

THE PROPOSED 2018 DSS BUDGET

A PRESENTATION TO:

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

OF THE

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

Philippe M. Gille
First Deputy Commissioner

Hema Pendikatla
Manager of Fiscal Operations

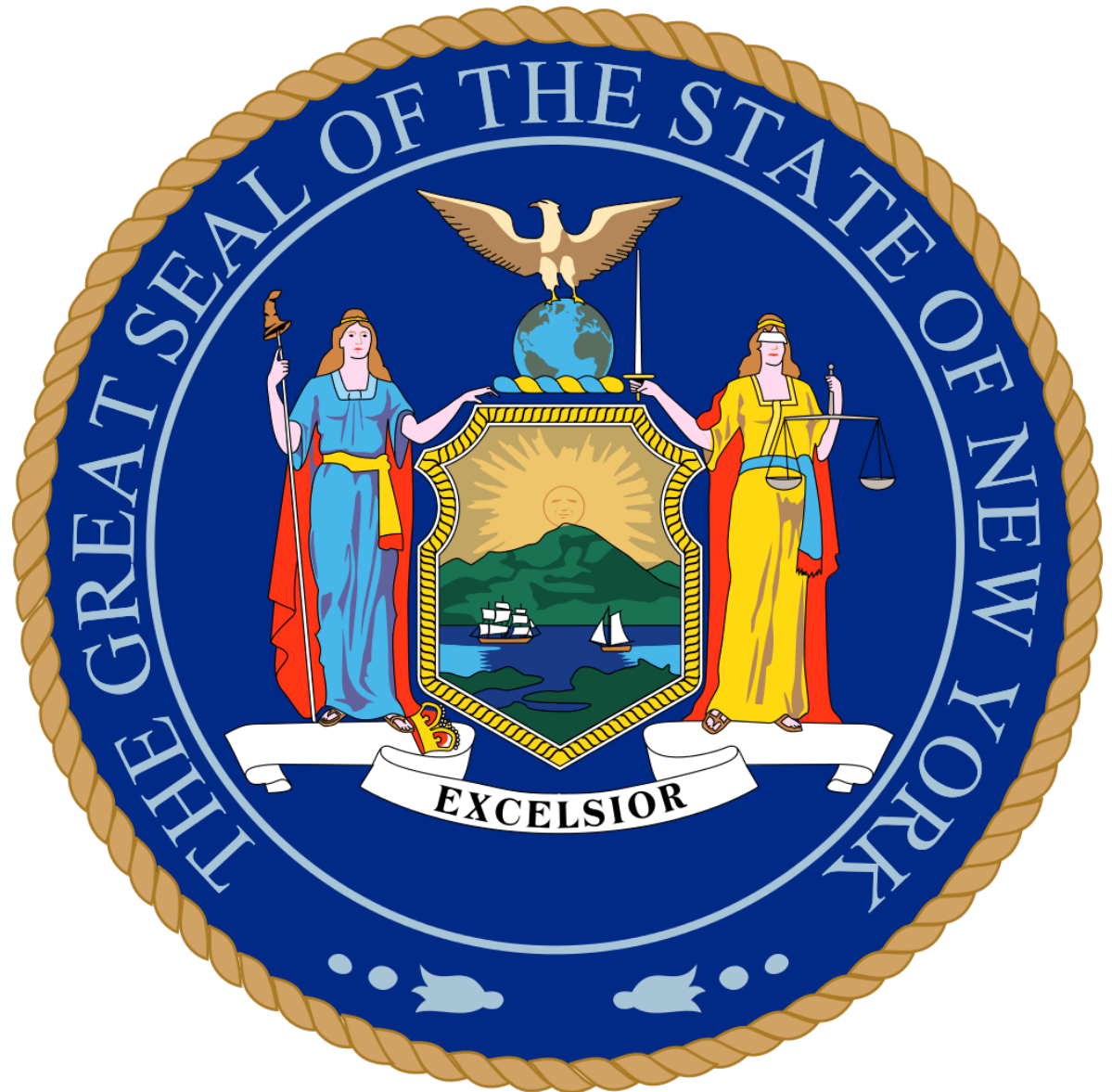
THE STATE OF THE STATE RELATIONSHIP

- The New York constitutional mandate
- A “single State administrative agency”
- How program costs are “shared”
- The TANF block grant

Our state constitution

“The aid, care and support of the needy are public concerns and shall be provided by the state and by such of its subdivisions, and in such manner and by such means, as the legislature may from time to time determine.”

Article XVII
Section 1



Under SSL §65,
local district
commissioners are
agents of the state.

- “In New York State, the social services program is a State program, administered through the 58 local social services districts under the general supervision of the State Department of Social Services and the State Commissioner of Social Services ... the local commissioners act on behalf of and as agents for the State. Each is a part of and the local arm of the **single State administrative agency.**”

Beaudoin v Toia, 45 NY2d 343, 408 NYS2d 417 [1978]

In the past, NYS contributed 50% of the non-federal share to public assistance ...

- AFDC/TANF
- Medicaid
- Safety Net

... as well as administrative expense.

Today, the TANF block grant and MOE covers the entire cost of TANF assistance, Medicaid participation is capped, Safety Net is 71% local cost and administrative expense is either capped or local.

The 2017-2018 state budget resulted in reductions in the FCBG for state purposes and the SSBG to help fund the CCBG.

How NYS spends its TANF block grant

<u>Spending by Category 2015</u>	<u>New York 2015</u>		<u>National 2015</u>
<i>CORE ACTIVITIES</i>			
• Basic Assistance	\$ 1,600	29%	25%
• Work-Related Activities	\$ 159	3%	7%
• Work Supports and Supportive Services	\$ 52	1%	3%
• Child Care	\$ 414	8%	17%
<i>NON-CORE ACTIVITIES</i>			
• Administration and Systems	\$ 448	8%	10%
• Tax Credits	\$ 1500	28%	8%
• Pre-K	\$ 234	4%	6%
• Child Welfare	\$ 337	6%	7%
• Other Services	\$ 737	13%	18%

New York ranks 35th among states in the share of TANF funds spent on core activities.

OUR MISSION

No silos.

No wrong door.

Our Mission

The mission of the Westchester County Department of Social Services is:

- to empower its customers to become independent; and
- to ensure the health, safety and protection of vulnerable adults and children.

However, these are not two separate missions!

BUDGET IN BRIEF

... very brief

The good news



- Caseloads continue downward trend.
- Child care subsidized at estimated 2017 actual cost with no increase in the parent share.
- Position count is stable: no layoffs.
- Case management emphasis continues for households with multiple challenges.
- Placements in congregate and residential care are down.

The unknowns for 2018



- Whither the federal budget?
 - FMAP
 - Proposed elimination of reimbursement for congregate/residential foster care.
- Siting of emergency and temporary housing resources in Yonkers area.
- Full implementation of federal changes to CCBG by NYS.
- Possible state cap on temporary shelter expense per recipient.
- Safety Net Families is an exception to the downward trend in other TA caseloads.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Child Welfare

- **Child Protective Services** (CPS) investigates all reports of alleged child abuse and neglect on the day the report is received in order to better ensure the safety and well-being of children in Westchester County.
- **Preventive Services** lessen the risk of foster care placement by responding to the service needs of families with children at risk and are sometimes mandated (**MPS**) but not always: e.g. Community Optional Preventive Services or **COPS**.
- **Foster Care** is temporary out-of-home care for children who cannot be safely left to the custody of parents or other caretakers. The range of care is from placement with a family to a specialized residential facility.
- **Adoption Services** are provided before, during, and after the legal process to children who are unable to return to their birth families and to the families who adopt them.

Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services

- **Independent Living** prepares children in the care and custody of the Commissioner who are “aging out” for life on their own as responsible adults.
- **Missing Children (AWOLs):** A private investigator collects personal testimony and database information to profile missing (foster care) children, engages those connected to them to care for their safety and well-being and thereby eventually locates and brings the AWOL child to safety.

Adult Protective Services

- Provides intervention and investigation of, and an assessment/service plan for immediate and ongoing needs, through family and community outreach.
- Immediate objectives on referrals are:
 - to assess the safety of the individual adult and, if needed,
 - how to best mitigate the risk to such an adult in the community who is
 - unable to protect himself or herself from abuse by others or
 - whose physical and/or mental impairment results in self-neglect.

Temporary Assistance Programs

- **Cash assistance programs for emergencies** (**EAA**: Emergency Assistance to Adults, **EAF**: Emergency Assistance to Families, **ESNA**: Emergency Safety Net Assistance)
- **Cash assistance programs for on-going financial needs** (**TANF**: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, **SNA**: Safety Net Assistance to Adults and **SNF**: Safety Net Assistance to Families.)
- **Child care subsidies** for temporary assistance households and low-income households earning up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level for employment-related purposes. Title XX child care subsidies are available for households with income up to 275%, 255% or 225% of the FPL, depending upon family size.
- **HEAP**: the Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally funded program designed to help low income households meet rising energy costs. HEAP has four components: Regular, Emergency, Heating Equipment Repair/Replacement, and Cooling Assistance.

T.A . Programs (cont'd.)

- Medical Assistance (**Medicaid**) is available to help individuals who cannot afford to pay for their medical care. Each of the programs offered has unique eligibility criteria.
 - Beginning January 1, 2014, pregnant women, minor children, parents and caretaker relatives of minor children, and singles and childless couples who are under age 65 and not in receipt of Medicare now have their eligibility determined using a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) budgetary methodology with a higher income allowance at 223%, 154%, or 138% of the Federal Poverty Level. MAGI applicants apply directly to New York State using the New York State of Health Benefit Exchange (HBE).
 - Since Medical Assistance is undergoing a State take-over not yet complete, applications for SSI-related individuals and for MAGI individuals with spend-downs or in need of Long Term Care services continue to be accepted and processed by local district Departments of Social Services.
 - Many individuals receiving Medical Assistance in Westchester County receive services through enrollment in a Managed Care plan of their choice.
- **SNAP**: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps).
- **Temporary housing assistance for homeless** households whether single, a childless couple or a family with children.
- **Emergency shelter** on a drop-in basis each night in multiple locations in New Rochelle, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers.

Fair Hearings

Fair Hearings, also known as **Administrative Hearings**, are available to applicants and recipients to appeal adverse agency decisions, whether by the local social services district or a determination by OTDA.

Customers have a right to prompt and impartial hearings (NYS administrative law judges preside) and timely hearing decisions.

On average there are 425 to 440 requests for Fair Hearings per month in Westchester County. If made within the proper timeframe, they are “Aid-to-Continue” until the ALJ issues a determination. Due to the workload, there is often a “double” calendar.

After hours and emergencies

- The Department's **Emergency Services** unit, based in White Plains, provides after-hours and weekend coverage for all services emergencies, including investigation of child abuse reports from the state central registry, placements in temporary housing and responding to “no food” emergencies.
- When caseworkers are not available on site, caseworkers are available on call to respond to any immediate need for a field visit when Emergency Services has shut down for the night.
- The Department is a key participant in the county's **emergency planning and assistance for disasters**. During an emergency, the department is responsible for operating reception centers for residents who might be displaced from their homes.

Services to the General Public

- **The Office of Child Support Enforcement** assists in the collection of support payments for both public assistance households and non-public assistance households on request.
- **The Office of Veterans' Services** is available to assist all Veterans in Westchester County and their dependents in receiving the maximum benefits to which they are entitled.
- **The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board oversees the workforce development system that includes four** One-Stop Career Centers in Mount Vernon, Peekskill and White Plains and Carmel; taps both public and private resources to ensure jobseekers and workers are adequately prepared to meet demands and requirements of the local & regional workforce; works with businesses to identify and find solutions for their varied workforce needs. This involves helping job seekers and the under-employed find and retain their jobs; and assisting employers in locating, training and retaining a skilled workforce.

Other Mandated Activities

Administration and Finance.

- Budget (including reimbursements)
- Contracts
- Facilities, inventory and supplies
- General and Revenue accounting
- IT
- Management and supervision
- Payment Processing
- Payroll and Personnel
- Recoupment, recoveries and resources
- Representative Payees
- Vendor Relations

Domestic Violence Liaison.

Office of Program Integrity.

- Computer matches
- Field investigations
- Front End Detection
- Investigation of fraud allegations and referrals
- OMIG liaison
- School Attendance of 16/17 year olds
- Vendor Audit and Performance Analysis

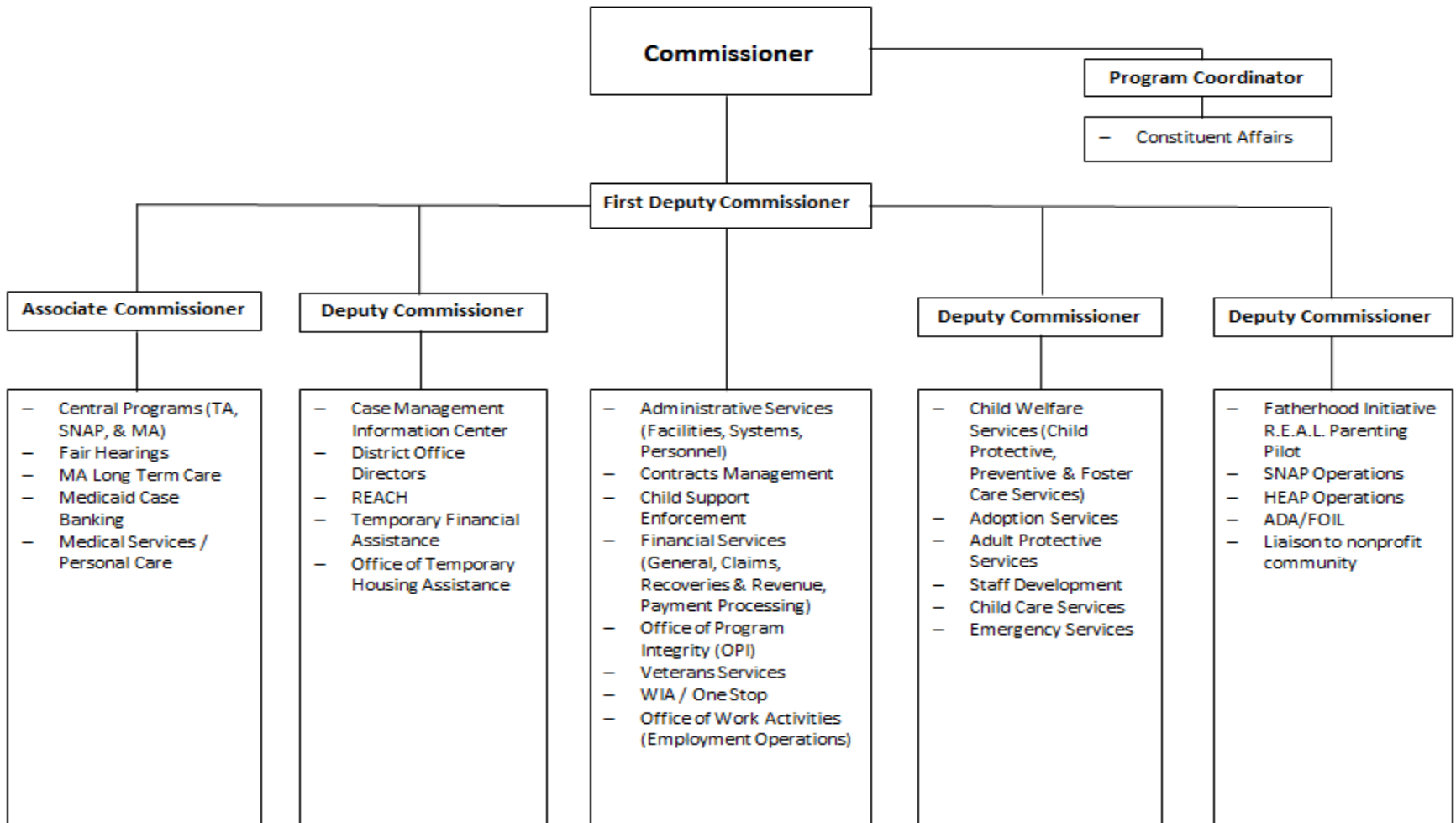
Office of Work Activities.

- Assessment: exempt or non-exempt?
- Assignment to work activities.
- Case management of individual employment plans.
- Conciliation and sanctions.
- Monitoring of temporary incapacities.
- Referral of permanently exempt to SSI.

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

- Table of organization
- Accessing services
- Hotline numbers

November 2017 Table of Organization



Leadership Groupings

- Senior Staff (11):
 - Commissioner, First Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Commissioners, Associate Commissioners.
 - Lead managers of Fiscal Operations, Program Integrity, Temporary Housing Assistance.
 - Meet weekly and as needed.
- Managers and Directors (31):
 - All managers responsible for an office or a program area; deputies attend when the lead manager is unavailable.
 - Meet monthly.
- Leadership (87):
 - All staff Job Group 12 and above.
 - Meet quarterly.

