



CABINET FOR HEALTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) Funding and Programs

Interim Joint Committee on Families and Children

Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)

Lesa Dennis, Commissioner

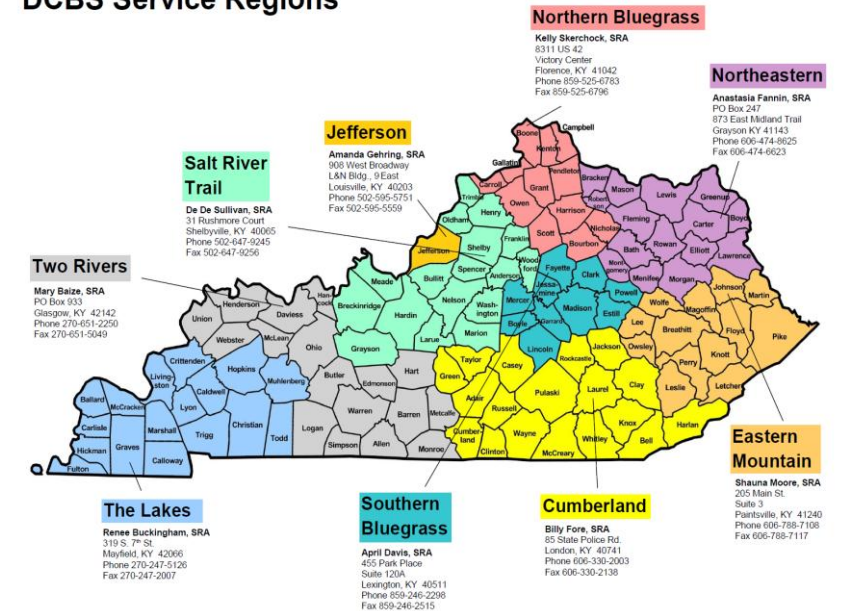
Melanie Taylor, Division Director

June 17, 2026

Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)

- DCBS is responsible for delivering services that promote family self-sufficiency, ensure the safety and permanency of children and vulnerable adults, and support collaborative decision-making with families and community partners.
- The agency administers programs related to child care assistance; prevention and protection from child and adult maltreatment; supports for children, caregivers, and families; and public assistance.
- Offices are located in every county, ensuring accessible services statewide.

DCBS Service Regions



Social Services Block Grant (SSBG): History & Purpose

- Congress created the Social Services Block Grant under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 to provide states with flexible funding for essential social services.
- SSBG is guided by five federally defined goals:
 - Economic Self-Support – Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent dependency.
 - Self- Sufficiency – Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including prevention of dependency.
 - Protection & Family Preservation – Prevention or remedying neglect, abuse or exploitation of children or adults unable to protect their own interests, and preserving, rehabilitating, or reuniting families.
 - Community-Based Care – Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing community-based, home-based, or other less intensive services.
 - Institutional Care When Necessary – Securing referral or admission to institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate, and supporting individuals receiving institutional services.

State Programs Supported by SSBG

- States determine which services to provide, establish eligibility criteria, and design service delivery methods to meet federal goals of the Social Services Block Grant. Programs Supported in Kentucky include:
 - Adult Protective Services (APS)
 - Child Protective Services (CPS)
 - Home Safety Services
 - Juvenile Services
 - Residential Treatment Services
 - Staff Training



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SSBG Budget & Goal Setting Framework

- DCBS establishes annual SSBG goals based on multiple statutory and programmatic factors, including:
 - Statutory Program Requirements – Programs mandated by state or federal law.
 - Service Utilization Trends – Analysis of prior and current service demand.
 - Available Funding – Federal SSBG allocations and state resources.
 - Stakeholder Input – Information gathered through surveys, focus groups, program evaluations, and monitoring activities.
 - Other Funding Sources – Availability of complementary or alternative funding streams.
 - Historical Trends – Long-term data on service needs and program performance.
- Use of SSBG Funds
 - Service Delivery Contracts – Funds support staff positions or contracts with individuals, public agencies, and private providers to deliver direct services.
 - Prioritization of Mandated Programs – When General Fund resources are insufficient, state-mandated programs receive priority for SSBG funding.

