



**Candice Broce** Interim Director  
and

**Chris Hempfling** Deputy Division Director and General Counsel

Introducing  
Candice Broce  
Interim Director

## Agency Vision

Safe Children. Strengthened Families. Stronger Georgia.

## Agency Mission

We prioritize the safety of Georgia's children in the decisions we make and the actions we take. We partner with families on their path to independence and build stronger communities with caring, effective and responsive service.

# Agency Overview

## Office of Child Welfare services:

- Foster Care
- Adoptions
- Child Protective Services

## Office of Family Independence services:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- Medical Assistance: Eligibility determinations for Medicaid, PeachCare for Kids, Planning for Healthy Babies

# Program Highlights

# Major Priorities

Simplification

Virtual Case Management

Back to school options for youth in care



# Office of Family Independence

- The Office of Family Independence's goal is to strengthen Georgians by providing individuals and families access to services that promote self-sufficiency and independence.
- **Programs offered:**
  - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
  - Medical Assistance
  - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



June 2021

# Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps)

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SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families so they can purchase healthy food and move towards self-sufficiency.

**\$470**

Avg. monthly benefit  
(June 2021)

**740K**

Number of SNAP families

**\$348M**

Monthly avg. SNAP benefits issued

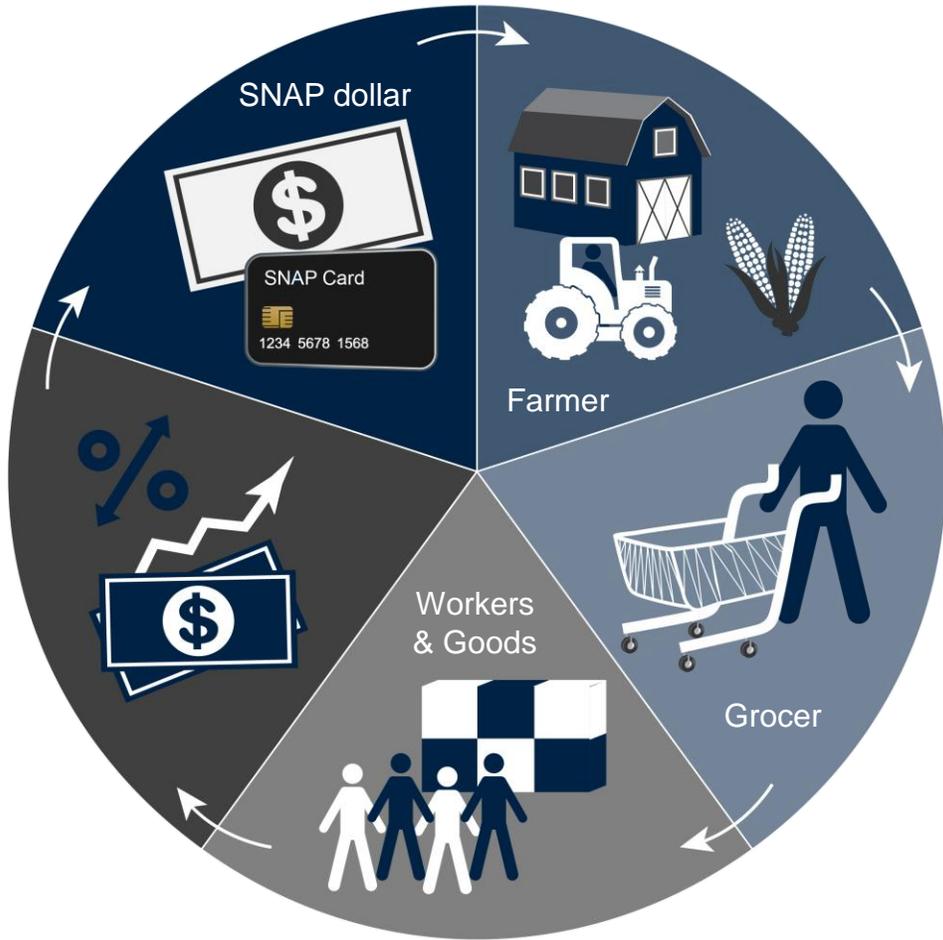
**100% Federal**  
• Benefits Funding Source

**55K**  
• Applications processed

**\$234 per month\***  
• Maximum Benefit for a Household of One  
\*15 % increase included

**120K**  
• Renewals Processed

# Economic Impact of SNAP in Georgia



Moody's Analytics estimates that **\$1** in SNAP benefits generates **\$1.70** in economic activity.



