

Department of Health

Florida Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers (FICCIT)

Early Steps 2020 Annual Report Overview and Program Update



January 20, 2021

Presented by K. Renee Jenkins

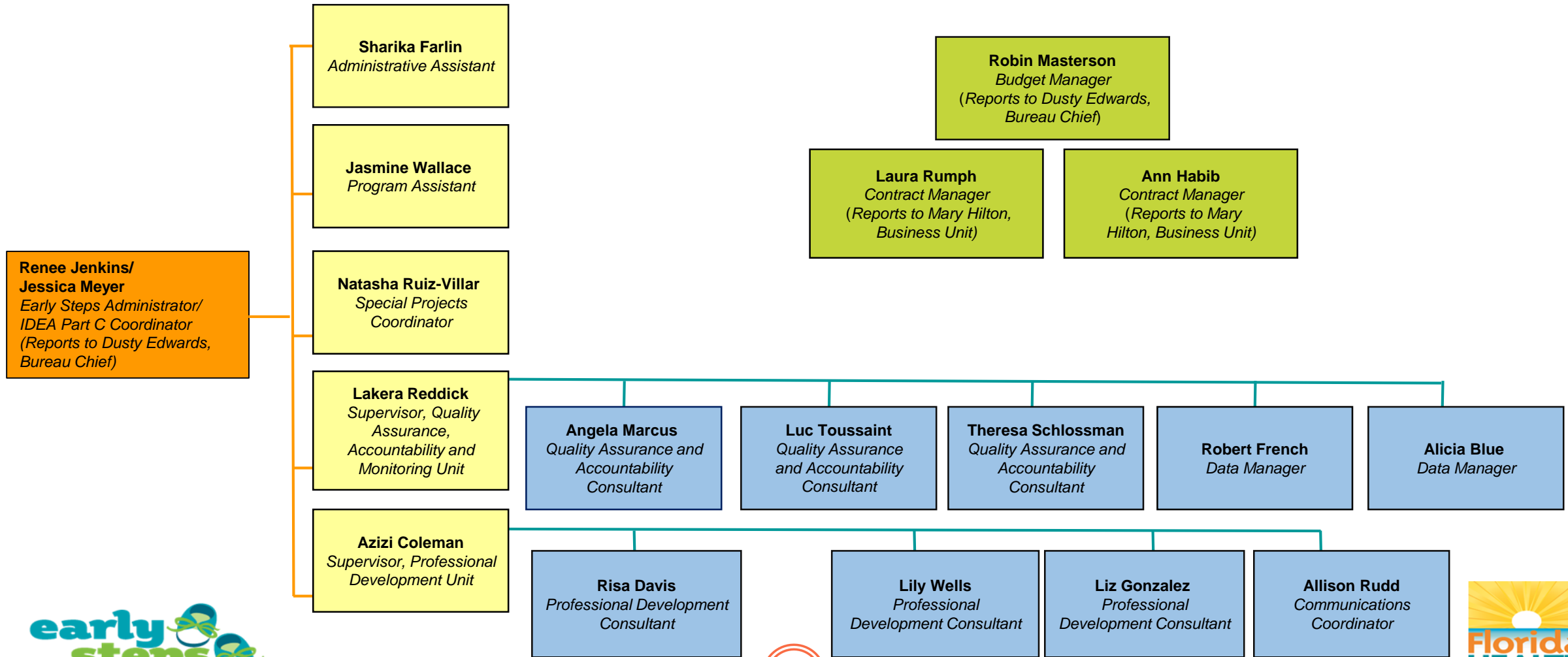
Early Steps Administrator / IDEA Part C Coordinator

Presentation Overview

- Staffing Update
- Early Steps Annual Report and State Plan
- Early Steps Budget
- Children Served
- Compliance with State and Federal Requirements
- Child Outcomes and Family Outcomes