SSBG Budget & Expenditures

State Fiscal Year 2026

- Federal grant of approximately \$21.5M annually

	Federal Funds	General Funds	Total
Annual Budget	\$21,506,263.00	\$279,397,733.72	\$300,903,996.72

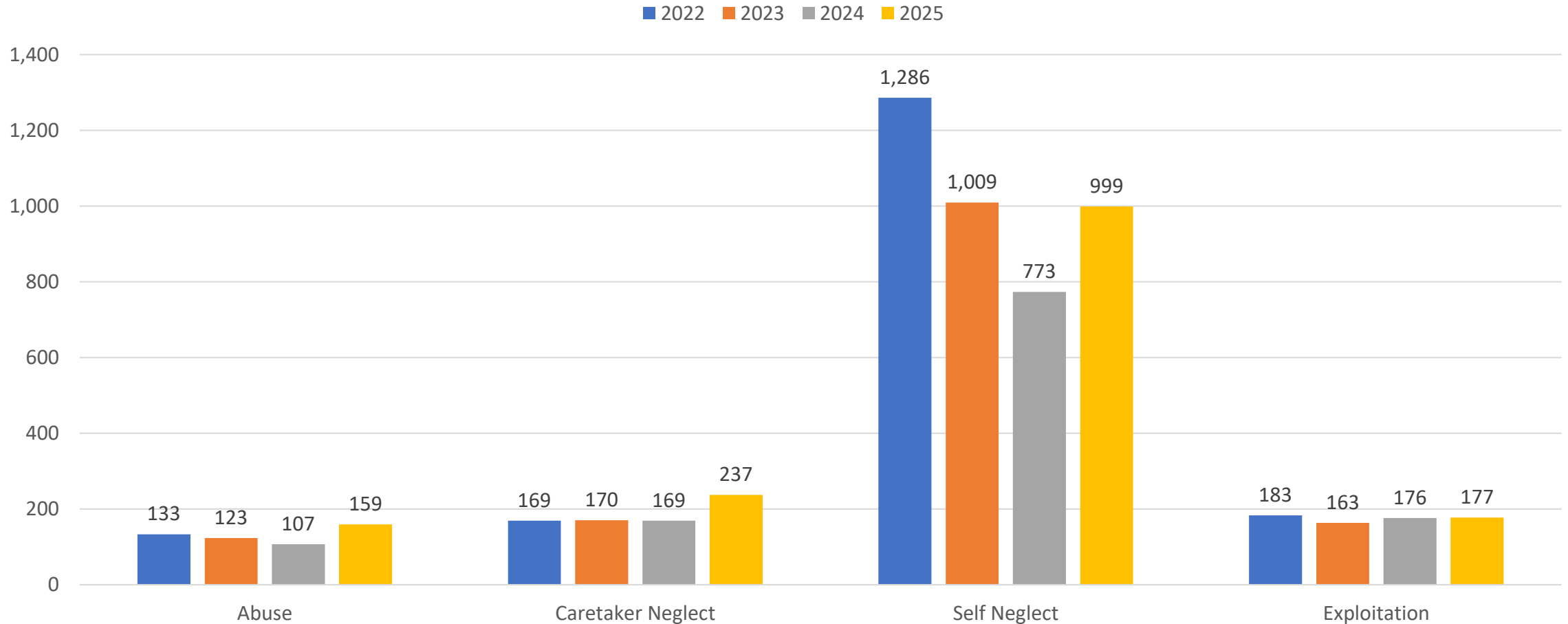
SSBG-Funded Programs:

Adult Protective Services (APS)

- Protects vulnerable adults aged 18 and older who are unable to manage their own resources or daily living needs.
- Prevents, investigates, and addresses abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Promotes employability and supports increased self-sufficiency.
- Provides financial management assistance and other supportive services.
- Identifies, coordinates, and secures necessary community resources.
- Prevents inappropriate institutional placement and arranges safe placement when needed.

APS Substantiated Intakes by Type: All Ages (18+)