SNAP households receive benefits on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards, which can be used only to purchase food at one of the **263,100** authorized retail locations around the country – including some **10,300** in Georgia.

# MEDICAID

## Medicaid

Medicaid provides health coverage to low-income families, pregnant women and adults who are determined to be aged, blind or disabled. DFCS is a contractor of the Department of Community Health, providing eligibility determinations to applicants of the program.

**1,019,840**

◀ Average number of Georgia families receiving Medicaid services each month in (June 2021)

In September 2017, Georgia implemented a statewide eligibility system, **Georgia Gateway**. The system is a collaborative system between multiple state agencies that determines constituents' eligibility for social benefits.

**Mix of Federal & State Funds**

- Benefits Funding Source

**1,019,840**

- Number of Families

**2,226,634**

- Number of individuals (June 2021)

**182,578**

- Average number of children receiving PeachCare

# TANF

## Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provides time-limited cash assistance to Georgia's neediest families.

**\$259**

Avg. monthly benefit  
(June 2021)

**1,267**

Monthly # of Mandatory Work Cases

**6,091**

Child-only TANF cases



## Pandemic SNAP (P-SNAP)

This additional benefit for customers already receiving SNAP (food stamps) would grant the maximum allotment of food stamps to each household not already receiving it.



### SNAP/food stamp update

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provided a **temporary 15% increase** to the Georgia Food Stamp Program maximum and minimum allotment **effective from January 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.**

Household size	Maximum allotment	Maximum allotment with a 15% increase
1	\$204	\$234
2	\$374	\$430
3	\$535	\$616
4	\$680	\$782
5	\$807	\$929
6	\$969	\$1,114
7	\$1,071	\$1,232
8	\$1,224	\$1,408
<b>Each additional member</b>	\$153	\$176

# Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program is COMING SOON!

## What to expect?



Website with instructions for eligible families



Financial assistance with food purchases



Families of students who receive free and/or reduced lunch may qualify



Eligible for purchases made in-store, online or via delivery at approved grocery retailers



**Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning**  
BRIGHT FROM THE START



# DFCS Launches . . .

**SNAP** *Cares*

## Eligibility Criteria

- Former Georgia Foster Youth
- 18 years old or older
- SNAP/Food Stamp Recipient
- Residing in Macon-Bibb County and surrounding counties
- Not eligible for any ILP services
- Not receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)



