

Child Welfare Enhancement Funds: Foster Care Reinvestment Funds

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VAYAHEALTH

Today's Agenda

- History of Child Welfare Enhancement Funds
- Current Participants: Data and Stories
- Continuation and Expansion
- Next Steps

History of Child Welfare Enhancement Funds



History

- Child Welfare Enhancement Funds vs. Foster Care Reinvestment Funds vs. Sub-Cap payments
- In November 2020, Cardinal Innovations launched a program aimed at supporting children in the custody of social services departments across their region. The plan included a \$30 Million investment to fund a monthly payment, referred to as the Child Welfare Enhancement Fund for every Medicaid-eligible child in foster care.
- During the consolidation efforts, Vaya committed to continuing the funding through June 2023 for the counties who transitioned to Vaya and were receiving the monthly payments.
- Each month, participating counties receive a portion of the Per Member Per Month (PMPM) capitation payment that Vaya receives for every Medicaid-eligible child in foster care.
- Originally, payments could be used to support member's who were entering custody and/or to prevent children from entering custody. There was limited tracking of the spending.

History Continued

- With the goal of obtaining data to support continuing the project past June 2023, Vaya worked with counties to develop a tracking mechanism for the spending with spending going towards the following areas identified by DSS and Vaya:
 - Custody Prevention
 - Reduce # of Children in Residential Care
 - Reduce Length of Time in DSS Custody
 - Reduce Placement Disruptions
 - Interim Supports Between Placements
 - Support Kinship Licensure
 - Increase Family Engagement
 - Access Non-Medicaid Funded Supports
- In June 2023, After gathering the data and doing a cost analysis, Vaya's Executive Leadership Team approved the continuation and expansion of the project!

Current Participants: Data and Stories

Current Participants

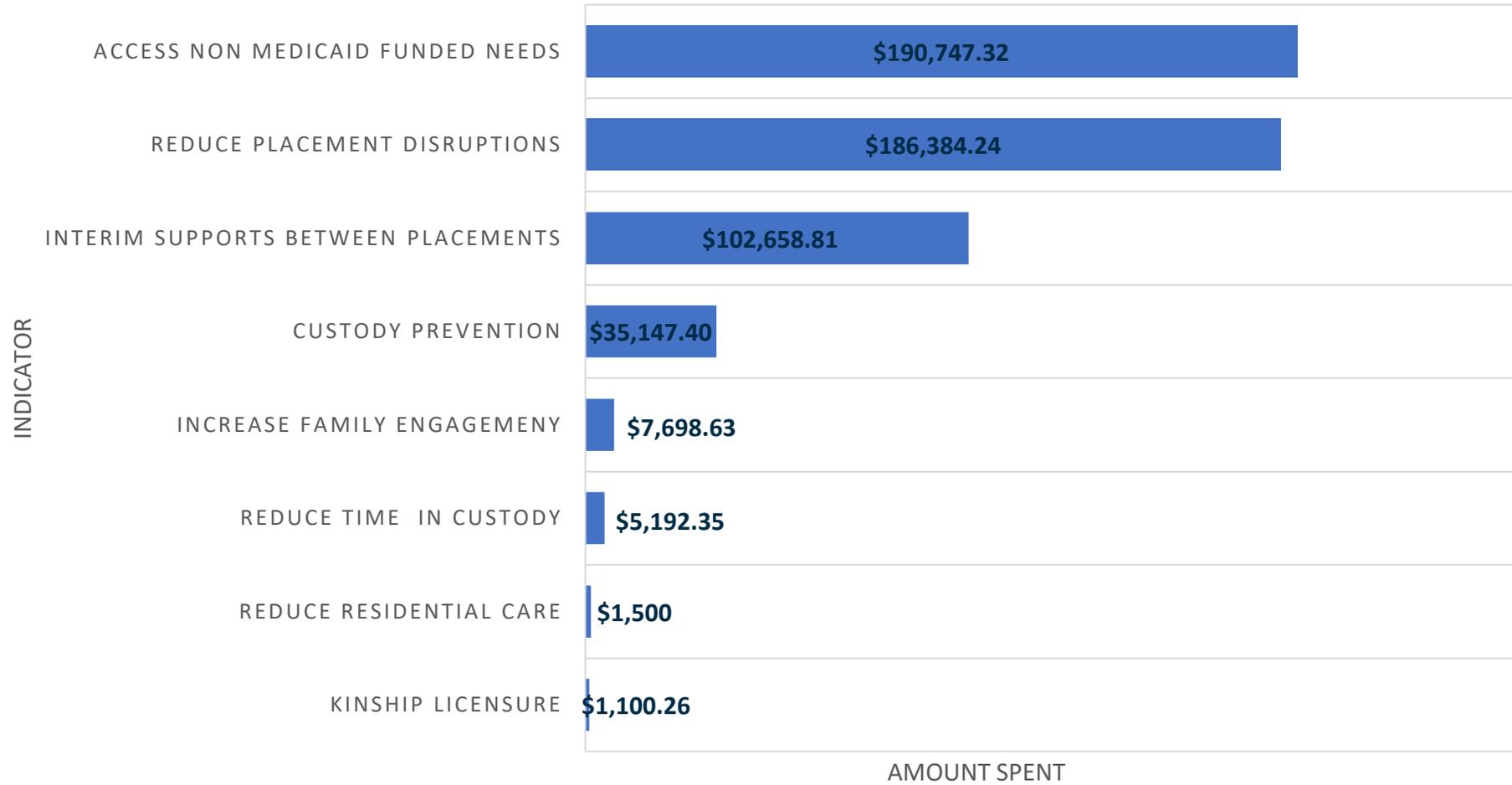
- Alamance County
- Chatham County
- Rowan County
- Stokes County



