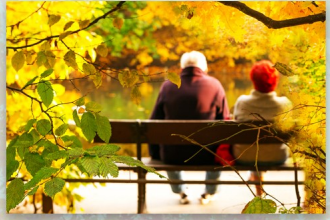


2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Adult Protective Services

Child Protective Services

Child Care



Foster Care



Frederick County, VA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



*Virginia Initiative for
Education and Work*

Energy Assistance



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

*Temporary Assistance
to Needy Families*





FREDERICK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors **Gail W. Rush**

It is a privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Frederick County Department of Social Services Board of Directors. Through this role I have had the opportunity to view the dedicated service of the Department's Staff as they strive to strengthen families and individuals by educating, supporting, and offering essential services to those in need to ensure that we provide care to the most vulnerable part of our population. The Frederick County Department of Social Services includes 74 staff and 11 management members who provide care and service to the clients in Frederick County. The Department consistently receives high performance ratings by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A wide array of benefits and support services are provided to the resident of Frederick County by the Frederick County Virginia Department of Social Services (FCDSS). This brochure provides a look at the support and services that FCDSS provides to the citizens of our County. Recent statistics show that 7% of the county residents live at or below the poverty levels. Over 10% of the children under the age of 18 live in homes with incomes below the national poverty guidelines. The department continues to see a rise in the number of children as well as adults that qualify for child protective services and adult protective service. This drives the need for the expansion of services to support the needs in our community.

During this fiscal year, over \$96,436,297 was added into Frederick County businesses by way of programs such as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Care Services. Of this amount approximately 53 % comes from Federal dollars, 42 % from State funds, and 5 % from local County dollars.

FCDSS continues in the role of coordinating and supervising Foster Care Training and Recruitment for Clarke County, Frederick County and the City of Winchester. The staff coordinates recruitment and training for families interested in providing Foster Care. There is a continuing need for foster care families in our communities.

A continuing challenge for the department is to be able to recruit, hire, and maintain a fully staffed department that can provide quality services to the citizen of Frederick County.

Thank you,

Gail W. Rush, Chairman
Frederick County Department of Social Services Board of Directors

Board Members

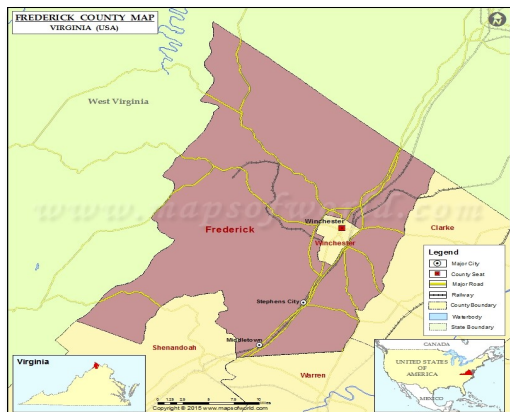
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| Gail W. Rush, Chairman | Opequon District |
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Directors

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| Tamara L. Green | Director |
| Linda Gibson | Assistant Director |

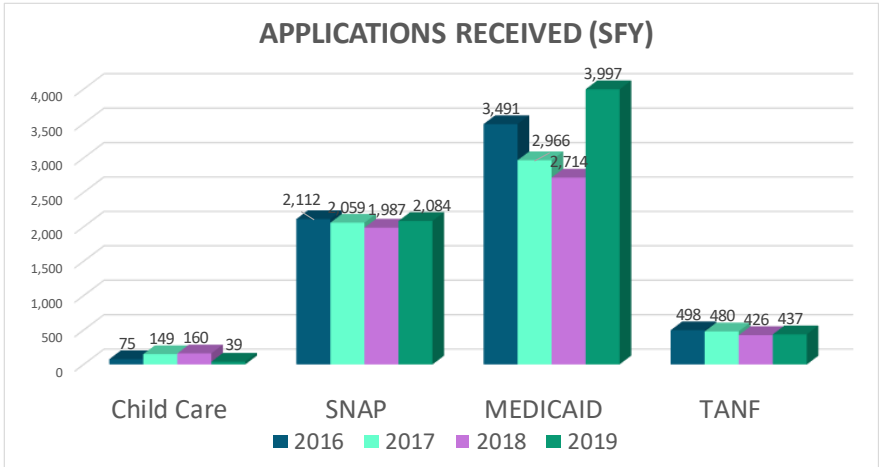
Contact Us

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Fax: (540) 665-5664
Email: mycase@fcva.us