# Office of Child Welfare

Number of children in foster care program on average SFY2020: **11,795**

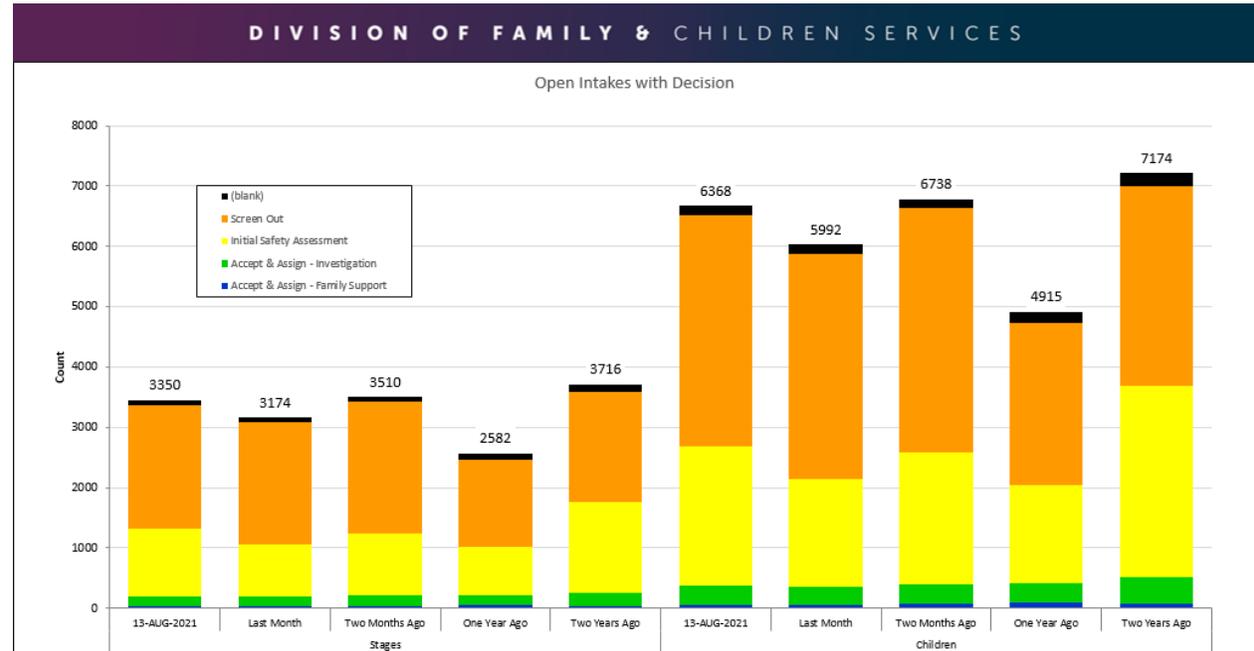
Number of children in care as of Aug. 13, 2021: **10,852**

Number of children adopted in SFY 2020: **1,421**

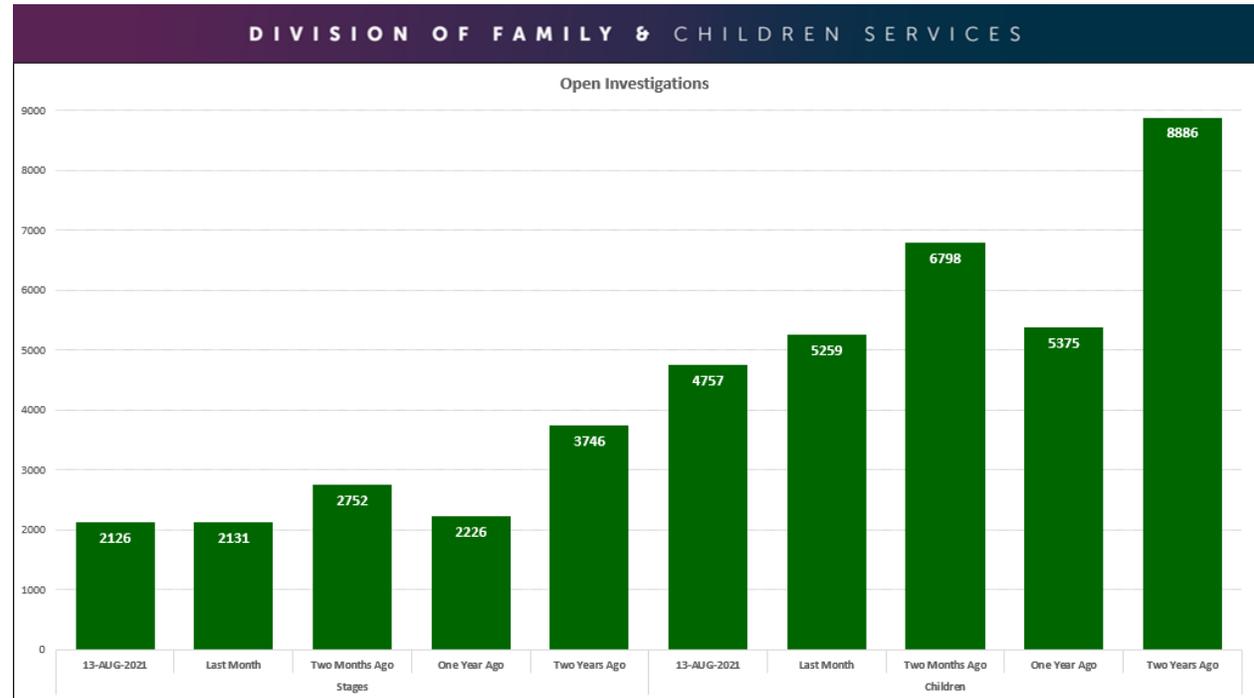
Number of children available for adoption as of Aug 13, 2021: **1,529**

