



Reach Up Annual Report Overview

February, 2018



Highlights

- Mathematica
- 2 Gen
- Financial Empowerment
- Focus Groups
- Professional Development
- Home Visiting





MATHEMATICA Policy Research

Why is a **mission** and **vision** important?

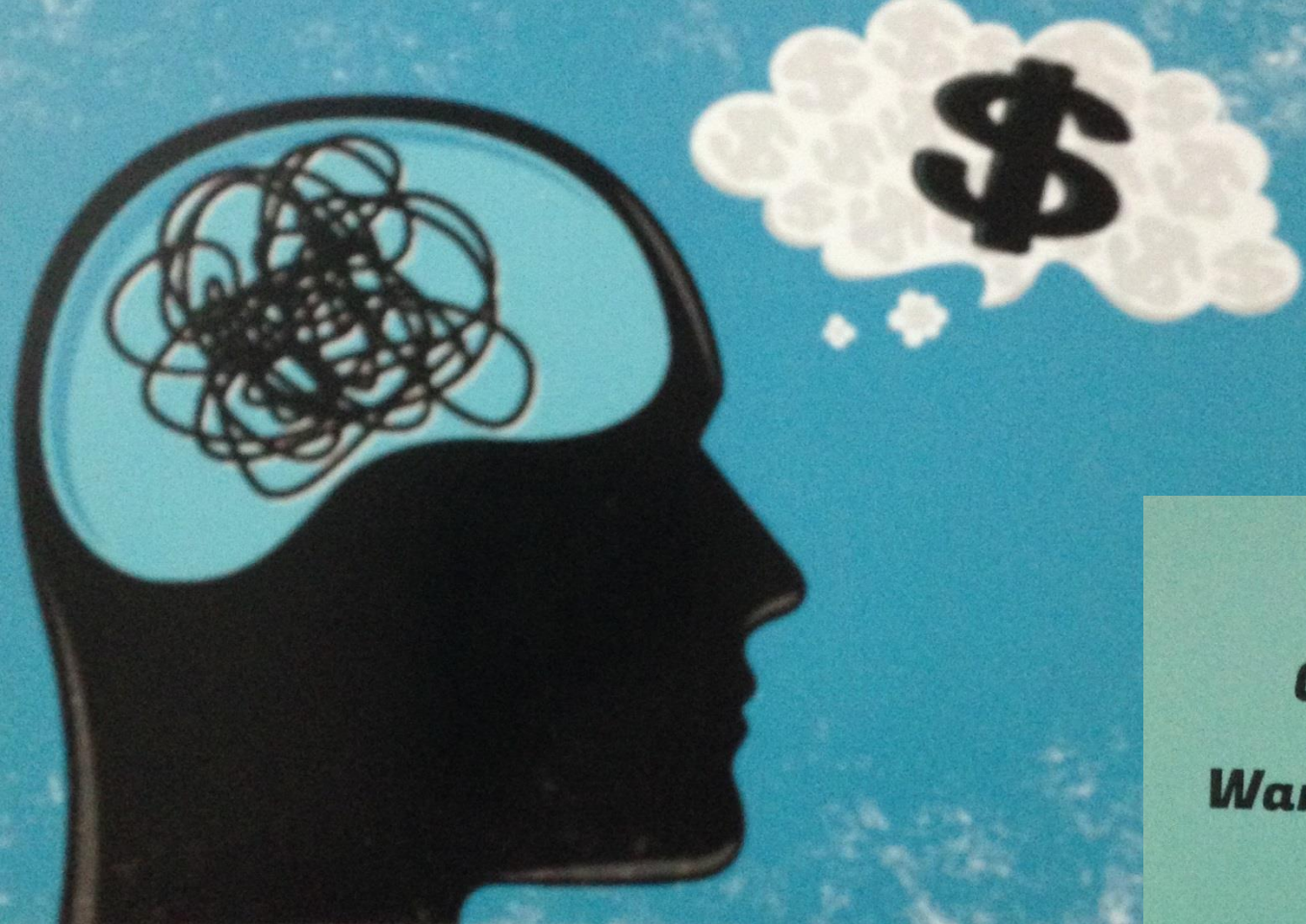
- Reflect upon **how** and **why** we do the work we do
- Help us focus the work we do
- Use mission and vision as a “road map”

GOAL – *Reducing Intergenerational Poverty*



2-Generation Approach





Financial

Want to work on your credit score?