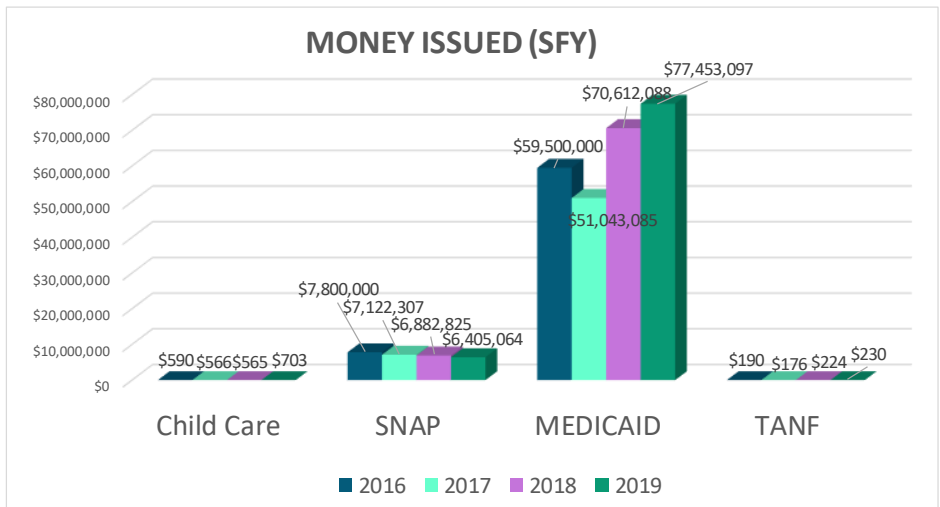


Benefit Programs

The total number of applications received by the Eligibility team has experienced an increase of 24% in low income people qualifying for Child Care⁽¹⁾, SNAP⁽²⁾, Medicaid⁽³⁾ and TANF⁽⁴⁾. The Medicaid increase is due mainly to the Medicaid Expansion.

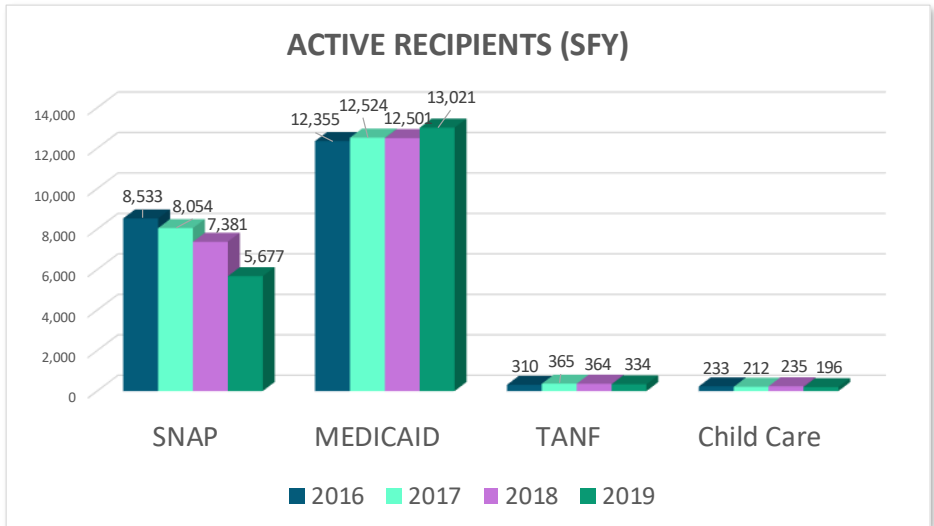


Equally, SNAP spending decreased for FY2019 by 7%, TANF increased slightly by 3%, Child Care increased by 24% and Energy Assistance⁽⁵⁾ increased by 22%.



In contrast to the reduced application numbers, Medicaid spending continued to grow a remarkable 10% in 2019.

The team at Frederick County has been dedicated to continually look at process flows and reshape the way caseloads are managed in order to provide the best possible customer service to meet our family's evolving needs.



