



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



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**FREDERICK COUNTY, VA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**



## 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 73 staff and 12 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.

During the past year the Frederick County Department of Social Services has remained open to provide services and meet the needs of our community during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The members of the staff have adjusted to meet the many requirements for a safe environment while still implementing and meeting the expectations of the various programs that the Department is responsible for monitoring.

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 9% 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 \$114,419,797 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, 43% from State funds, and 4% 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.

In our ever changing society, the department continues to be challenged to be able to recruit, hire, and maintain a fully staffed department that can provide quality services to the citizen of Frederick County. As a Board, we continue to strive to support the staff as they work to provide these services.

Thank you,

Gail W. Rush, Chairman

Frederick County Department of Social Services Board of Directors

## 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.*

## HOLIDAY BASKETS AND GIFT PROJECTS

The 2019 Holiday Project was a success as always. We are always overwhelmed at the responses that we receive from our donors. Families, churches and businesses were so very generous and that allowed us to make all of the wishes come true for the children and their families. Over 150 wish lists were granted. The Village at Harvest Ridge and their residents, instead of doing their own gift exchange, gathered up hats, gloves and scarves.



## SFY 2020 Board Members

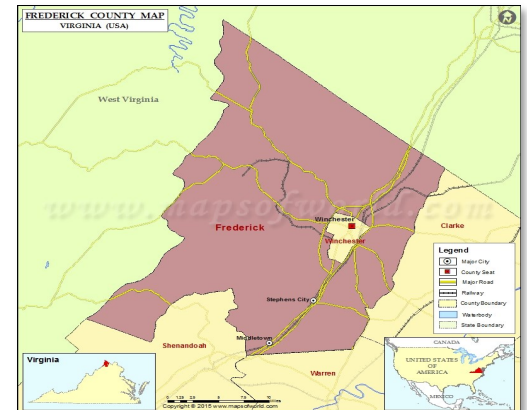
Gail W. Rush, Chairman	Opequon District
Lisa Carper, Vice Chairman	Back Creek District
Karen L. Kimble	Shawnee District
Alan L. Morrison	Gainesboro District
Sharen Gromling	Stonewall District
Ryan C. Shaw	Red Bud District
Jay Tibbs	Deputy County Administrator
Susan Brinkmeier	Board Member at Large
J. Douglas McCarthy	Board of Supervisors Liaison

## Directors

Tamara L. Green	Director
Linda Gibson	Assistant Director

## Contact Us

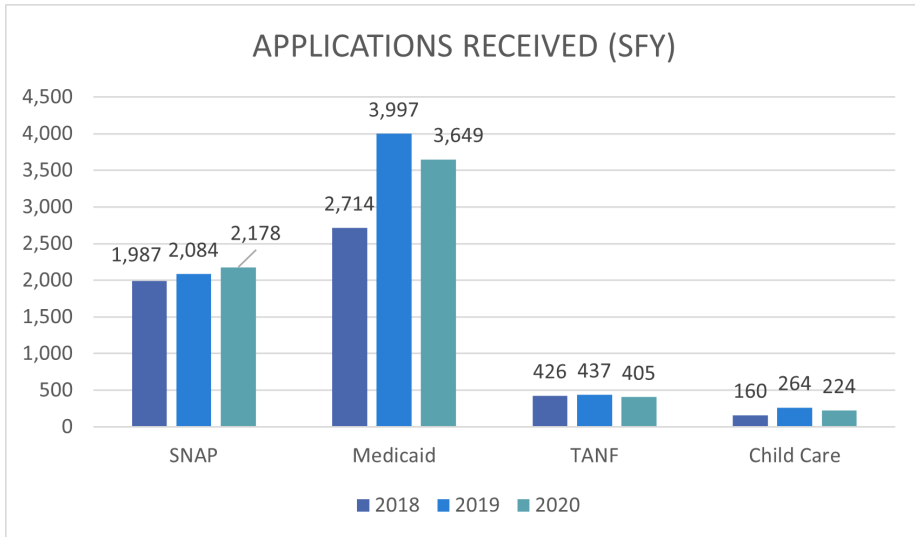
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## Benefit Programs

