

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Social Services

HB Section(s): 11.345

Program Name: Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy

### 1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Continued support to maintain permanency

### 1b. What does this program do?

The Children's Division Adoption Subsidy and Subsidized Guardianship program is a collaborative agreement between the Children's Division (CD) staff and the adoptive/guardianship family, to help the family in meeting the needs of the child with financial, medical, and support services that may be available through subsidy until the child is 18.

#### Adoption Subsidy

Adoption Subsidy is a financial assistance program available to children who are designated as having special needs (Section 453.065, RSMo.). Payments are made to the adoptive parent on behalf of the child. The subsidy is available to children in the care of the Children's Division, the Division of Youth Services, the Department of Mental Health, and licensed child-placing agencies. Under certain circumstances, it may also be available to a child who is not now but has previously been, in the custody of CD. Funding is also used to pay for contracted resource development activities such as adoption assessments.

#### Subsidized Guardianship

Subsidized Guardianship provides eligible individuals with the same services that an adopted child would receive under the Adoption Subsidy program. Individuals who qualify for this program are people related to the child by blood or affinity who have legal guardianship of a minor child. Close, non-related persons, who have legal guardianship and whose lives are so intermingled with the child such that the relationship is similar to a family relationship, are also eligible for guardianship. For the purposes of this program, the term "legal guardianship" refers to the legal guardianship established by a probate court under the provision of the probate court code of the Missouri Revised Statutes.

#### Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy Agreements

Payment for maintenance, services provided by Title XIX (Medicaid), psychological/behavioral services, legal services related to the adoption/guardianship, and other special services are authorized through an Adoption/Guardianship agreement. This agreement is determined through an evaluation of the needs of the child. The agreement is legally binding.

The Adoption/Guardianship Subsidy Agreements may be renegotiated at the request of the adoptive parent(s)/guardian(s) at any time when changes in the needs of the child or the circumstances of the family are brought to the attention of the Division through an amendment to the agreement. All Adoption and Guardianship agreements expire when a child reaches age 18. In the case of adoption subsidy only, an agreement for a child over age 17 may be negotiated with the family yearly to a maximum age of 21 when there is a documented extraordinary mental health, physical, or dental need.

Current Rate of Payment FY 21:

Age 0-5	\$239/mo.
Age 6-12	\$291/mo.
Age 13-Over	\$322/mo.
Elevated Needs (Behavioral/Medical)	\$691/mo.

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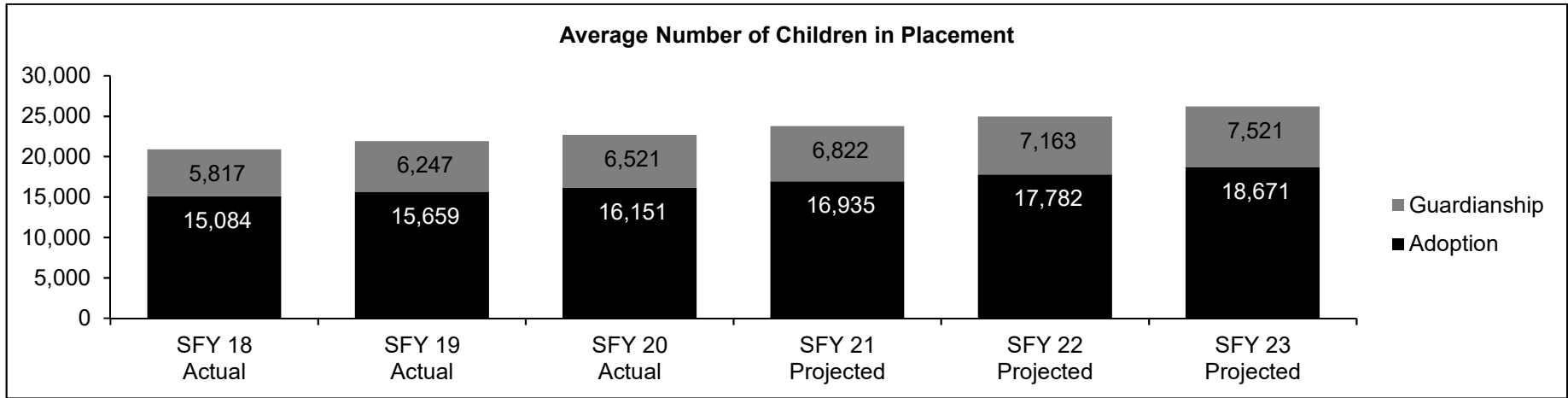
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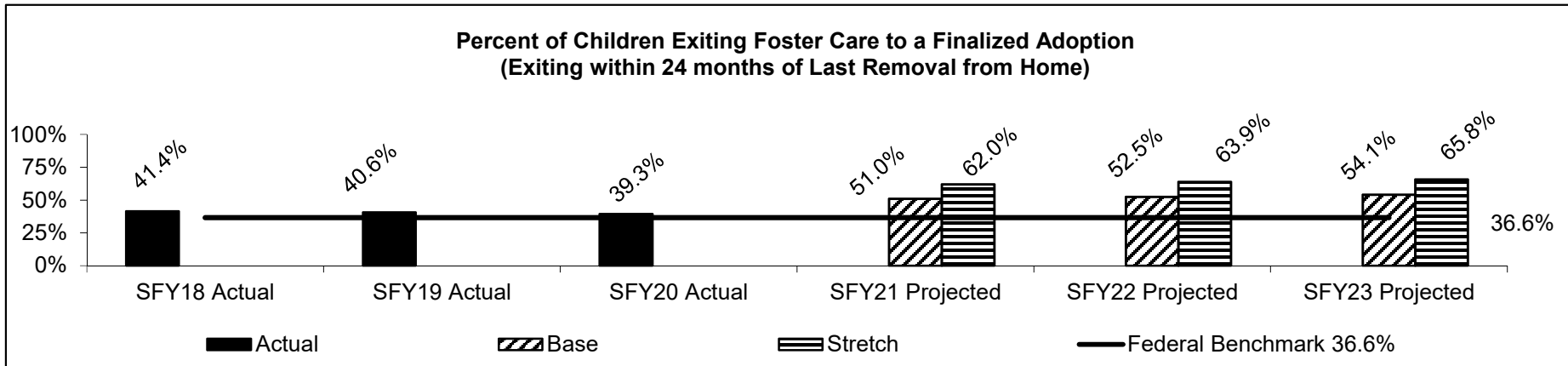
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**2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.**



