

Tom C. Rawlings 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

Agency Overview

DFCS has an office in each county*.

DFCS is open and serving Georgia's population in all 159 counties. Although our physical presence may appear different, our virtual lobbies are open and we are serving people electronically and telephonically,

Counties are grouped into 14 regions.

Communities are served through two categories: Office of Child Welfare and the Office of Family Independence (OFI).

Regions form three districts across the state (child welfare) and seven districts across the state (OFI).

Child welfare district directors report to Deputy Director of Child Welfare.

OFI district directors report to the OFI Director of Field Operations.

*Note: The Stephens and Madison County Offices are currently operating out of adjacent facilities until a more permanent solution is identified

DFCS Executive Team

Office of Family Independence

Number of individual receiving SNAP in SFY 2020: 1,396,878

Average SNAP benefit per household in SFY 2020: \$300

Number of families receiving medical coverage in SFY 2020: 847,698

Child-only cases receiving TANF in SFY 2020: 7,783

Office of Child Welfare

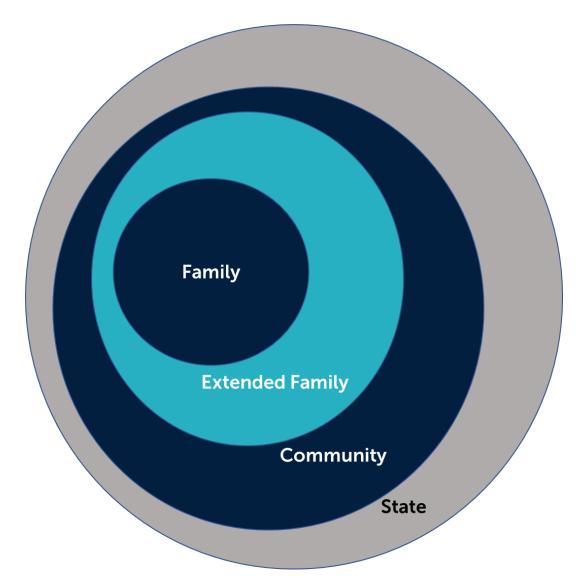
Number of children in foster care program on average at any one point in time, representing a decrease of 10% from SFY 2019: 18,449

Number of children adopted in SFY 2020: 1,421

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

DFCS implemented strategies that reduced the child foster care population (<18 years old) by more than 8.5 percent in FY 2020, decreasing from 13,053 to 11,919 (as of June 30, 2020).

Circle of Support and Intervention



Major Priorities

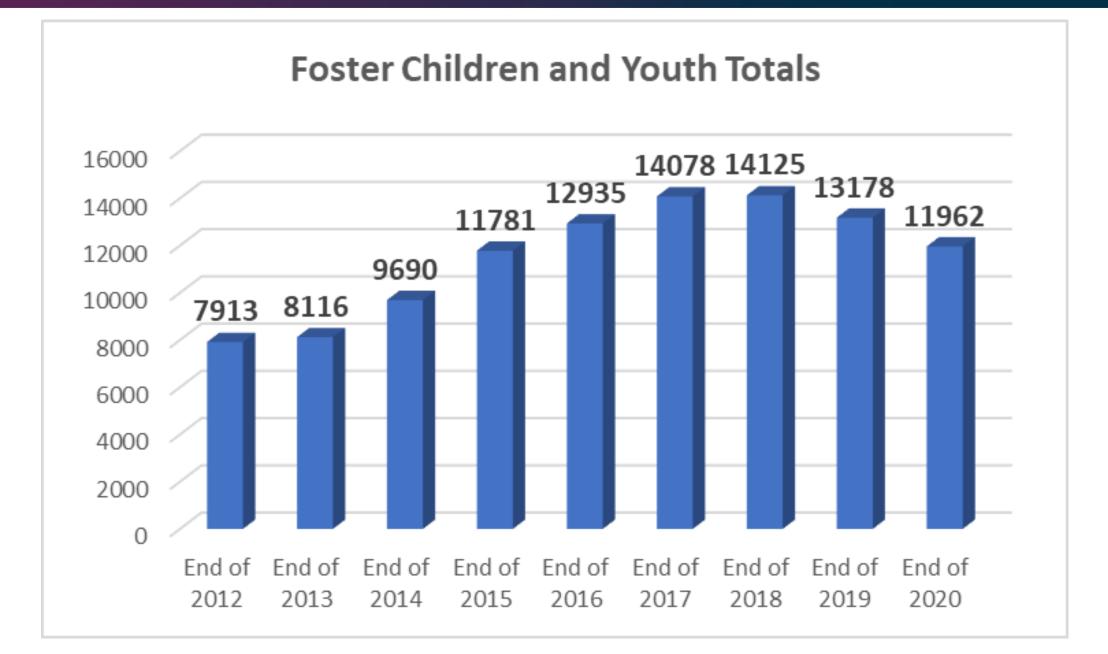
Bolstering the Workforce:

- Struggle in this economy
- Continual recruiting
- Just Culture
- Dare to Lead Training
- Staff Survey
- Support

Balancing the Workload

- Simplifying
- Focus on core responsibilitie
- Making caseloads manageable
- Working more closely with community partners and other agencies

DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES



Georgia Update

Public Law 115-123 division e-health and human services extenders

TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT







National Foster Care Month

Questions?

Contact me: <u>Tom.Rawlings@dhs.ga.gov</u>