

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department of Health and Senior Services **HB Section(s):** 10.835

Naturalization Assistance

Program is found in the following core budget(s):

	Naturalization Assistance									TOTAL
GR	194,000									194,000
FEDERAL	0									0
OTHER	0									0
TOTAL	194,000									194,000

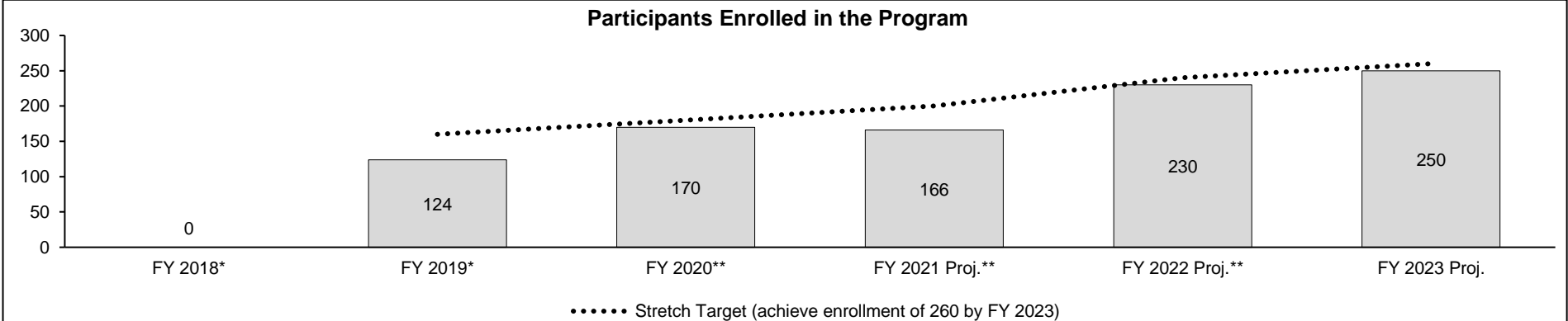
1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Enhance access to care.

1b. What does this program do?

This program is currently delivered through a contract with Bilingual International Assistance Services to provide assistance completing the naturalization process to frail senior immigrants and refugees throughout Missouri who have lawfully resided in Missouri for at least five years and who are not able to complete the normal naturalization process due to health barriers. Becoming a citizen allows these individuals to obtain federal benefits they would not otherwise qualify for after their initial 84-month eligibility period in the United States. These federal benefits, such as Medicare and Supplemental Security Income, relieve the financial obligation to state resources such as Medicaid.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.



*No funding was provided in FY 2018. Funding fully restored in FY 2019, but there were no participants to roll over from the prior year. Due to the length of the citizenship process, participants can be enrolled for more than one program year.

**COVID-19 affected enrollments in the program.

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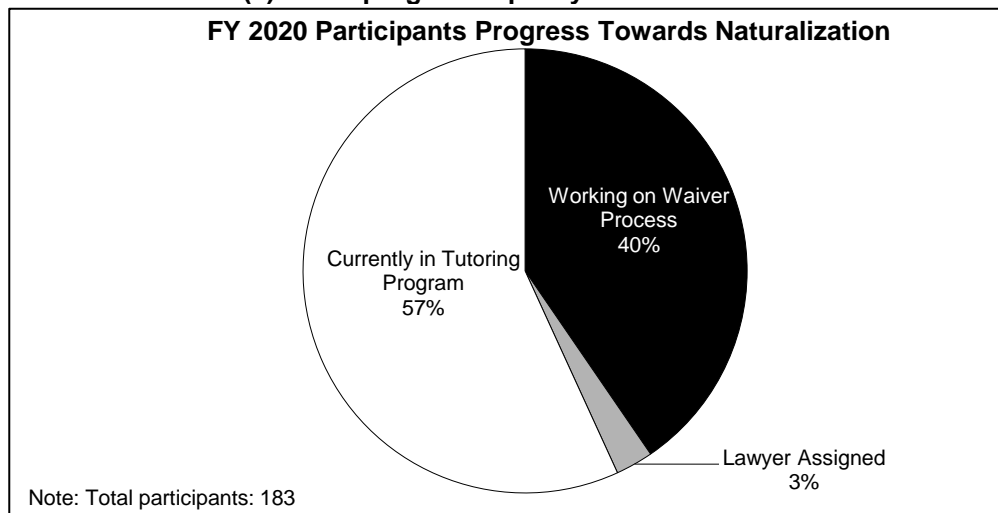
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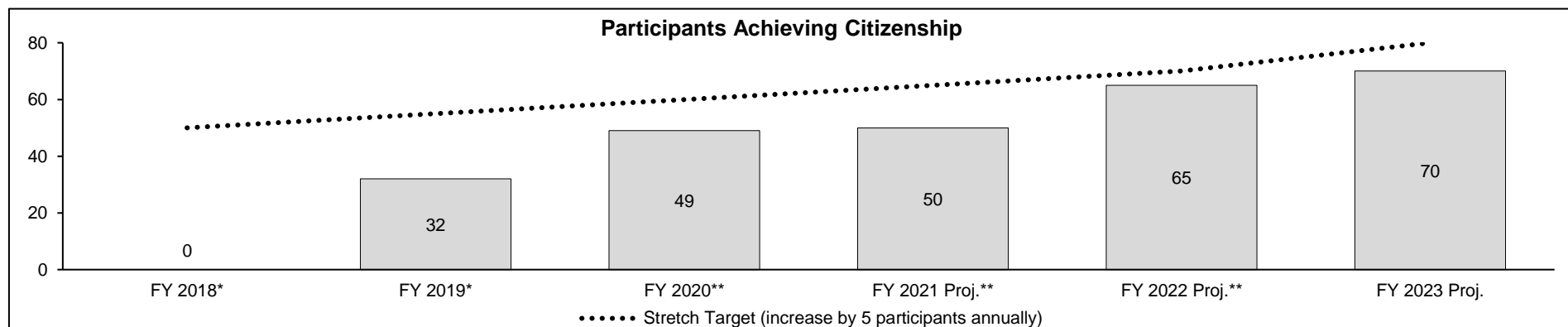
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Program is found in the following core budget(s):

