



Department of  
Social Services

Human Resources  
Administration

Department of  
Homeless Services

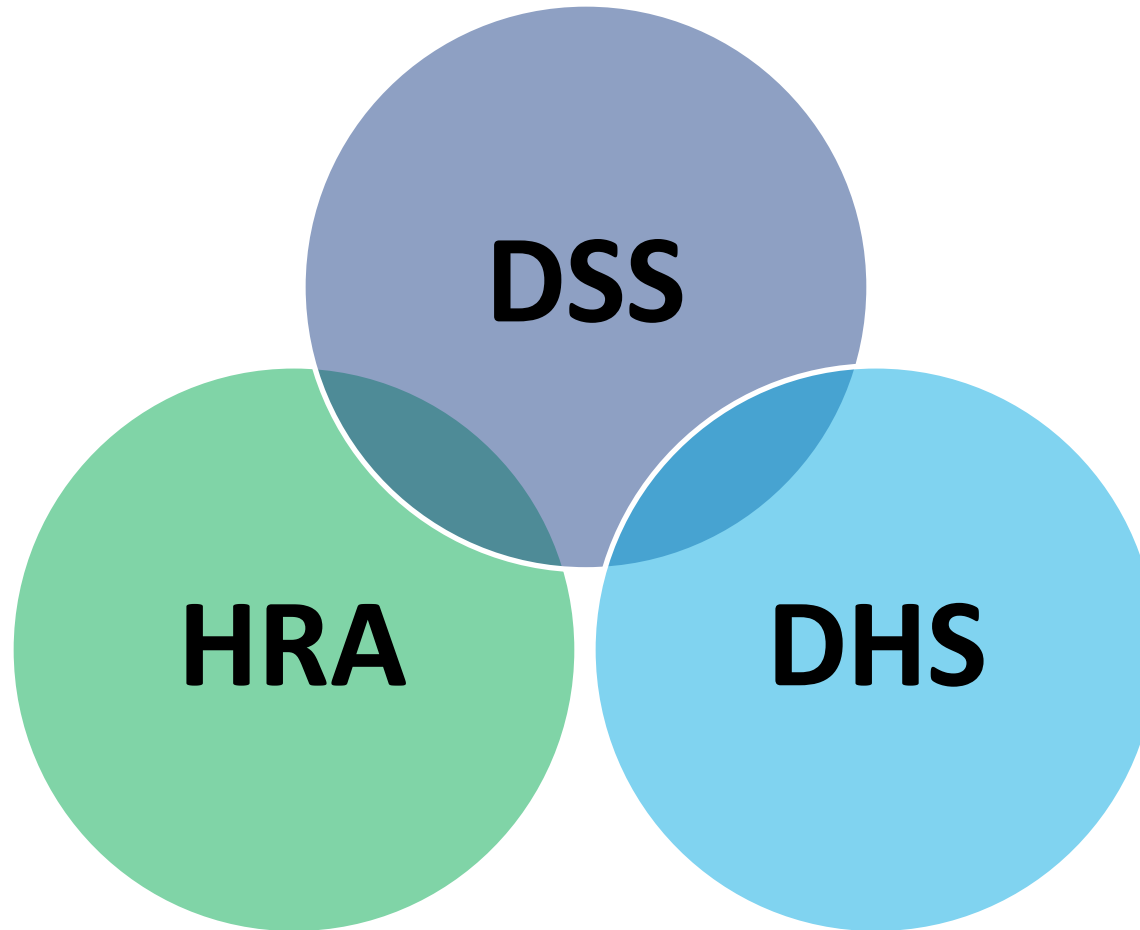
# Fiscal 2025 Preliminary Budget Testimony

Commissioner Molly Wasow Park

March 11, 2024

# Agenda

- INTRODUCTION
- DSS/HRA BUDGET
- DHS BUDGET
- PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