**34,970 reports of abuse or neglect of children** were investigated by CPS staff in SFY 2020

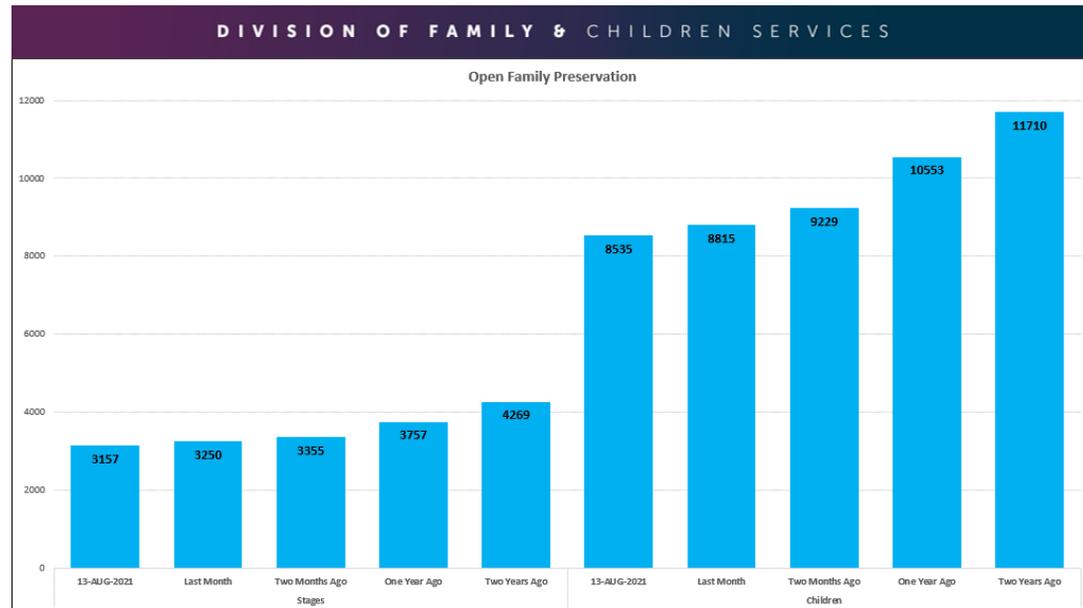
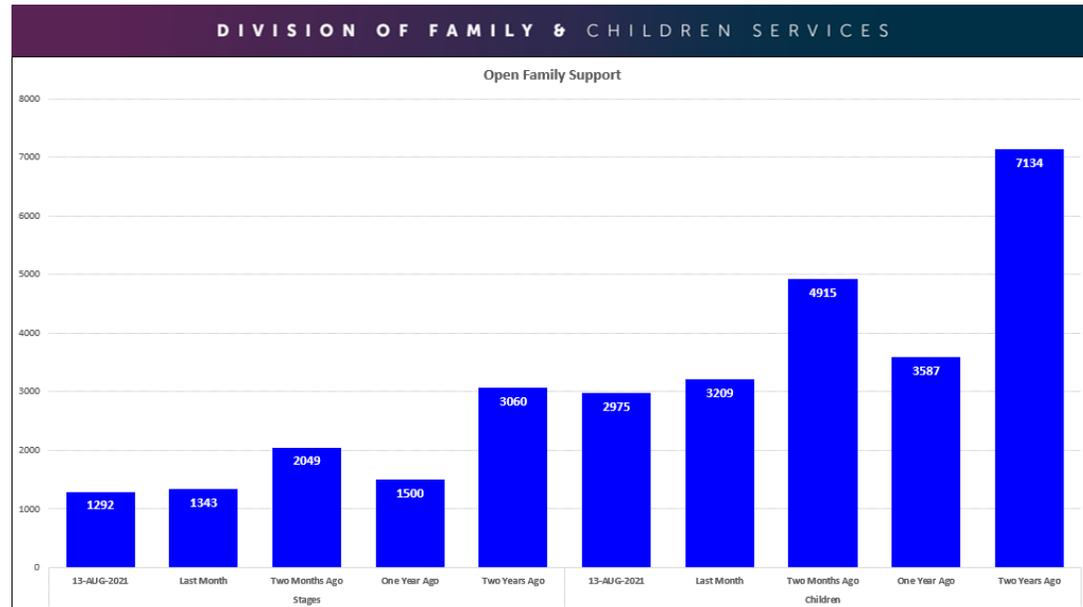
# Office of Child Welfare- Open Intakes with Decision