Early Steps State Office Staffing Update



Early Steps Legislative Annual Report

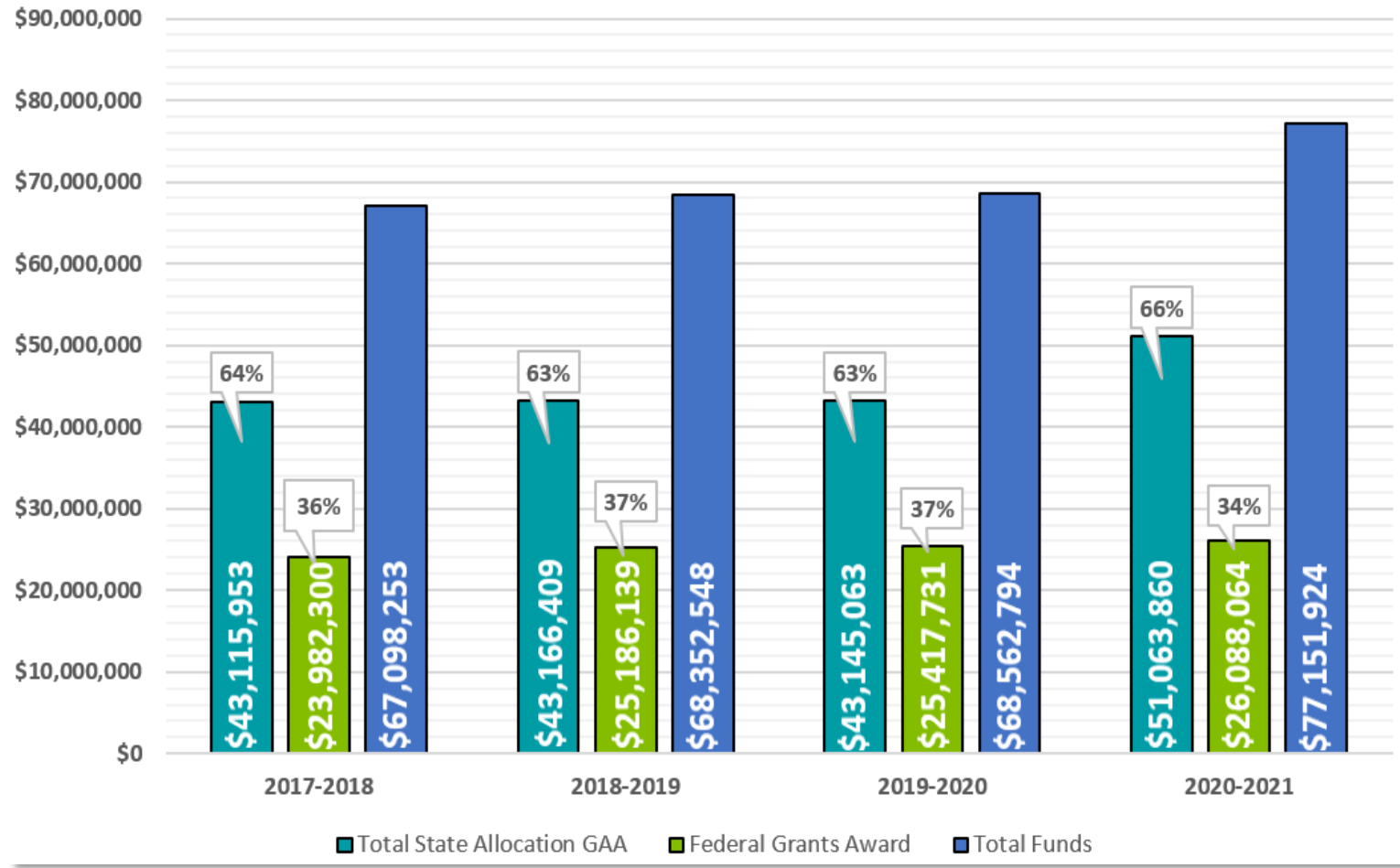
Section 391.308(5), Florida Statutes

Annually prepare and submit a report that assesses the performance of the Early Steps Program:

- Address performance standards.
- Report actual performance compared to the prior fiscal year.
- Due December 1 each year.



Early Steps Budget



Local Early Steps (LES) Map

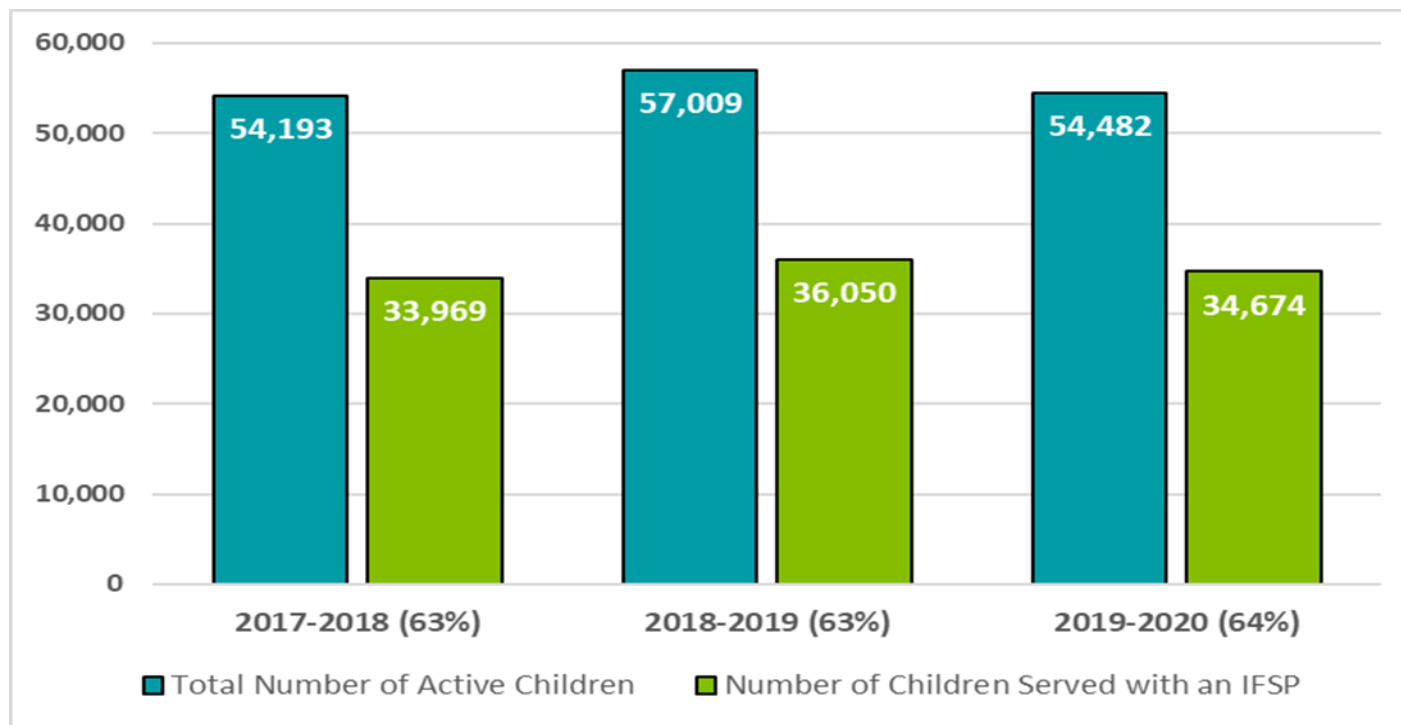


Allocation of Funds to Local Early Steps Programs

- New methodology to allocate funds implemented FY 2020-21
- Relies on two local program core functions:
 - Referral
 - Service delivery
- Adjustments to service component based on:
 - Population density
 - Geographic size
- Budget neutrality = ensuring allocated funds do not exceed the budget