**Streamlining Access to  
Social Services**

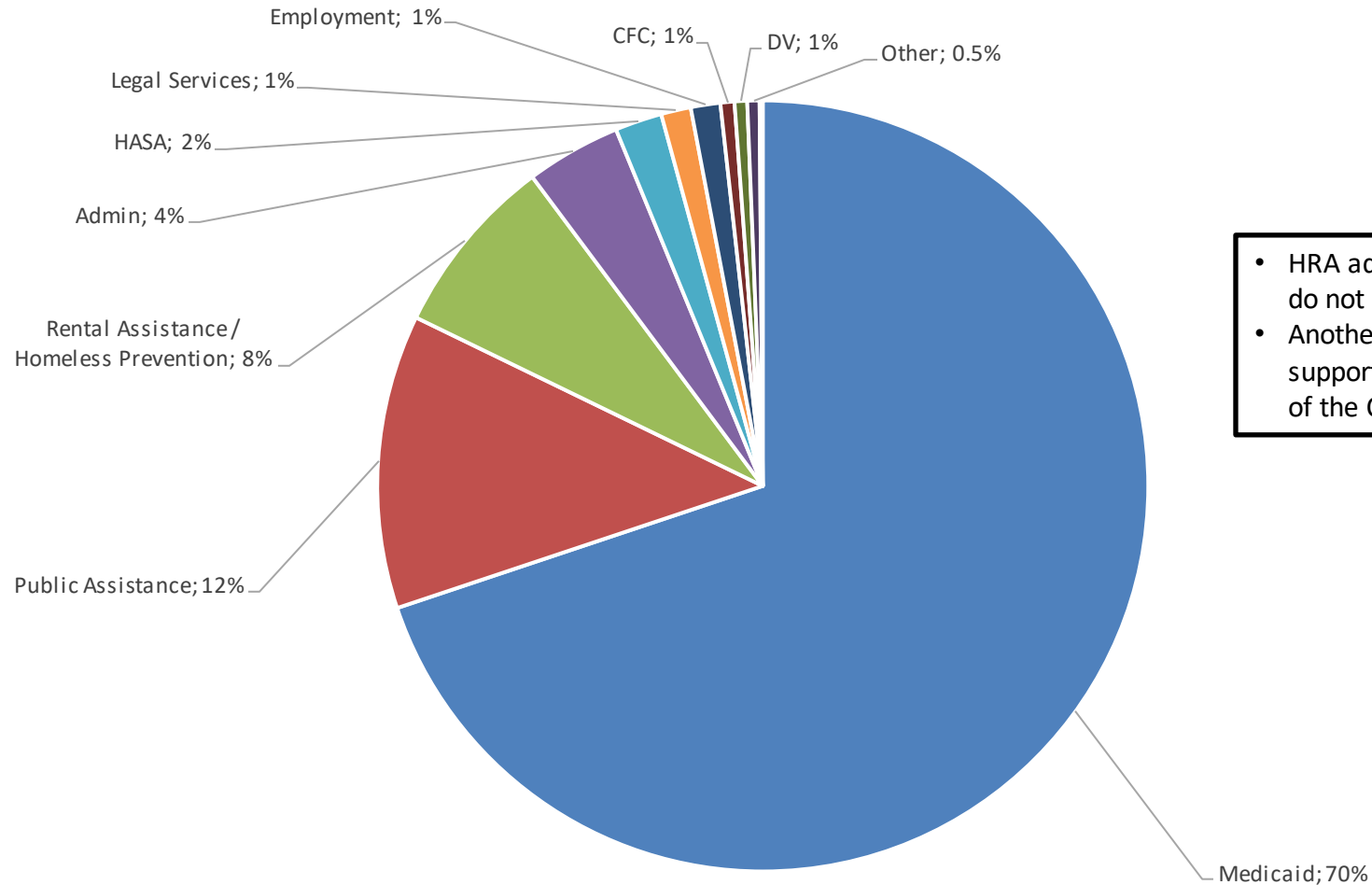
**Addressing Homelessness and  
Housing Instability**

**Creating Economic  
Stability**



## DSS/HRA Budget

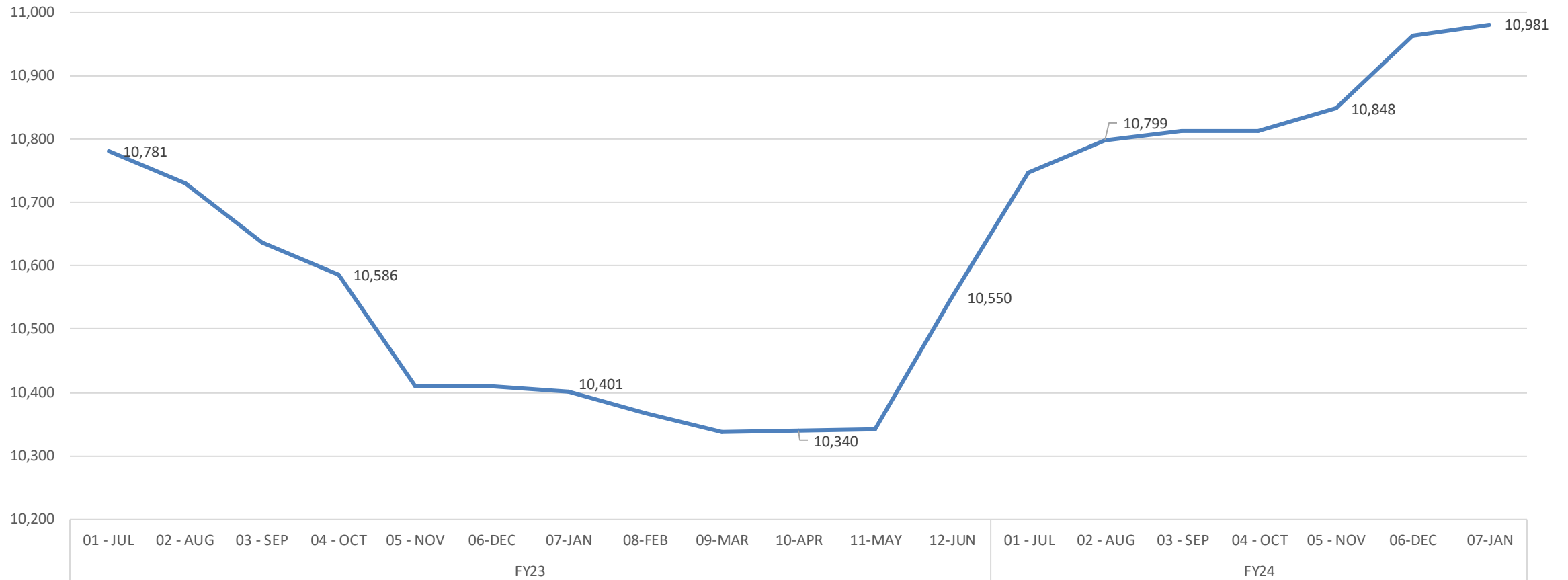
# OVER 80% OF THE DSS/HRA CITY FUNDED BUDGET SUPPORTS TWO ENTITLEMENTS – CASH AND MEDICAID