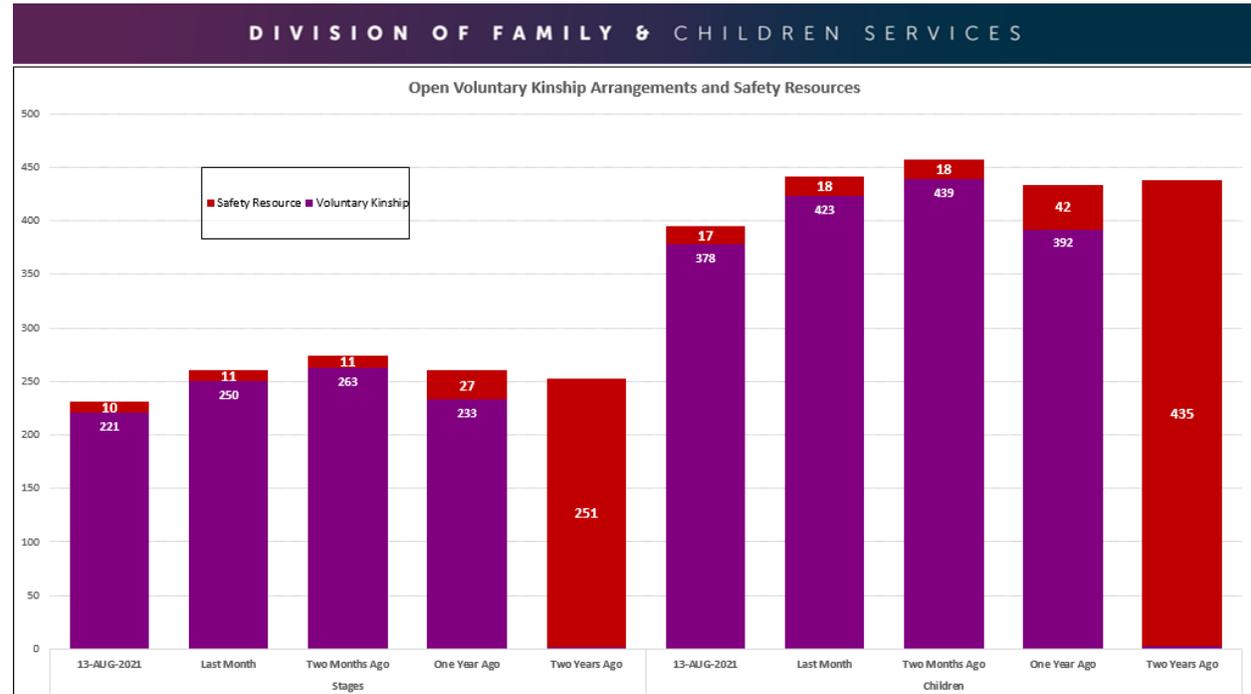
# Office of Child Welfare- Open Investigations