Number of Children Served

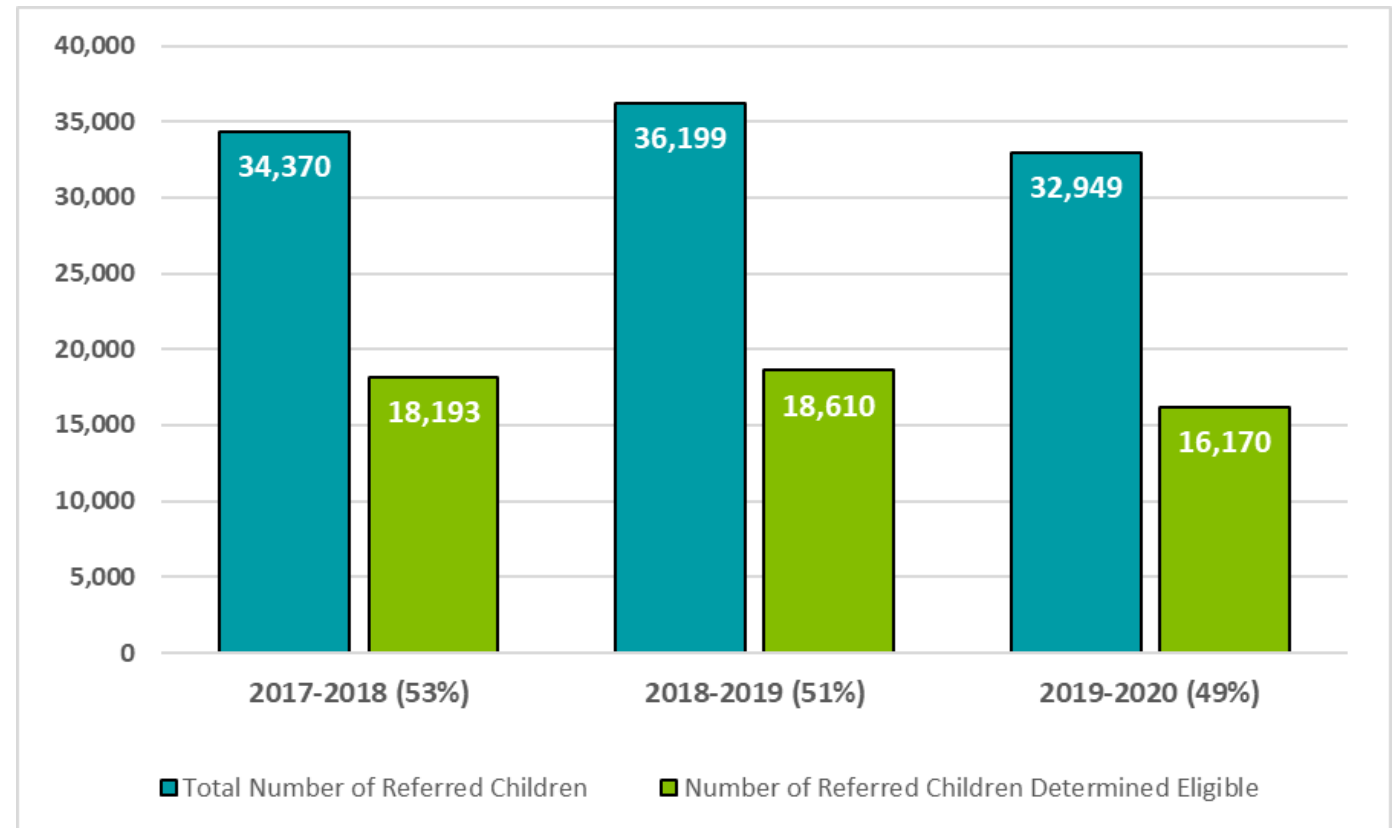


Active children are those for whom action was taken at some point during the fiscal year, including those eligible with an IFSP, referred and found not eligible, and those yet to complete the eligibility determination process.



Referrals vs. Children Determined Eligible

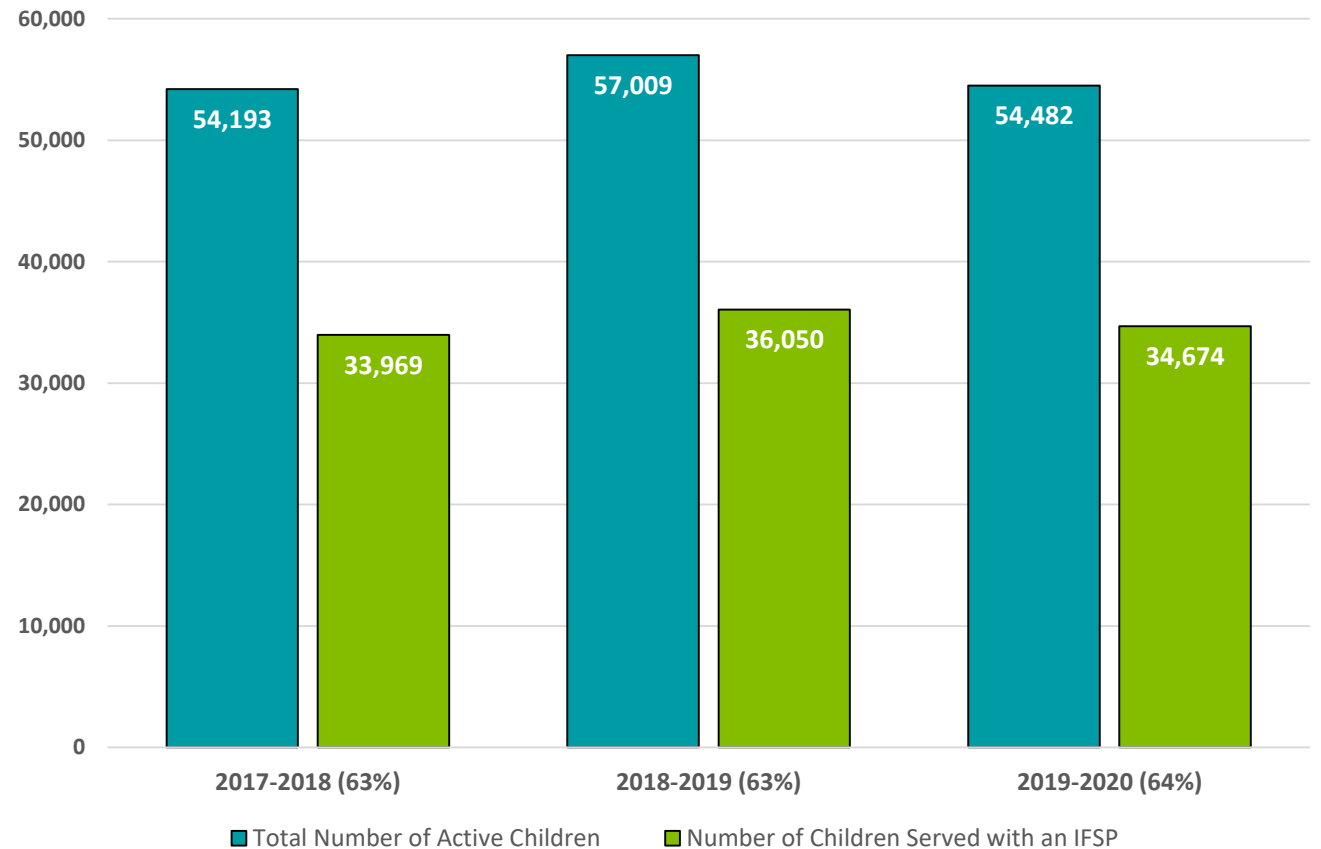
- In FY 2019-20
 - 3259 fewer children referred
 - 2% decrease in children determined eligible
- Attribute to COVID-19 pandemic during last quarter of the fiscal year