• HRA administers \$3.9B in SNAP benefits that do not show up in the City Budget  
• Another ~ \$44B in State and federal funds support NYC Medicaid clients but aren't part of the City budget

# DSS STAFFING HAS INCREASED SINCE COVID-ERA DECLINES

## HRA HIRED CLOSE TO 1,000 CLIENT FACING STAFF SINCE JANUARY 2023



# FY24-27 DSS/HRA November and January Plan

## \$688M CITY SAVINGS

### Administrative Efficiencies \$71M

- Lease consolidation
- Increased use of electronic communications
- Overtime spending reductions

### Revenue Maximization \$515M

- Re-estimates of fringe benefits reimbursement
- Prior year revenue
- Federal HOME ARPA funds

### Agency Operations \$102M

- Efficiencies in housing placement process
- Consolidation of employment services



## DHS Budget



# OVER 95% OF THE DHS BUDGET SUPPORTS SHELTER AND STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

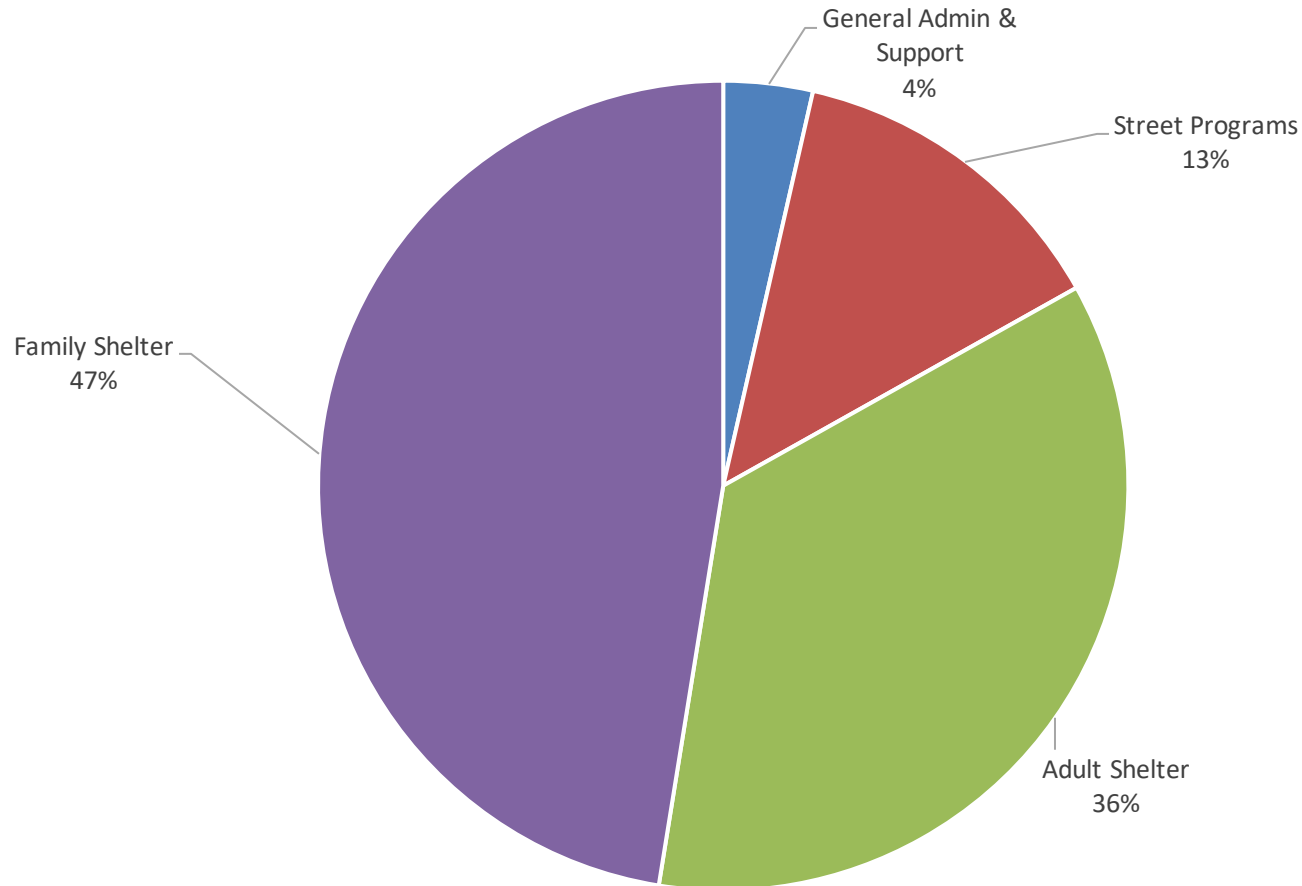
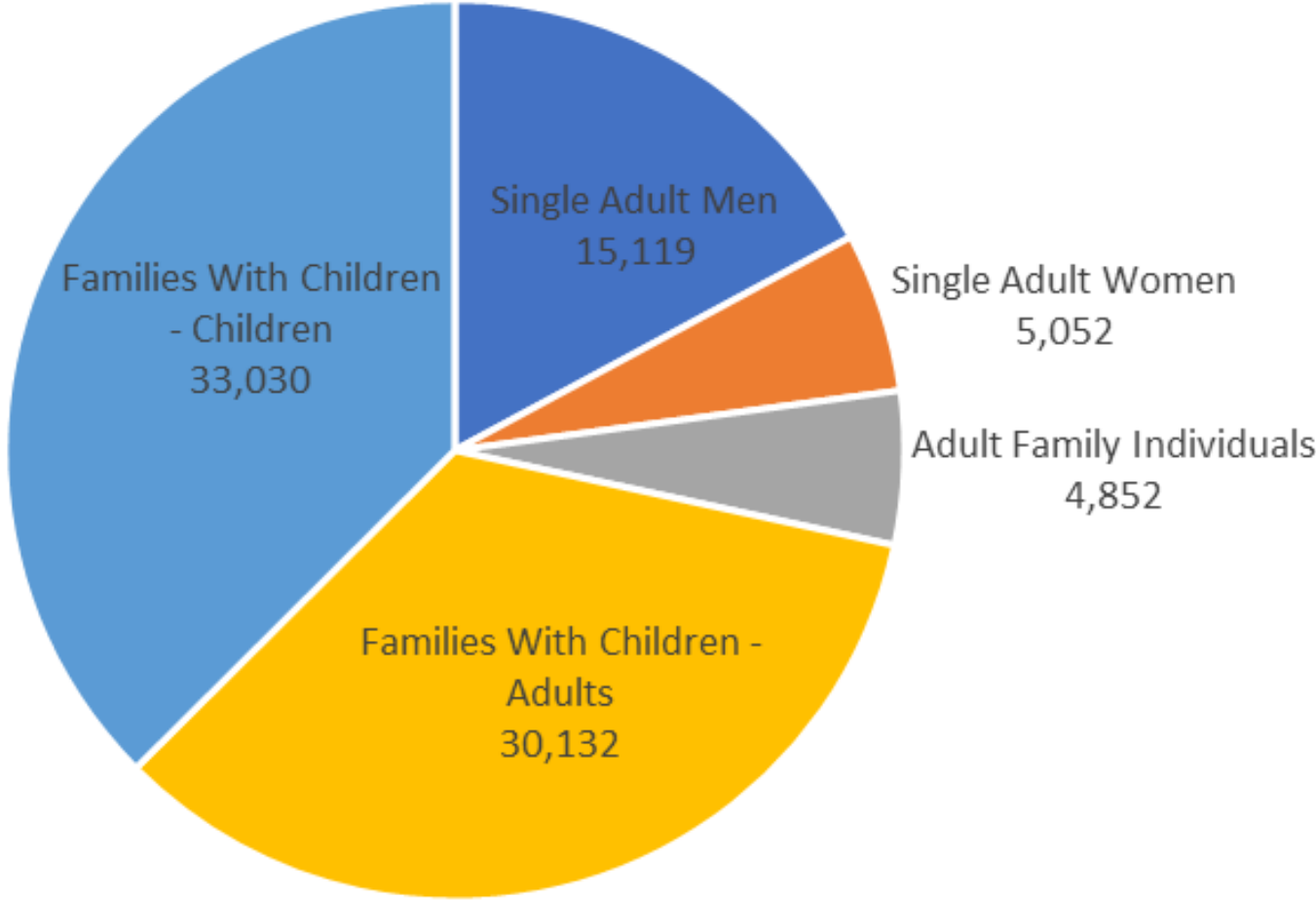