This fiscal year started as any normal year would but ended as differently as anyone could imagine. Entering the global pandemic in early 2020 changed many things with regard to how benefits were issued, the amounts issued, and the guidelines that needed to be followed in order to allow the citizens of Frederick County to continue receiving the maximum amount of benefits allowable during this unprecedented time. COVID caused changes in Federal guidance which meant an increase in benefit amounts for clients receiving SNAP, TANF and Energy assistance. This explains why the money issued for those program areas increased while applications received remained steady from previous years. Due to the pandemic, Medicaid clients' cases were not closed (except for very few circumstances) which caused a reduction in applications but an increase in money issued for SFY 2020. Childcare was faced with unique challenges of their own – as soon as COVID-19 began shutting schools down in March 2020, many child care centers followed suit. Prior to March 2020, Frederick County DSS was serving a record number of clients in the childcare program. Overall, the total number of residents served has increased in each of the past three years.



Medicaid, SNAP and TANF	2018	2019	2020
Residents who received Benefits in SFY 2020	13,947	15,263	16,654

## CFW FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAM

In the SFY 2020, CFW completed three New Generation PRIDE trainings and two Traditions of Caring trainings. That fiscal year, seven kinship and three regular families were approved. At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, CFW canceled the Spring PRIDE training and supported families with education and resources regarding COVID-19. In addition, eight regular families were in the process of approval at the end of the fiscal year.



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

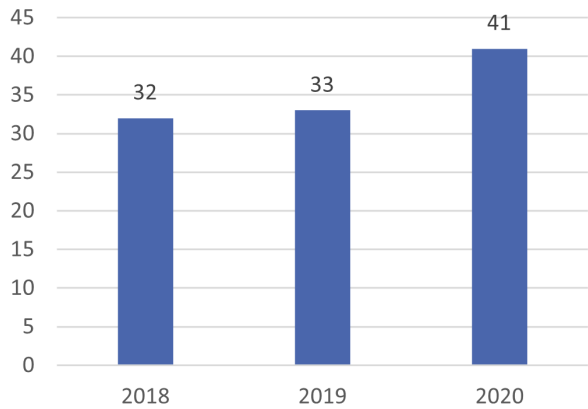
- Denise Britt 540-665-5688 ext. 184  
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 [katie.lomonaco@fcva.us](mailto:katie.lomonaco@fcva.us)

**[www.cfwfostercare.com](http://www.cfwfostercare.com)**

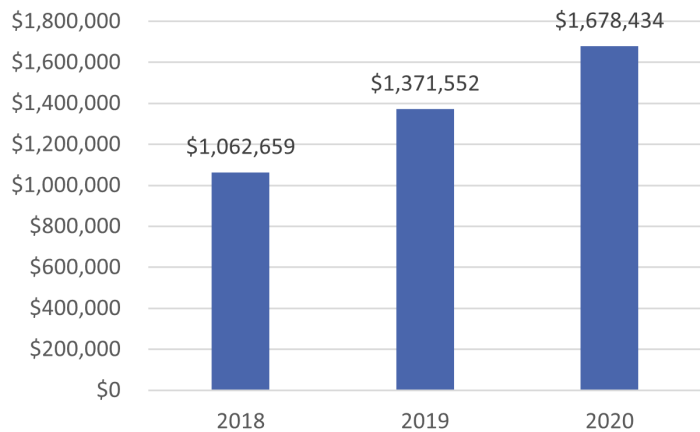
## FOSTER CARE/ADOPTION

As with so many, the COVID-19 Pandemic caused several challenges for our children in foster care from having to participate in all virtual education to not being permitted to visit with case workers or family members in person while receiving in-patient therapeutic treatment. As the year progressed more options became available to our children and we are hopeful that 2021 will allow us to continue the in-person visits and treatment that our children need and deserve.

