



Reach Up – Vermont's TANF Program

January, 2019
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Mission:

Reach Up joins families on their journey to overcome obstacles, explore opportunities, improve their finances and reach their goals.

Vision:

*Families will be empowered,
connected and thriving.*

Reach Up Programs

∞ Reach Up

Vermont's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program
Work Requirement

∞ Reach First

Short-term (less than 4 months)
Not likely to need Reach Up after 4 months – most go back to employment

∞ Reach Ahead

Transitional Benefits – transitions family off Reach Up program when participant becomes employed
Support services – childcare subsidy, help maintaining job, \$ for work supplies, car repairs, etc.

∞ Post-Secondary Education Program

Financial assistance
Participant pursues 2 or 4 year degree

∞ Child-Only Reach Up

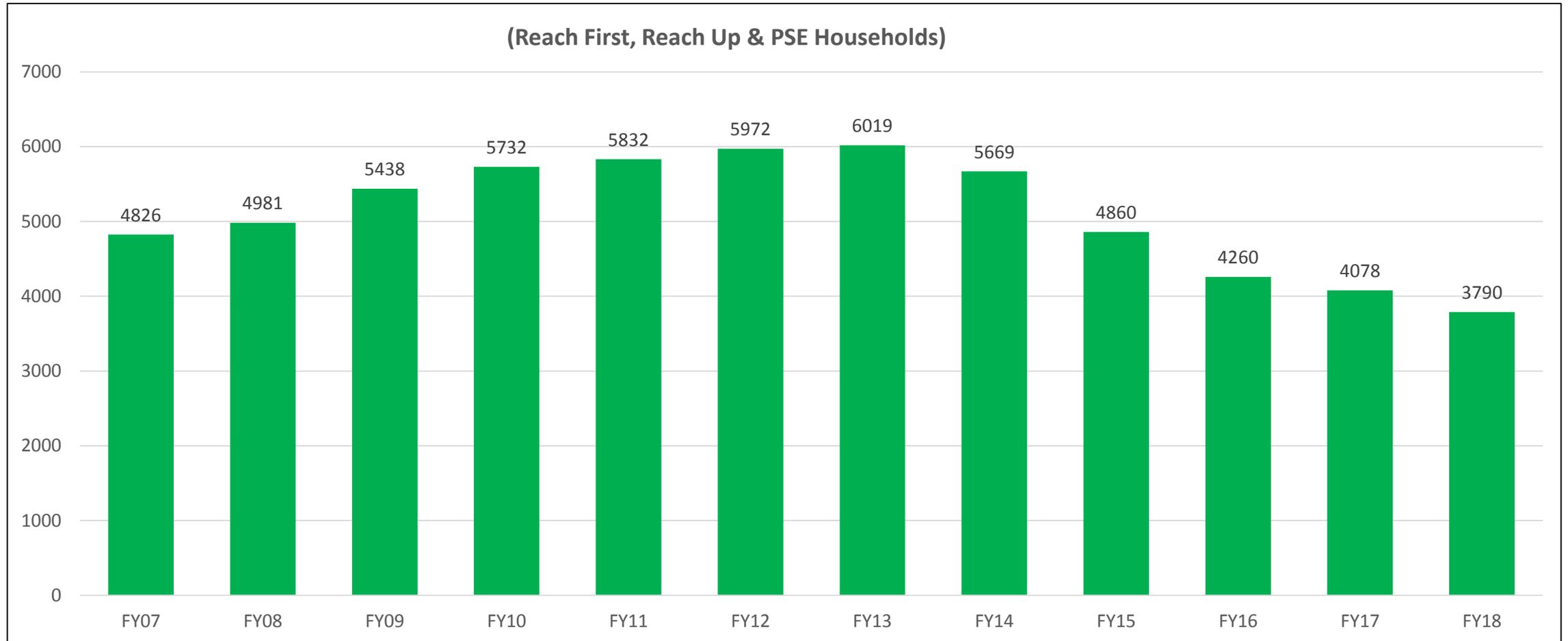
Only the children receive assistance
No participation requirements for adults – adults are either non-parent caregivers or receiving SSI