Could you use help creating a budget?

Want support to meet your financial goals?

Earn up to \$750 just for working
towards your financial goals!

You'll receive ongoing support from financial
coaches, and even get \$50 for your first meeting.

Interested? Ask your case manager to sign you up.

Empowerment

How do we improve?

Understand and use research

Learn together



Focus on Vision and Mission

Ask Participants for their opinion

Listen to staff





Cuts Costs

Transportation costs, time savings

Creates Slack

Frees up time

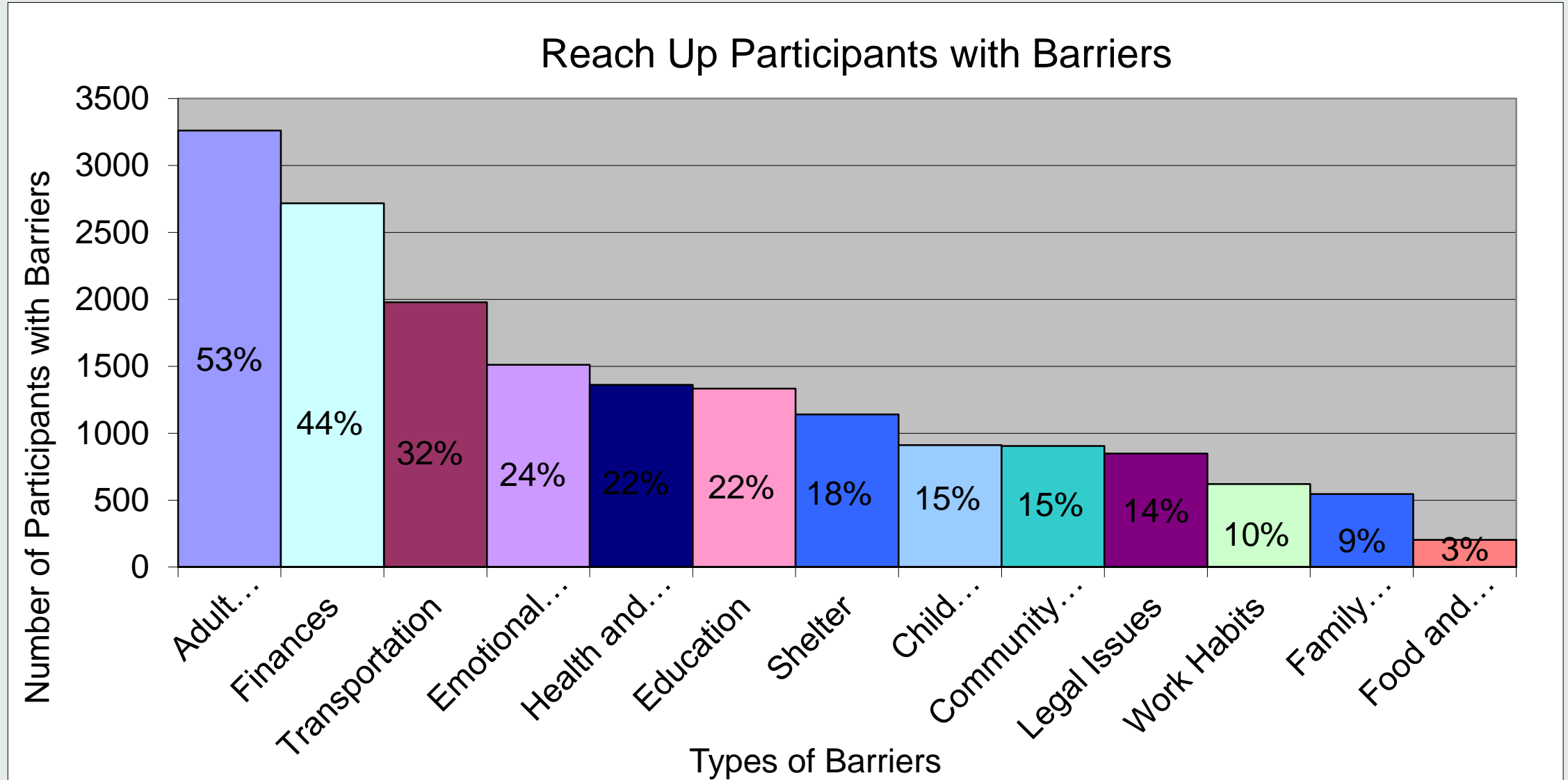