How to access our services

- ***By phone: 995-3333***
 - **Case Management Information Center**
 - Automated Response System for Information
 - Customer Service Agents for Information and Referral and Inquiries from Applicants and Recipients
 - Services in English and Spanish languages
- ***In Person:*** five locations
 - Child Care Subsidies: 10 County Center Road, White Plains
 - District Offices: Mount Vernon, Yonkers, Peekskill and White Plains
- ***On-line:*** Mybenefits.ny.gov
 - Health Insurance information
 - Information about benefit programs
 - On-line SNAP applications and transactions
 - On-line HEAP applications

Important State and Local Hotlines

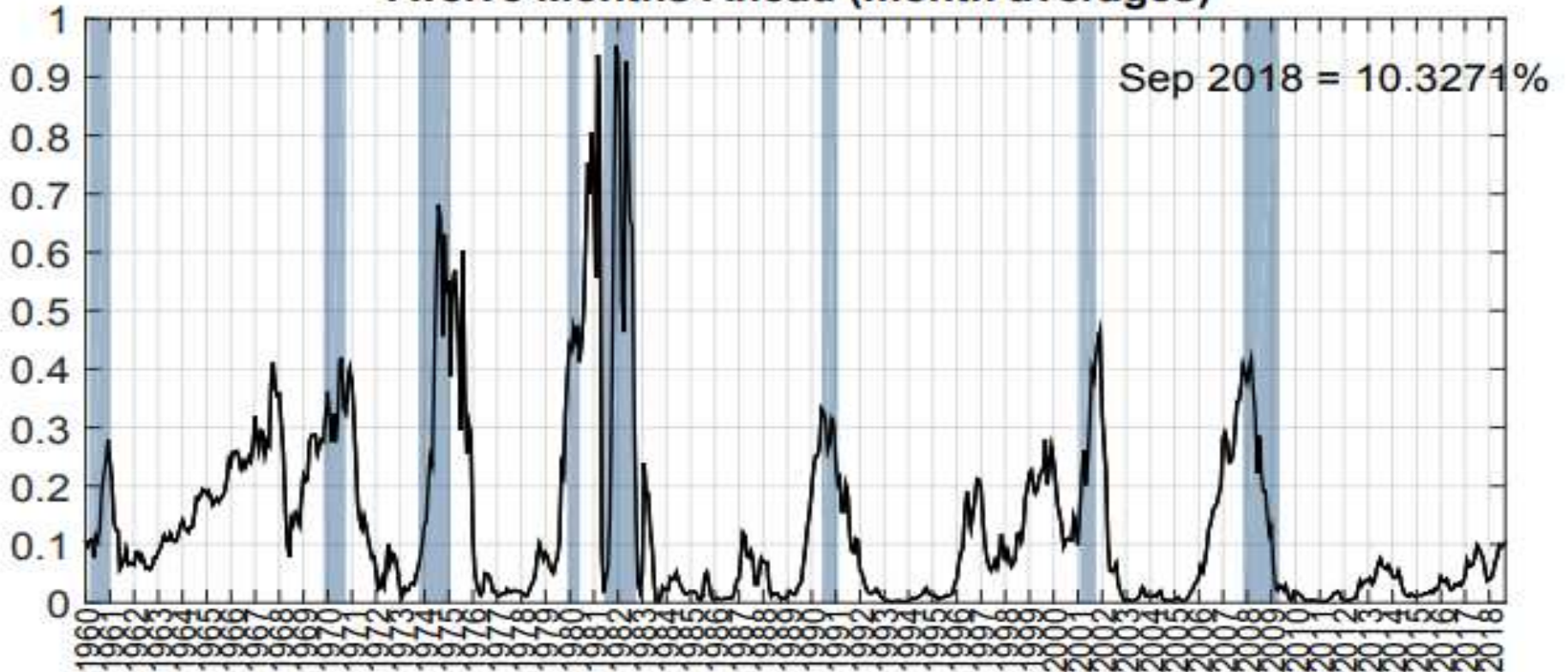
- **Adult Protective Services**
 - **Adult Protective Services Intake Line 914-995-2259**
- **Child Protective Services:**
 - **State Central Register for Child Abuse 800- 342-3720**
 - **State Central Number for Mandated Reporters 800-635-1522**
 - **Westchester Juvenile Sex Trafficking Hotline- 855-690-7233 (SAFE)**
- **Child Support Hotline**
 - **1-800-846-0773**
- **Medicaid Enrollment:**
 - **NYS Health Options Line 855-693-6765**
 - **NYS Medicaid Help Line 800-541-2831**
 - **Navigators: Westchester County DOH 914-813-5192**
 - **Navigators: Community Service Society of NY 914-968-4717**
- **Westchester County DSS:**
 - **Case Management Information Center: (914) 995-3333**
 - **After hours and weekends: Emergency Services (914) 995-2099**

THE ECONOMY

Assumptions, environment and parameters

Risk of Recession up to 10%

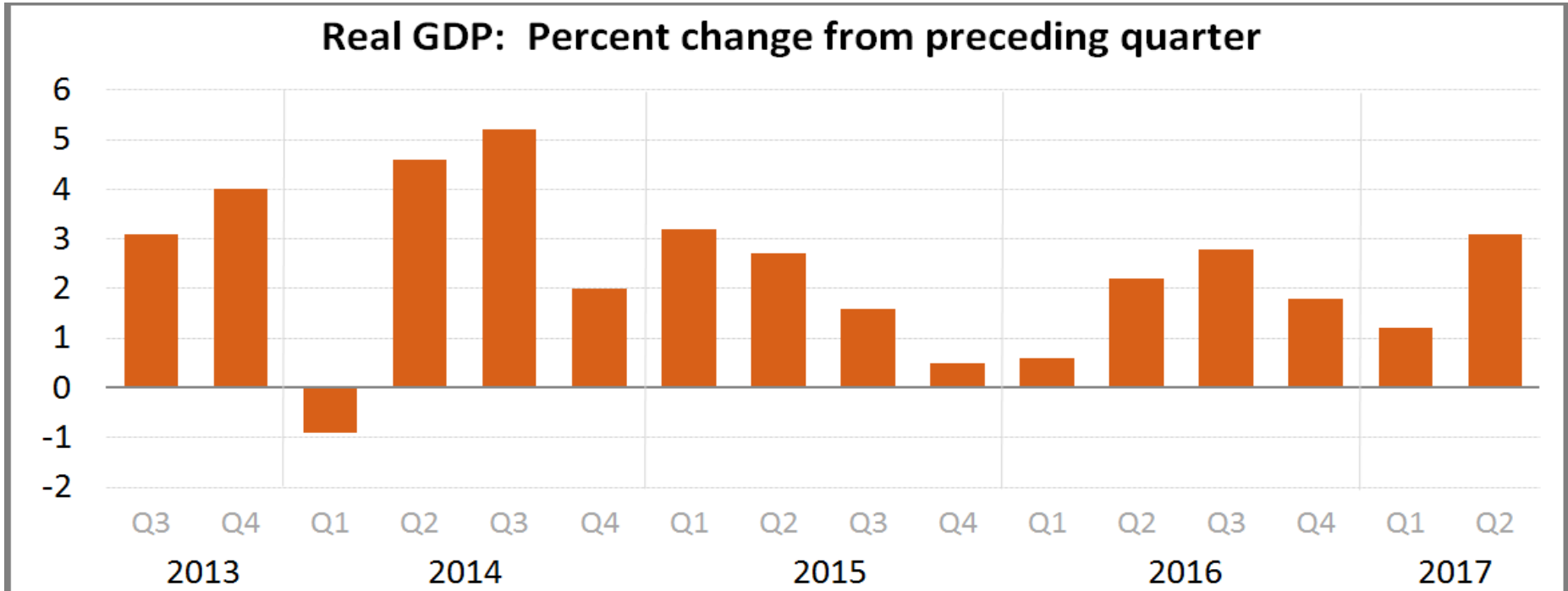
**Probability of US Recession Predicted by Treasury Spread*
Twelve Months Ahead (month averages)**



*Parameters estimated using data from January 1959 to December 2009, recession probabilities predicted using data through Sept 2017.
The parameter estimates are $\alpha=-0.5333$, $\beta=-0.6330$

Updated 02-Oct-2017

Real GDP growth is stronger ...



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

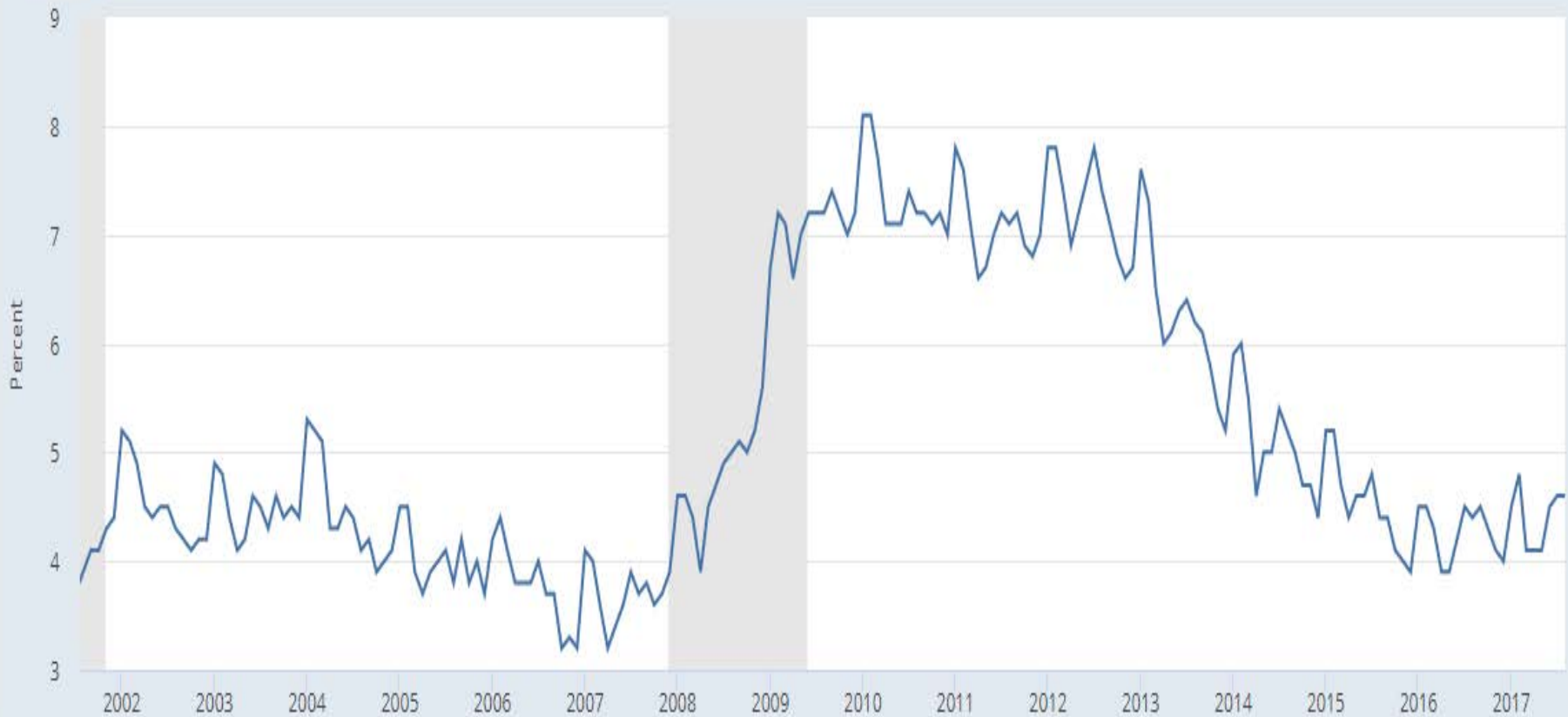
Seasonally adjusted annual rates

Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 3.0 percent in the **third quarter** of 2017 according to the "advance" estimate released by the Bureau of **Economic** Analysis. In the second **quarter**, **real GDP** increased 3.1 percent.

Source: http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/gdp_glance.htm

Unemployment is decreasing...

FRED — Unemployment Rate in Westchester County, NY

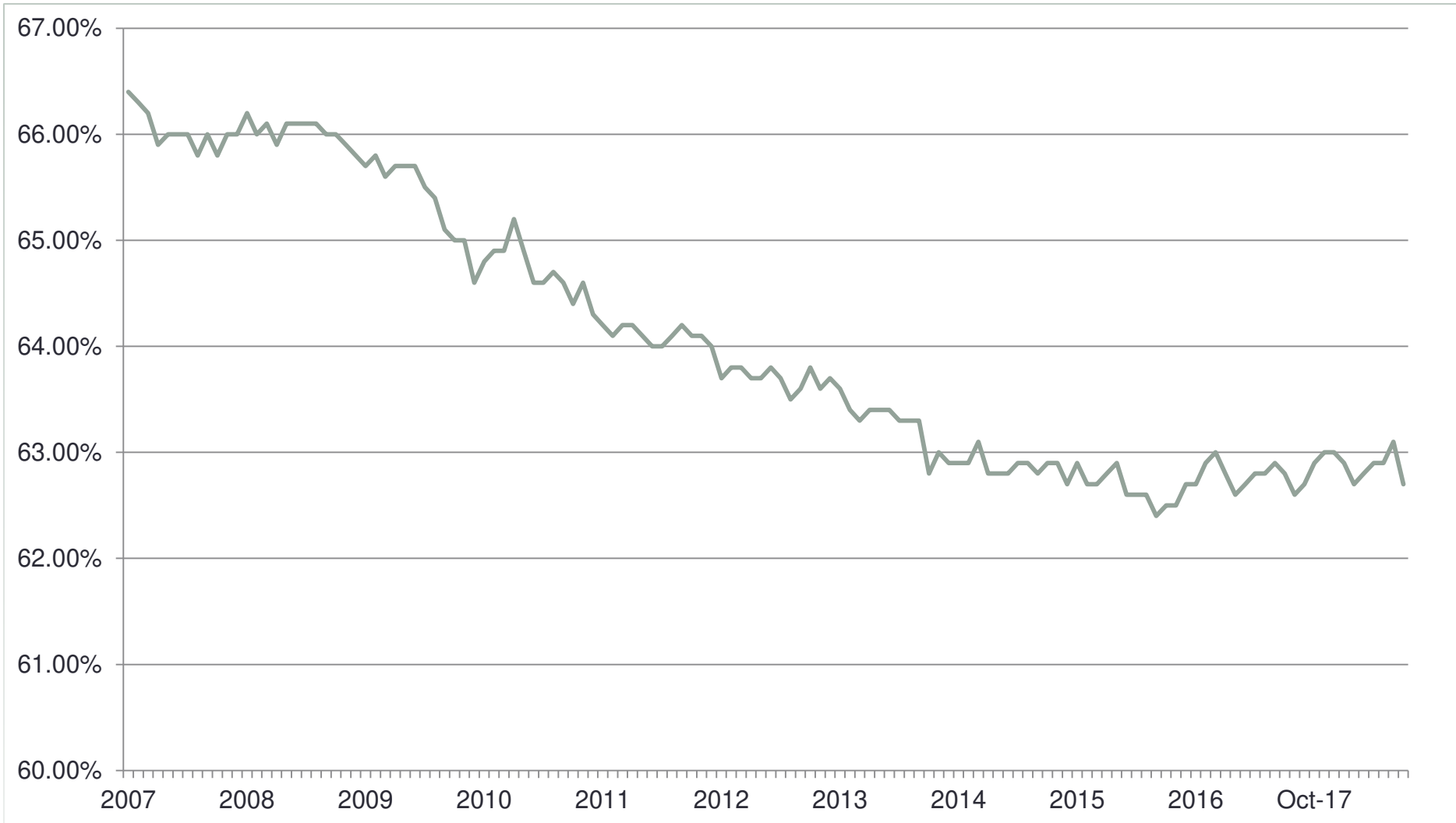


Shaded areas indicate US recessions

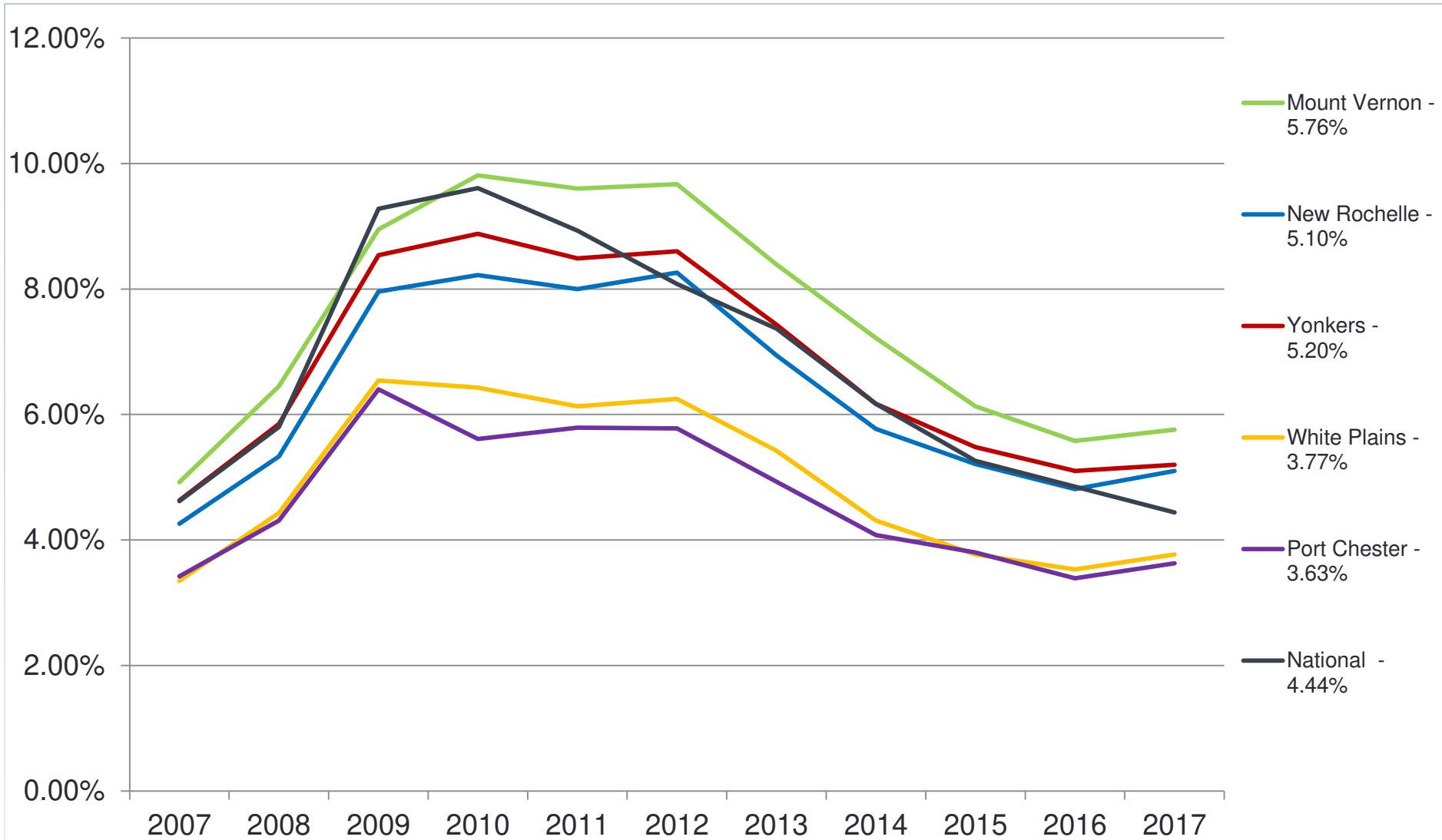
Source: US. Bureau of Labor Statistics

fred.stlouisfed.org

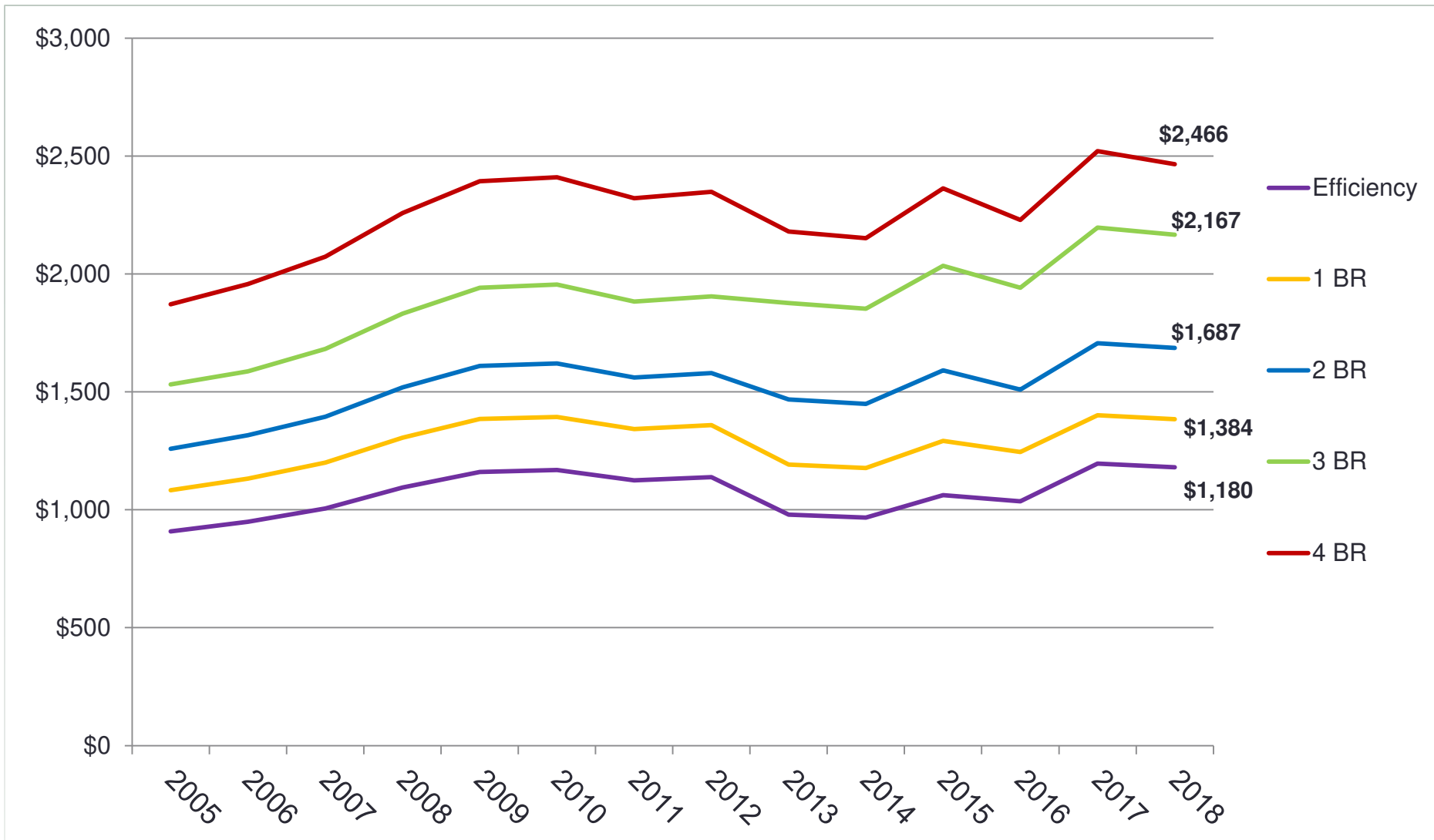
...and workforce participation is unchanged.