Data

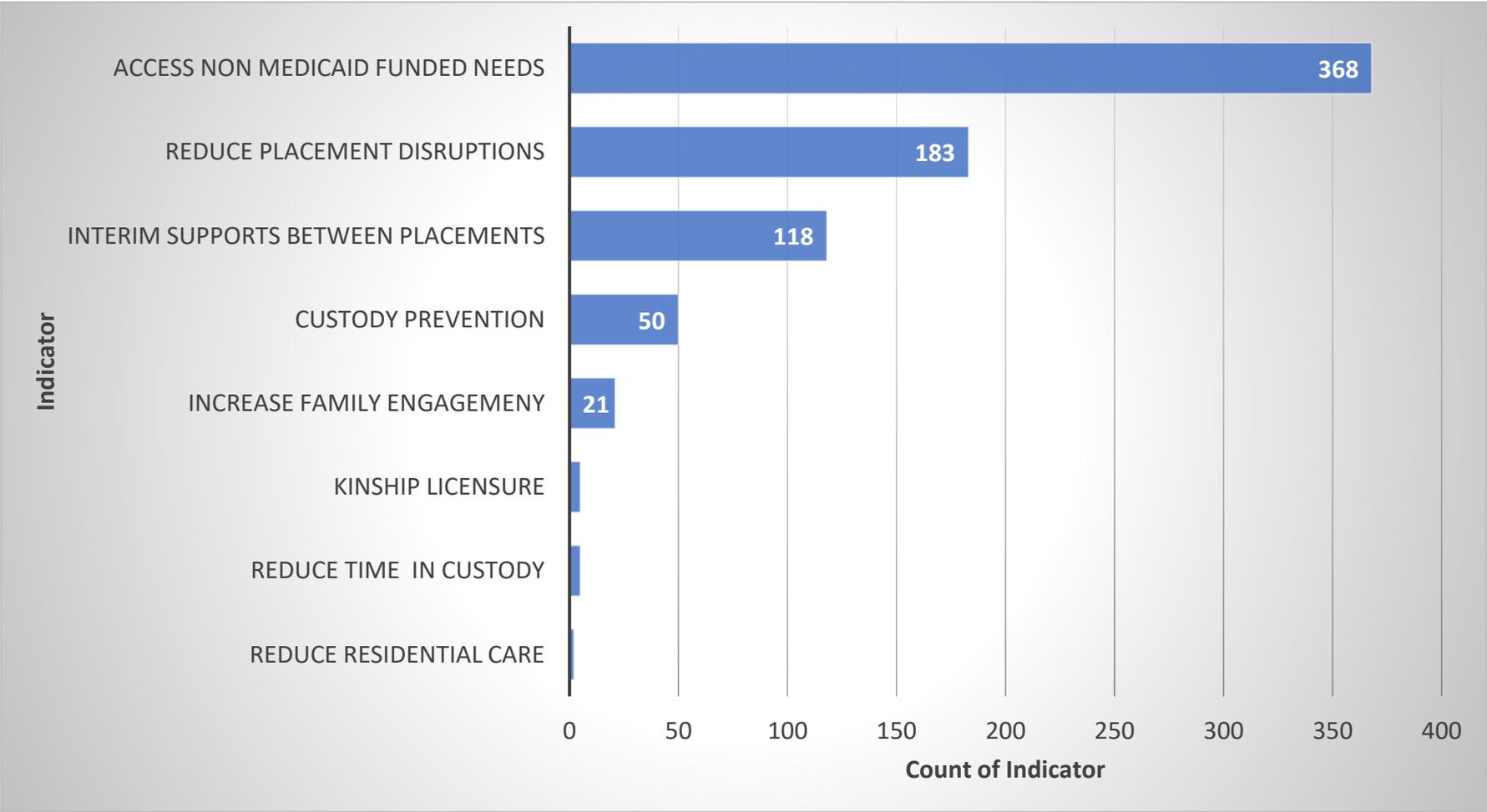
July 2022-March 2023

Amount Spent for Each Indicator – All Counties



Total spent: \$530,429.01

Count for Each Indicator – All Counties



Examples of How Money was Used for Each Indicator

- Reduce Placement Disruptions:
 - **Room and board**, Extermination Services, **Daycare**, Transportation, Preserve Kinship Placements
- Interim Supports Between Placements:
 - Payroll for staff, supplies for children in offices/hotels,
- Access Non-Medicaid Funded Needs:
 - Neurofeedback, assessments, tutoring, dental/vision care not covered by Medicaid, clothing, **room and board**, **day care**, camp, laptops, online high school access
- Custody Prevention:
 - Hotel stays, parent coaching, parenting classes, pest control, rent/deposits, appliances, cleaning supplies, utilities, **childcare**, transportation to preserve kinship placement, food
- Increase Family Engagement:
 - Tutoring, security deposit for trial home placement, bed bug treatments, celebratory dinners, meals during visits, updates to visitation space at DSS, speaker for family engagement events
- Reduce Time in Custody:
 - Counseling, enhanced medical supervision, transportation for reunification
- Reduce # of Children in Residential Care:
 - Foster Parent Training
- Kinship Licensure:
 - Fees, MAPP Training Sessions, Physical Exams

Stories

Chatham and Rowan

Chatham County Kinship Pilot

- Increased support to kinship families as well as developed a pilot involving family time between parents, children and siblings.
- Increased support included:
 - Clothing, hygiene supplies and other times when children first come into care
 - Monthly half board rate paid to families taking steps to become licensed
 - Childcare/sitters for breaks
 - Afterschool programs, camps, other enrichment activities
 - Tailored training to kinship providers
 - Individualized/more accessible trainings like Deciding Together has been successful
- Increase in kinship licensed families
 - March 2023 CCDS now has 20 licensed kinship families
 - 95% increase since FY20
 - 55% increase since FY21
- Paid for a temporary position that assists social workers with transportation and supervision during family visits. Position filled in March 2023. Goal is to increase frequency, quality and documentation of family visits to support best practice and increase reunification.

Rowan County: Kinship Placements and Reunification