Autonomy

Choice to participate

Newport District Office SEA (Skills, Empowerment, and Action) Change

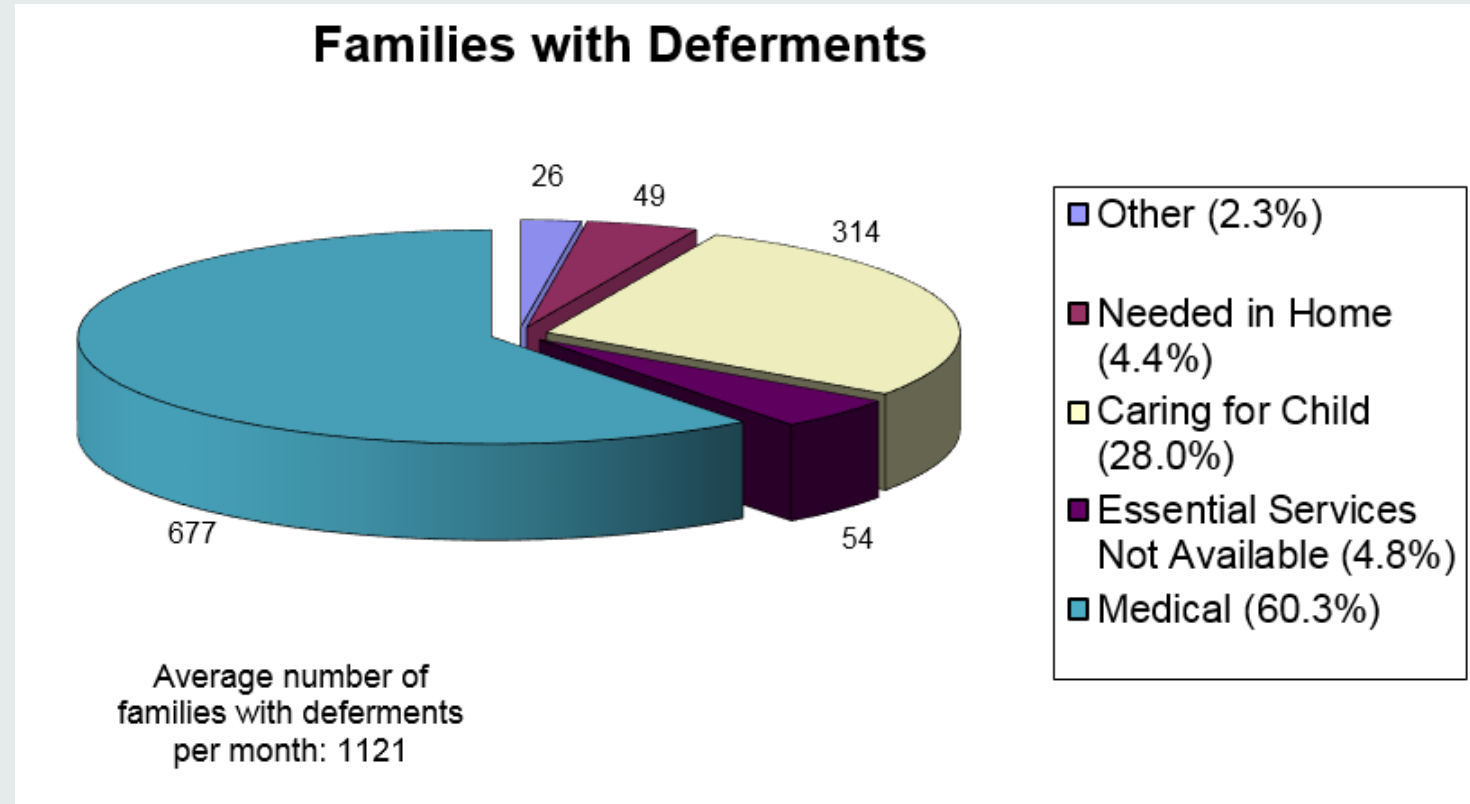
- 6 out of the 17 families have found employment; 4 of those families are no longer receiving Reach Up;
- Most have identified and engaged in treatment for mental health and/or substance use issues; many were previously unable or unwilling to do so; and
- Participants have reported increased confidence that they can meet their goals, more interest in employment, and motivation to access needed services to address employment barriers