The total number of active cases that are being maintained by staff at Frederick County has stayed approximately at the same level as the previous fiscal year indicating that the need for services remains high in our community.

Child Care assistance remains a very important program offered to Frederick County residents and promises to be a program that will continue to grow in the next year.

The agency was also able to provide energy assistance to hundreds of families during the peak heating and cooling seasons, providing much needed support to our citizens to stay warm and cool during the seasons' challenges.

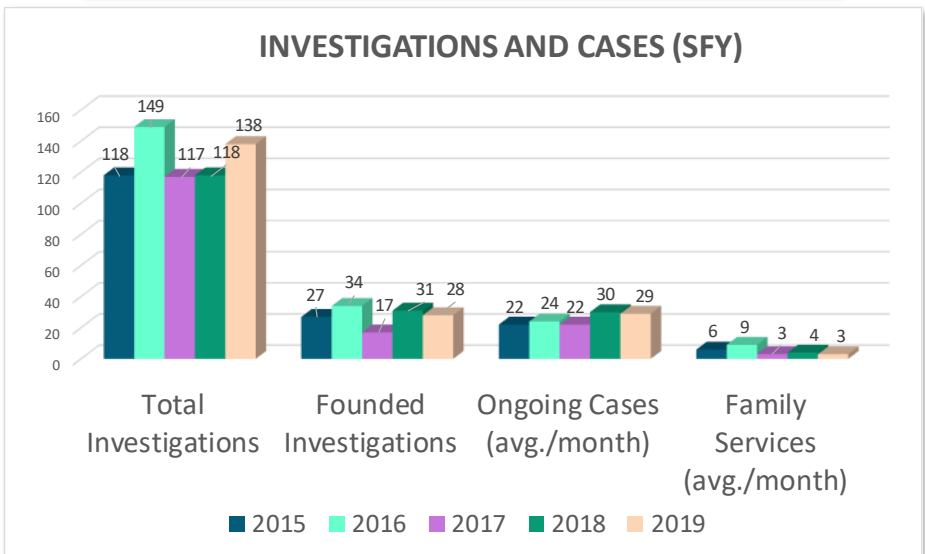
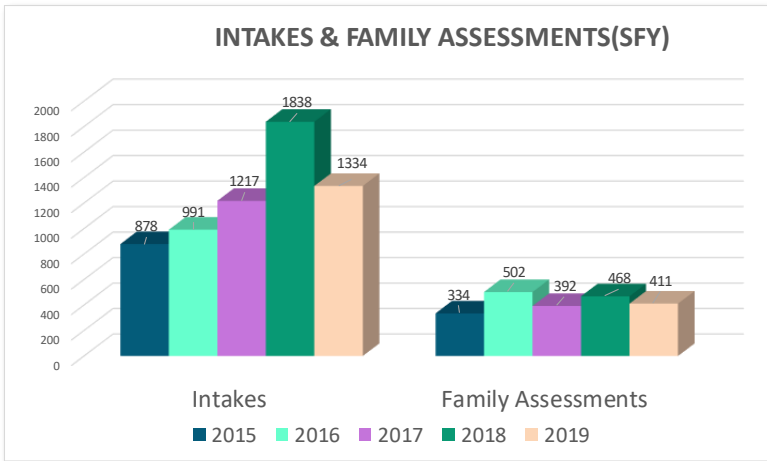
It is important to emphasize that the number of families that may qualify for Benefit Programs has increased mainly due to the Medicaid expansion that increased the number of qualifying families.

Services Programs

Recent years have witnessed an increasing number of deaths in what has been labeled as the 'opioid crisis' across the United States, but it has especially hit the rural and suburban areas, including the Frederick County area. The number of children who are born substance exposed continues to increase. Another of its effects has been the increase in children being placed in foster care.