2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.



The goal of the Naturalization Program is to help individuals achieve their United States citizenship. The average length of time a participant stays in the program is nine months, but due to the complexity of some cases, individuals can be in the program for more than one year. While in the program, participants are evaluated to determine if they are able to take the citizenship test in English. If the participant is cognitively capable, they are put into the Tutoring Program where they learn English and work on the questions on the test. If they are not able to learn English due to their cognitive state; they are assisted in applying for a waiver, which allows them to take the test in their own language. In some rare cases, due to a person's health or reduced cognitive state they are not able to take the citizenship test and a lawyer is hired to assist them in becoming naturalized. Participants can be moved from tutoring to waiver or lawyer if it is determined during the process that additional assistance is needed due to declining health or cognitive status.



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**COVID-19 affected enrollments in the program.

Due to the length of time it takes to complete the process of naturalization, about 20 to 25 percent of the participants complete the program during the year they enrolled; therefore, this measure could be incorporating participants from prior years. Noteworthy is that the majority of participants will complete citizenship in year two.

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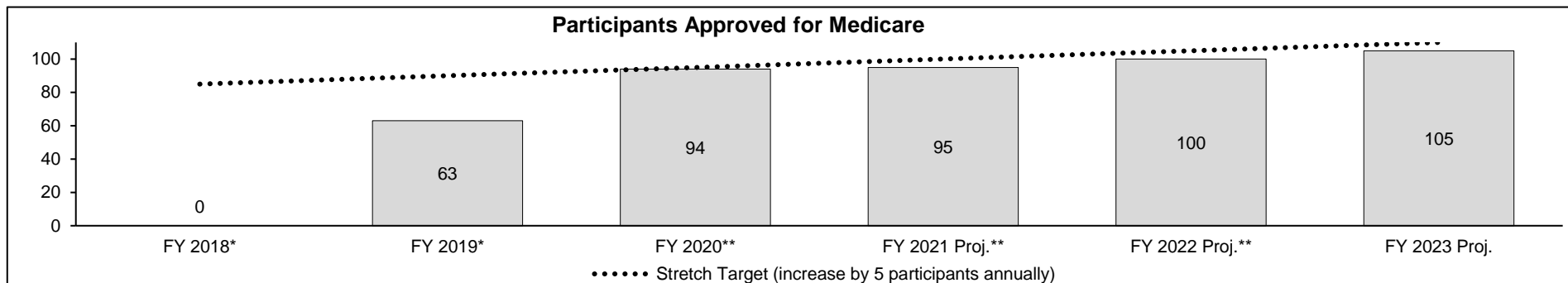
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2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