Participant Barriers



Deferments Postpone/Reduce the Work Requirement

- Families use this time to address reasons for deferment
- Most work requirements are modified
- All families work to their highest capability



Reasons for Deferment

- Medical – physical and mental health, substance use
- Caring for a child under age two
- Needed in the Home to care for seriously ill family member
- Domestic Violence
- Education
- Support services not available

Support Services

Help families achieve their goals in working towards employment

Help families overcome barriers to employment

Cut costs for participating in program

Create slack by freeing up money to pay for other essential costs

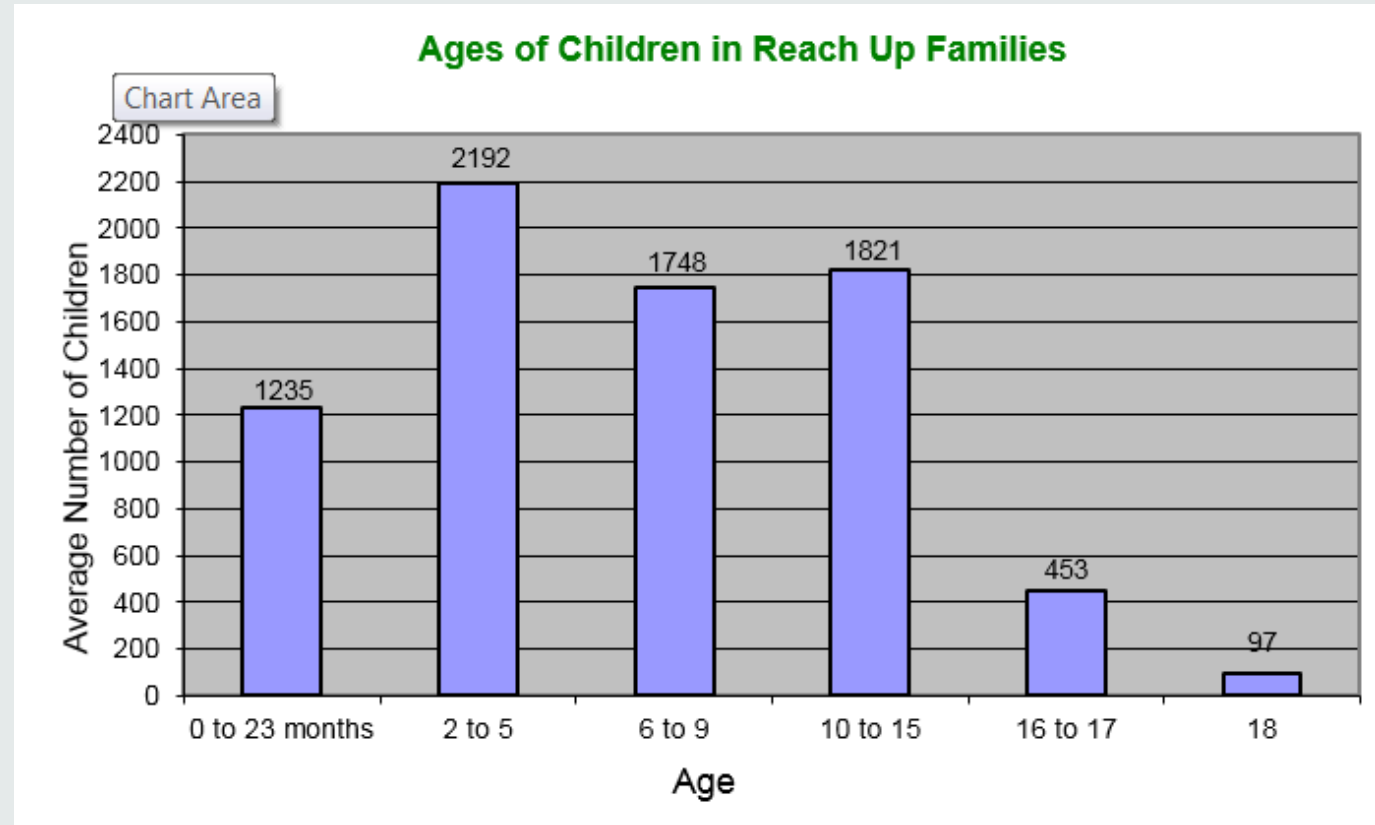


INCENTIVES



Children in Reach Up

- 7547 – average monthly number of children receiving RU in FFY '17
- Child well-being strongly correlated with economic mobility
- Increased income in households with young children correlated to better outcomes in many areas (site Harvard center)





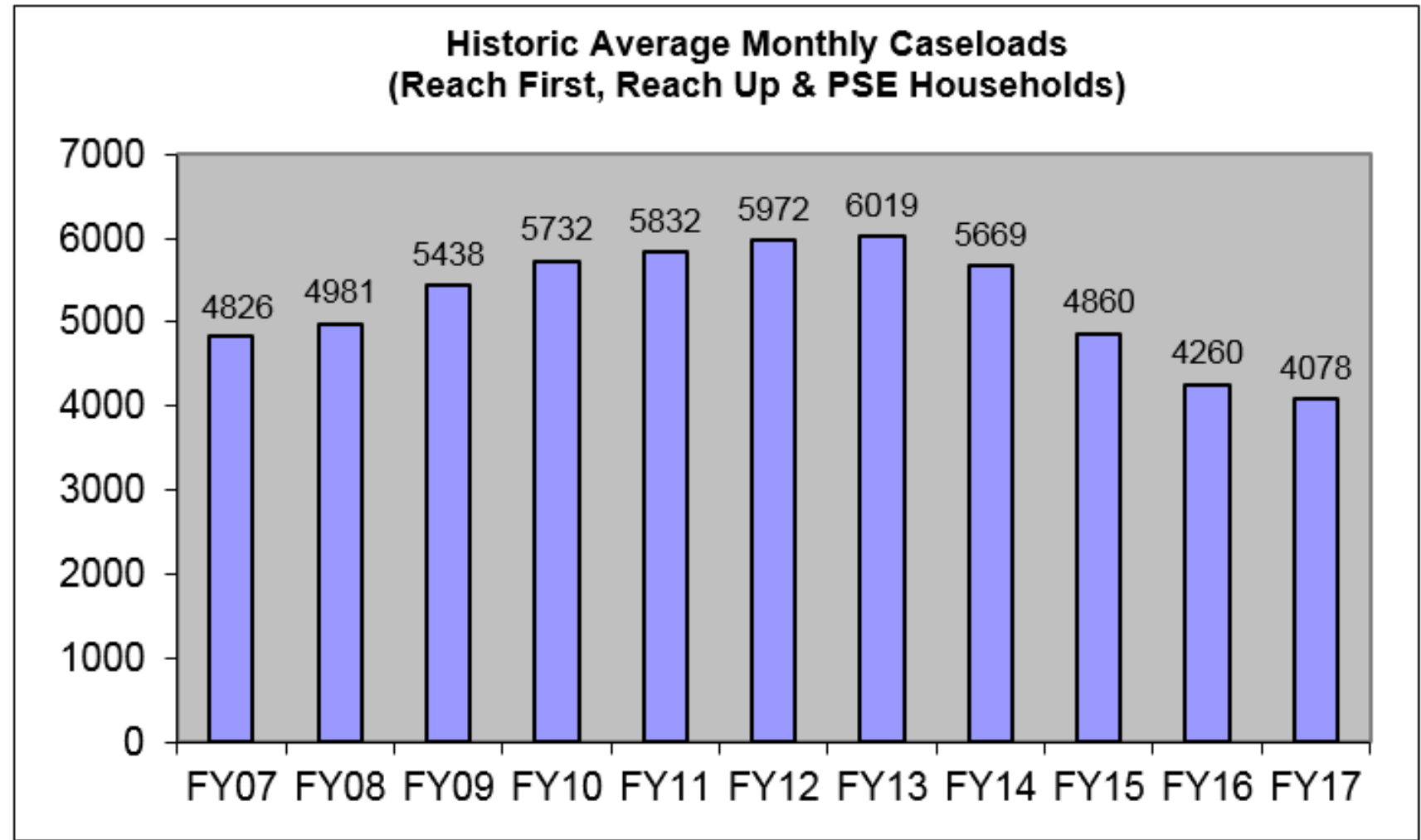
Outcomes

Employment

- 19% RU participants are also working
- Most in retail, services, health care fields
- 55% make less than \$12/hour