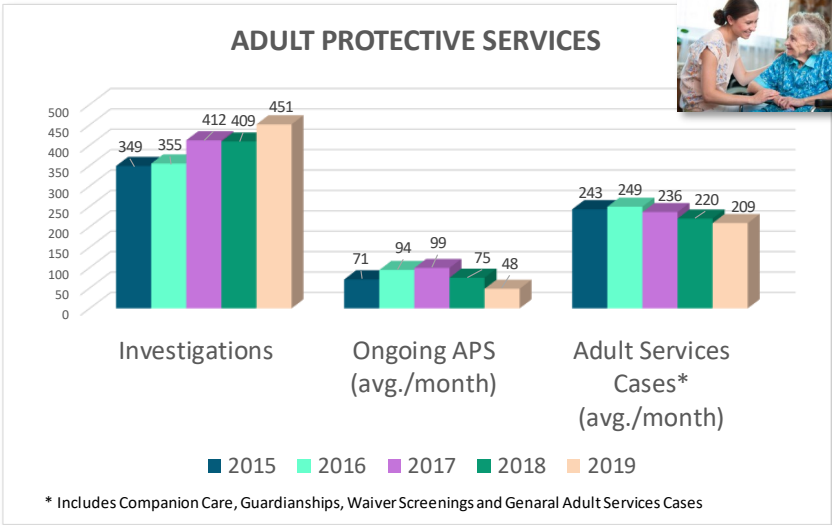
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES⁽⁷⁾

The CPS staff continued their hard work in SFY 2019 to keep children safe under these and other hard situations that families endure.



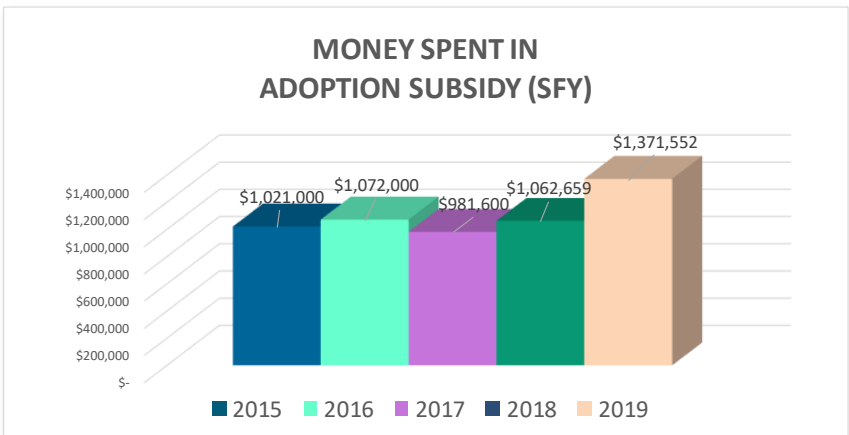
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES⁽⁸⁾

The APS staff has continued to work diligently to tend to the incoming referrals to ensure the safety of Frederick County's elderly and disabled population. While there has been a slight decrease in the number of cases, the complexity of those cases has been increased significantly by the higher incidents of financial exploitation being reported.



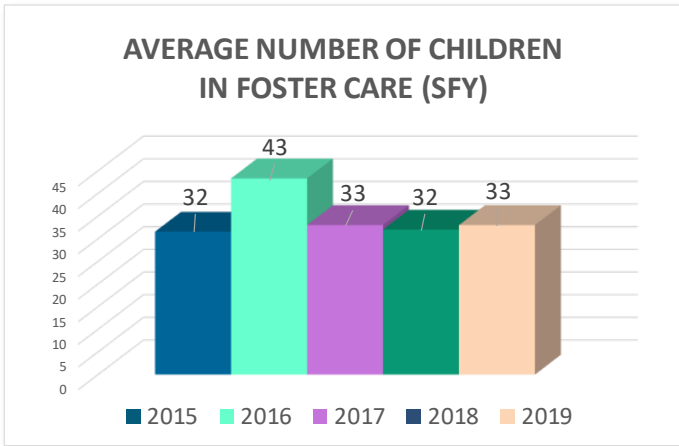
ADOPTION⁽⁹⁾

The number of successful adoptions completed reduced from 6 to 4 children. The number of adoption subsidy and special needs adoptions completed also decreased from 55 to 51 in SFY19. However, the amount of money spent in adoption subsidy increased to \$1,371,552.



FOSTER CARE⁽¹⁰⁾

The average number of children in Foster Care at the Frederick County DSS has increased to 33 in 2019.



The Clarke, Frederick, Winchester City DSS Foster Care Training and Recruitment Program which is known as Foster Families of CFW came into existence in 1996. It continues to provide a collaborative effort between these localities to serve the needs of children and families in our communities.