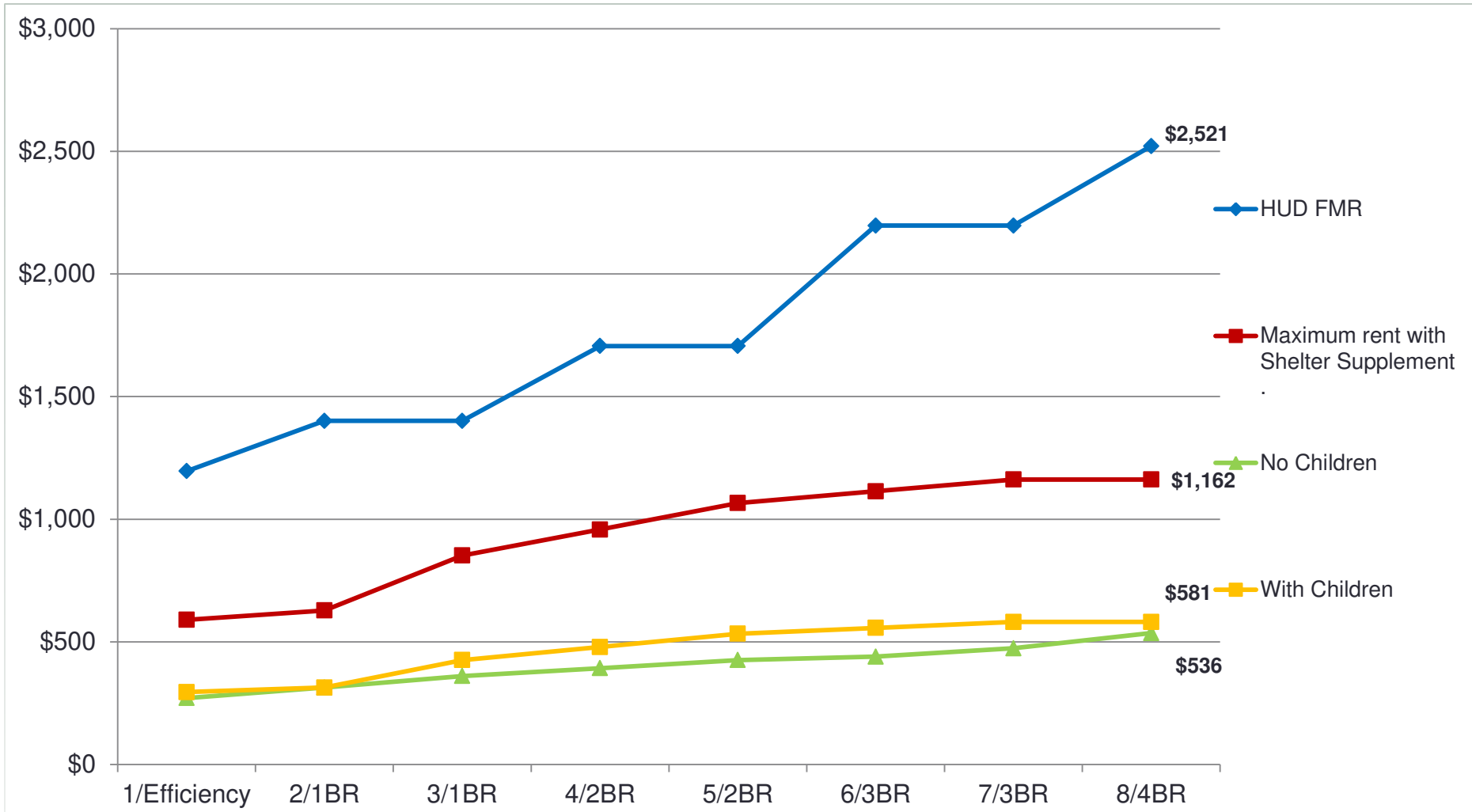
Unemployment is highest where DSS caseloads are highest.



Market rates for housing match decade-old high and continue out of reach for our customers.



NYS TA Shelter Allowances vs. Section 8 FMRs



BENEFIT LEVELS

Temporary Assistance “Cash” Grants

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>1 (Single)</u>	<u>1*</u>	<u>2*</u>	<u>3*</u>	<u>4*</u>
Food, Clothing and Incidentals	\$ 158.00	\$ 158.00	\$ 252.00	\$ 336.00	\$ 433.00
Home Energy Assistance (HEA)	\$ 14.10	\$ 14.10	\$ 22.50	\$ 30.00	\$ 38.70
Supplemental HEA	\$ 11.00	\$ 11.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 30.00
Shelter Allowance	\$ 271.00	\$ 295.00	\$ 314.00	\$ 426.00	\$ 479.00
TOTAL MONTHLY ALLOWANCE	\$ 454.10	\$ 478.10	\$ 605.50	\$ 815.00	\$ 980.70
FEDERAL POVERTLY LEVEL	\$1,005.00	\$ 1,005.00	\$ 1,353.00	\$ 1,702.00	\$ 2,050.00

* with child in household

** maximum is \$581 for 7 or more

SNAP (formerly Food Stamps)

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Maximum Benefit	\$ 192.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 504.00	\$ 640.00
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
	\$ 760.00	\$ 913.00	\$1,009.00	\$1,153.00
	Each additional <u>member</u>			
	\$ 144.00			

2018 NYS SSI SSP (Supplemental Security Income)

<u>Household (HH) Size</u>	<u>1 (Single)</u>	<u>Couple</u>
Living Alone	\$ 822.00	\$ 1,207.00
Living with Others	\$ 758.00	\$ 1,149.00
Living in HH of another	\$ 513.00	\$ 781.33

2018 AREAS OF FOCUS

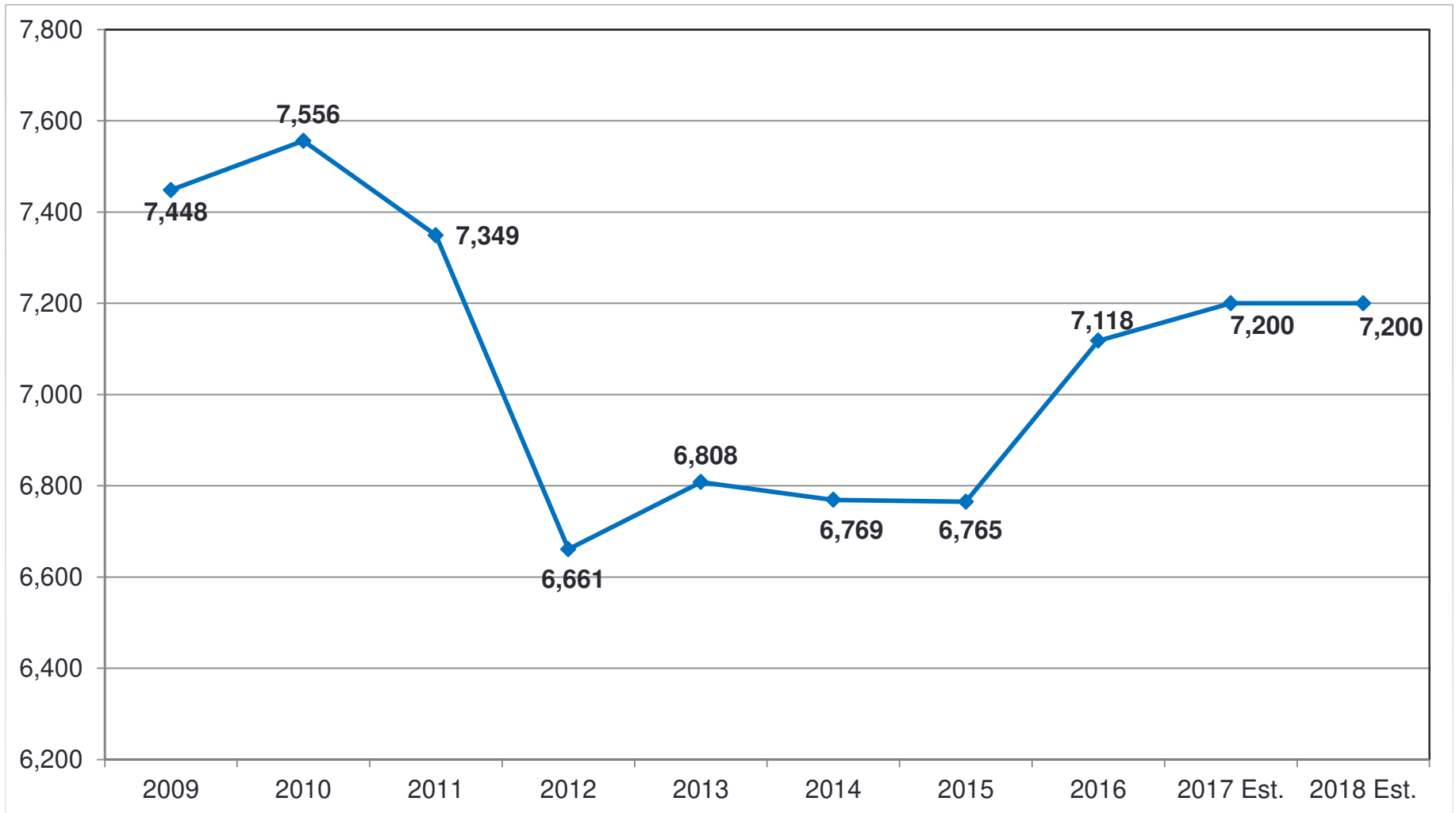
Initiatives: new and continuing

- Add 18 year olds to school attendance monitoring (previously just 16 and 17 year olds).
- Child Welfare – necessary level of care.
- Complete implementation of work activities redesign.
- Focus on Safety Net Families.
- Improve document flow: allow self-service options, route directly to workers.
- No silos. No wrong door.
- Preserve emergency shelter capacity to match need.
- Preventive services for long-term homeless households with minor children.
- Realign temporary housing options with community needs.

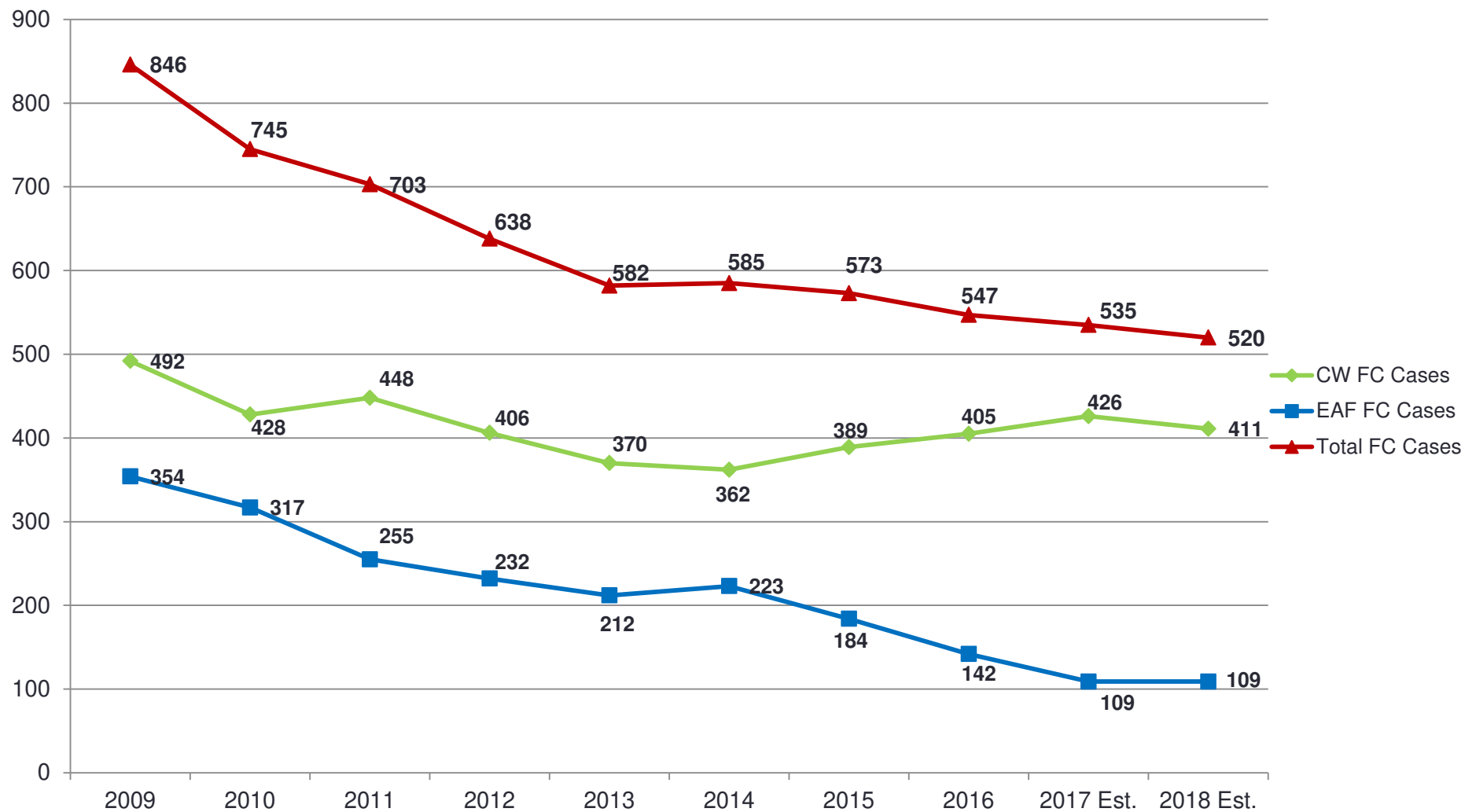
THE TRENDS

-
- CHILD WELFARE
 - NPA Medicaid
 - NPA SNAP
 - TANF, SNF and SNA
 - Other programs
 - Staffing