Total Number of Active Children vs. Children Served with an IFSP

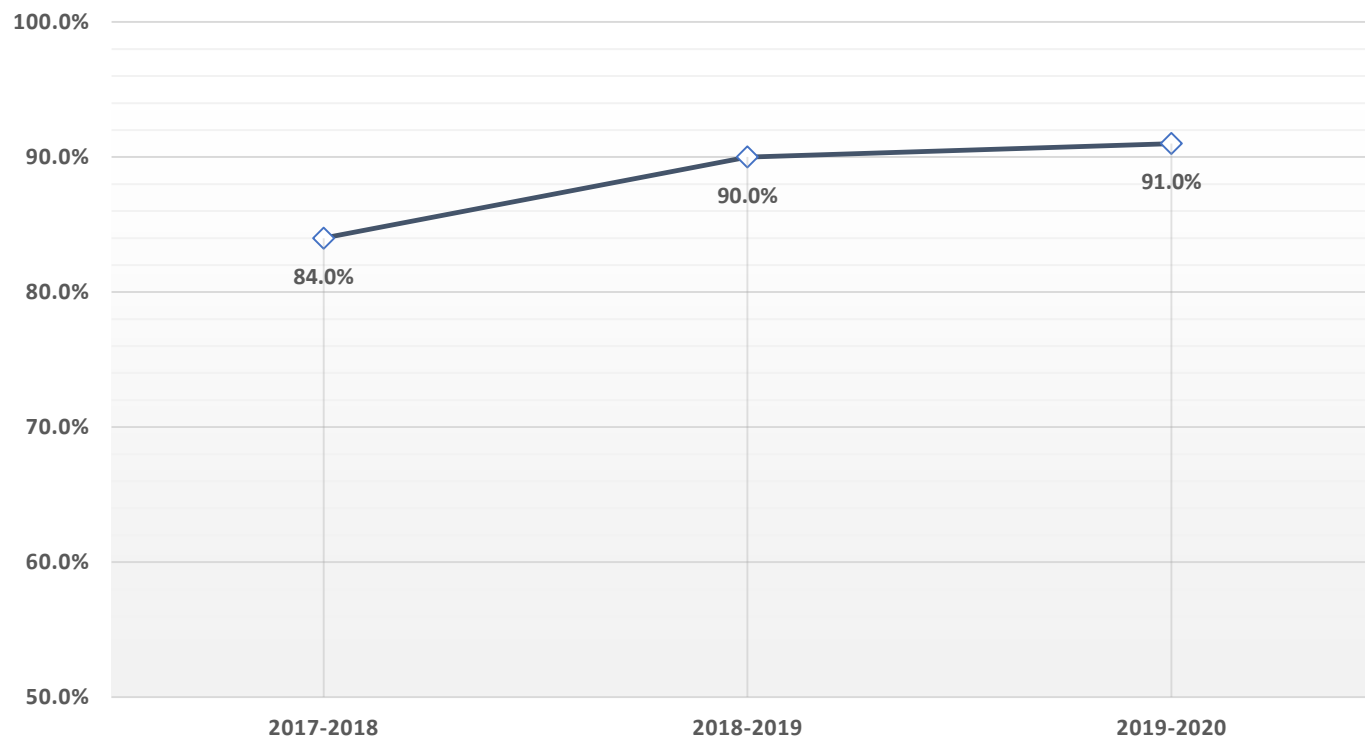
Active children are defined as:

1. Children continuing to be served from the last fiscal year.
2. Children who exited but were active at some point within FY 2019-20.
3. Children referred who were determined eligible.
4. Children referred who were determined not eligible.
5. Children referred who have yet to complete the eligibility determination process.



Timely Evaluations

- FY 2019-20 Target = 100% of Evaluations are Timely
 - Established by the U.S. Department of Education
 - 1% increase from the prior year