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



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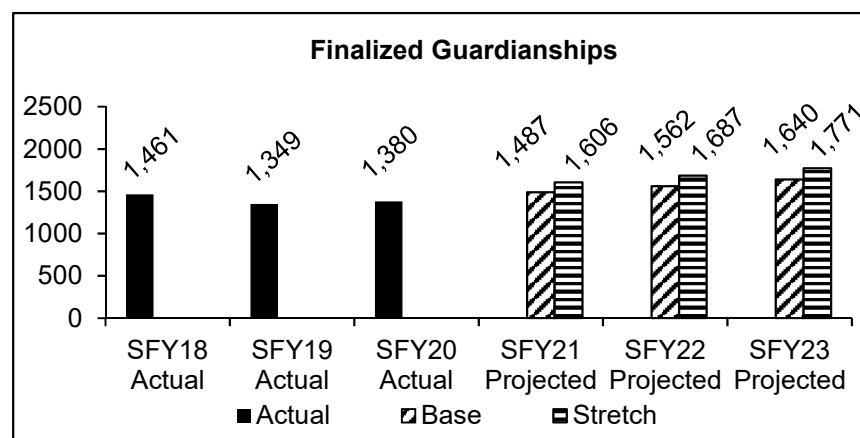
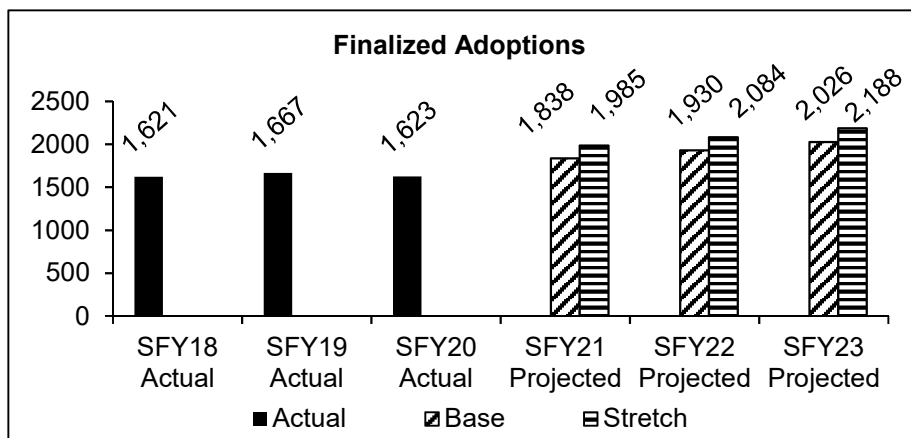
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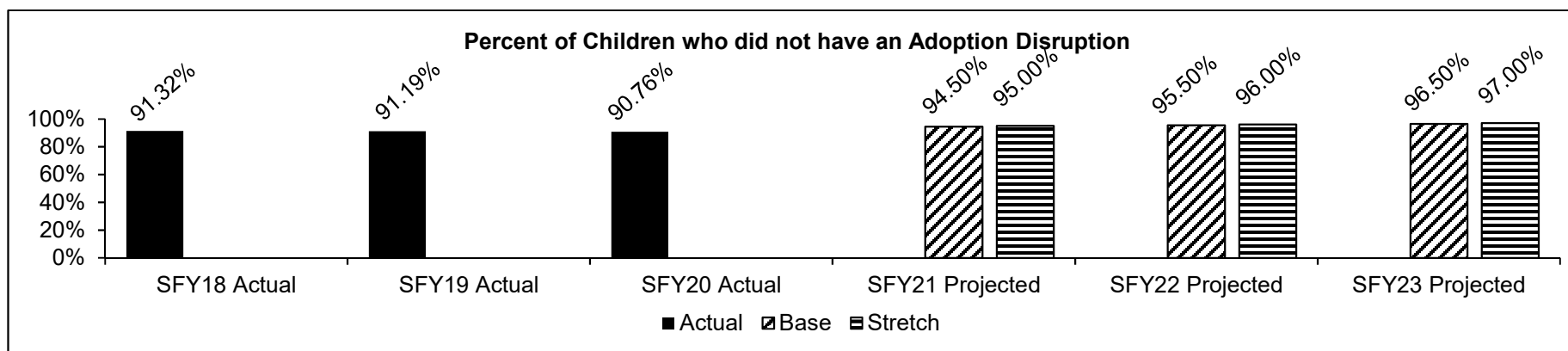
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### 2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.



