

Workforce and Higher Education Committee

October 28, 2025

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Deputy Director for External Affairs



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



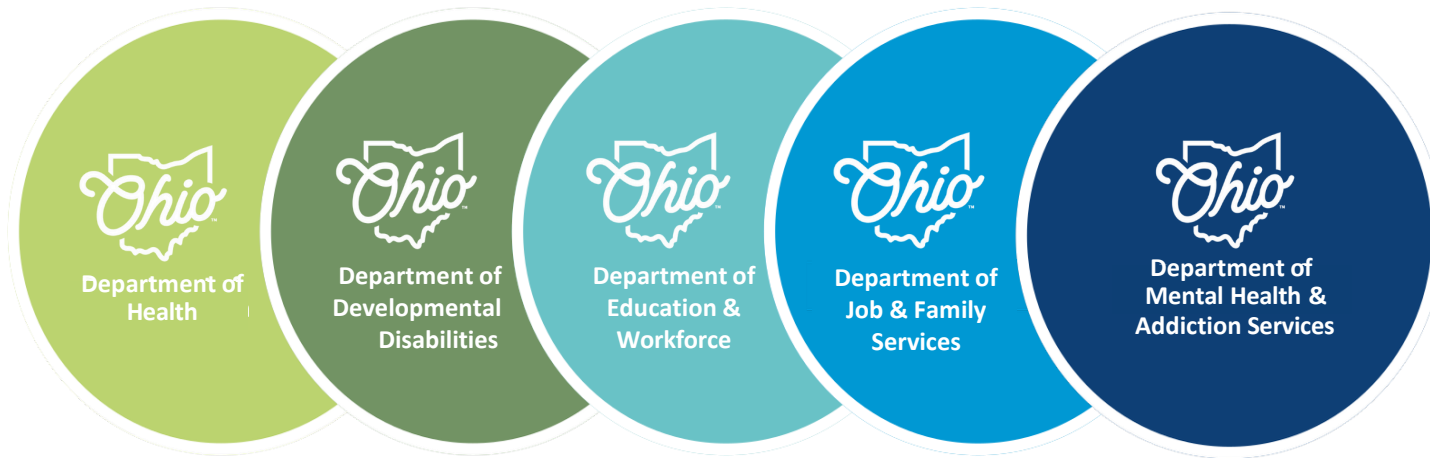
“Our goal for each Ohioan is for them to be able to live up to their full potential and for each one to have the opportunity to live up to their version of the American dream.”