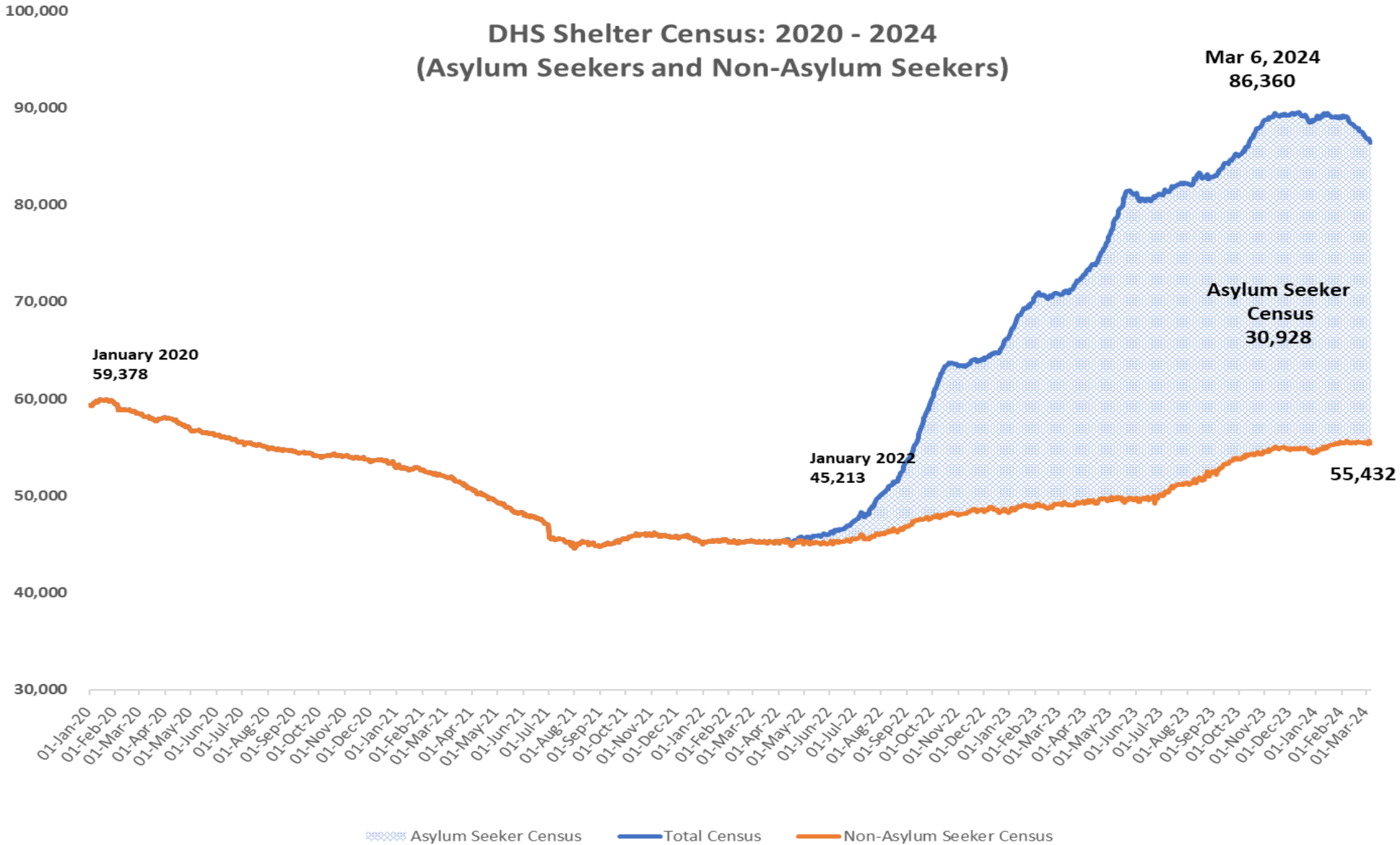
Chart excludes Asylum funds; \$1.8B of the FY25 DHS budget is for asylum seeker services.