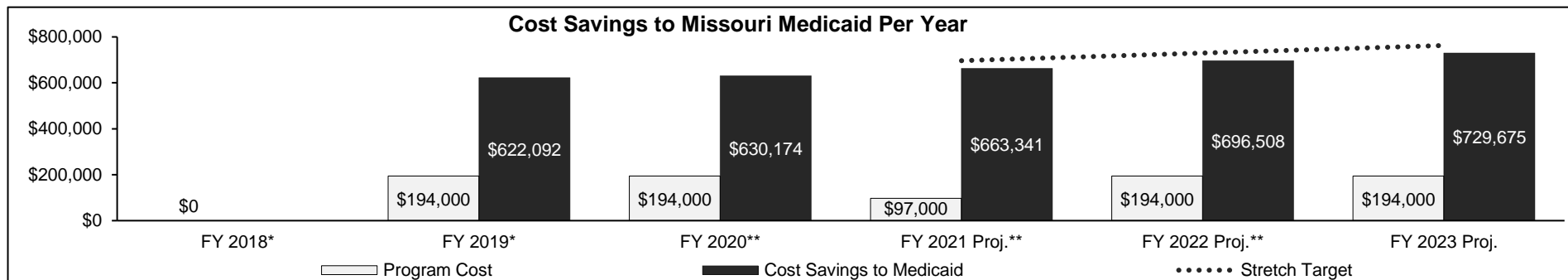


*No funding was provided in FY 2018. Funding fully restored in FY 2019, but there were no participants to roll over from the prior year. Due to the length of the citizenship process, participants can be enrolled for more than one program year.

**COVID-19 affected enrollments in the program.

By becoming United States citizens, refugee/asylee participants can apply for Medicare, which offsets the cost of healthcare for these individuals for the State of Missouri. Legal Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders) are eligible for Medicare after five years; this program also helps them with the application process for Medicare, so some become eligible for Medicare before they become U.S. Citizens.

2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.



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**COVID-19 affected enrollments in the program for FY 2020. Funding was cut in half for FY 2021 due to COVID-19 budget restrictions, therefore contracted enrollment was cut in half. This will also affect the rollover available for FY 2022.

Once an individual is on Medicare, Medicare becomes the primary pay source relieving the state's Medicaid cost burden. The chart above represents the estimated annual cost savings to Missouri once an individual is approved for Medicare and Medicaid becomes the secondary payer. This savings would continue for each year the individual continues to live in Missouri.

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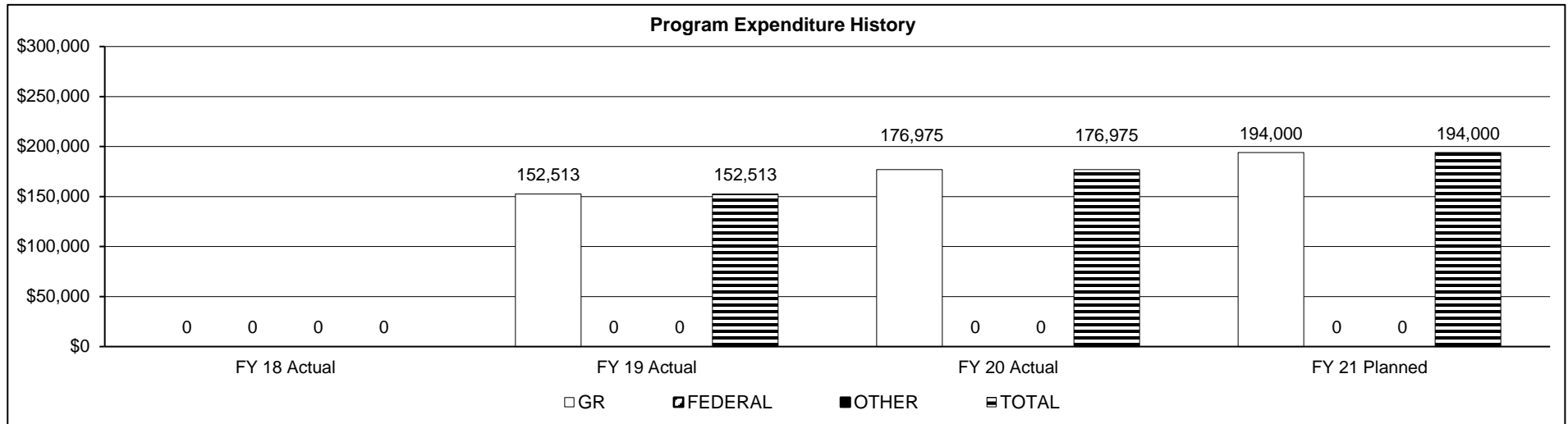
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



4. What are the sources of the "Other " funds?

Not applicable.

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

Not applicable.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No.

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.