- Governor Mike DeWine



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH OVERVIEW

Past

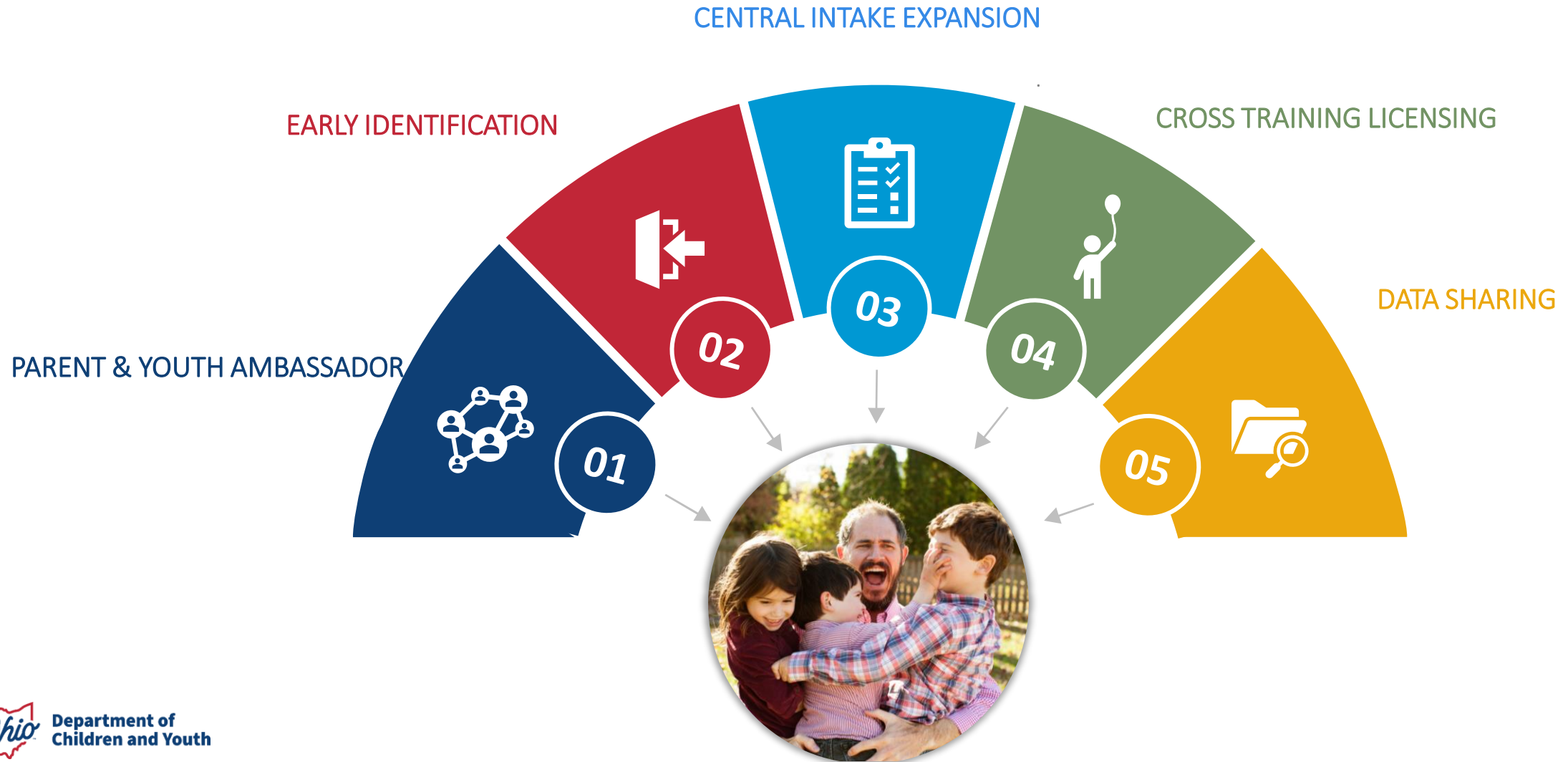


Today



DCY places children at the core of its mission to promote positive, lifelong outcomes for all Ohio youth.

QUESTION NOT A CRISIS



DCY Short & Long Term Goals

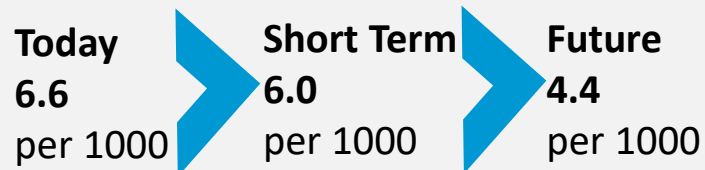
Ohio aims to be the best place in the country to start and raise a family and DCY has outlined the following goals to become a leading state (e.g., top 10 in the country across 3 program areas):



Goal #1:

Maternal & Infant Wellness

Rate of Infant Mortality



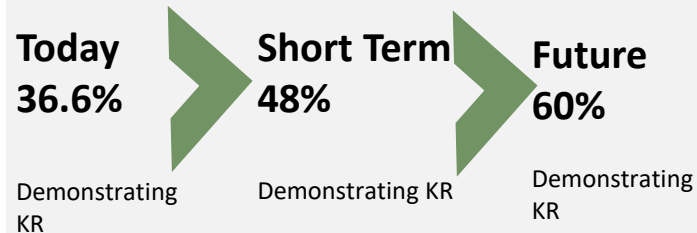
DCY wants to make Ohio a top 10 state in the US



Goal #2:

Early Care & Education

Rate of Children Demonstrating Readiness on the KRA



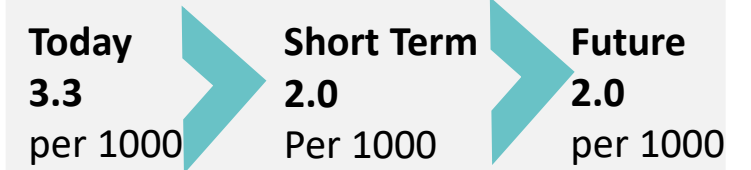
DCY wants to bring all counties to the 99th percentile of OH counties and improve outcomes by 70%



Goal #3:

