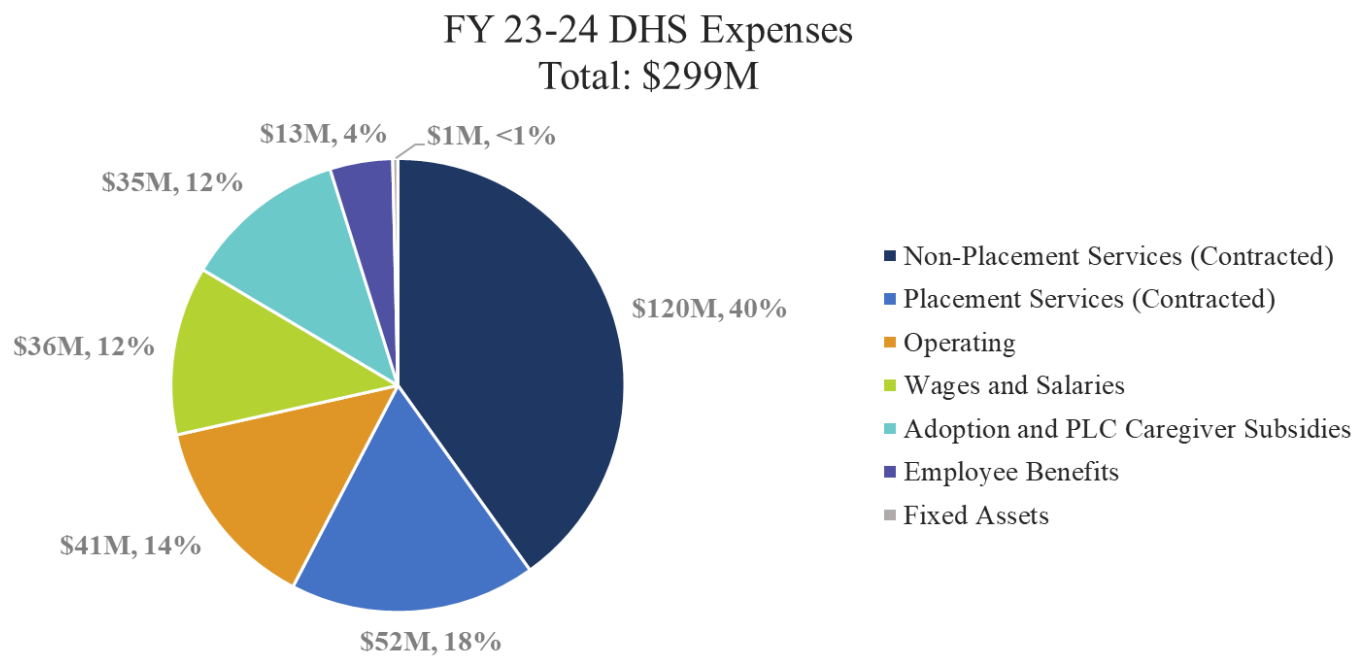


# Allegheny County DHS’s Plan for Children, Youth, and Families

## What is the “Needs-Based Plan and Budget”?

Annually, Allegheny County DHS submits its Needs-Based Plan and Budget to the PA Office of Children, Youth and Families to detail our plan to protect children and preserve families and to request needed resources. This is important because the state uses our plan to determine Allegheny County’s funding allocation that supports services for children and families across the entire continuum – from Family Centers and home visiting to kinship placements, adoption services, and more. The Needs Based Budget is a significant source of funding for our DHS’s child and family-serving programs, and for Juvenile Probation.

In Fiscal Year 2023-2024, 58% of DHS's Needs Based funds supported contracted community-based programs, 70% of which were non-placement services like in-home or counseling services with the goal of keeping families strong and together.



## What challenges do we see, and what are our plans to address them?

In our Needs-Based Plan and Budget to the PA Office of Children, Youth and Families for FY 26-27, Allegheny County DHS requests additional funds to support the following challenges and priorities.

<p><b>Facing rising costs: Even though we have fewer youth in out-of-home placement, it is more expensive than ever before to meet their needs.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruiting and retaining a high-quality agency and provider workforce in the face of inflation and labor market shifts</li><li>Serving youth and families with a rising acuity of needs (mental, behavioral, and developmental) requiring specialized interventions</li></ul>
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<p><b>Prevention and Family Preservation: Responding to cuts in safety net programs and expanding successful initiatives that prevent home removal and juvenile justice system involvement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased need for concrete and economic supports due to inflating costs of food, housing, and other goods paired with cuts to federal safety net programs</li> <li>• Robust Independent Living (IL) and Teen programs are supporting young people to achieve stability and independence</li> <li>• Housing Specialists are working with families and their landlords to prevent evictions and keep families stably housed</li> <li>• Coordinated and comprehensive Community Violence Reduction Initiative is contributing to lower homicide levels</li> </ul>
<p><b>Supporting youth and families with complex needs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying family-based placement options for kids with complex needs via therapeutic foster care</li> <li>• Expanding safe and high-quality placements with supportive services including additional shelter, diagnostic and intensive residential program(s)</li> <li>• Expanding the array of specialized interventions for youth and families with complex mental, behavioral, and developmental needs</li> </ul>

## How can the public share their feedback on this plan and budget?

All are welcome to join us for the **2026-27 Needs Based Plan and Budget Public Hearing**.

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

5:00 – 6:00pm

Virtual via Zoom

Register at [bit.ly/nbpb-hearing](https://bit.ly/nbpb-hearing)