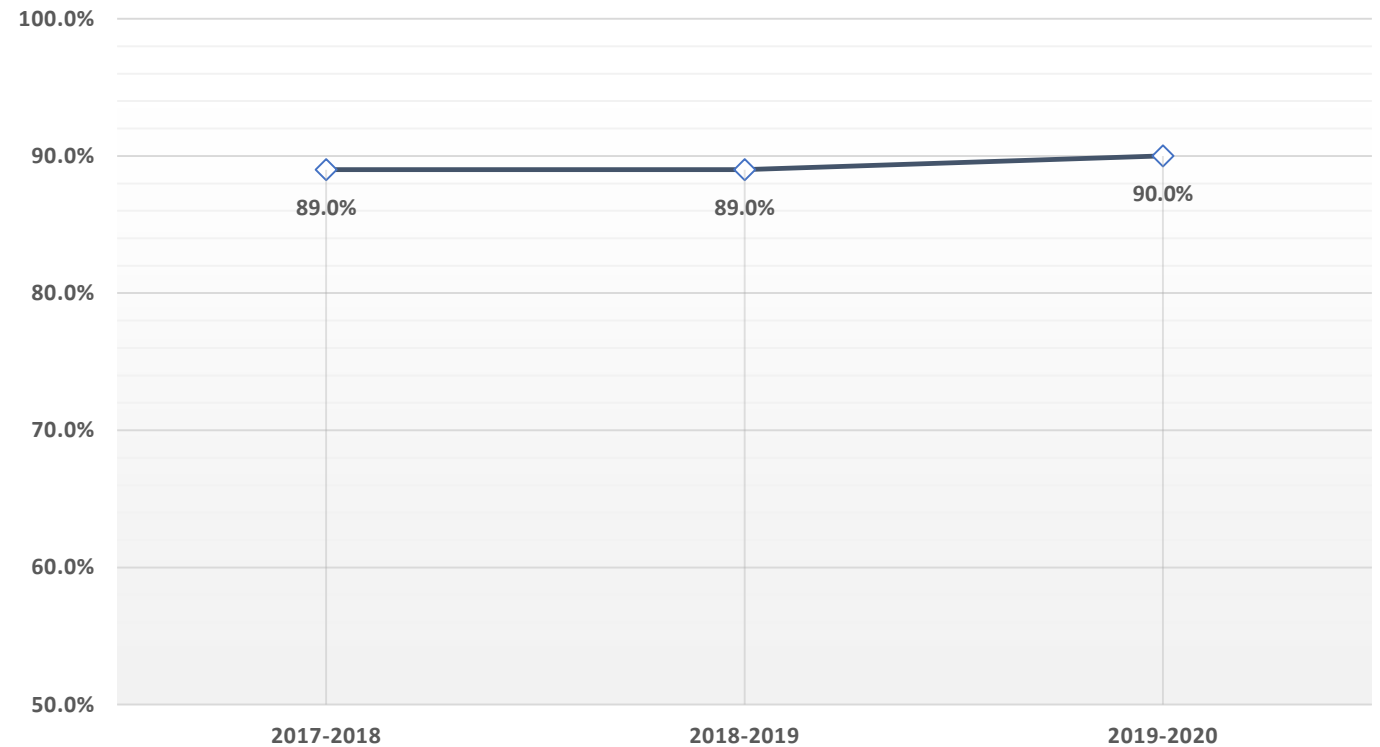


Percentage of infants and toddlers who received an evaluation and IFSP within 45 days of referral



Timely Services

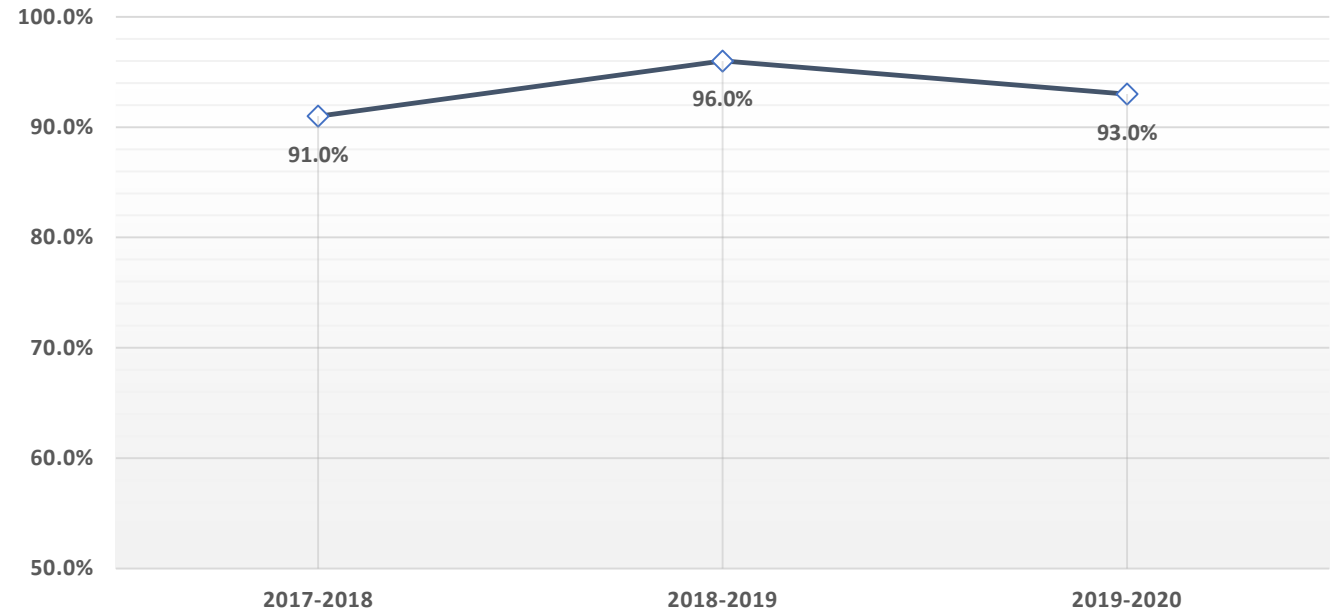
- FY 2019-20 Target = 100% of Services are Timely
 - Established by the U.S. Department of Education
 - 1% increase from the prior year



Percentage of infants and toddlers who received services within 30 days of consent

Transition

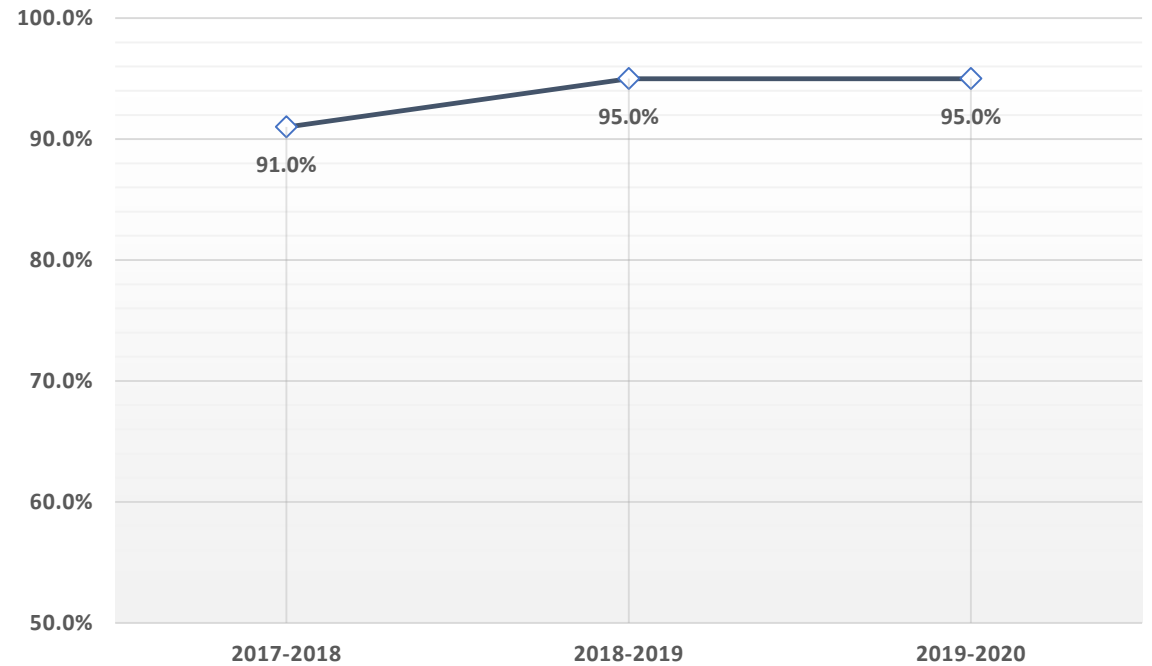
- FY 2019-20 Target = 100% of Toddlers Exit Timely with Transition Planning
 - Established by the U.S. Department of Education
 - 3% slippage from the prior year



