Biennium Request

FY26 TOTAL \$41,473,811*

FY27 TOTAL \$41,473,811*

- Note: No increase requested – maintain FY 24–25 funding level

Caveat:

- There has been a significant amount of discussion regarding Indiana’s lawyer shortage.
 - IF other criminal justice entities receive additional funding, CCAA MAY need to request funding to maintain standards.

Final Point:

- CCAA has one of the lowest overhead costs of any state agency, with over 96% of total funding going directly to counties

*The revenues collected from the Public Defense Fee are in addition to these amounts

Questions?

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