Reach Up Partnerships



- Case Management
- Transportation
- Workforce Development
- Housing
- Post Secondary Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Financial Empowerment – 2 Community Action agencies

Historic Average Monthly Caseloads

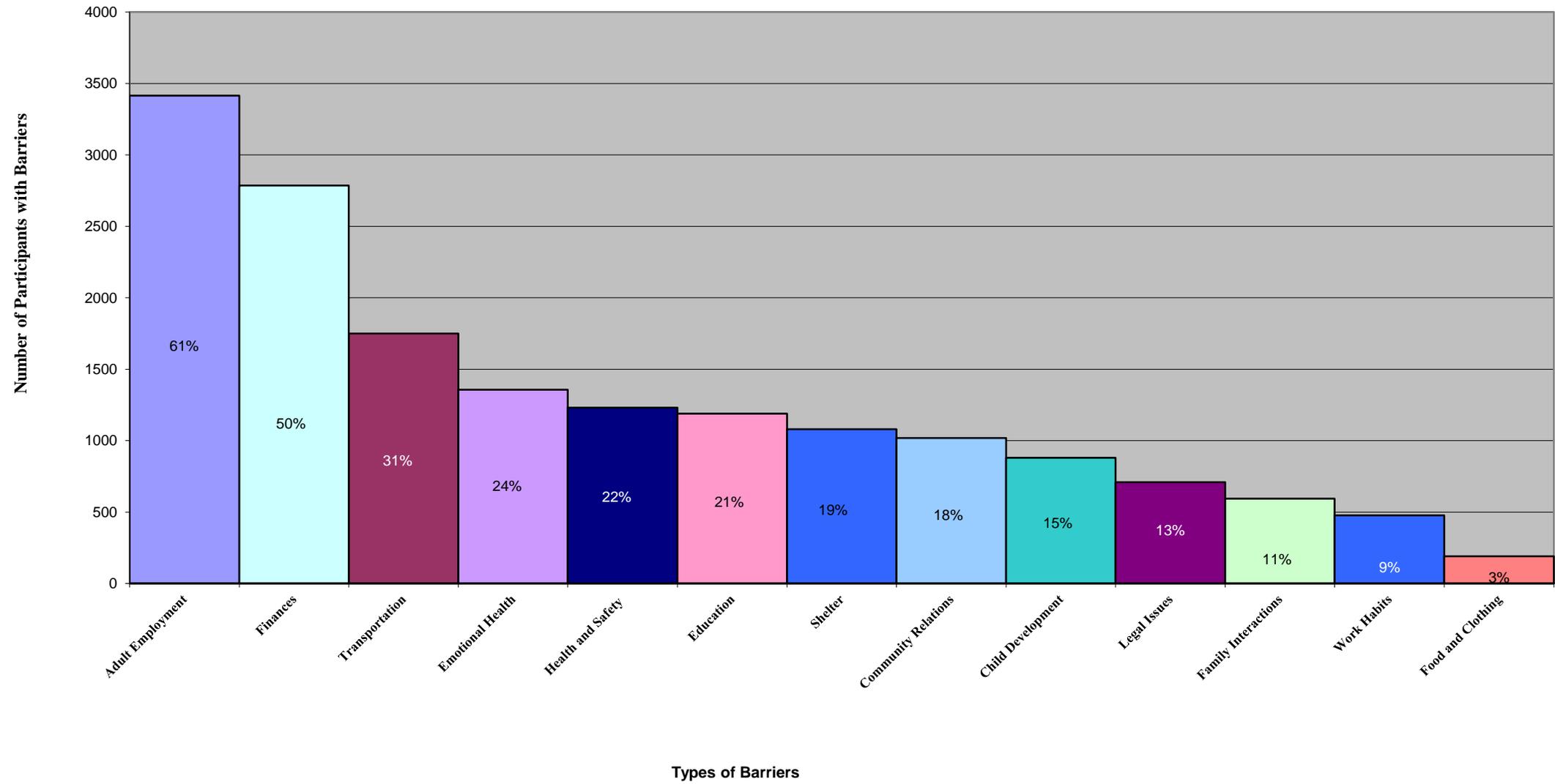


2/16/2016

Reach Up Grant for Family of Three

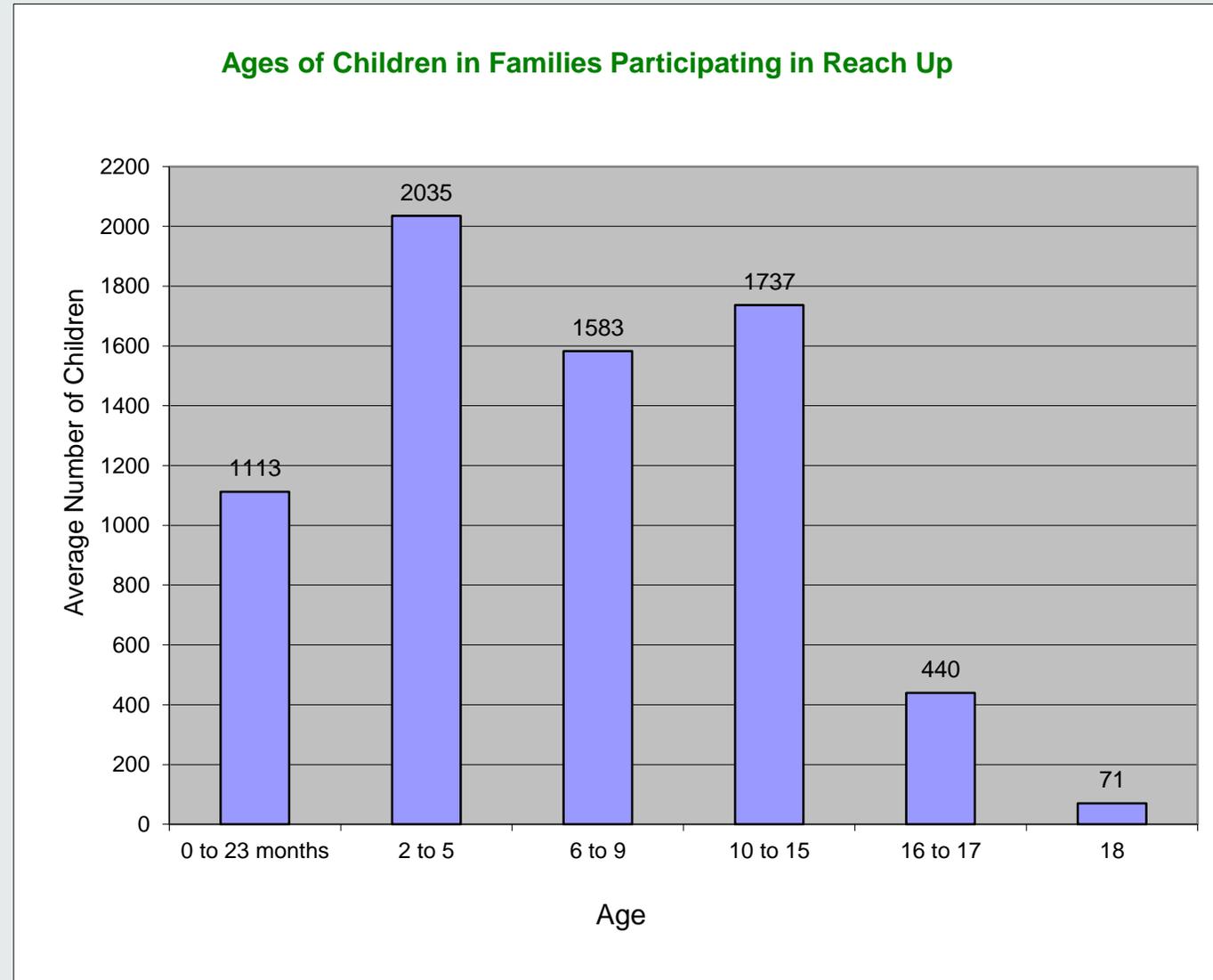
	2008	2019
Basic Needs Standard (Family of 3 from 2004)	891	891
Housing Allowance (Standard from 2001)	450	450
Special Needs Housing Allowance (if housing costs exceed standard)	90	90
Ratable Reduction	X 49.6%	X 49.6%
Reach Up Grant Amount	\$709	\$709
HUD Fair Market Rent in Chittenden County (family's actual housing costs, for rent alone)	\$1013	\$1395
	<i>Approximately 27% of Reach Up families live in public or subsidized housing</i>	