Percentage of toddlers exiting Early Steps with steps and services for transition planning not fewer than 90 days and not more than nine months prior to the third birthday

Progress on Individualized Family Support Plan Goals

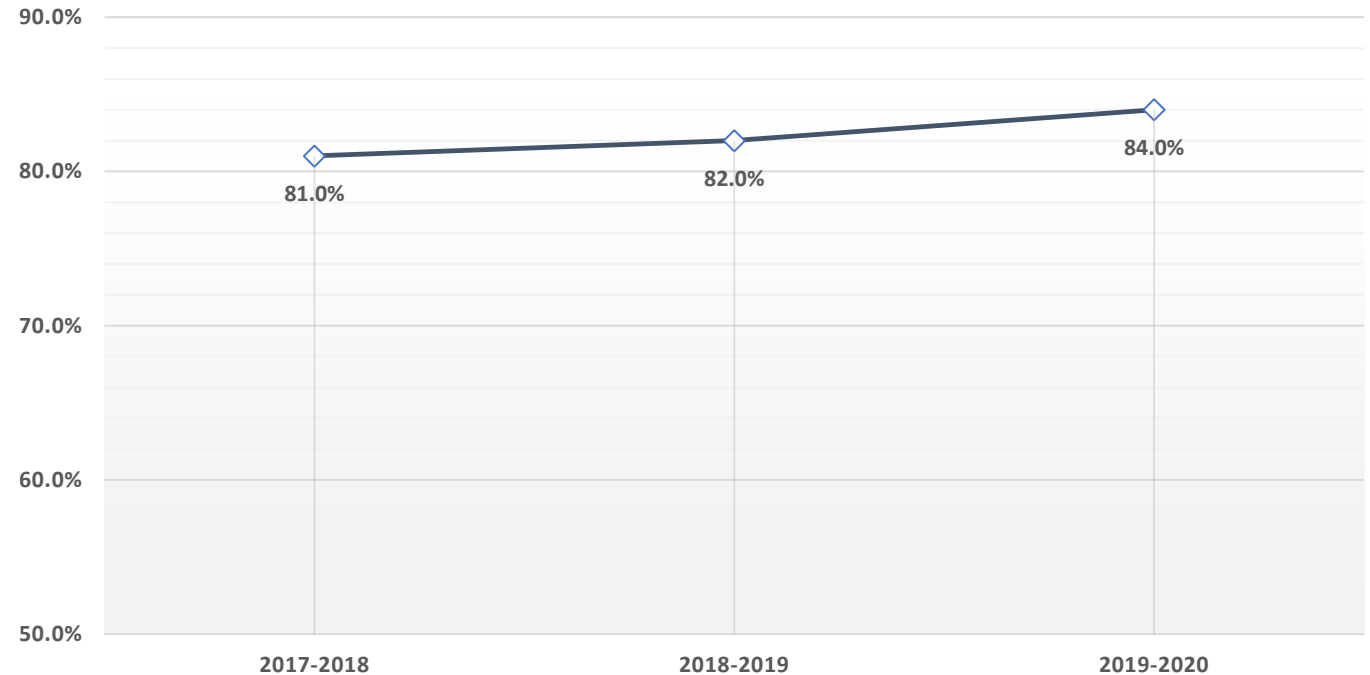
- No Target Set
 - State measure
 - Maintained performance



Percentage of infants and toddlers who made progress toward meeting the goals of the IFSP

Family Outcomes: Effectively Communicate Child's Needs

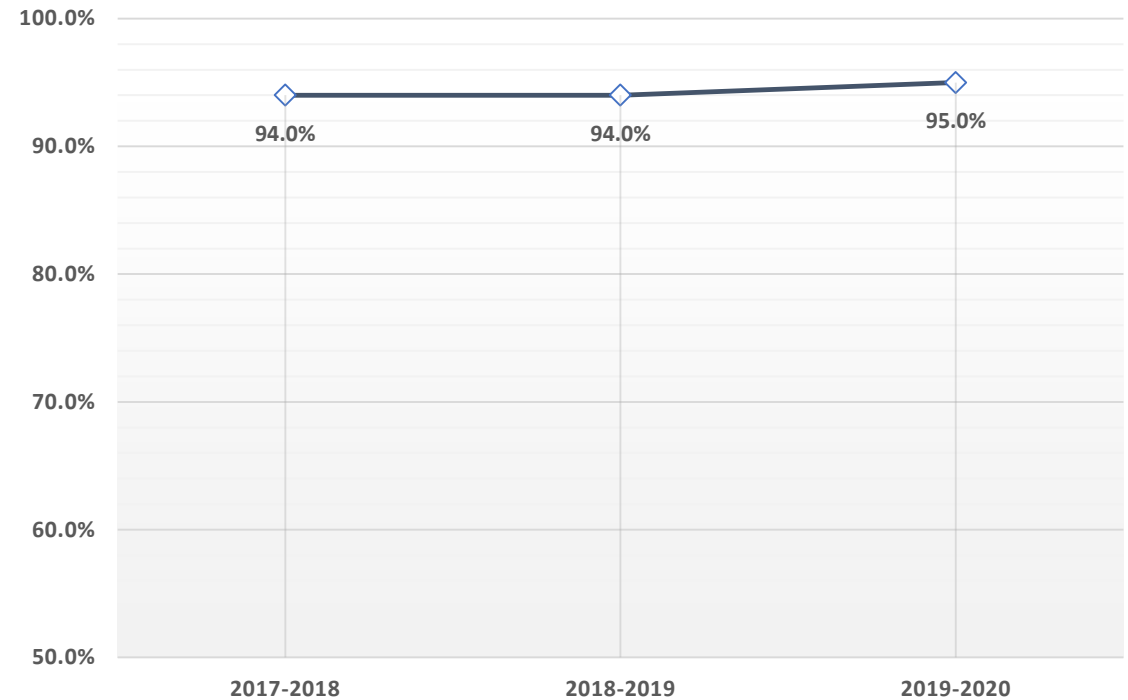
- FY 2019-20 Target = 81.5%
 - Established by the state
 - Surpassed target by 2.1%
 - 2% increase from the prior year
 - New target will be set with stakeholder input