Outcomes

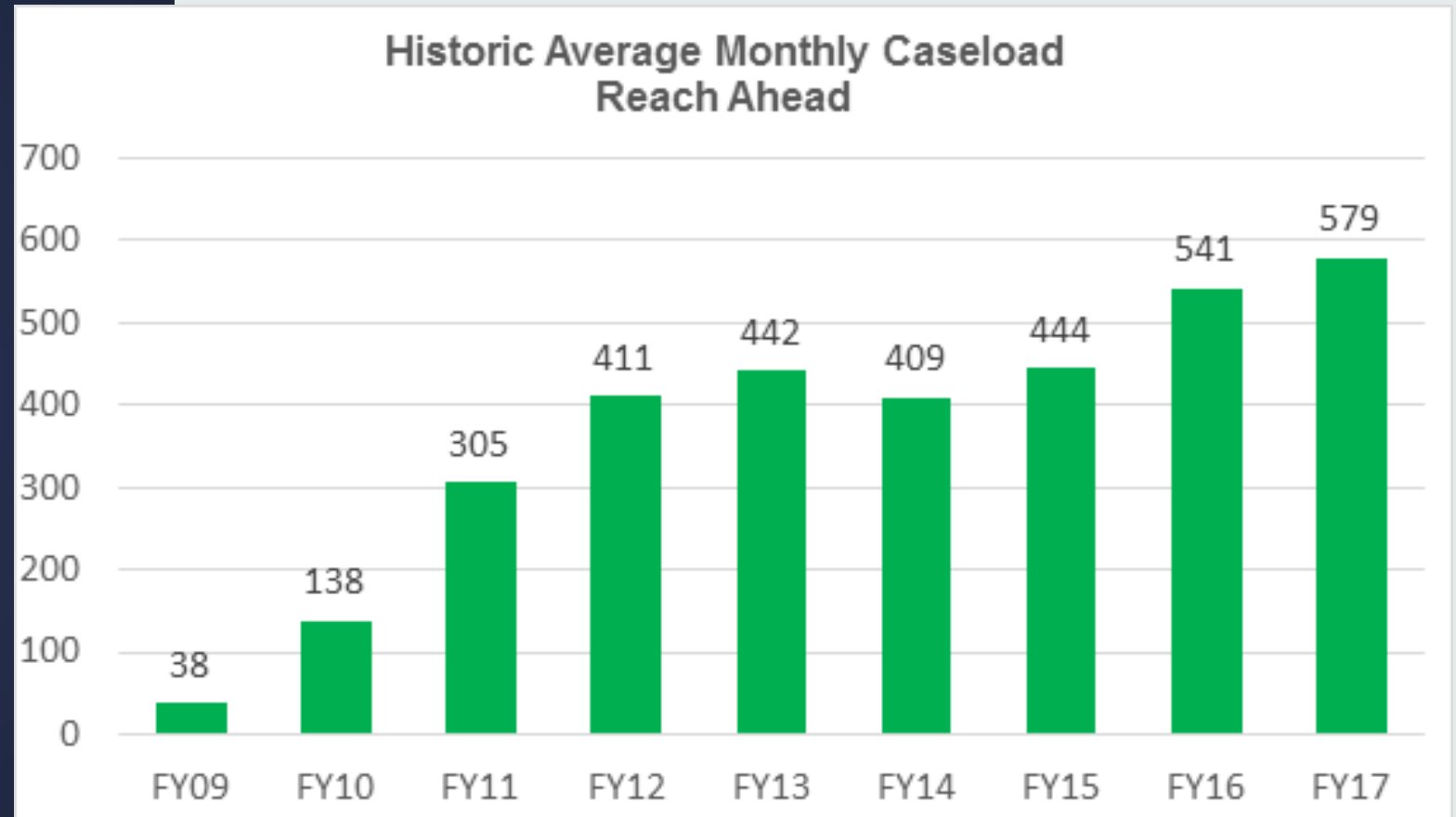
Caseload Decline –
Participants are
becoming employed