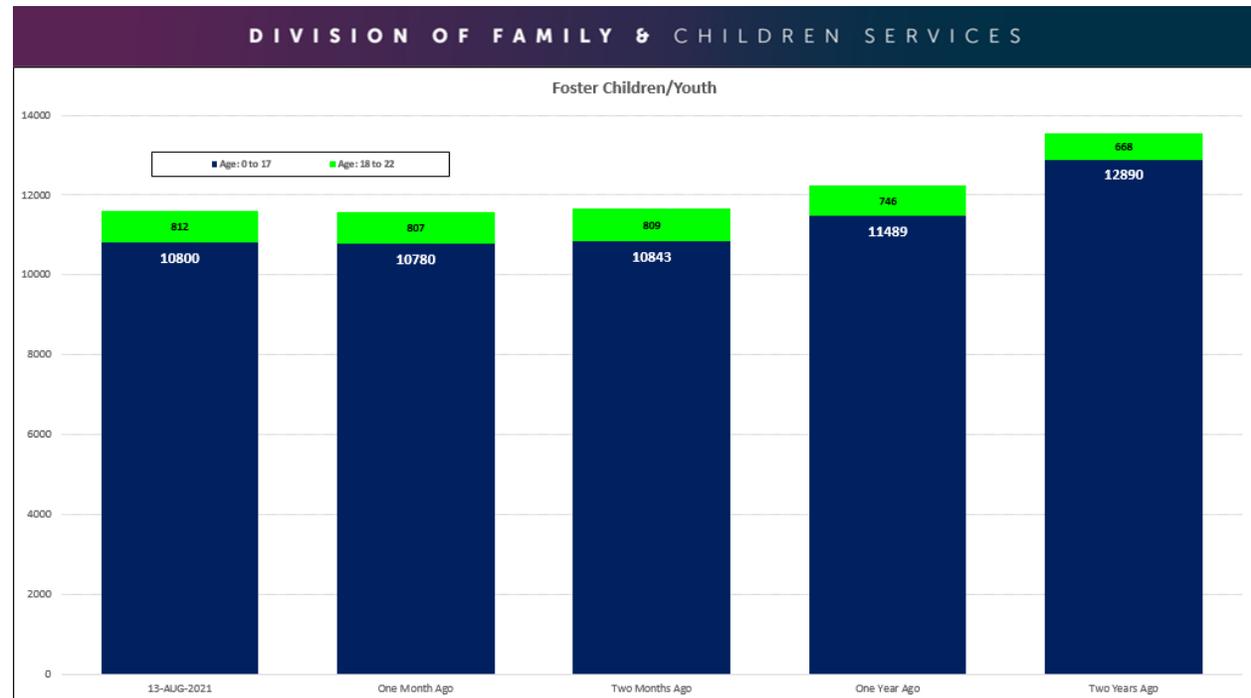
# Office of Child Welfare- Open Family Support and Preservation