Percentage of families that report the program helped the family effectively communicate child's needs (4B)

Family Outcomes: Use of Available Resources

- No Target Set
 - State measure
 - 1% increase from the prior year

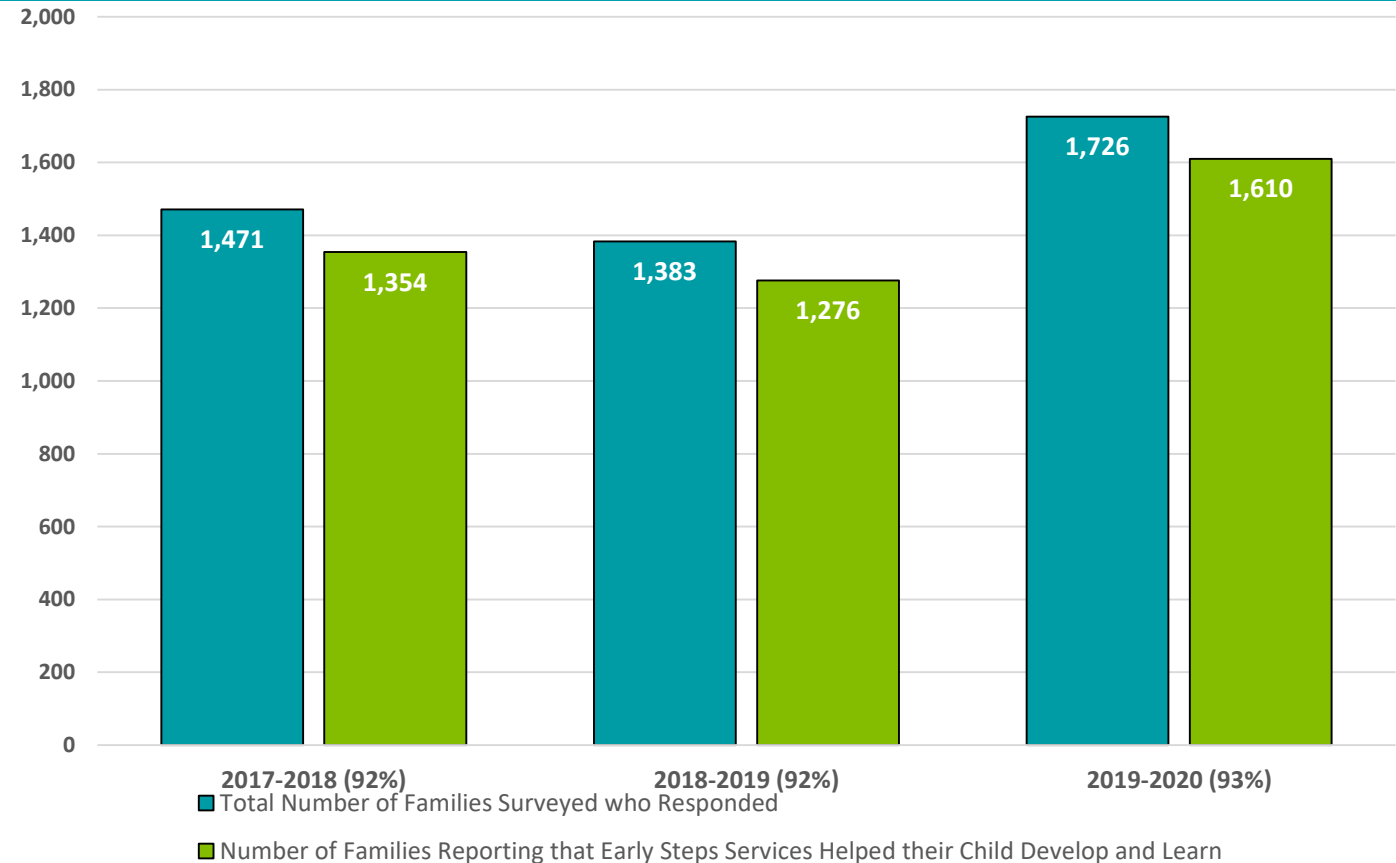


Percentage of families who reported that Early Steps helped them use available resources in a way that maximizes the child's access to services to achieve goals of the IFSP



Family Outcomes: Helping Children Develop and Learn

- FY 2019-20 Target = 92.3 %
 - Established by the state
 - Surpassed target by 1%
 - 1% increase from the prior year
 - New target will be set with stakeholder input



Child Outcomes

Outcome	% Improved
Demonstrated improved social or emotional skills	96.4%
Demonstrated improved use of knowledge and cognitive skills	97.4%
Demonstrated improved ability to understand and use language	96.2%

The U.S. Department of Education requires outcome measures that report “substantial” child progress while the state of Florida requires the reporting of any child progress.



Early Steps State Plan

Section 391.308(2)(c), Florida Statutes

Annually develop a State Plan that must:

- Assess the need for early intervention services.
- Evaluate the extent of the statewide need that is met by the program.
- Identify barriers to fully meet the need.
- Recommend specific action steps to improve program performance.