Outcomes

Reach Ahead – Employment

Increase over time



New Interim Reports

Black-Plumeau Consulting, LLC

Indicators of Child Well-Being Among Families Receiving Reach Up in 2013 and 2014

- 73% of families improved in at least one of the five self-sufficiency ratings closely related to child well-being
- The number of children in subsidized childcare increased for every “Stars” rating category. Most notably, the number of children in five-star facilities increased from 3% to 25%, 12 months after starting Reach Up.

Use of Emergency Housing by Families Receiving Reach Up

- 24% of families used ESD’s Emergency Assistance program (EA) the year before or during the two years in the Reach Up program
- The percentage of families who lacked independent housing dropped from 37% when entering the program, to 13% after two years in the program
- 51% of families experienced an improvement in their housing situation after participating in the program for one to two years

Work Participation Rate

2016 and 2017

- Federal requirement – 50% all families rate, 90% two-parent
- Vermont met the 2016 WPR for the first time in four years
- On track to meet 2017 rate –
With Caseload reduction credit,
calculated rate = 70.1% all families
rate and a 98.0% two-parent families
rate

Basic Needs and Housing Allowance

Basic Needs

Family Size	Existing Basic Needs (based on calculation in 3/1/04)	Basic needs if adjusted to annual cost-of-living increase (12/1/17)
1	\$475	\$661
2	\$680	\$949
3	\$891	\$1244
4	\$1064	\$1488
5	\$1247	\$1745
6	\$1372	\$1920
7	\$1589	\$2218
8	\$1769	\$2275
Each additional person	\$170	\$238

Housing Allowance

Housing Allowances	Existing Housing Allowance (based on 10/1/01)	Housing allowance if adjusted to annual median cost (12/1/17)
Chittenden County	\$450	\$699
Outside Chittenden County	\$400	\$587

Calculating the Grant

Basic Needs for family size (2004)

Add

Shelter Allowance

Add

Up to \$90 additional housing allowance

Multiply

49.6% (ratable reduction)

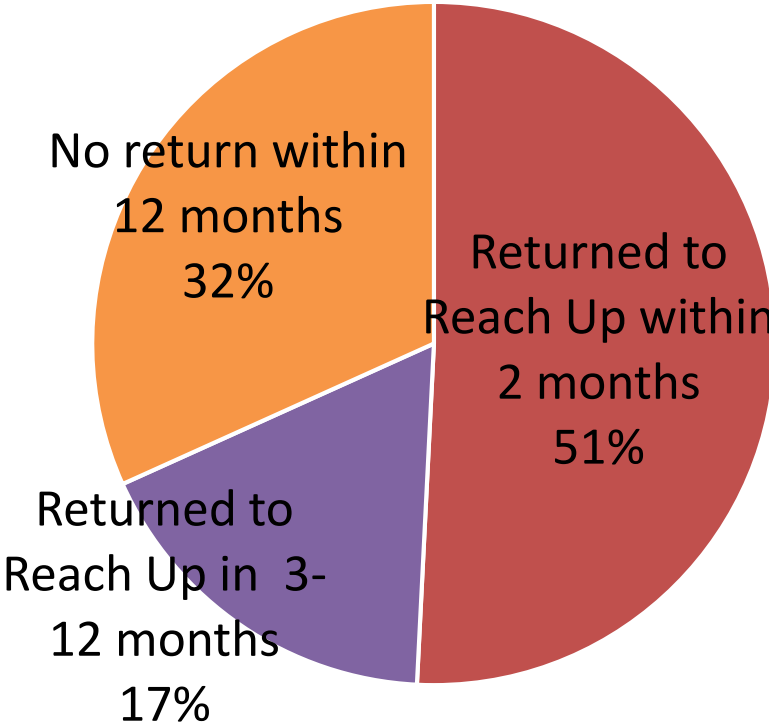
= maximum grant

Family Size	Outside Chittenden County	Chittenden County
1	\$434	\$458
2	\$535	\$560
3	\$640	\$665
4	\$726	\$750