# DHS Shelter by Population (Individuals)

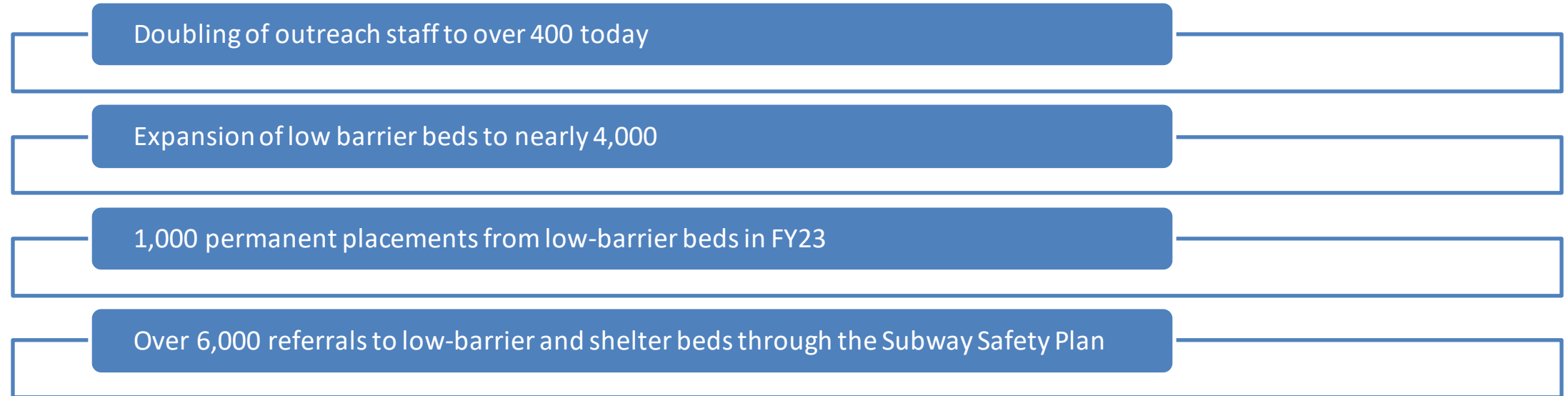
February 2024



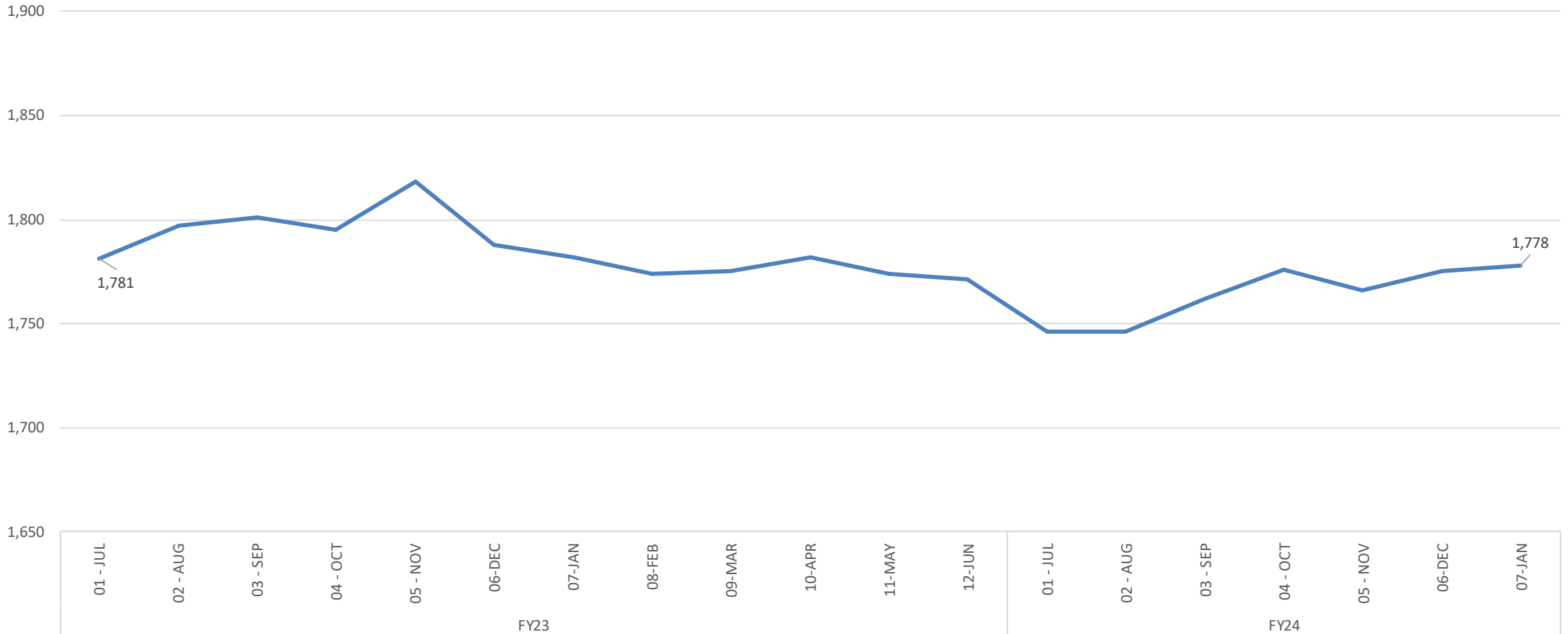
# DHS Shelter Census: 2020 - 2024 (Asylum Seekers and Non-Asylum Seekers)



# Street Homeless Solutions: Services for Unsheltered



# DHS Staffing FY23-January FY24



# FY24-27 DHS November & January Plan

## \$249M City Savings

### Agency Operations \$111M

- Partnerships with H+H and DOHMH to provide street medicine services
- Re-organization of Drop-In Center model