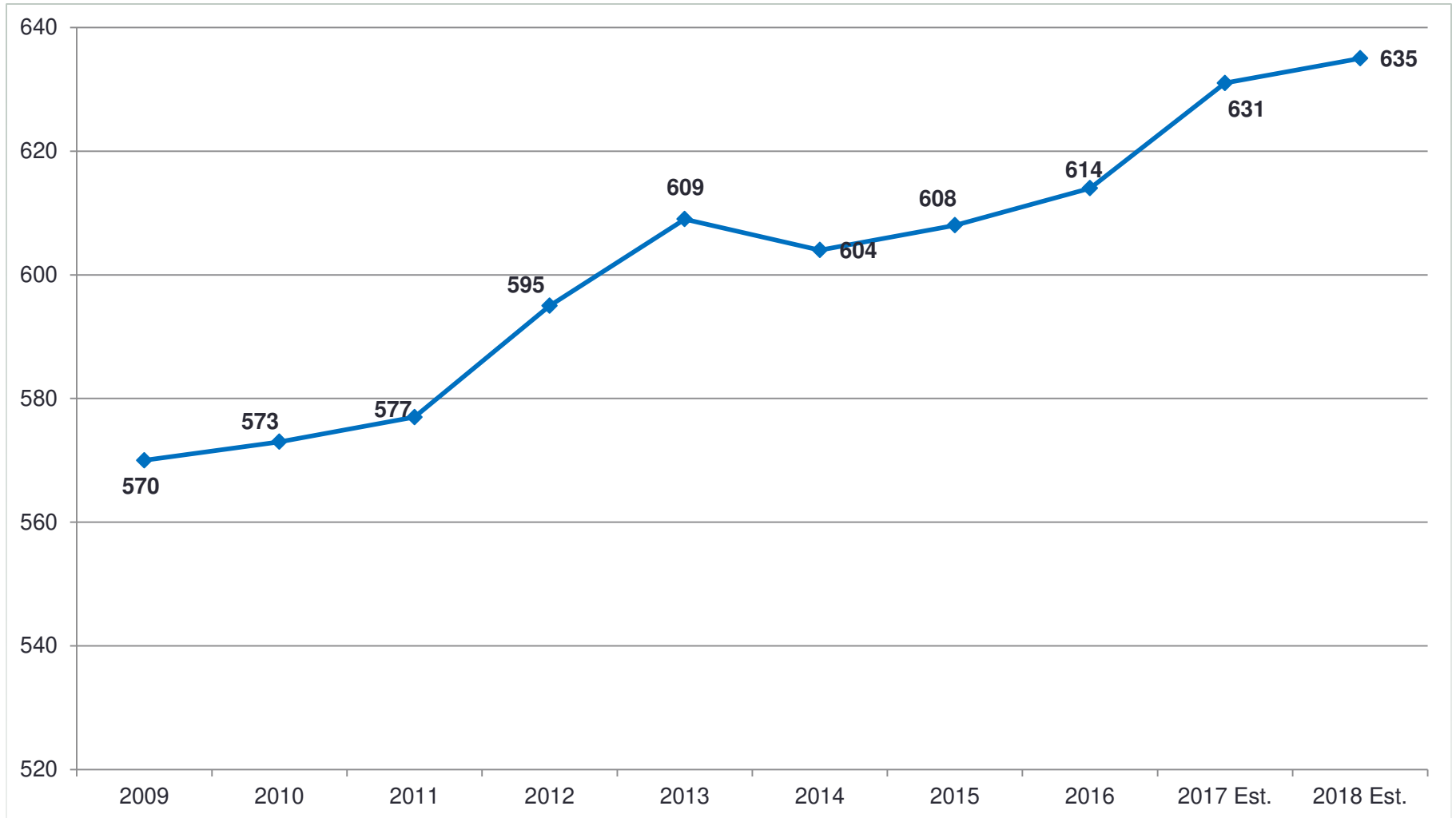
State Central Registry CPS Calls



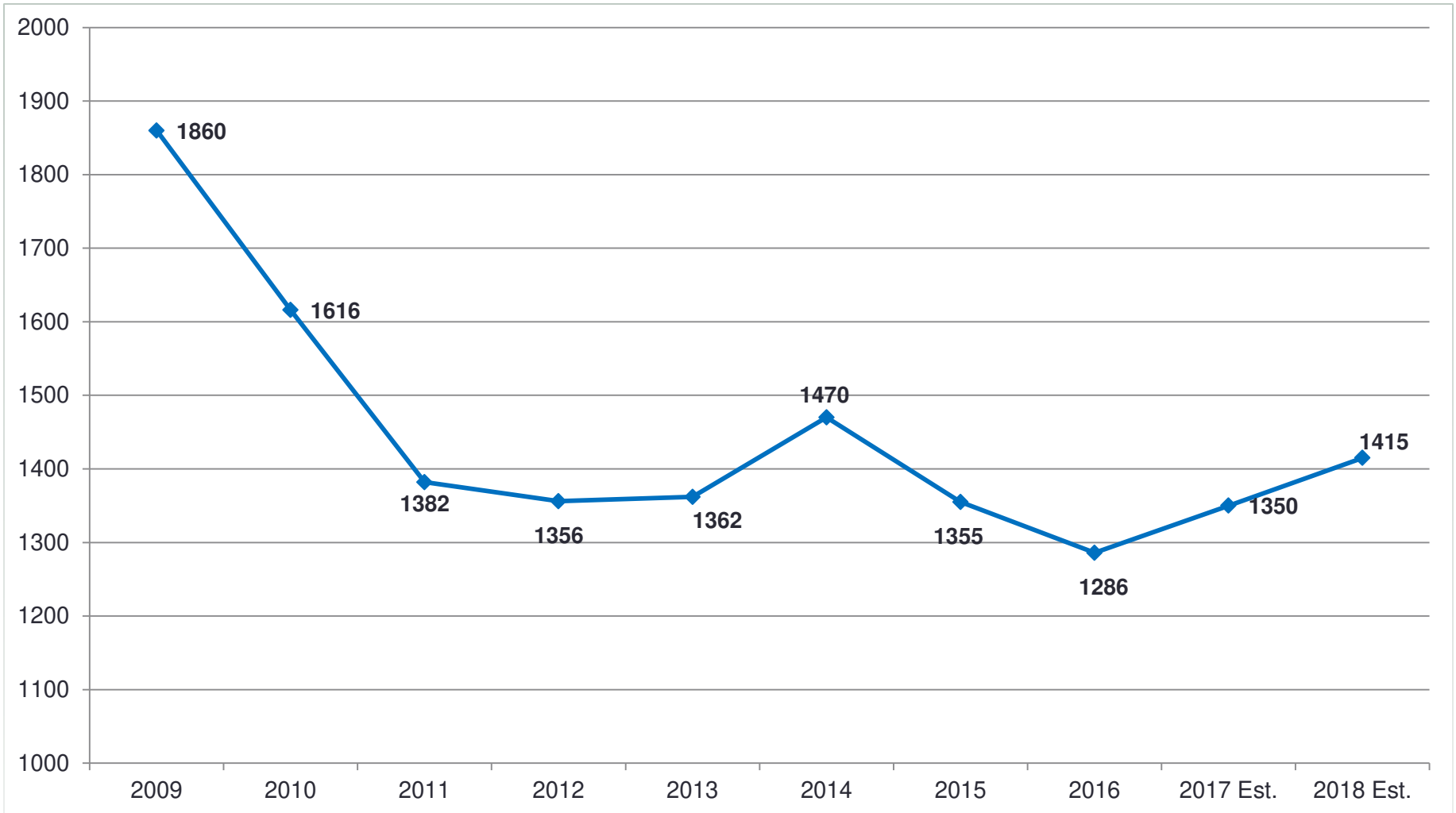
Child Welfare/EAF Foster Care Cases



Adoption Cases



Child Preventive Cases

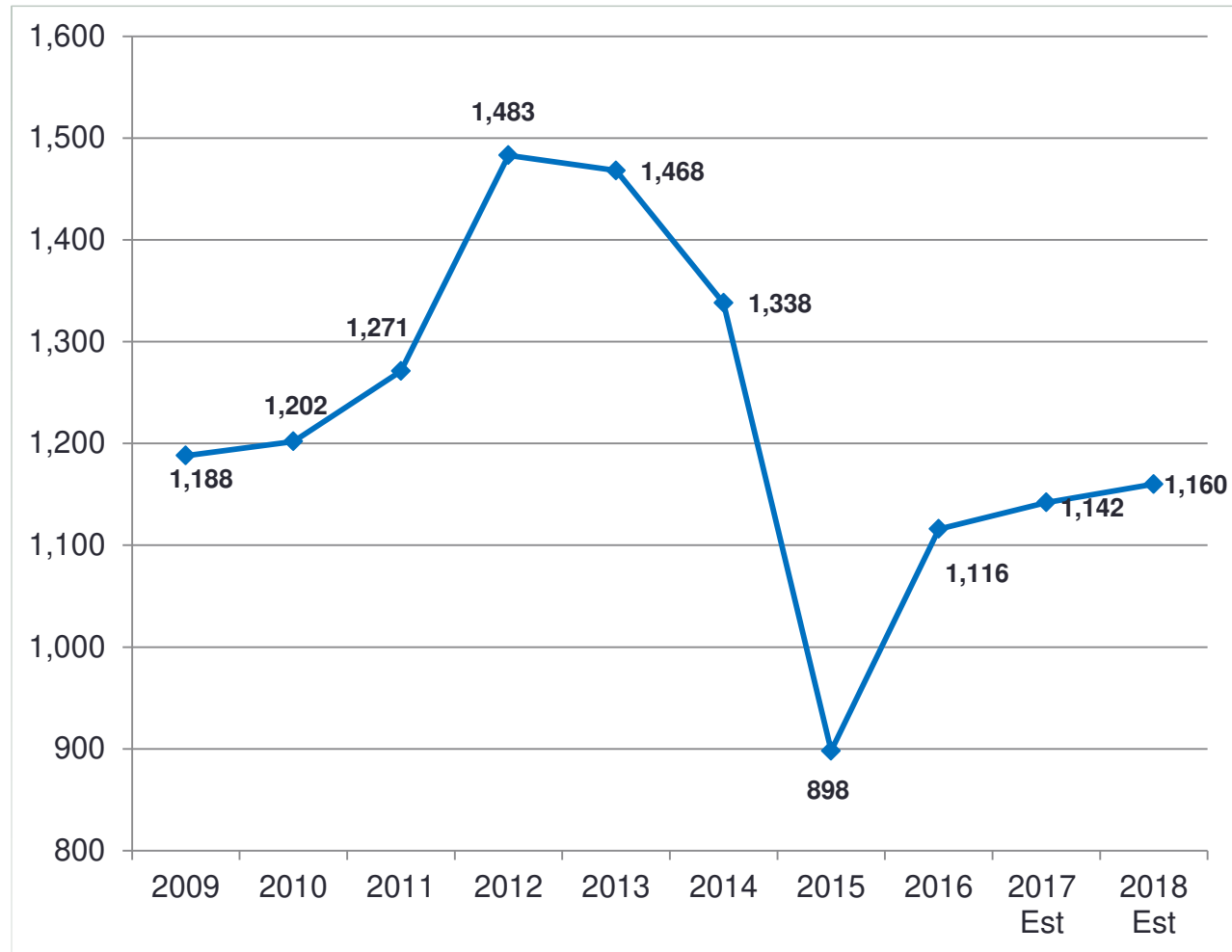


Adult Protective Services Caseload

Figures through 2014 reflect all referrals as “intakes.”

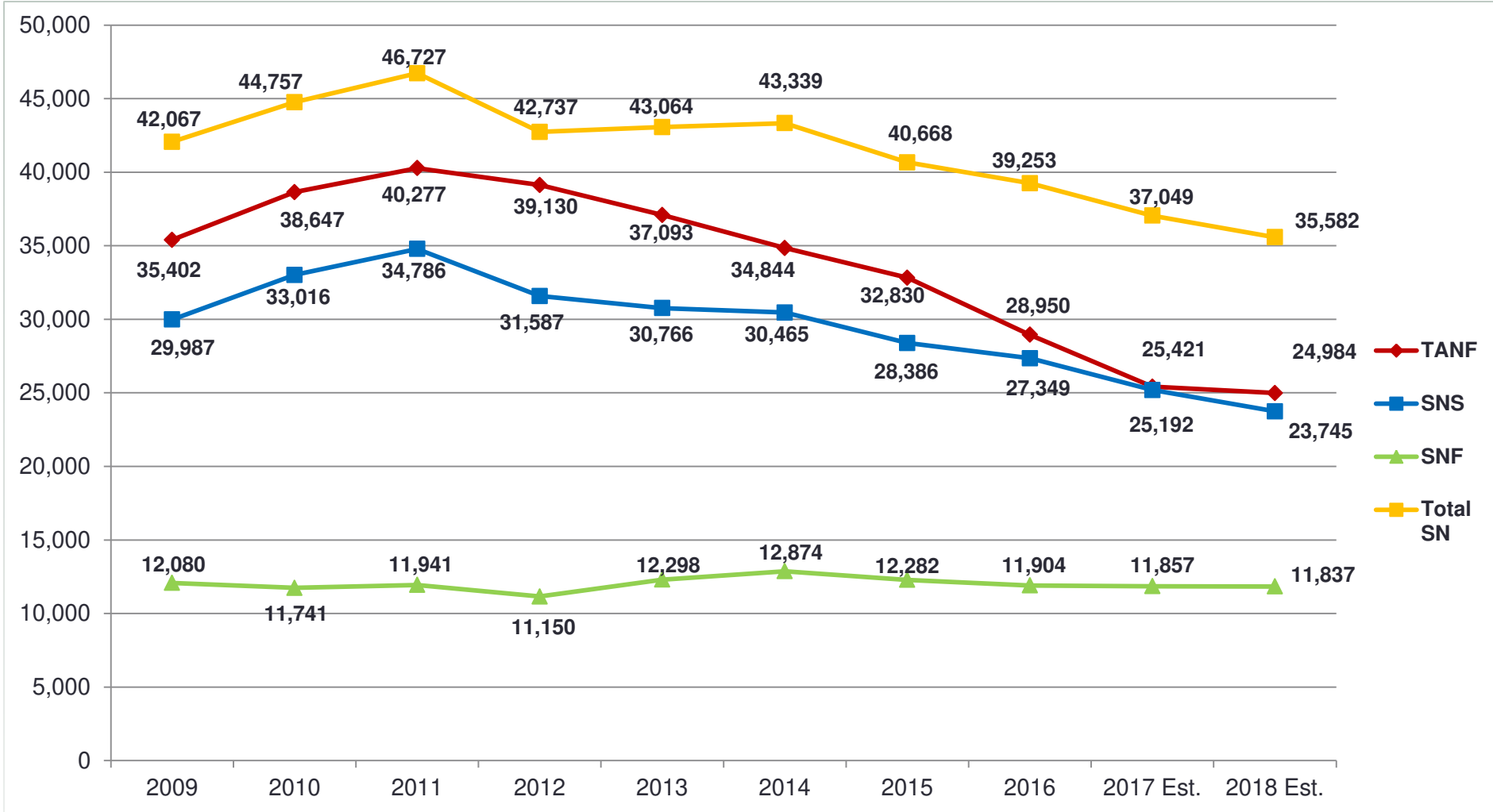
Beginning in 2014, APS instituted a “triage” unit to screen all referrals. Referrals handled without a formal intake (i.e. assignment of a caseworker) are not reflected in the counts for 2015 and 2016.

Examples of cases that are not now considered an “intake” are requests for information and referrals to a community partner.