Average Number of Children in Foster Care (SFY)

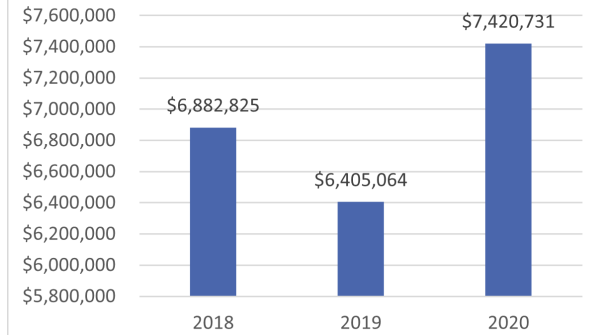


Money Spent in Adoption Subsidy (SFY)

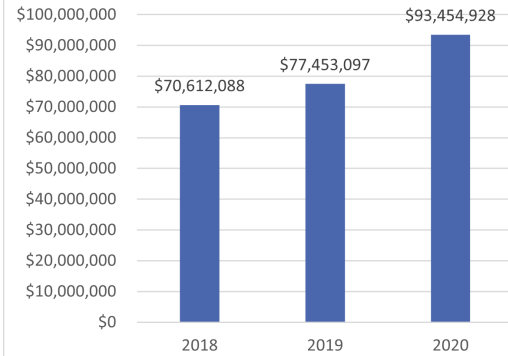


## Benefit Programs— Money Issued

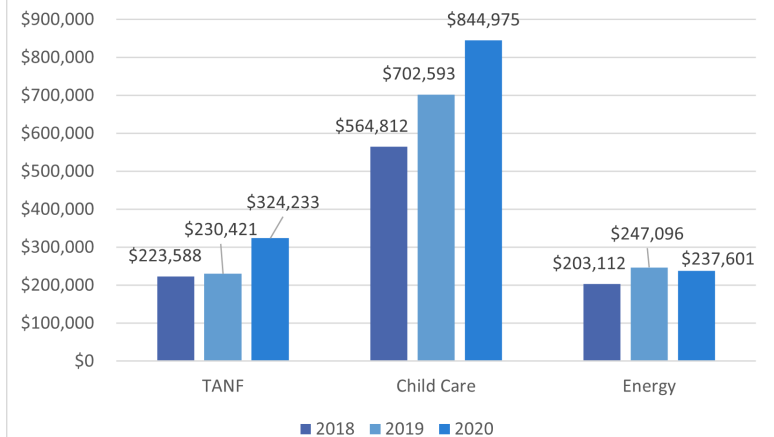
Money Issued for SNAP



Money Issued for Medicaid



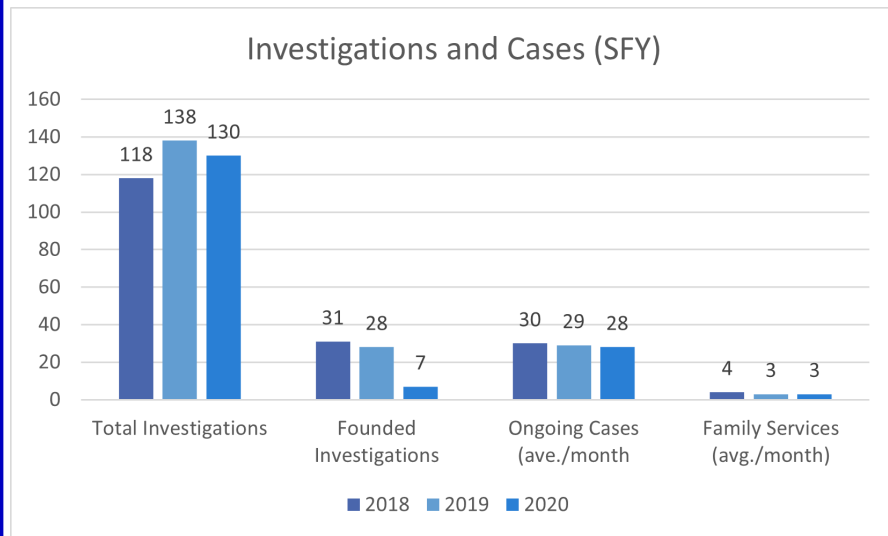
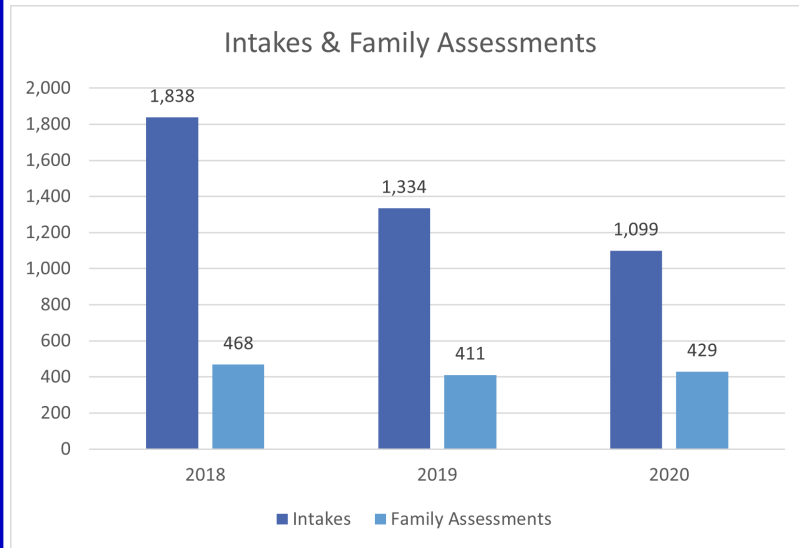
Money Issued for Remaining Programs



## Services Programs

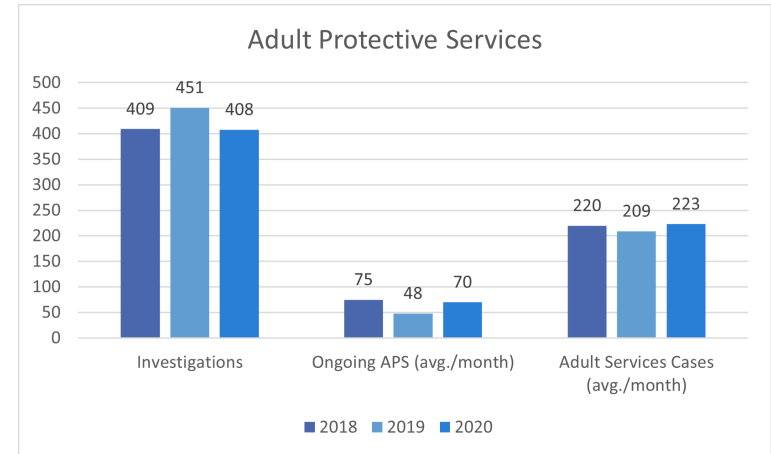
### CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES<sup>(7)</sup>

While the Nation was in a global pandemic, the CPS staff diligently worked hard to ensure children's safety and to support families in need by conducting face to face interviews despite the restrictions due to COVID-19 that were introduced in March 2020. Virtual visits took place when appropriate.



## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Largely due to stay-at-home orders in response to COVID-19, APS saw a drop in the number of APS reports from the previous year. Mandated reporters having fewer contacts with adults resulted in reduced reporting. The agency has experienced an increase in APS ongoing cases largely due to difficulty in securing services for these clients in order to facilitate safe case closure during the pandemic.



### CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETINGS

At the outset of the pandemic in March 2020, many meetings were canceled. When it became evident the public health emergency was going to be an ongoing issue, the Department worked to improve technology in order to offer these meetings remotely. The Department continued to hold Child and Family Team Meetings or Family Partnership Meetings in person and virtually during the pandemic. Families still continued to engage and participate in virtual meetings as well as invite their natural supports, who also have proven to be contributors within these meetings.