### Re-Estimates \$138M

- Asylum seeker re-estimates
- Permanent housing for long-term stayer households



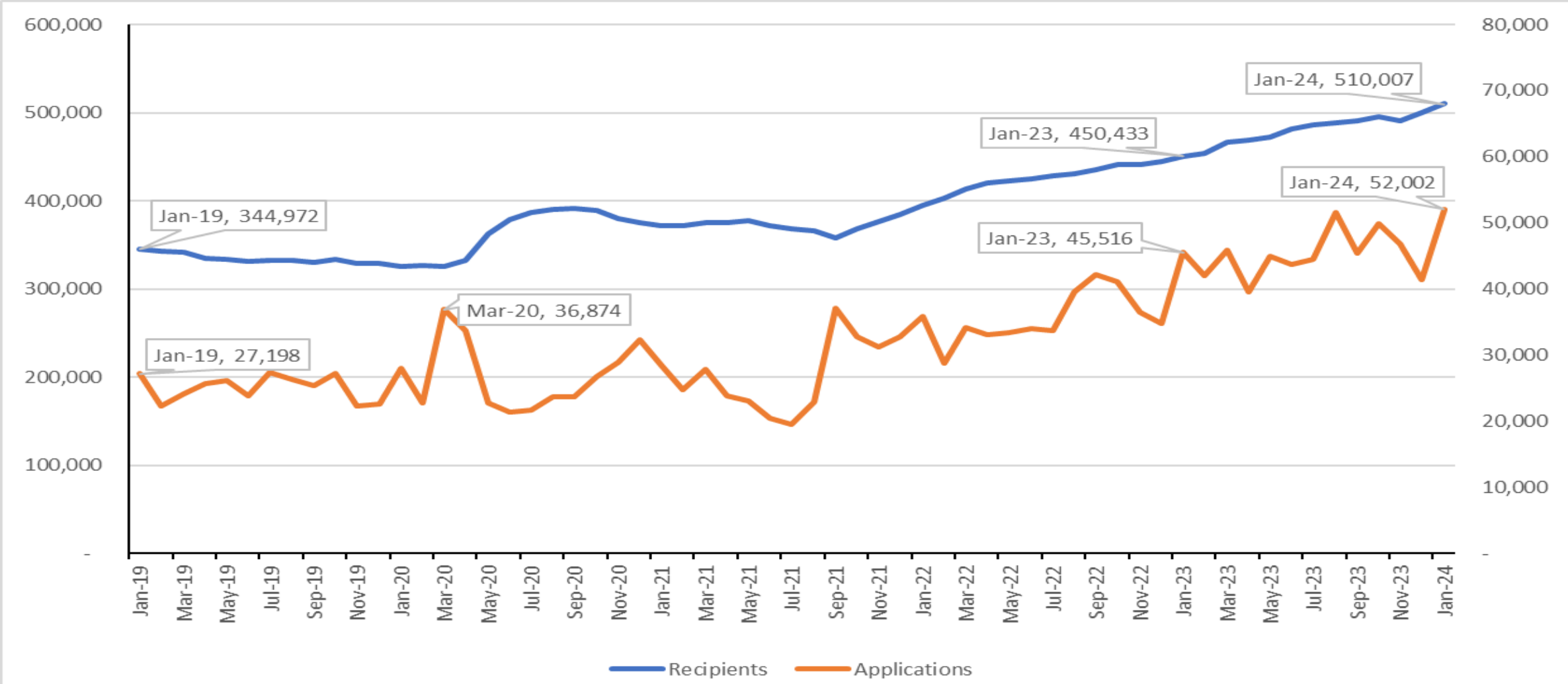
## **Streamlining Access to Social Services**