Goals and Action Steps from 2020-2021 State Plan

- **Goal 1:** Monitor and track the population referred to and served by the Early Steps Program, including infants and toddlers at risk of developmental delay.

Action Steps

- Provide education to state and local entities, primary referral sources on Early Steps' eligibility criteria, purpose, using a clear and consistent message.
- Continue to collect data to monitor referral and eligibility patterns and trends for referred infants and toddlers delay to identify and plan to meet future need.
- Continue to analyze data in local areas where a high percentage of children referred are not eligible to determine why ineligible children are being referred and how these children can be connected to other community resources.



Goals and Action Steps from 2020-2021 State Plan

- **Goal 2:** Ensure compliance with state and federal requirements and indicators through development of an accountability system that strengthens local and state resources and builds capacity.

Action Steps

- Analyze LES program data to determine if enhanced provisions related to compliance have shown decreases in non-compliance.
- Initiate and implement technical assistance and monitoring components at the state and local level that focus on improving the efficiency, effectiveness, quality, performance, processes, capacities, and outcomes of the Early Steps Program.
- Determine LES programs that have exemplary practices and those that require technical assistance related to meeting the 45-day, 30-day, and 90-day timelines and provide focused assistance to achieve and maintain 100% compliance.



Goals and Action Steps from 2020-2021 State Plan

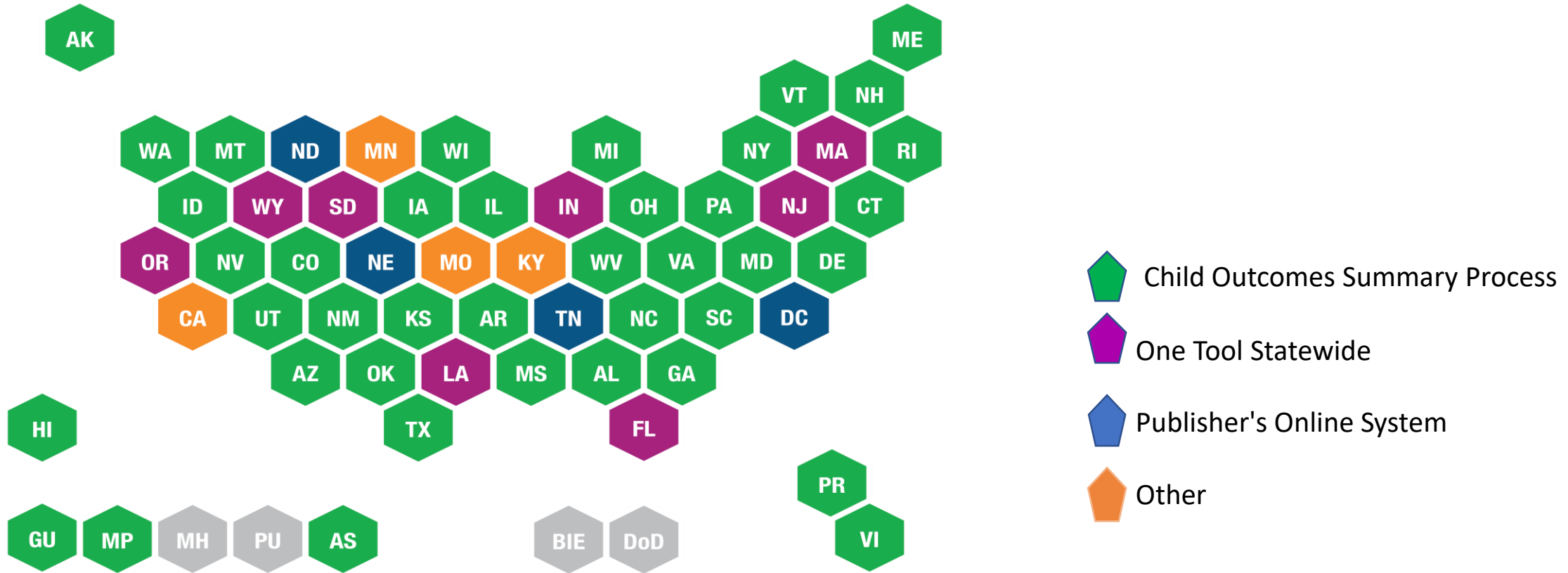
- **Goal 3:** Increase the percentage of infants and toddlers demonstrating improved developmental outcomes.
- **Goal 4:** Implement the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) to increase the percentage of infants and toddlers demonstrating improved social-emotional skills.

Action Steps

- Begin statewide implementation of the Child Outcomes Summary (COS) process through a three-year phased approach.
- Support local programs to provide effective professional development to support fidelity of implementation of the COS process.
- Develop policies and procedures for implementation of the COS to ensure clear and consistent statewide practices.



State Approaches to Child Outcomes Measurement



Transition to Full Implementation of COS Process

Entry	Exit
Entry outcomes data measured by administering the BDI-2 (<i>prior to December 1, 2020</i>).	The BDI-2 must be administered for exit outcomes data.
Entry outcomes data identified using the COS (<i>after December 1, 2020</i>) The BDI-2 must be administered for exit outcomes data.	The COS must be used for exit outcomes data.

9 LES Sites Implementing SSIP Practices

Started as Demonstration Sites in 2017

Northeastern

North Central

North Dade

New Implementation Sites in 2019

Space Coast

Treasure Coast

New Implementation Sites in 2020

Gulf Central

Southwest

Southernmost Coast

Western Panhandle



Goals and Action Steps from 2020-2021 State Plan

- **Goal 5:** Collect programmatic and fiscal data to support effective and efficient management of the Early Steps Program.

Action Steps

- Complete design and development of a robust Early Steps data system, working with the vendor and with stakeholder input, ensuring that the following major system components are included and fully functional:
 - Case Management (Eligibility, Child Tracking, Transition)
 - Program Management (Contract Management, Provider Management)
 - Global Services (Reporting, Integration, Security)
 - Audit Functions
- Upon implementation of the new Early Steps data system, develop tools and a structure to accomplish the following using the system: project needs of the Early Steps Program, monitor programmatic and fiscal status, track compliance with federal and state requirements, performance on child and family outcomes, and budget management.



Early Steps



Early Steps



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