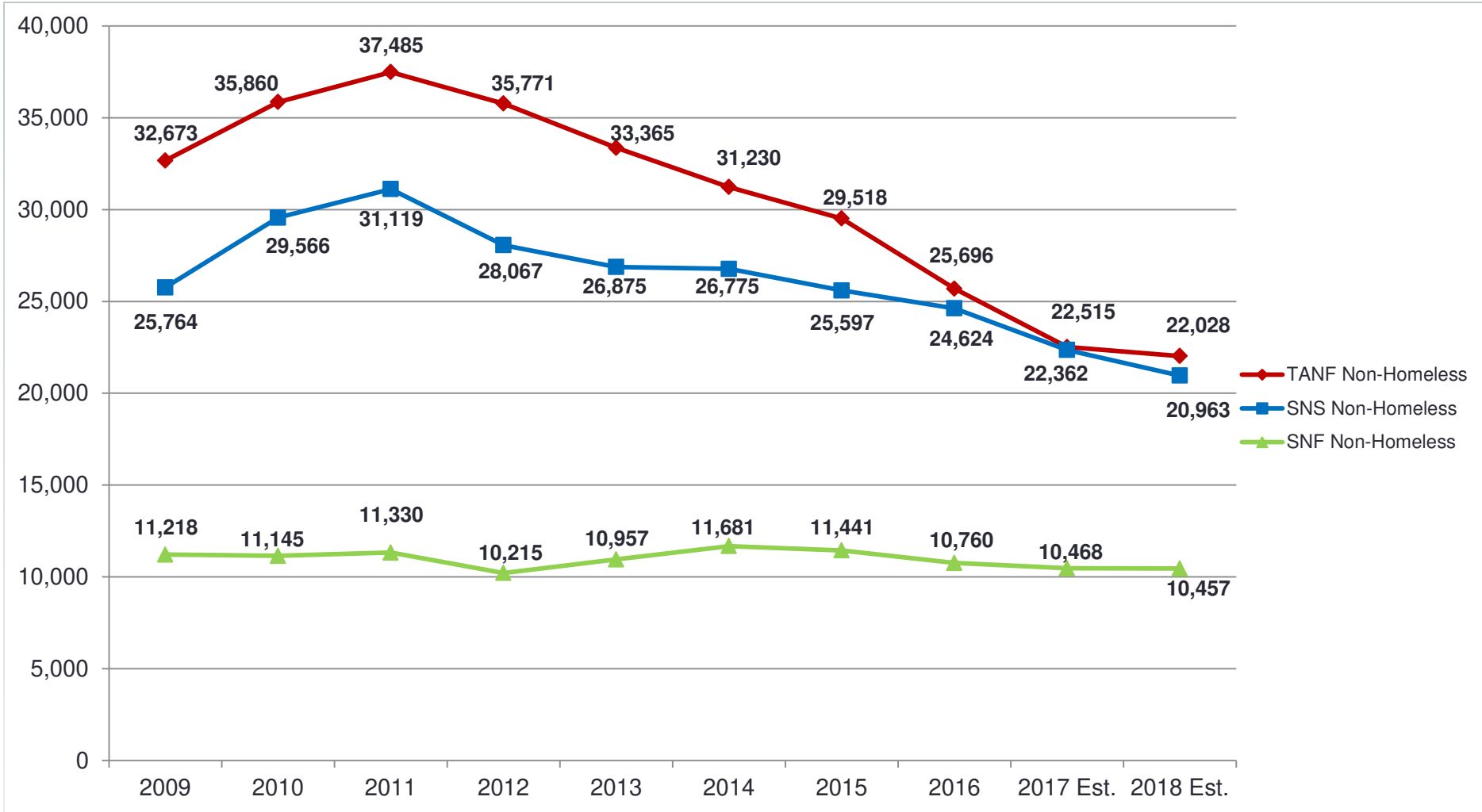


Note: methodology change in 2015

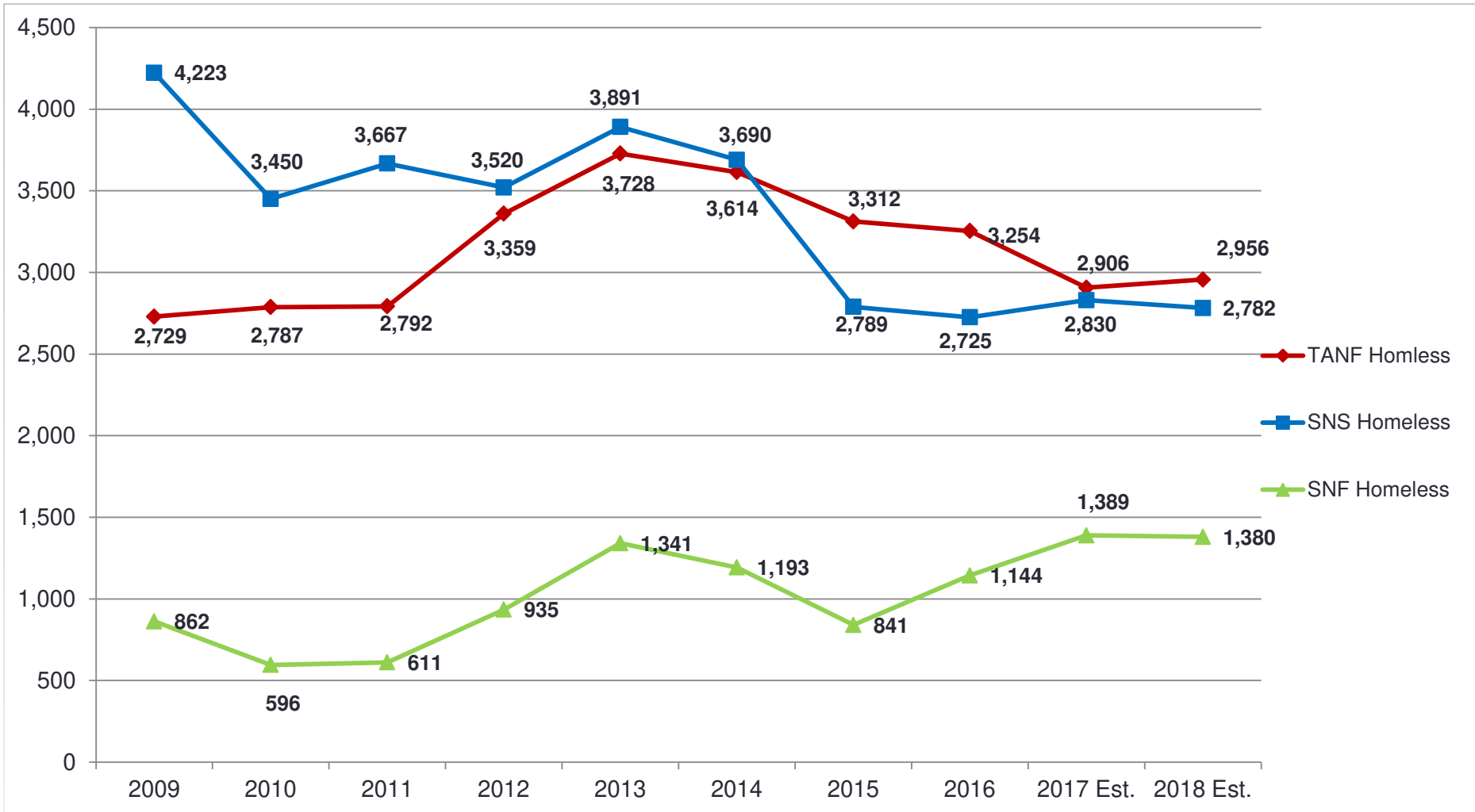
SN and TANF Caseload Trends



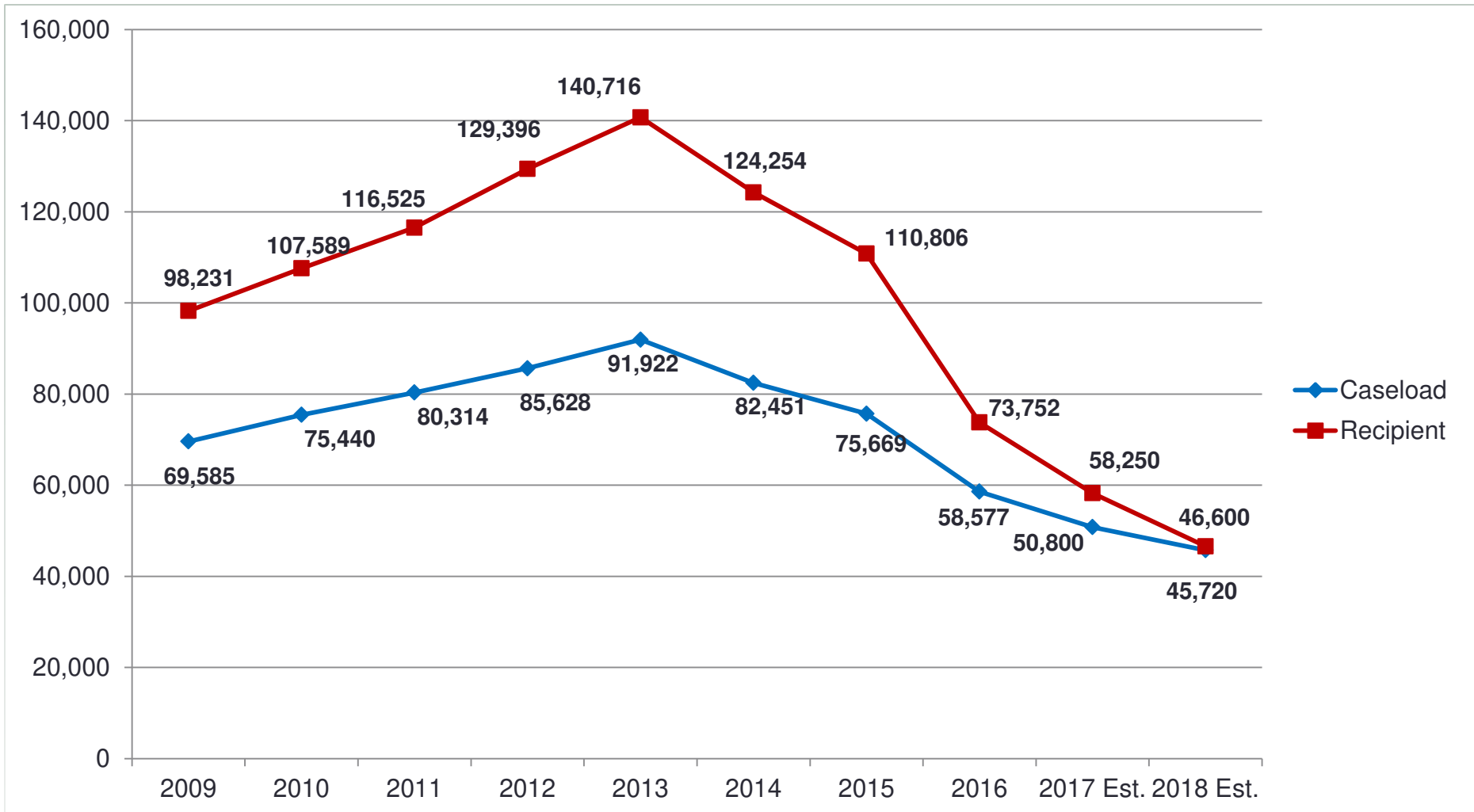
SNS, SNF, and TANF Non-Homeless Cases



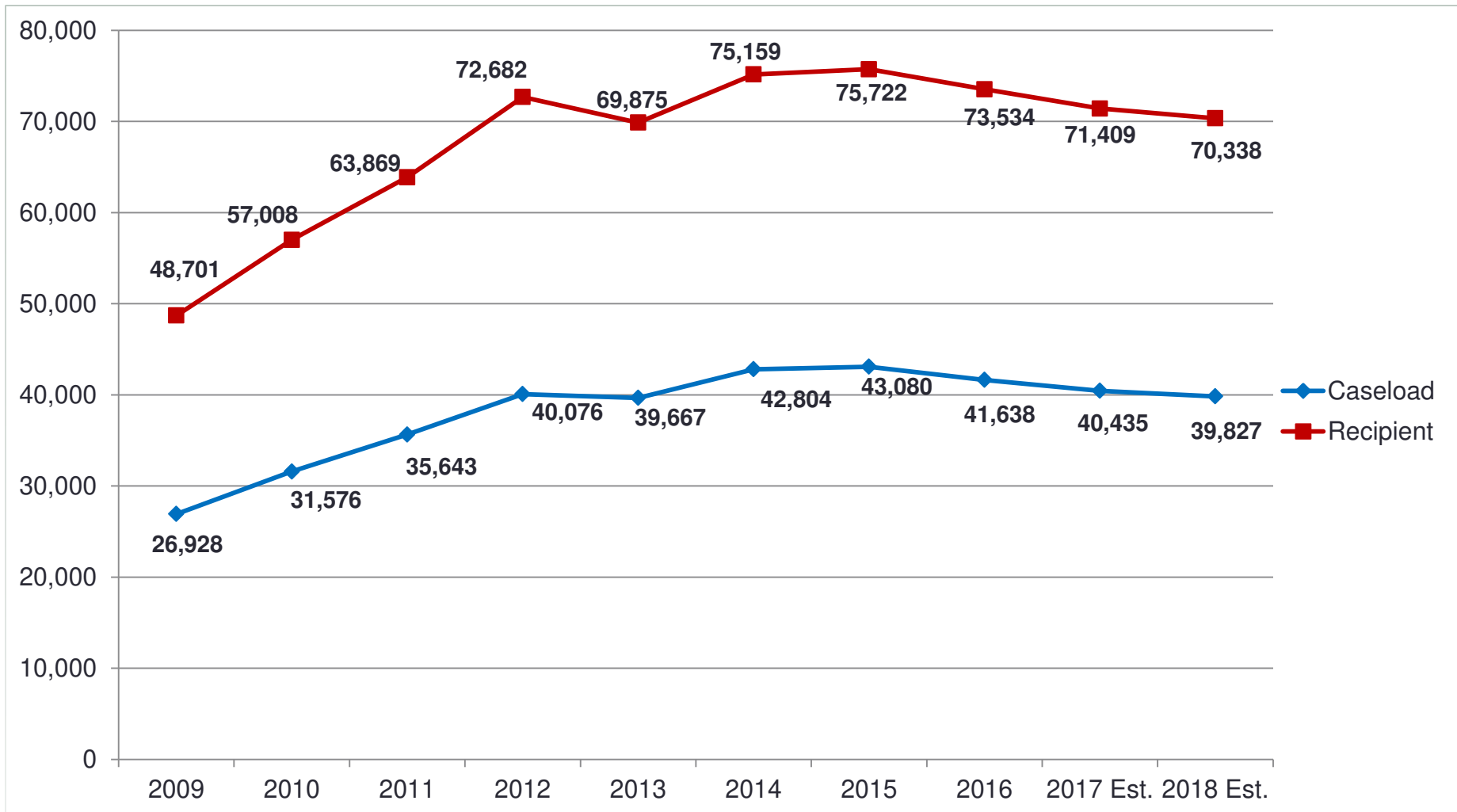
SNS (-), SNF (-), TANF (+) Homeless Cases



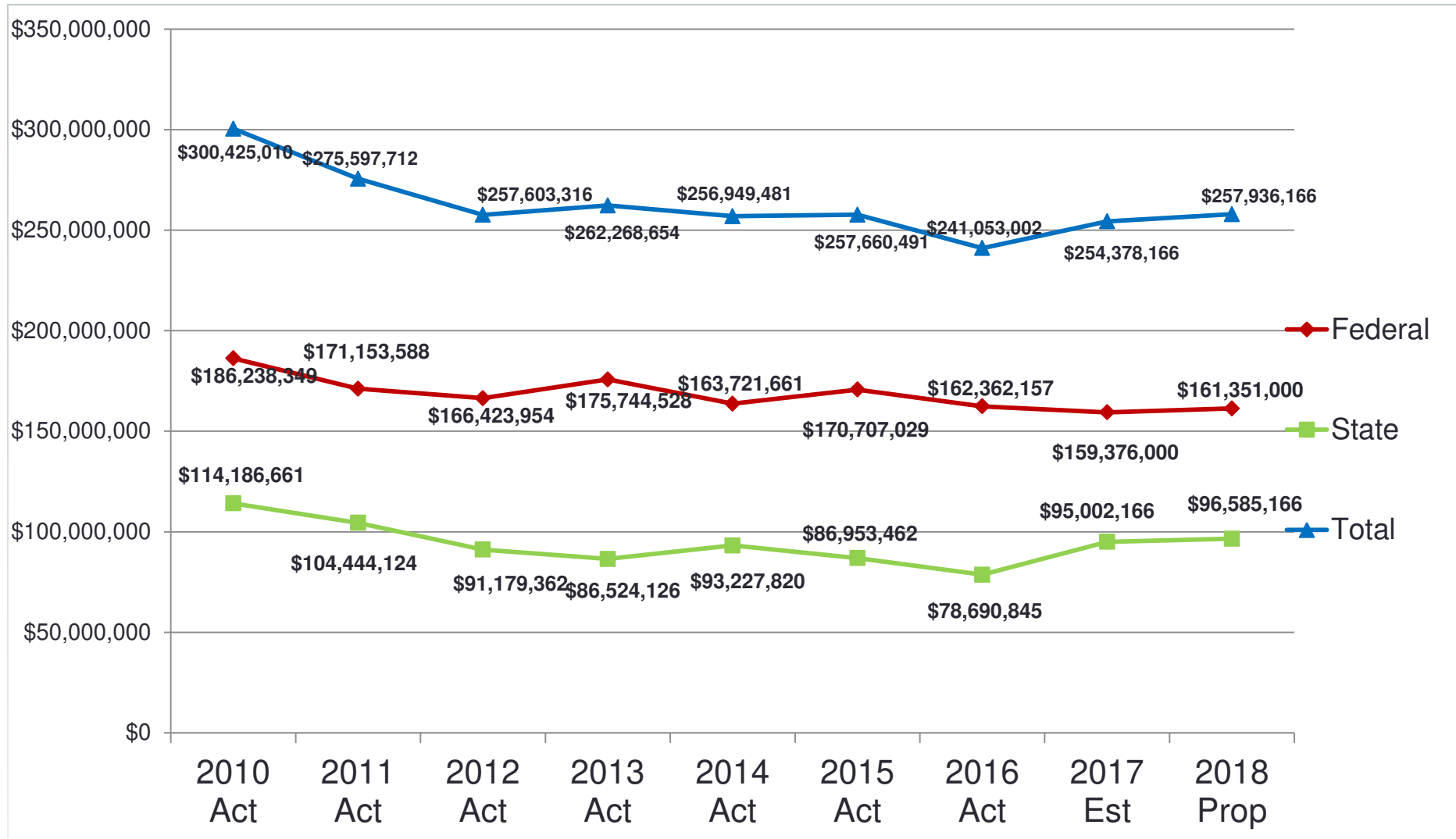
Medicaid Cases Handled By WCDSS (-)



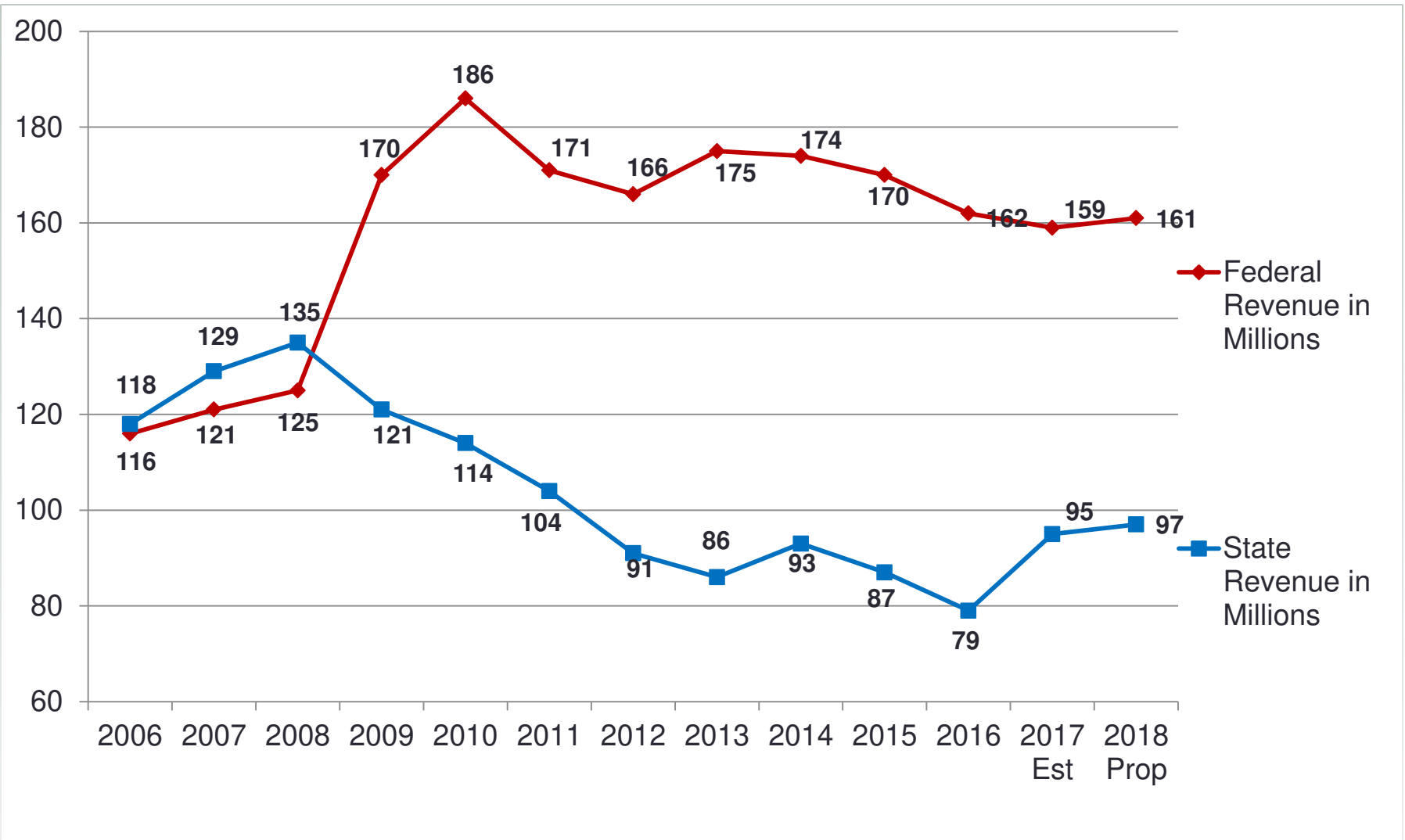
SNAP Cases (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) (formerly Food Stamps) (-)



Federal (red) vs. State Aid (green)