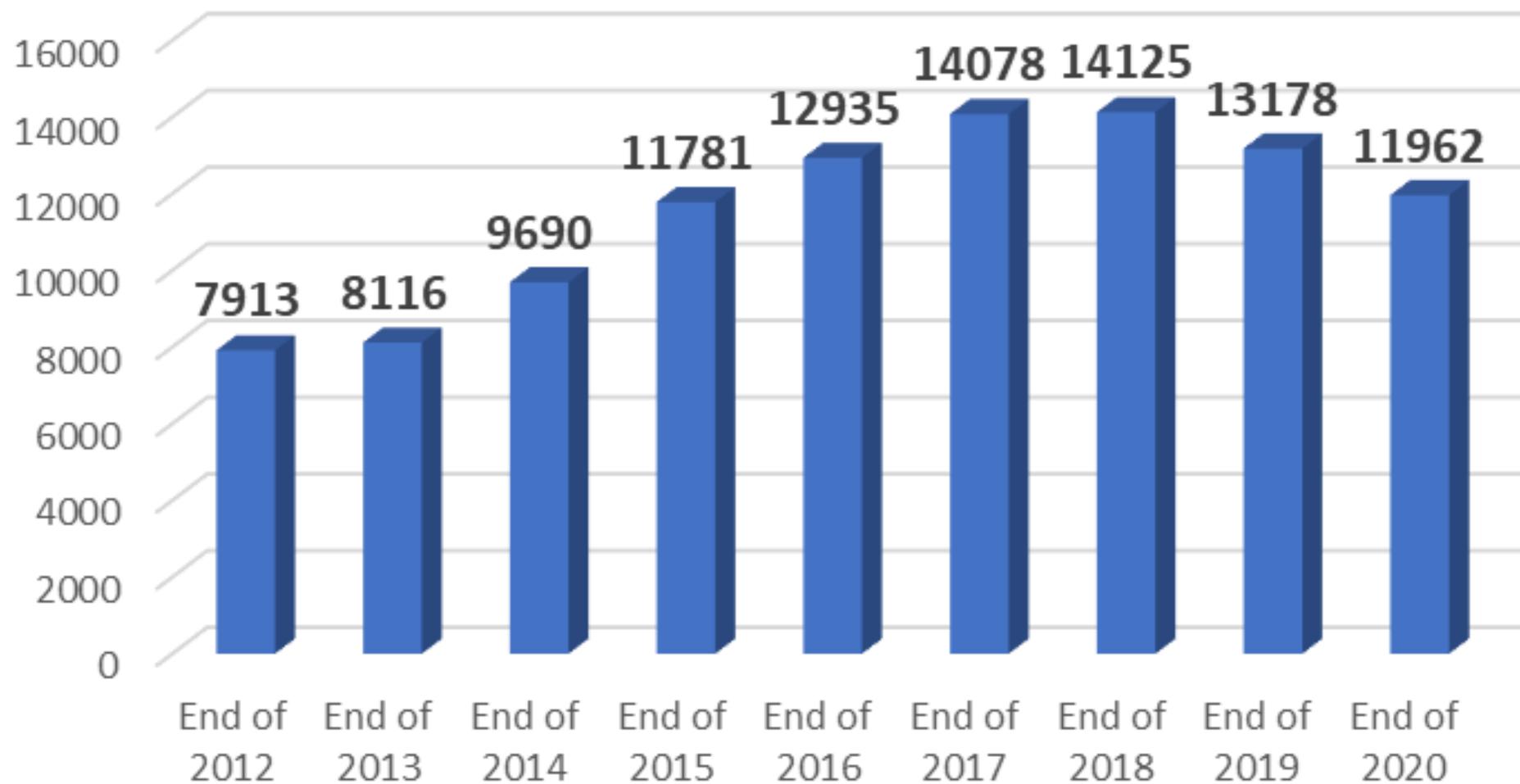
# Office of Child Welfare- Open Voluntary Kinship Arrangements and Safety Resources



# Office of Child Welfare- Foster Children/Youth



## Foster Children and Youth Totals





**Increase prevention services**

So children and families have access to resources in communities to prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement

**Decrease the need for foster care**

By offering evidence based interventions to allow children to remain safely at home