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



Children not having an adoption disruptions reflects that the program is successful in placing children through the adoption process and not bringing the child back into the custody of the Division.

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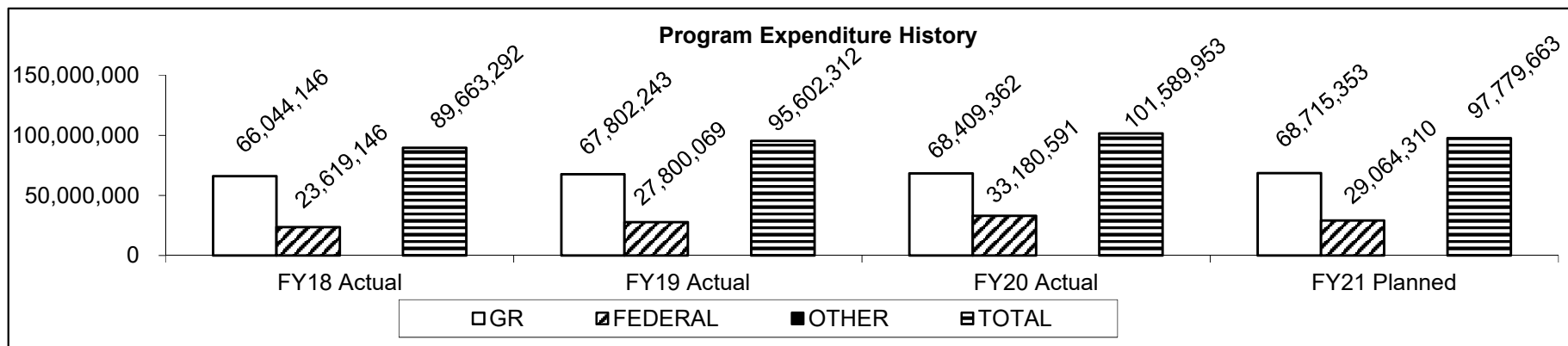
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**3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)**



Planned FY 2021 expenditures are net of reverted and reserves

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

N/A

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

State statute: Sections 453.005 - 453.170, RSMo. ; Federal: 42 USC Sections 670 and 5101

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

Children and youth receiving services from the Children's Division are grouped into two categories for expenditure purposes - Homeless Dependent and Neglected (HDN) and Title IV-E eligible. Expenditures for HDN children and youth are 100% state-funded or TANF funded. Expenditures on behalf of Title IV-E eligible children and youth are reimbursable at the IV-E program rate, which is the FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage). The FMAP fluctuates annually based on state and national economic and population data, but generally, the state matching requirement is around 35% and the federal match is around 65%. There is a 50% state match (50% federal earned) for IV-E administrative costs. Expenditures related to TANF are reimbursable at 100% federal unless identified as maintenance of effort.

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

The federal Child Welfare Act and the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act obligate Missouri to care for children who are abused and neglected.