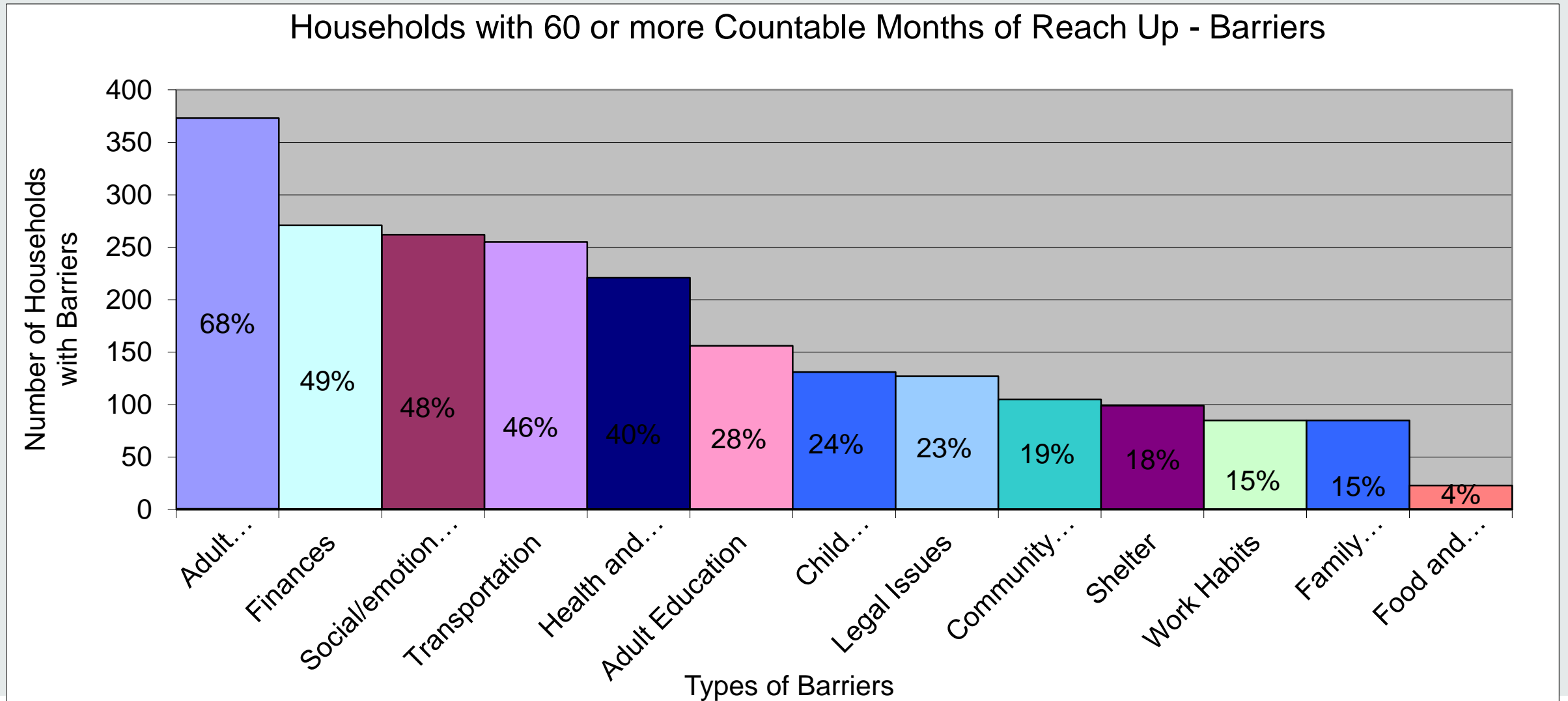
This table does **not** include the \$90 housing allowance in the calculation

Time Limits

**Families who left Reach Up due to time limits,
Nov 2015-Oct 2016**



Additional Challenges for Families Receiving Assistance Longer Term



Compassion and Respect

Learning Community

Mission

Road Map

Vision



Whole Family

Child Well - Being

Behavioral Science

Thank You