- “Here at Rowan County Department of Social Services we have been able to utilize the Foster Care Reinvestment Funds to **keep children who would normally be placed in a foster home or leveled care in kinship homes (this includes relatives and nonfictive relatives)**. Our data just for this calendar year shows that we have been able to keep **86% of our kids with family or in their familial community and we believe this has directly impacted our reunification rate**, at this time we have **successfully reunified 50% of the children who were in care with at least 1 biological parent**. These funds have also allowed us to have more **meaningful family time visitation options** such as going out to restaurants and movie theatres. We have been able to **decorate our visit room so that the families feel like they are in their living rooms and not in a cold and sterile place**. The families and the children have commented that it is more friendly and doesn’t feel as restrictive when they can offer suggestions for visits, and we can ensure that they occur to **help them feel as normal as possible.**”
 - Roxie Cashwell, Rowan Count Social Work Services Program Administrator

Looking Forward

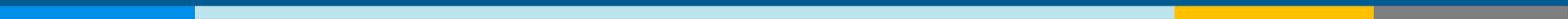


Continuation and Expansion

Continuation and Expansion of the Funding

- Vaya's ELT has approved the continuation and expansion of the project.
- Alexander and Jackson counties have been identified to expand the project.
- Alamance, Chatham, Rowan and Stokes will continue to receive the funding.
 - Will also be a support for Alexander and Jackson as they get started.
- Funding Focus:
 - Custody Prevention
 - Reduce Length of Time in DSS Custody (Reunification/Permanency Planning Support)
 - Reduce Placement Disruptions/Interim Supports Between Placements
 - Support Kinship Licensure
 - Access Non-Medicaid Funded Supports

Next Steps



Next Steps

- Internal Next Steps:
 - Vaya Provider Network working with Finance and Legal to update/finalize contracts
 - Current participating counties informed of expansion (completed)
- External Next Steps
 - Ashley to schedule calls with Alexander and Jackson (will include CR) to introduce the project and confirm willingness to participate. (complete)
 - Confirmation by Alexander and Jackson that they want to participate
 - All participating counties will receive new or updated contracts.
 - Spreadsheet for tracking spending will be updated and provided to counties
 - Tracking submitted to Vaya Health on a quarterly basis.
 - Quarterly meetings with all counties receiving the funding for collaboration/troubleshooting/technical assistance.



Thank You