Reach Up Participants with Barriers



Children in Reach Up

- 6978 – average monthly number of children receiving RU in FFY '18
- 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)



2-Generation Approach





Key Hallmarks of Science-Informed Approaches

Create and Support Responsive Relationships

Strengthen Core Life Skills

Reduce Sources of Stress



A Structured Science-Informed Approach to Goal Achievement:

Goal, Plan, Do, Review and Revise

- Goal:** Set a goal – something you want to accomplish
- Plan:** Develop a plan for how to get from here to there
- Do:** Do the plan – put it into action
- Review:** Review and assess progress
- Revise:** Take the next action steps, make a new plan, or set a new goal





Goal: Something We Want to Accomplish

- **Characteristics of “good” goals**
 - Personally meaningful
 - Challenging but within reach
 - Well-defined
- **How we set goals matters**
 - Start with the future
 - Imagine what the future looks and feels like
 - Write goals down; keep them visible
 - Start small and with a short time horizon

USING BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE TO REDUCE POVERTY

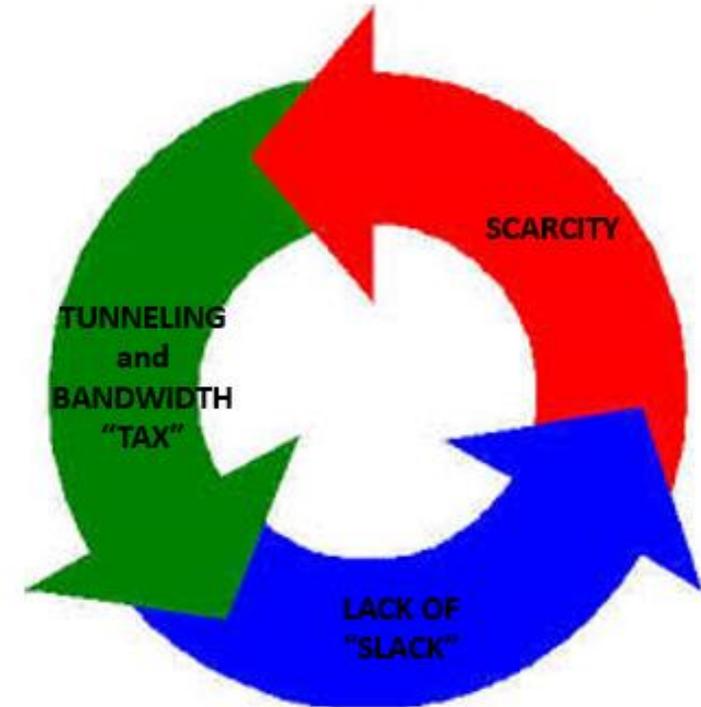
- Economics
- Psychology
- Neuroscience



BANDWIDTH – CIRCUIT OVERLOAD



The Scarcity "Trap"



WHAT can
we do?

“Poverty
Interrupted”
- *Ideas 42*

“... The burden of change rests primarily with the individuals and organizations who have the power to design programs and systems in ways that take universal human tendencies into account.”