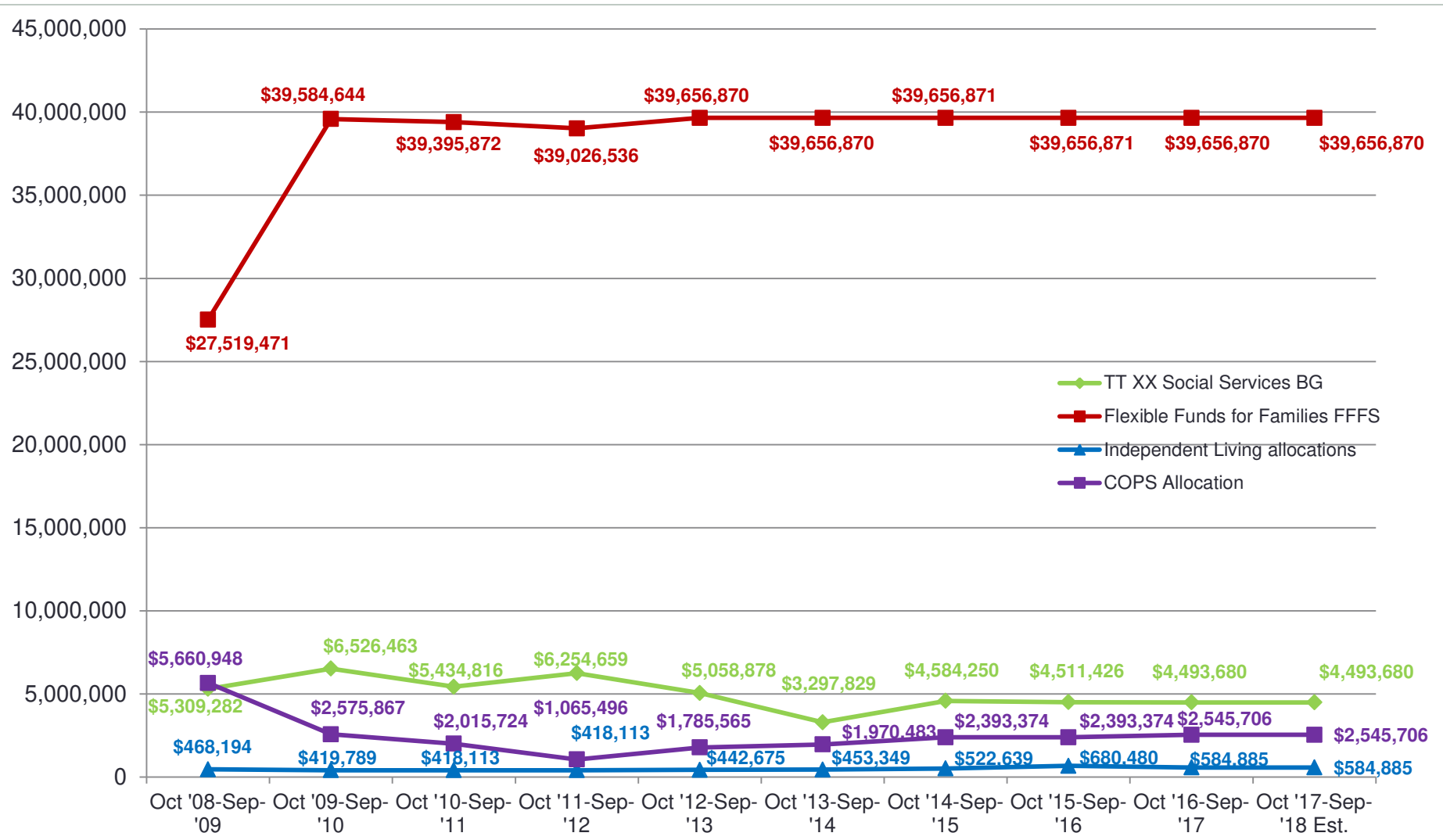
Federal versus State Revenue *(in \$M)*



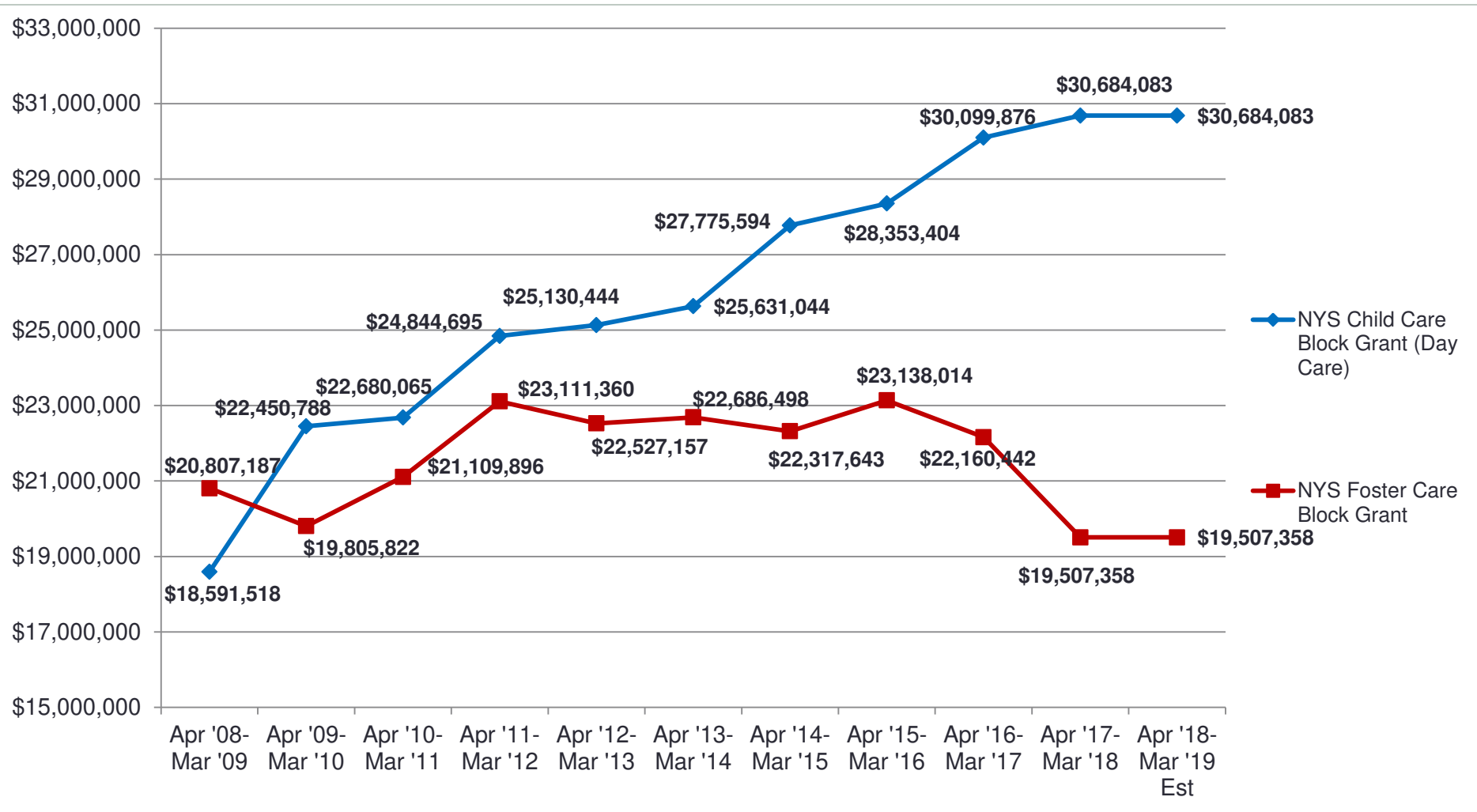
Federal Non-Block Grant Revenues (-)

Year	FMAP	Child Care ARRA	Other ARRA	Total FMAP/ARRA
2008	\$6,673,130	\$0	\$0	\$6,673,130
2009	\$29,375,258	\$0	\$4,756,271	\$34,131,529
2010	\$37,206,344	\$1,787,752	\$1,245,691	\$40,239,787
2011	\$14,179,854	\$1,688,006	\$2,650	\$15,870,510
2012	\$1,653,353	\$0	\$785,674	\$2,439,027
2013	\$1,931,040	\$0	\$0	\$1,931,040
2014	\$5,206,752	\$0	\$0	\$5,206,752
2015	\$11,984,984	\$0	\$0	\$11,984,984
2016	\$11,394,454	\$0	\$0	\$11,394,454
2017	\$13,465,192	\$0	\$0	\$13,465,192
2018 Est.	\$12,867,877	\$0	\$0	\$12,867,877

Federal Block Grant Allocations



NYS Child Block Grant Allocations



THE NUMBERS IN THE BUDGET

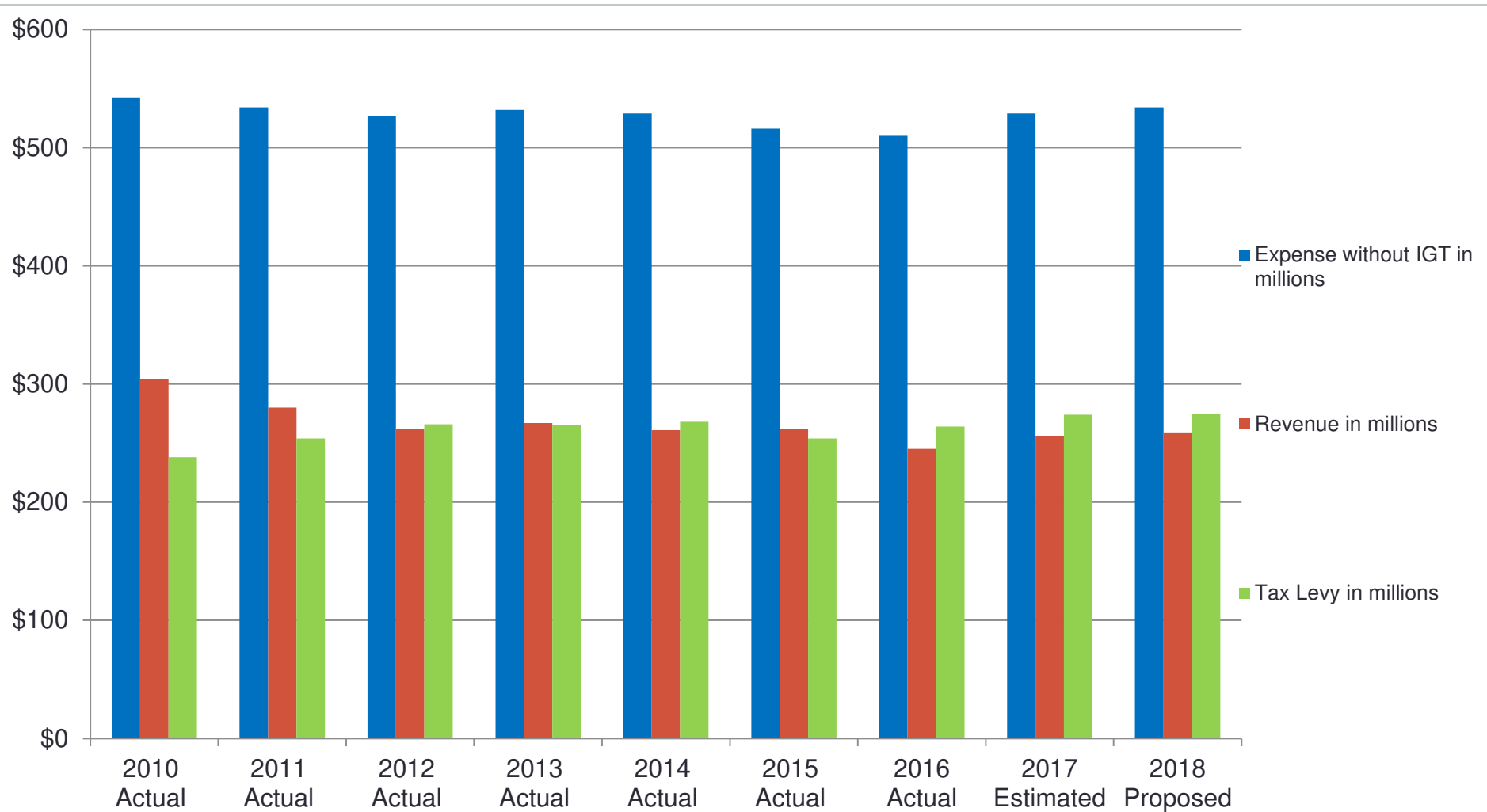
- 2016 Actual.
- 2017 Estimated.
- 2018 Proposed.

Expenditure Authority

	2016 Actual	2017 Estimated	2018 Proposed
Total	\$587,569,317	\$589,223,774	\$597,732,632
(IGT Transfer)	(\$ 77,939,917)	(\$ 60,000,000)	(\$ 63,381,000)
Available to Department	\$509,629,400	\$529,223,774	\$534,351,632*

* Social Services assumed responsibility for the Committee on Special Education (CSE) from the Health Department in 2017 and its \$15M annual expense.

DSS Expense, Revenue and Tax Levy 2010-2018



Position Count

	2016 Actual	2017 Adopted	2018 Proposed
Operating	1032	1041	1041
Trusts	83	99	118
Total	1115	1140	1159

1000: Personal Services

	2016 Actual	2017 Estimated	2018 Proposed
Total	\$ 68,936,431	\$ 69,519,457	\$ 70,567,563
Annual Regular	\$ 67,156,916	\$ 67,550,401	\$ 68,767,563*
Overtime	\$ 1,718,610	\$ 1,901,654	\$ 1,750,000
Hourly	\$ 60,905	\$ 67,402	\$ 50,000

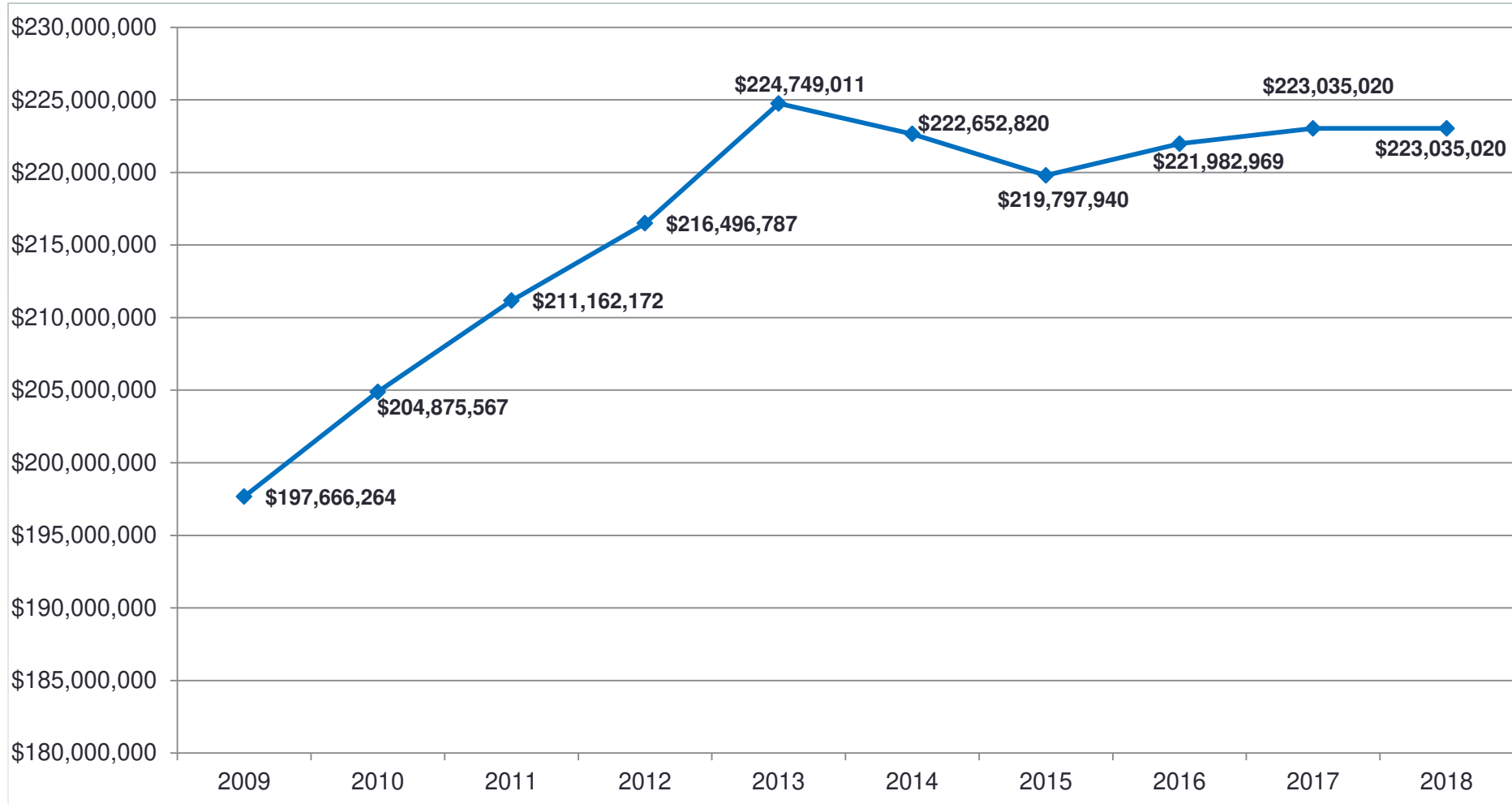
* net amount after vacancy savings of \$4 million taken.
(Total includes subcategories not listed, e.g. differentials.)

5000: Relief

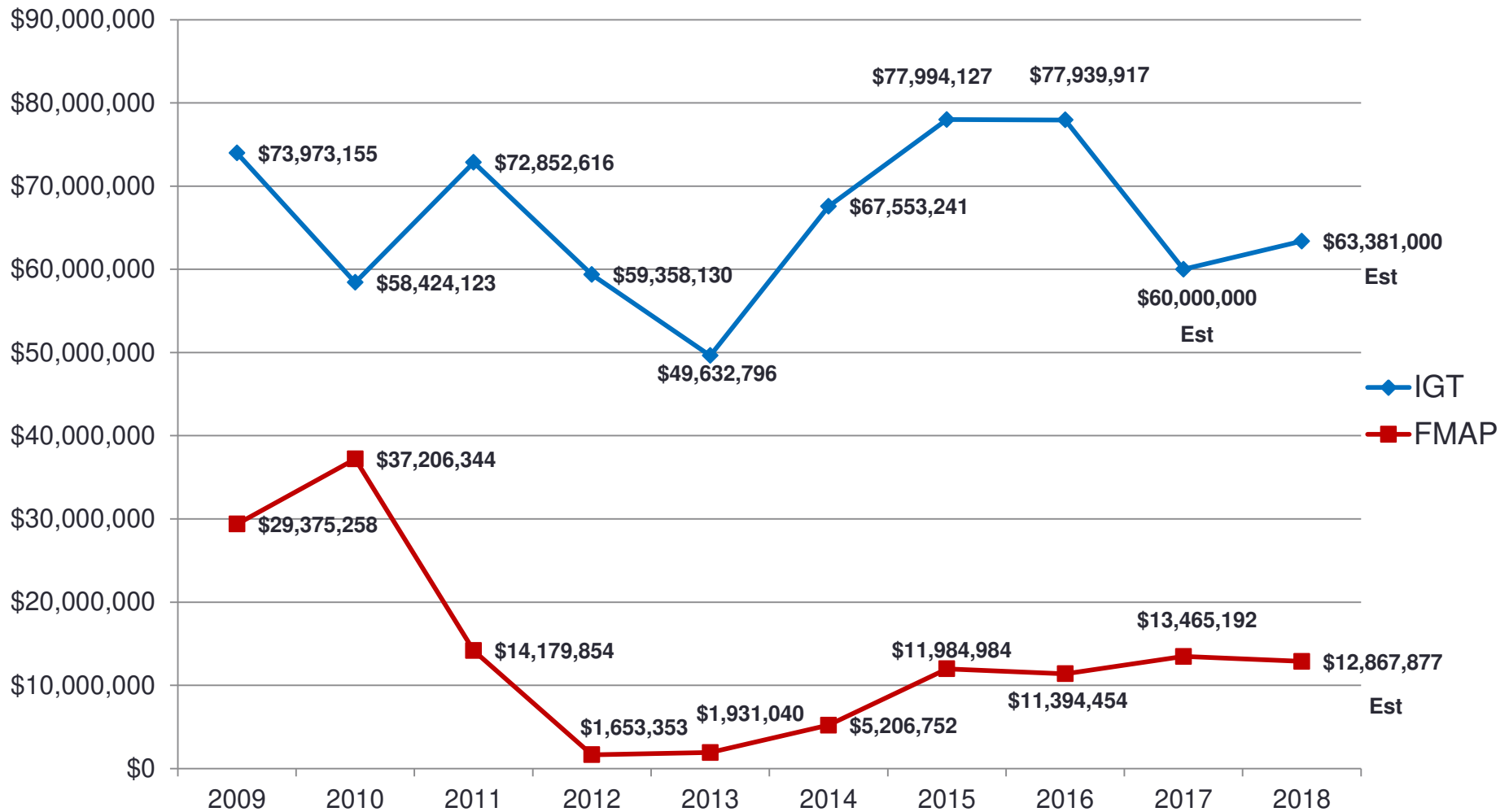
	2016 Actual	2017 Estimated	2018 Proposed
Total	\$ 479,714,419	\$ 462,493,593	\$ 467,885,746
EAF Non-Homeless	\$ 7,407,936	\$ 6,444,000	\$ 5,879,500
EAF Foster Care	\$ 14,597,960	\$ 13,302,000	\$ 13,881,000
EAA	\$ 1,124,580	\$ 1,409,000	\$ 1,437,000
MA Other	\$ 3,016,875	\$ 3,556,803	\$ 4,022,000
MA Regular	\$ 206,831,935	\$ 210,401,464	\$ 210,167,143
MA IGT	\$ 77,939,917	\$ 60,000,000	\$ 63,381,000
TANF	\$ 34,022,155	\$ 32,549,000	\$ 34,355,000
Safety Net	\$ 50,977,802	\$ 49,432,000	\$ 50,067,000
Child Welfare FC	\$ 29,672,423	\$ 31,739,000	\$ 30,198,000
Child Welfare IL	\$ 1,013,098	\$ 1,109,000	\$ 1,122,000
Child Welfare Adoption	\$ 8,707,711	\$ 9,066,000	\$ 9,196,000
Special Items	\$ 173,252	\$ 181,000	\$ 175,000
Indirect Social Services	\$ 42,073,208	\$ 41,032,052	\$ 41,602,103
County-funded Day Care	\$ 2,155,565	\$ 2,272,274	\$ 2,403,000