**Increase well-being of youth in foster care**

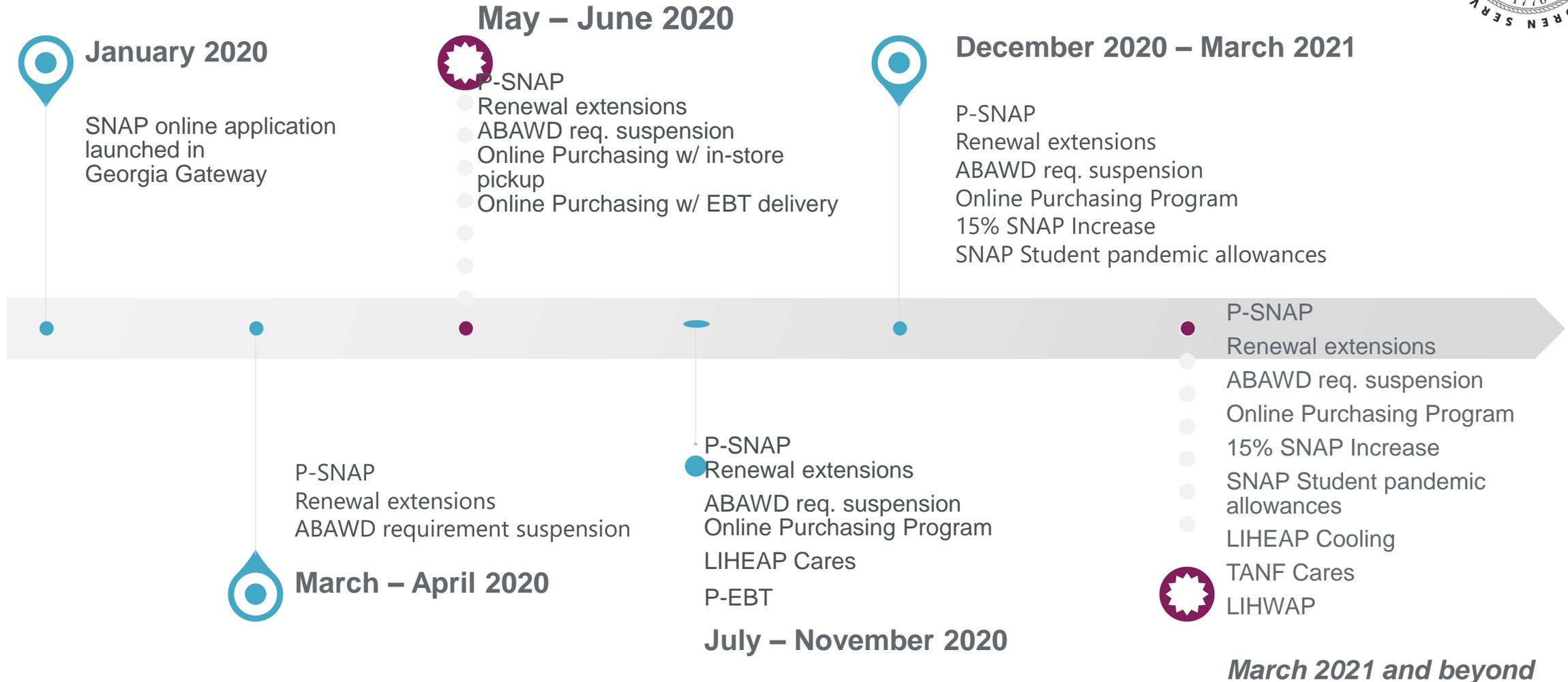
By expanding family based foster care settings and reducing reliance on congregate care

# Pandemic Response



# COVID-19

## • Agency Pandemic Response



# To apply for benefits

- Online Self-Service options:  
<https://gateway.ga.gov/access/>



- For assistance with a paper application or other services, call the Customer Contact Center at:

**Toll-Free: (877) 423-4746**



# VIRTUAL LOBBY

## Welcome

The Division of Family & Children Services (DFCS) has expanded self-service options making it easier for you to do business with us.



### Report child abuse | 1-855-GA-CHILD (1-855-422-4453)

Our Child Protective Services Intake Communication Center will help you to report instances of child abuse or neglect.

### Georgia Gateway portal | gateway.ga.gov

This portal allows you to access case information for SNAP/food stamps, Medicaid and TANF programs.



### Customer Contact Center | 1-877-423-4746

Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m, you can speak to a live representative who can assist with determining the status of your case, applications, change requests and renewals. You can also email us at [customer\\_services\\_dfcs@dhs.ga.gov](mailto:customer_services_dfcs@dhs.ga.gov).

### Submit a form | [dfcs.georgia.gov/family-independence-online-contact-form](https://dfcs.georgia.gov/family-independence-online-contact-form)

This form allows you to address issues related to Georgia Gateway, Electronic Benefits Transfer card, energy assistance, SNAP/food stamps, Medicaid and TANF.



# Upcoming Observances

#YES  
WE  
KIN!

KINSHIP CARE MONTH





SEPTEMBER



# NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH 2021

**RECOVERY IS FOR EVERYONE:**  
Every **Person**  
Every **Family**  
Every **Community**

[WWW.NATIONALRECOVERYMONTH.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALRECOVERYMONTH.ORG)

# Questions?

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