Providing a high level of support to 43 approved CFW families from CFW Coordinators has resulted in increased retention for foster families. All children deserve a safe and happy life, including the 440,000 American children and youth in foster care.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

- Denise Britt  540-665-5688 ext. 184
 denise.britt@fcva.us
- Katie LoMonaco  540-665-5664 ext. 185
 katie.lomonaco@fcva.us

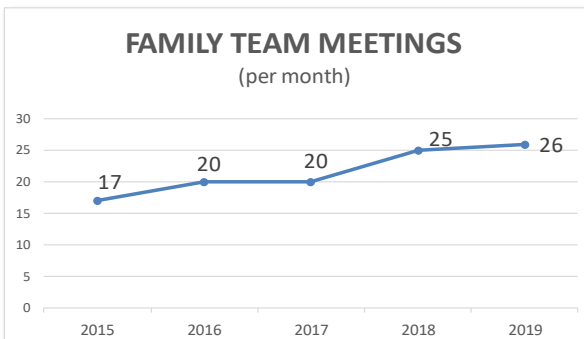
In FY 2019-2020, CFW completed two full New Generation Pride trainings and two Tradition of Care trainings. Thus far this fiscal year, four kinship families have been approved and one regular family. Three kinship families and nine regular families are currently in the process of approval.



CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS⁽¹⁾

During the 2019 calendar year, Frederick County Department of Social Services conducted over 300 Child and Family Team or Family Partnership meetings. Frederick County continues to be innovative and creative to assist families in identifying natural supports who can participate in the process of planning for the safety, permanency, and well-being of their loved ones.

Families report feeling “heard, respected, and valued” during the Family Team Meeting process.



HOLIDAY BASKETS AND GIFT PROJECTS

With the support of generous sponsors, 21 food baskets were provided to our families during Thanksgiving and 151 children received all of the gifts on their Christmas list.



We were left speechless by the generosity of our amazing donors as gifts were being piled up from one end of the office to the other! It is an overwhelming sense of JOY that comes over us when we see the thoughtful generosity that the donors have for our children.



GLOSSARY

- (1) *Child Care - Provides funding to enhance the quality and affordability of child care services available to families.*
- (2) *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Supplements the food budgets of low-income households to help assure needy persons a nutritionally adequate diet.*
- (3) *Medicaid - Makes direct payments to health care service providers for eligible individuals who are unable to pay for needed medical services. Medicaid pays for a variety of medical services, including prescription drugs, doctor visits, nursing facility care and hospital care.*
- (4) *Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) - Provides time-limited financial assistance and employment-related services to enable families with children to become self-supporting.*
- (5) *Energy Assistance - Assists low-income households in meeting their immediate home energy needs through assistance with the purchase of home heating fuel or emergency heating or cooling needs.*
- (6) *Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) - Offers employment-related activities, training, and support services to TANF recipients while providing the opportunity to achieve economic independence skills necessary for self-sufficiency.*
- (7) *Child Protective Services (CPS) - Investigates reports of child abuse and neglect. Provides services to treat and prevent abuse and neglect.*
- (8) *Adult Protective Services (APS) - Provides services to incapacitated adults 18 years of age and older and to adults age 60 years or older. These services are designed to assist the adult in remaining in the least restrictive setting and functioning as independently as possible, to establish or strengthen appropriate family and social support systems and to support the adult in self-determination.*
- (9) *Adoption Services - Provides services and registries to bring together children and families for permanent placements. Frederick County Social Services supports several adoption initiatives and issues that include recruiting prospective families, conducting home studies, partnering with the media to feature waiting children, and offering financial assistance and other services that provide stability for adoptive families.*
- (10) *Foster Care (FC) - Provides services to children and families when circumstances require the child to be removed from their home. Foster Care provides a safe and stable environment for the children and older youth until the issues that made placement outside the home necessary are resolved.*
- (11) *A Child & Family Team Meeting or Family Partnership Meeting - A strength-based meeting that brings together families, natural supports, and formal and informal resources. The meeting is led by a trained facilitator to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to be involved and heard. The purpose of the meeting is to address the needs of families and to build upon the Family's strengths. The goal of the process is to enable child(ren) to remain safely at home whenever possible.*



**Frederick County Department of
Social Services
107 N. Kent Street, 3rd Floor
Winchester, VA 22601**