Children Services, Kinship, Foster & Adoption

Rate of Children Entering Foster Care



DCY wants to make Ohio a top 10 state in the US

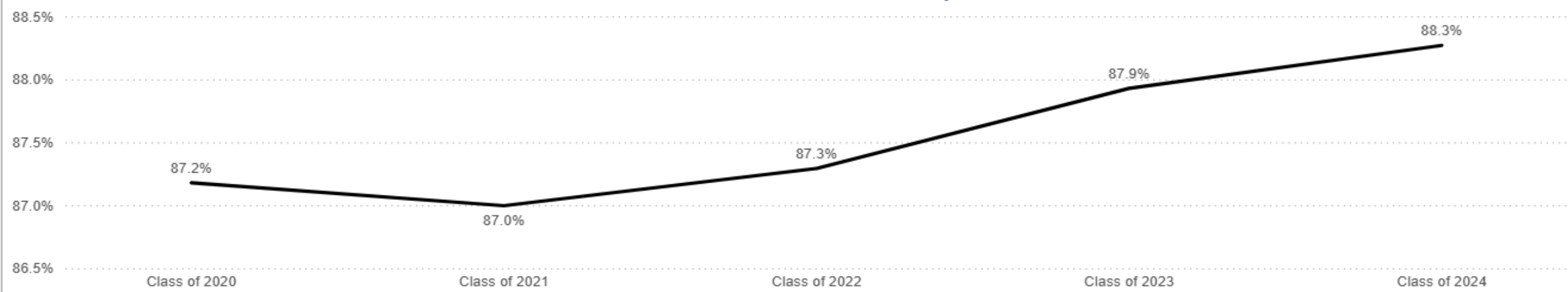
CHILDREN SERVICES – LANDSCAPE

Children in Custody		
Year	12/31/19	9/30/25
# of Children in Custody	16,455	14,316
# of Children in Congregate Care*	2,161	2,096
# of Foster Parents	7,301	6,988

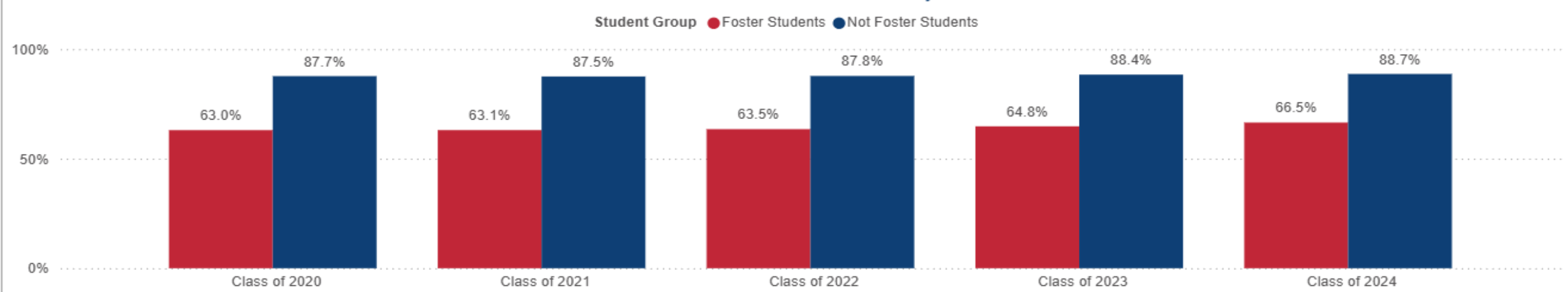
*Congregate Care includes children's residential centers, detention facilities, emergency shelter care, hospital admissions, nursing homes, group homes, and residential parenting homes

FOSTER YOUTH GRADUATION RATES BY YEAR

4-Year Graduation Rate for Selected Schools by All Students



4-Year Graduation Rate for Selected Schools by Foster Students



STATE SUPERVISED AND COUNTY ADMINISTERED

- Ohio's child welfare system is state supervised and county administered, meaning:
 - The Department of Children and Youth, working with the General Assembly, sets the state budget and supports for children services.
 - DCY also oversees county operations of child welfare, including offering technical assistance, best practices, and promulgates Ohio Administrative Code rules through the legislative JCARR process.
 - Counties make case by case decisions for children and families, including filing motions with local courts, placement decisions, and provide direct support to children in foster care and their families.

PLACEMENT STABILITY – TREATMENT FOSTER HOMES

- Treatment Foster Home Pilot
 - Initially had a scope of 15 counties, but due to interest in the program, currently supports 42 counties.
 - The pilot provides foster homes with 24/7 on-call support, crisis counseling, and specialized training for foster homes.
 - The specialized foster homes provide children and youth with more complex needs an alternative to congregate care placements, which improves outcomes for children and youth and saves counties resources.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND THE BRIDGES PROGRAM

- Independent Living
 - All children and youth in custody of a county 14 years and older and some who have “aged out” of county custody are eligible.
 - Services provided by a county children services agency include academic help, workforce connections, housing assistance, and many other supports.
- Bridges Program
 - Former foster youth who meet certain eligibility criteria may receive:
 - Housing assistance, help finding employment, and assistance with further educational opportunities.
 - Help with connections to community resources and life skills instruction.

DCY STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

- The Department of Children and Youth is pleased to work with the following to “Do What’s Right for Kids” in child welfare for Ohio.
 - The Ohio Youth Advisory Board/Foster Action Ohio
 - The Ohio Children’s Alliance
 - The Public Children Services Association of Ohio
 - Ohio Job and Family Services Directors’ Association
 - The County Commissioners Association of Ohio
 - Several local stakeholders, including courts, community associations, schools, etc.
 - Ohio’s foster, kin, biological families, and the children we serve
 - And many others



**Department of
Children & Youth**

DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR KIDS.

Department of Children and Youth

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