Tax Levy for MMIS Cap: 2009 to 2018

(does not include FMAP offset)

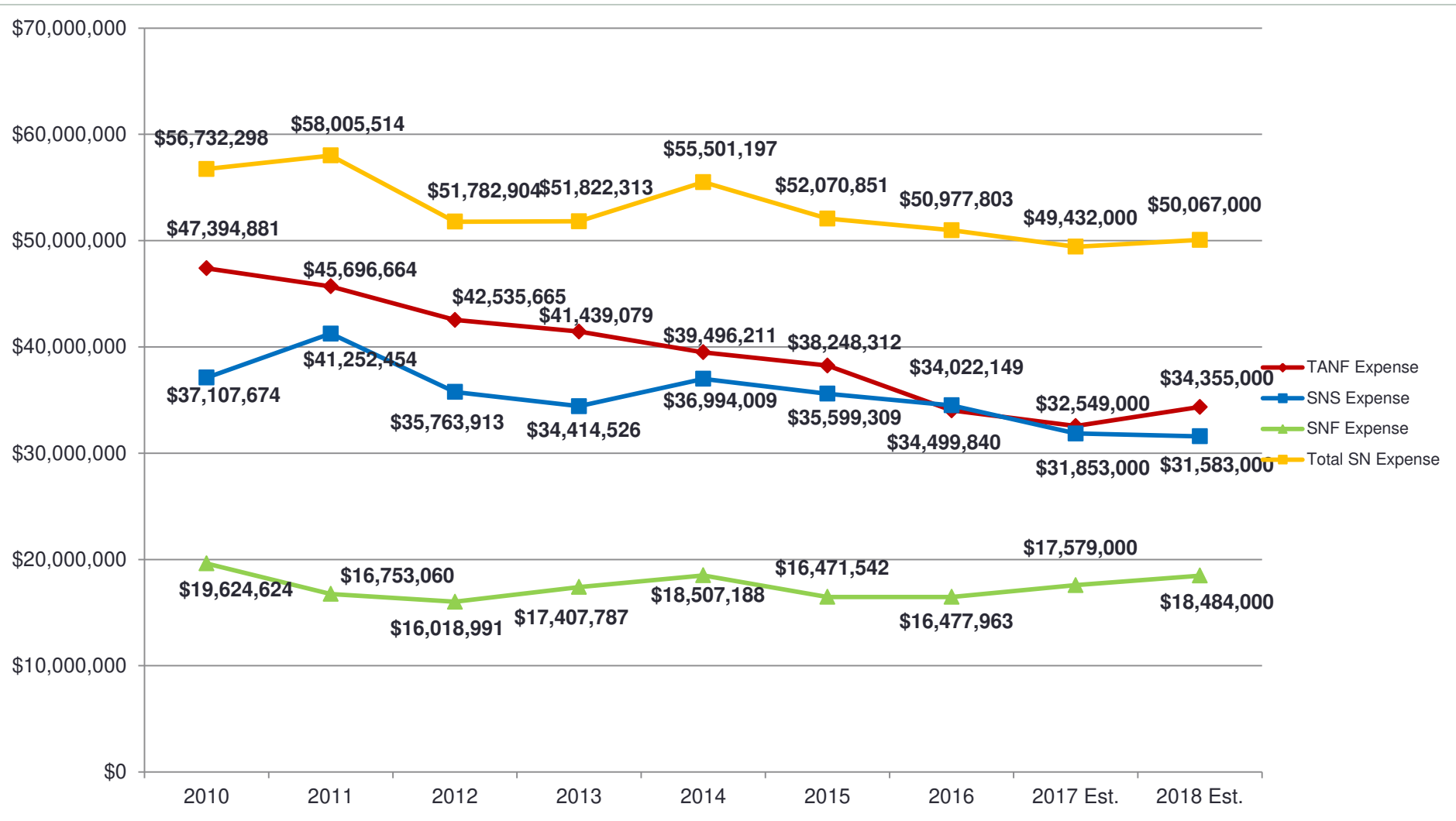


FMAP and Inter-Governmental Transfers

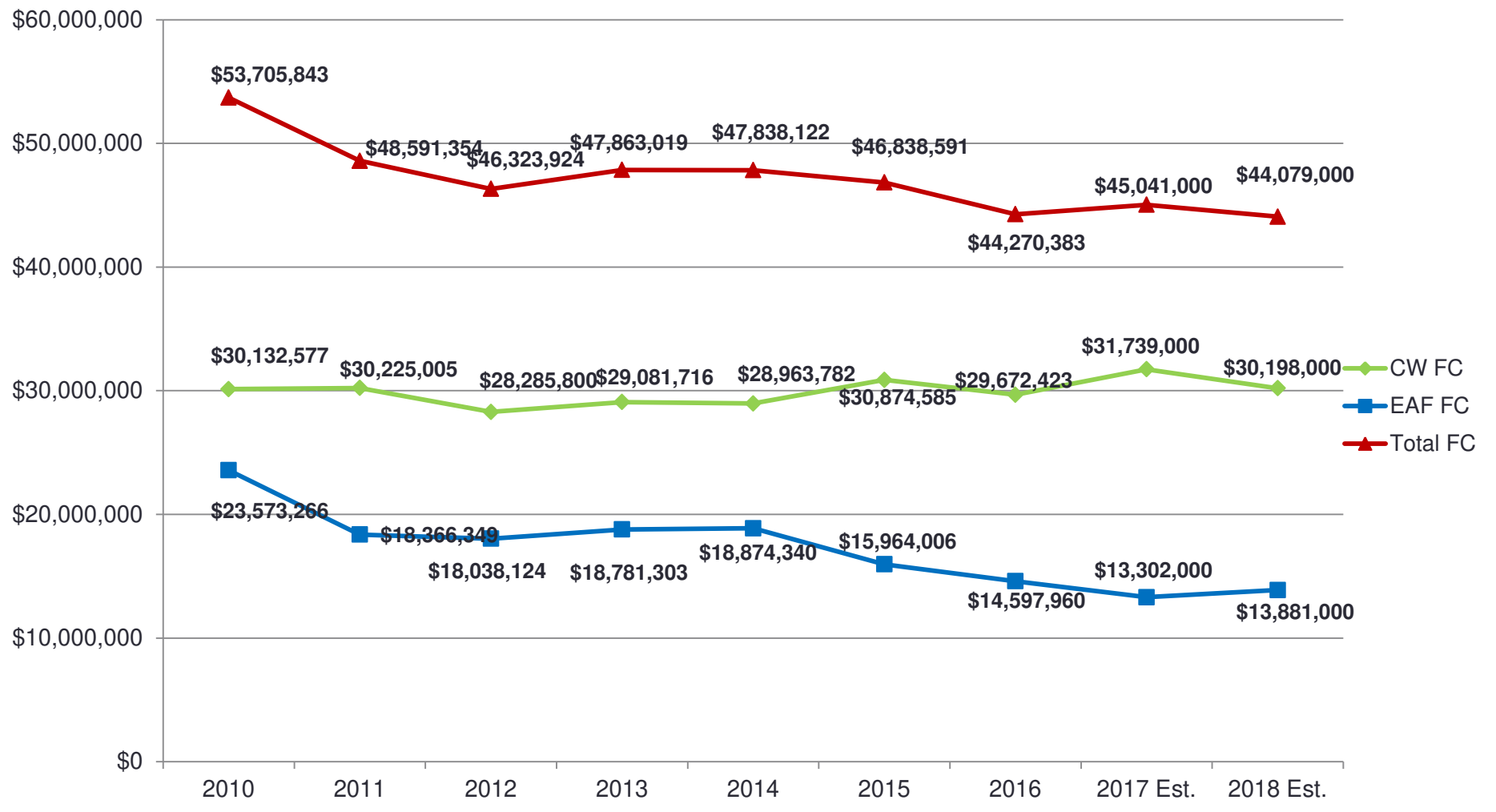


Note: 2017 and 2018 IGT values and 2018 FMAP value are estimated

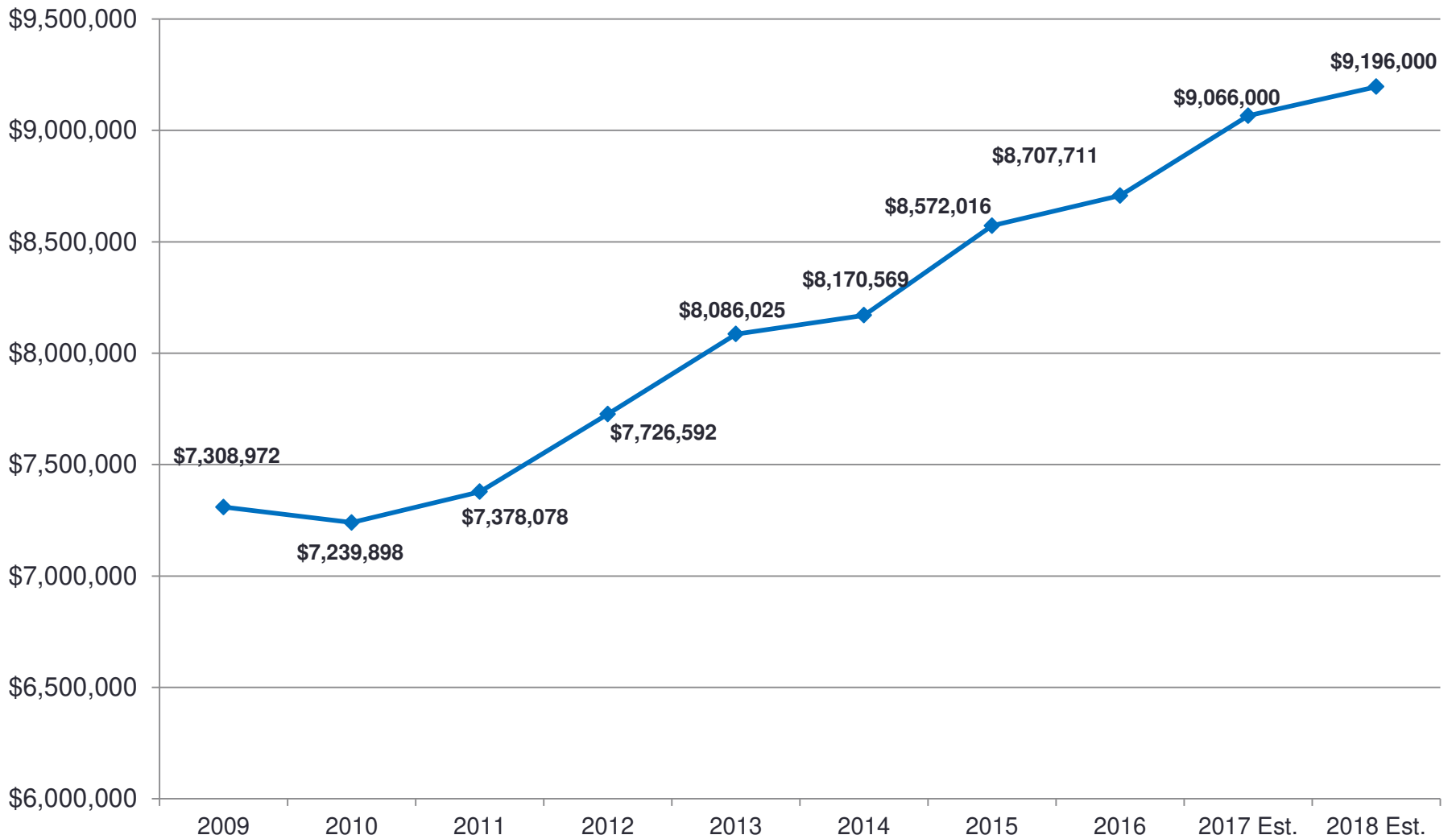
TANF and SN Expenses



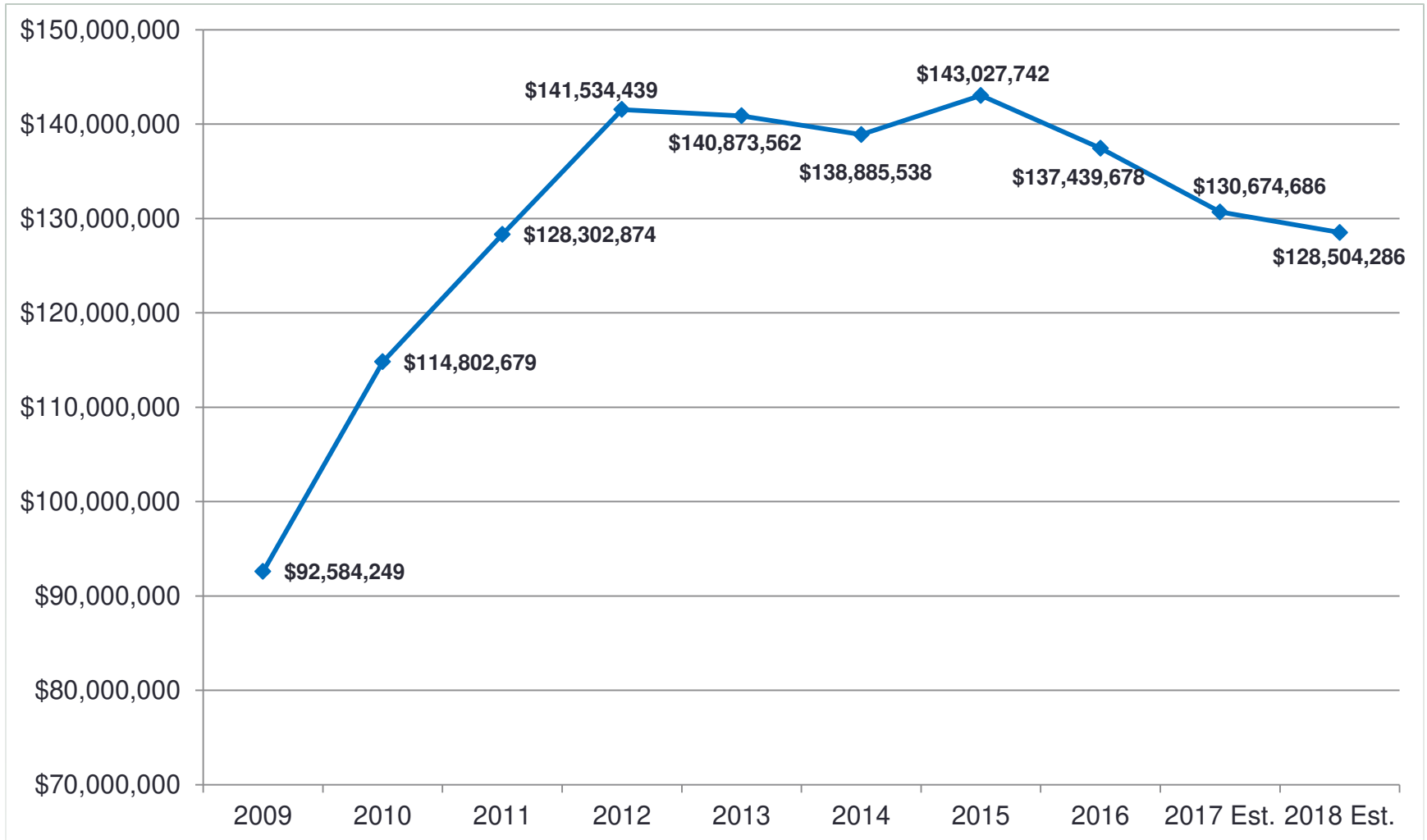
Child Welfare and EAF Foster Care Expense



Adoption Subsidy Expense



SNAP Benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) (formerly Food Stamps)



5000: Interdepartmental

	2016 Actual	2017 Estimated	2018 Proposed
Total	\$ 34,779,223	\$ 36,952,355	\$ 38,796,930
Personnel	\$ 110,995	\$ 113,842	\$ 116,725
Public Works	\$ 5,608,371	\$ 5,856,033	\$ 6,678,036
IT	\$ 6,727,273	\$ 7,468,855	\$ 7,448,729
Law	\$ 6,578,726	\$ 7,176,092	\$ 6,885,988
Public Safety	\$ 8,518,536	\$ 8,451,164	\$ 9,722,391
Probation	\$ 1,356,487	\$ 1,530,124	\$ 1,526,436
Parks, Rec., Cons.	\$ 912,180	\$ 961,172	\$ 968,593
Women	\$ 2,013,637	\$ 2,279,472	\$ 2,251,403