SFY 2022 – SFY 2025



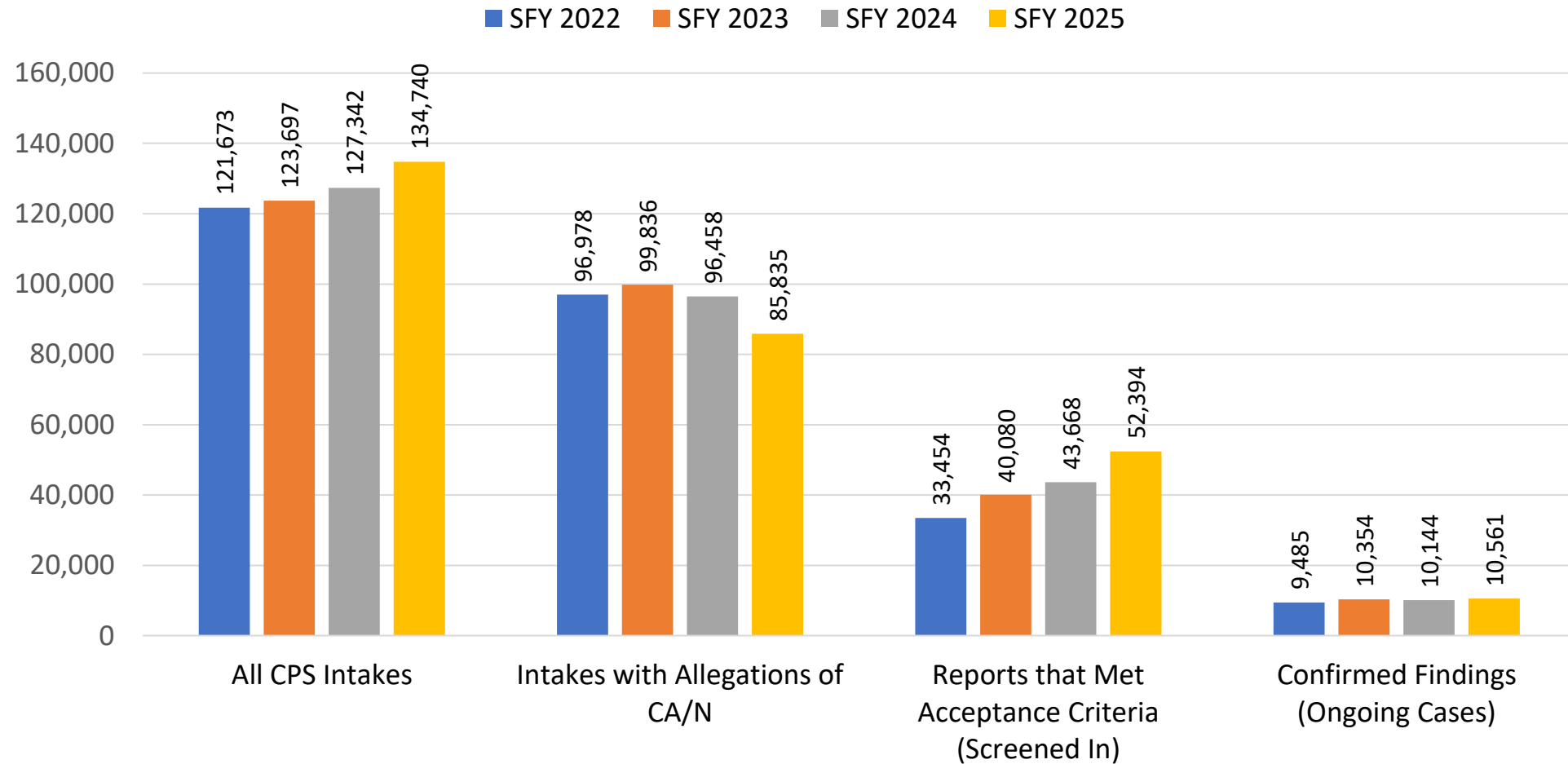
SSBG-Funded Programs:

Child Protective Services (CPS)

- Safeguards the welfare and safety of children.
- Prevents, investigates, and addresses child abuse, neglect, and dependency.
- Supports parents and caregivers in correcting harmful conditions and ensuring a safe, nurturing home.
- Identifies, coordinates, and secures necessary community resources for families.
- Removes a child from the home and initiates court action when necessary to ensure protection.
- Prevents inappropriate placement and arranges safe, appropriate caregiver or facility placement when required.

CPS Reports

SFY 2022 - SFY 2025



SSBG-Funded Programs: Home Safety Services

- Preventing the removal of a child from the home and reducing the risk of repeat maltreatment.
- Maintaining adult safety within the home or community setting.
- Services may include:
 - Arranging for community agencies to provide help with day-to-day tasks;
 - Instructing and assisting with meal preparation, nutrition, and home-delivered meals;
 - Assisting with budgeting and household management;
 - Assisting with medication;
 - Transporting and assisting clients with physician, dental, or other necessary appointments or children in out-of-home care; and
 - Supervising in-home visits with a child.

SSBG-Funded Programs: Juvenile Services

- Provides community-based treatment for juveniles and their families.
- Rehabilitates youth and reduces continued involvement with DJJ.
- Services may include:
 - Interaction with courts on behalf of juveniles;
 - Evaluation of child's strengths and needs through psychological testing and psychiatric consultation and diagnosis;
 - Assisting youth with societal living;
 - Counseling and providing therapy;
 - Coordinating with treatment programs;
 - Arranging community resources for youth returning to community living; and
 - Supervising aftercare, follow-up services, probation services.

SSBG-Funded Programs: Residential Treatment Services

- Provides treatment focused residential care by delivering comprehensive, therapeutic living experiences in 24-hour residential facilities.
- Services may include:
 - Placement into and out of residential care;
 - 24-hour personal and emergency shelter care;
 - Social functioning and psychological evaluation;
 - Social adjustment counseling;
 - Remedial education, GED preparation, vocational training; and
 - Supervision of medical regimen and social interaction.
- Referrals accepted statewide for juveniles who are committed or court-ordered.

SSBG-Funded Programs: Staff Training

- Provides comprehensive training to support the development of new and experienced protection and permanency staff.
- Enhances program knowledge and job skills to improve work performance and strengthen service delivery to children and families.
- Improves service delivery by promoting practices that are strength-based, client-oriented, family-focused, culturally responsive, and dedicated to supporting family self-sufficiency and child protection.

Questions?