- *Cut the costs*
- *Create slack*
- *Reframe and empower*



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





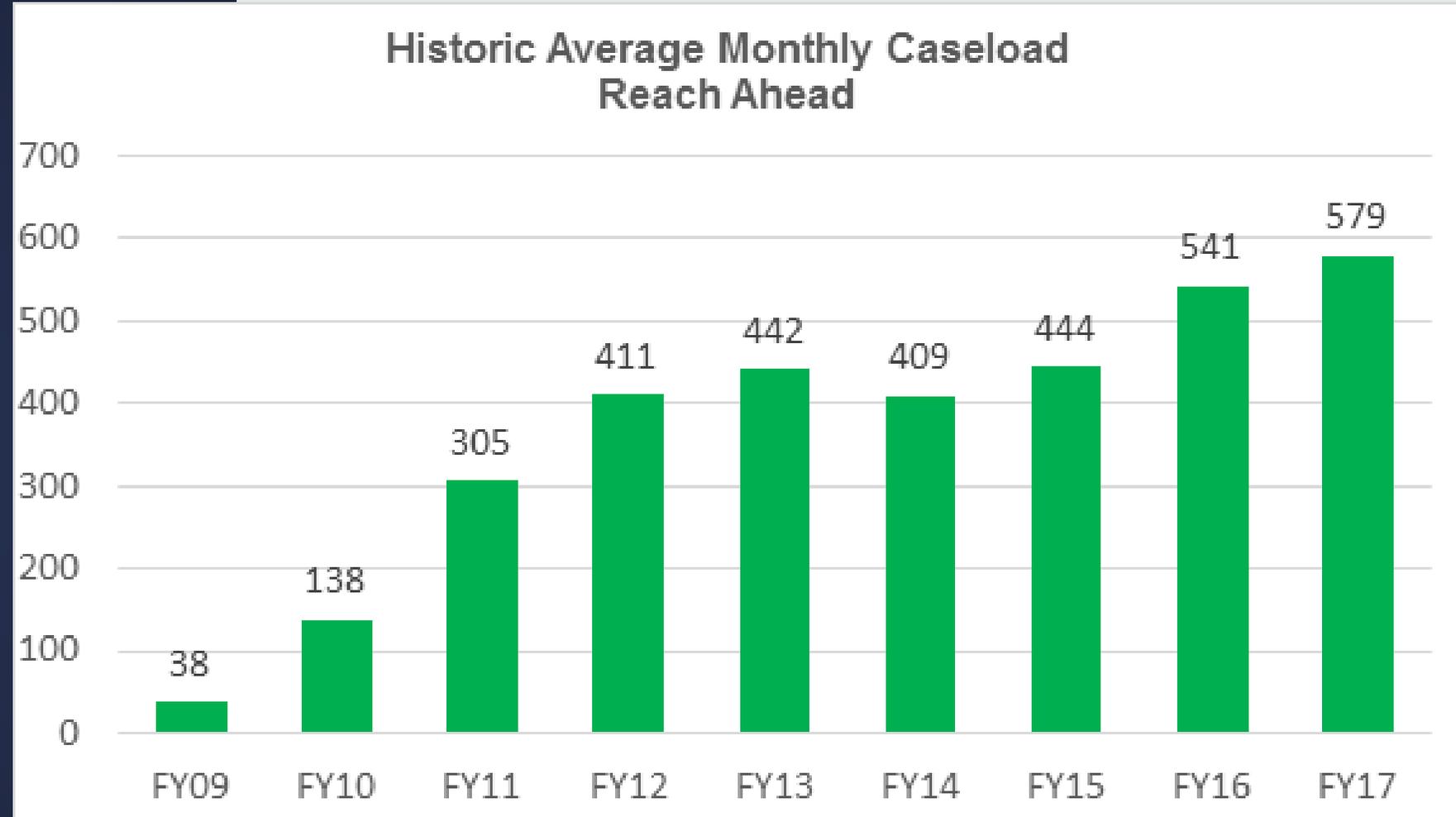
Outcomes: Employment

- 18% RU participants are also working
- Most in retail, services, health care fields
- Percentage of participants making at least \$12 per hour increased from 25% in 2017 to 33% in 2018

Outcomes:

Reach Ahead –
Employment

Increase over time



Outcomes:

Child Well-Being

- 73% of families improved in at least one of the five self-sufficiency ratings closely related to child well-being
 - 37% showed improvement in child well-being – availability of child care and school enrollment and attendance
 - 51% showed improvement in shelter – stability of housing that is affordable, adequate and safe
 - 33% showed improvement in social well-being and connections – substance abuse and mental health of parents
 - 45% showed improvement in health – availability of affordable medical care and effects of disabilities
 - 33% showed improvement in family interactions and well-being – parenting, safety and support among family and friends

Compassion and Respect

Learning Community

Mission

Road Map

Vision



Whole Family

Behavioral Science

Child Well - Being

Thank You