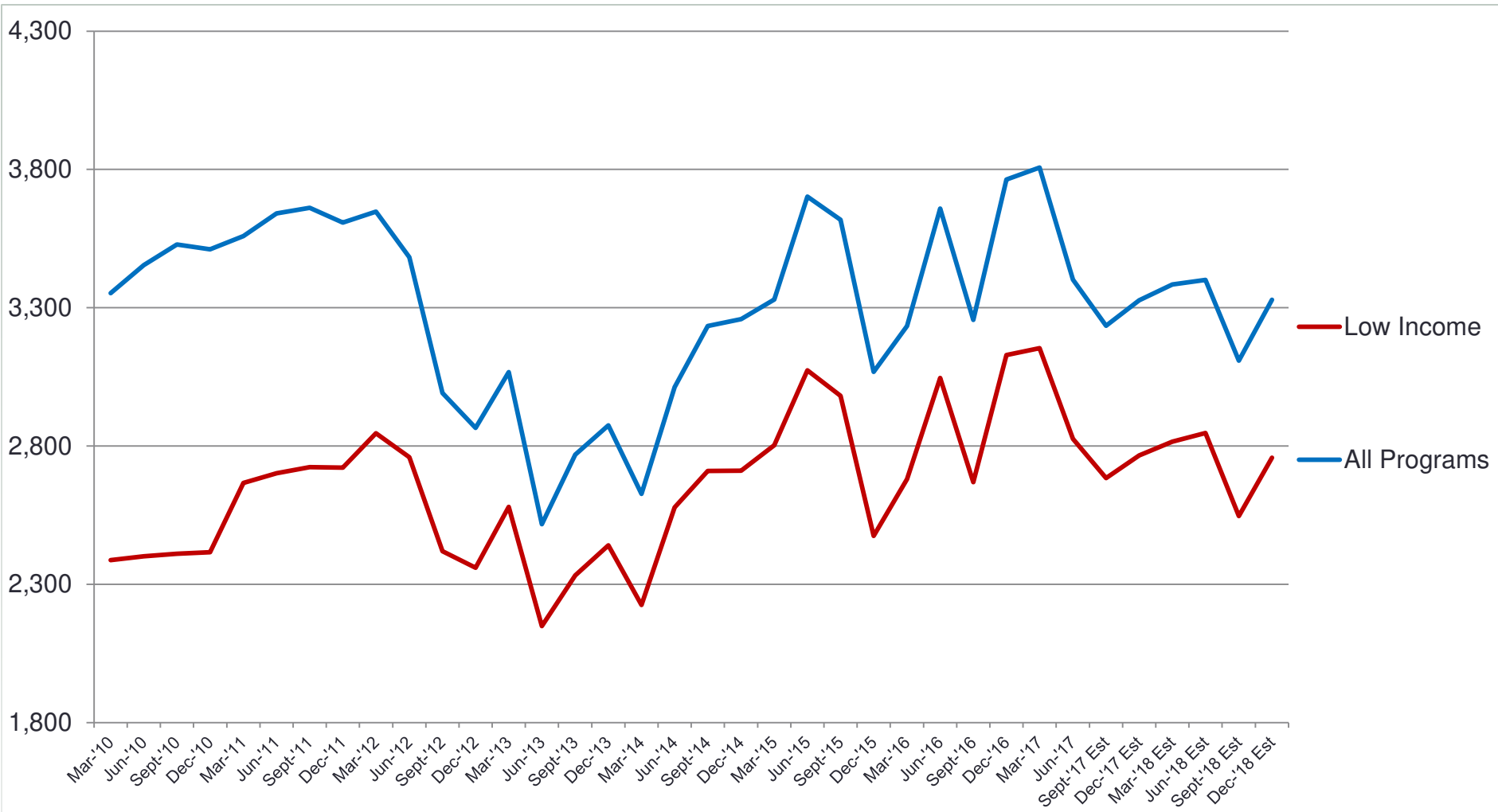
Also: Emergency Services, Community Mental Health, Health, Corrections, Transportation, Youth, Aging, Disabled and Communications.

CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES

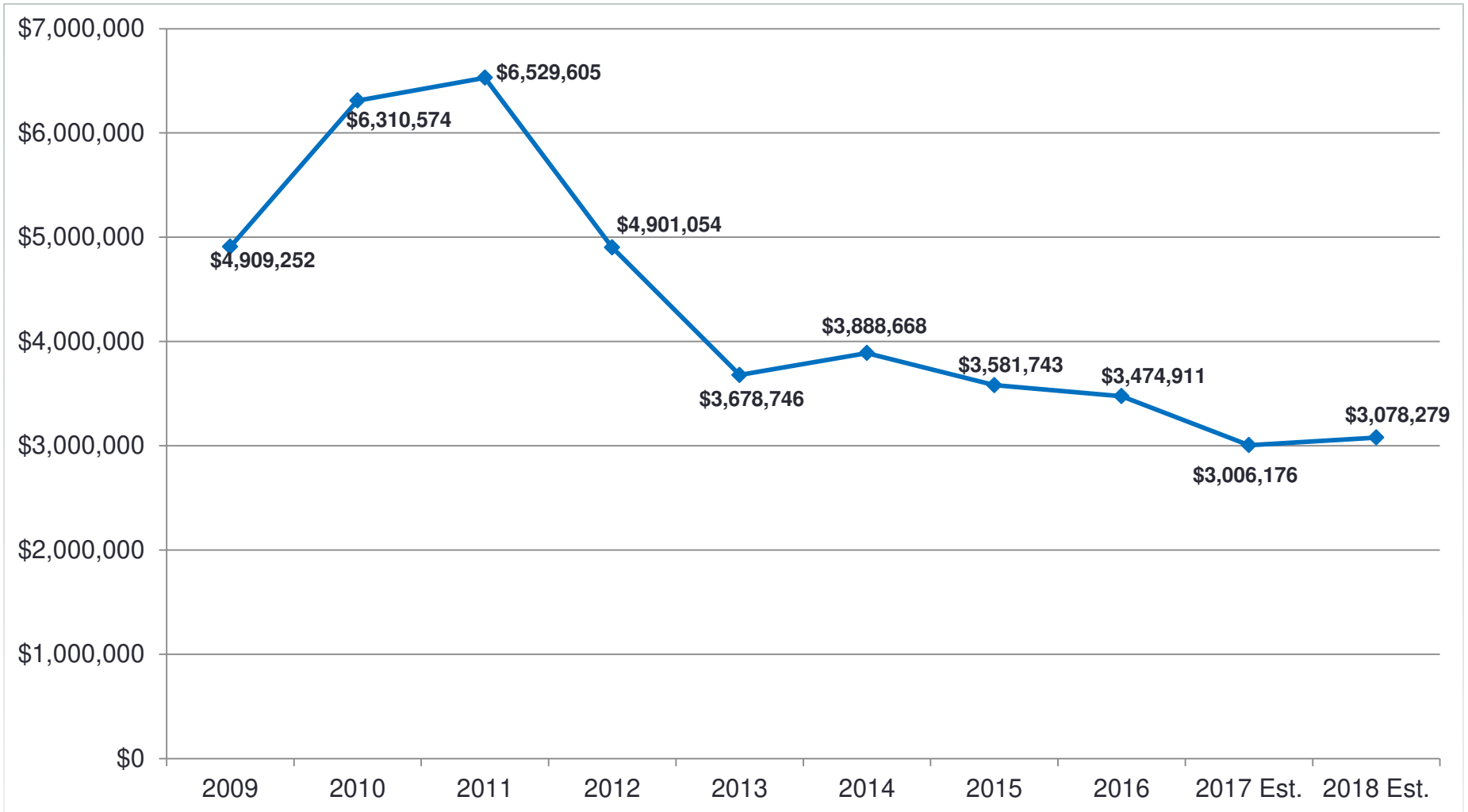
2018 Proposed Budget Numbers

Paid child care subsidy claims

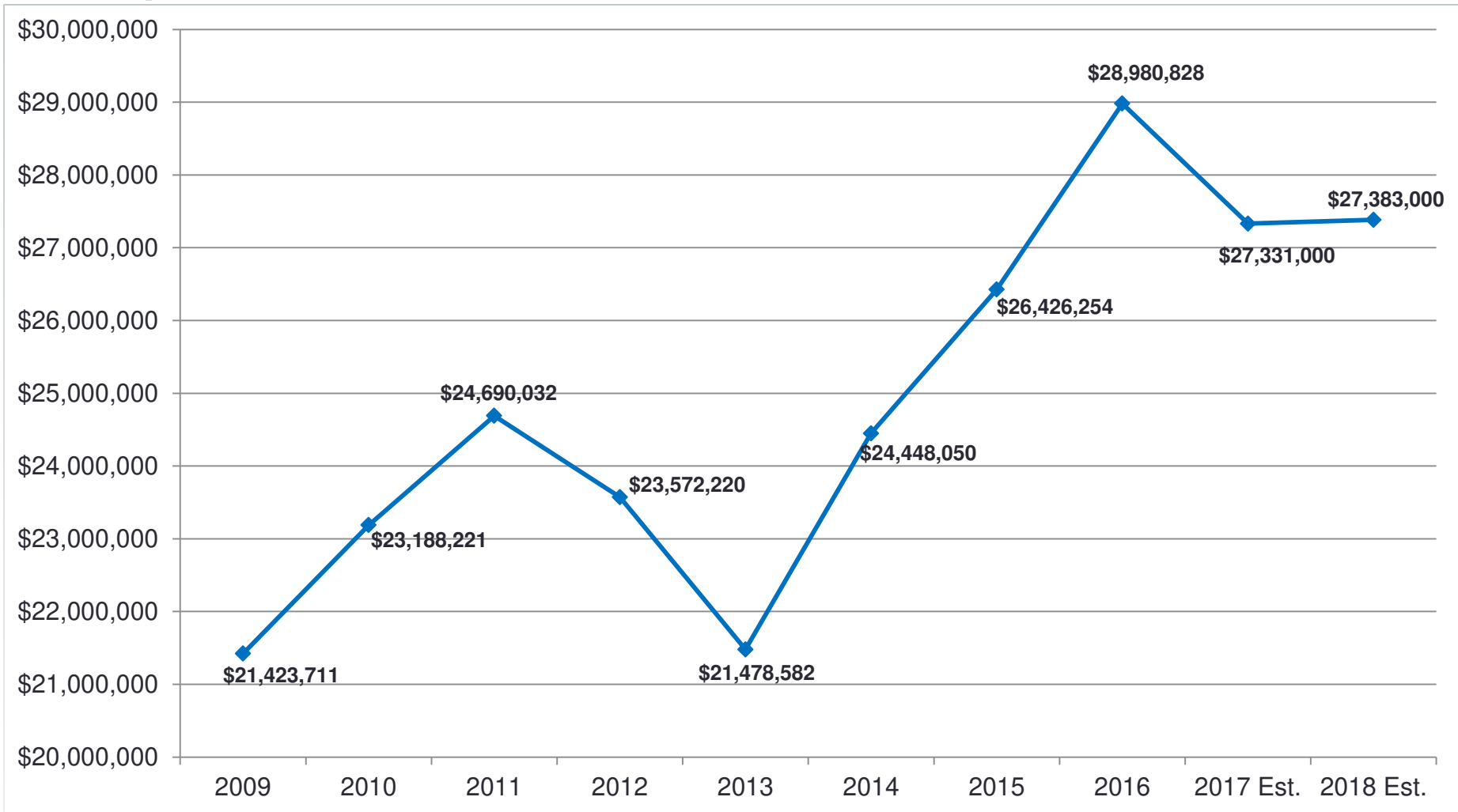
(2018 projections do not include any changes in eligibility standards)



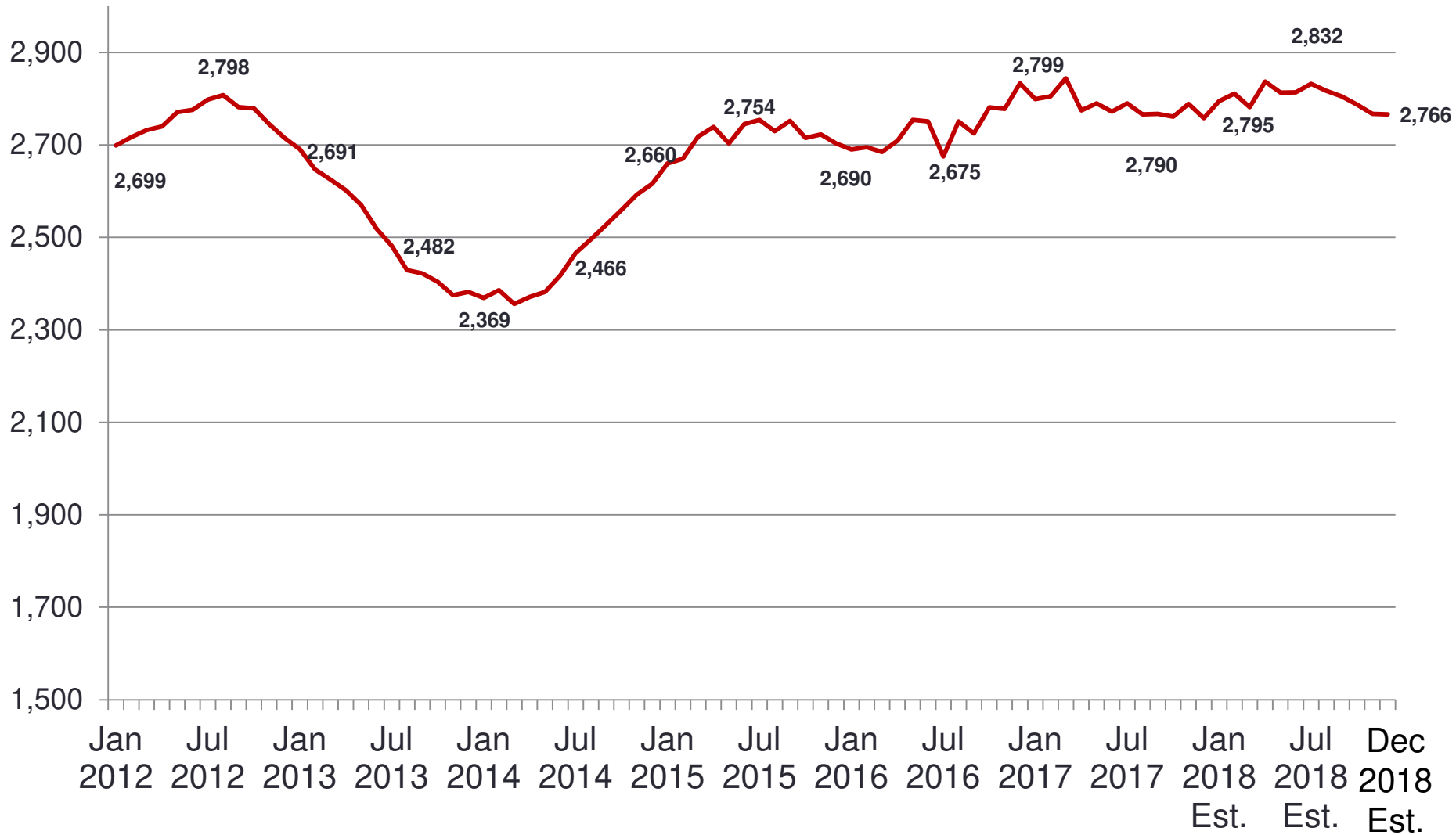
TA Day Care Expenditure



Low-Income Child Care Subsidies Expense



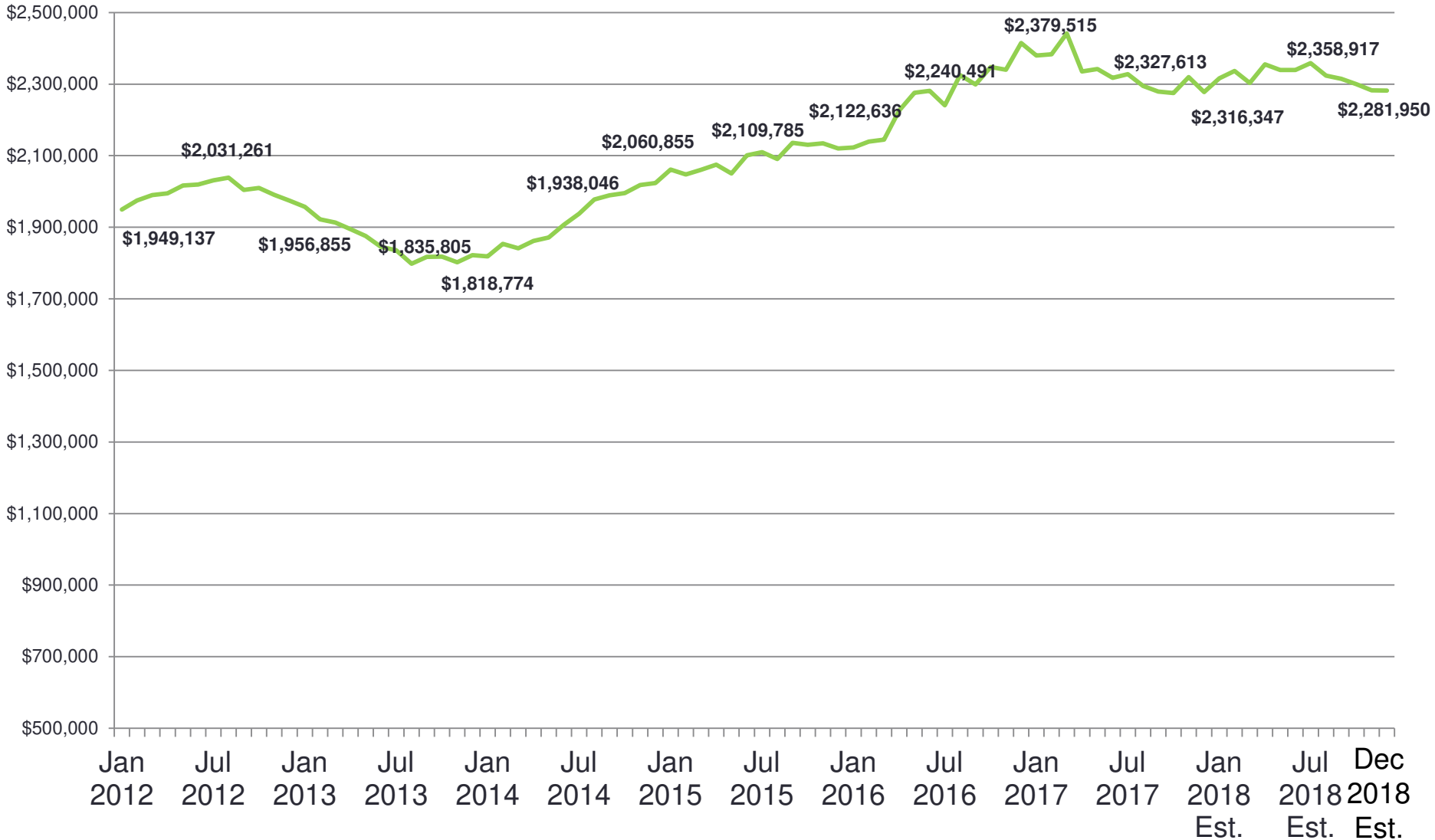
Low-Income Day Care Number of children served: 2012 - 2018 (12-month moving average)



Low-Income Day Care

Monthly expense: 2012 - 2018

(12-month moving average)



Gross Day Care Expenditures Budgeted for 2018

Gross Day Care Expenditures Budgeted for 2018

County Fiscal Year 2018

Low-Income Day Care	\$ 27,383,000
TA Day Care	\$ 3,078,279
County-funded Day Care	\$ 2,403,000
Admin Expense	\$ 4,000,000
Total DC Expense	\$ 36,864,279
Est. CCBG Allocation	\$ 30,684,083
DC Funded by Tax Levy	\$ 6,180,196





... to all our WCDSS colleagues who make this possible!