# SNAP APPLICATIONS & CASELOAD INCREASED AT THE ONSET OF THE PANDEMIC

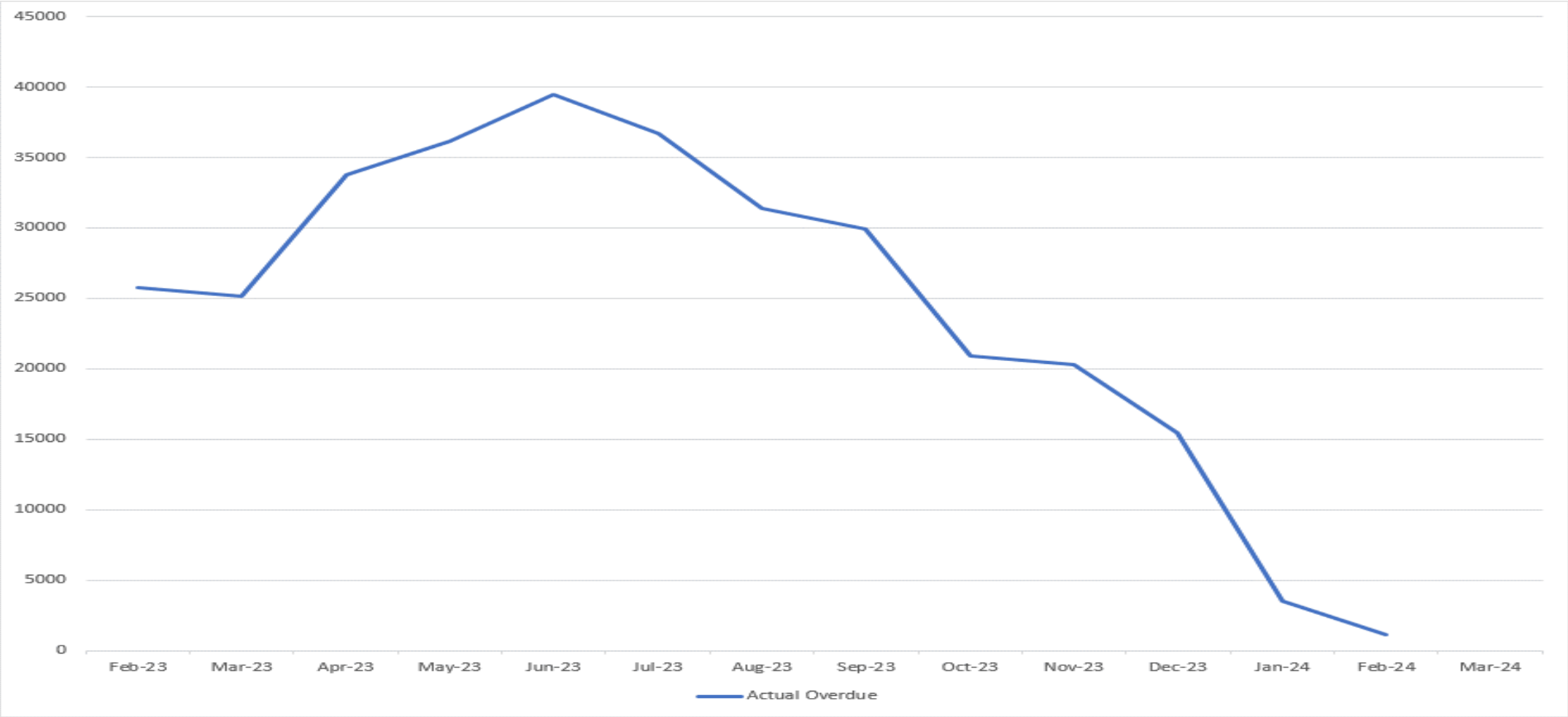




# CASH ASSISTANCE CASELOAD GREW DURING THE PANDEMIC AND CONTINUES TO INCREASE



# CASH ASSISTANCE BACKLOG HAS DECLINED 97% SINCE THE PEAK IN JUNE 2023



# SUPPORTING AND EXPANDING OTHER KEY BENEFITS

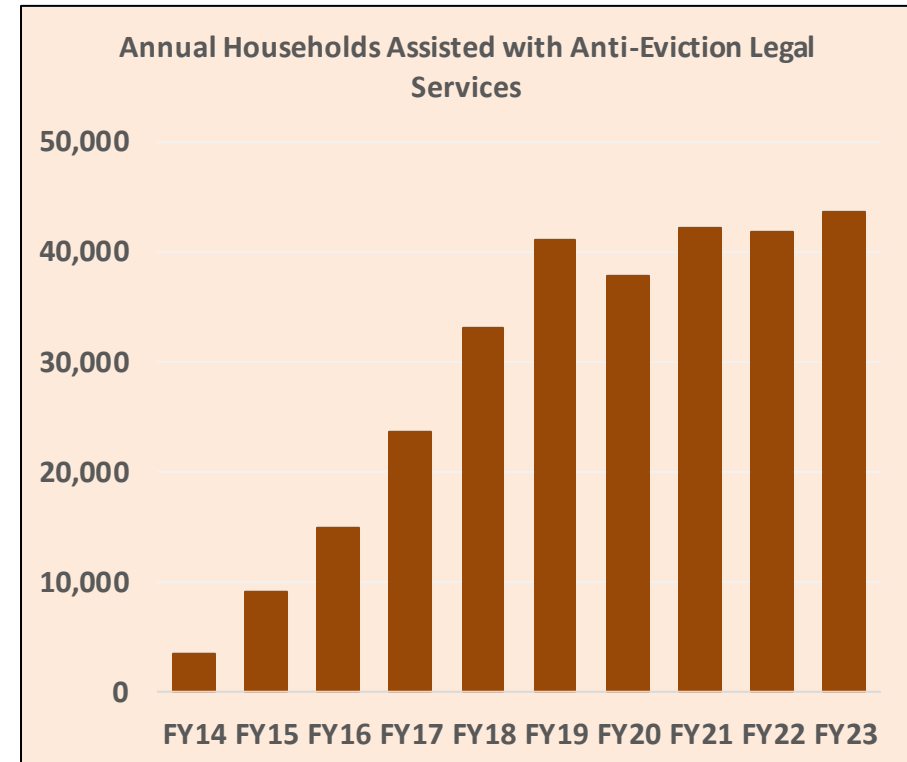
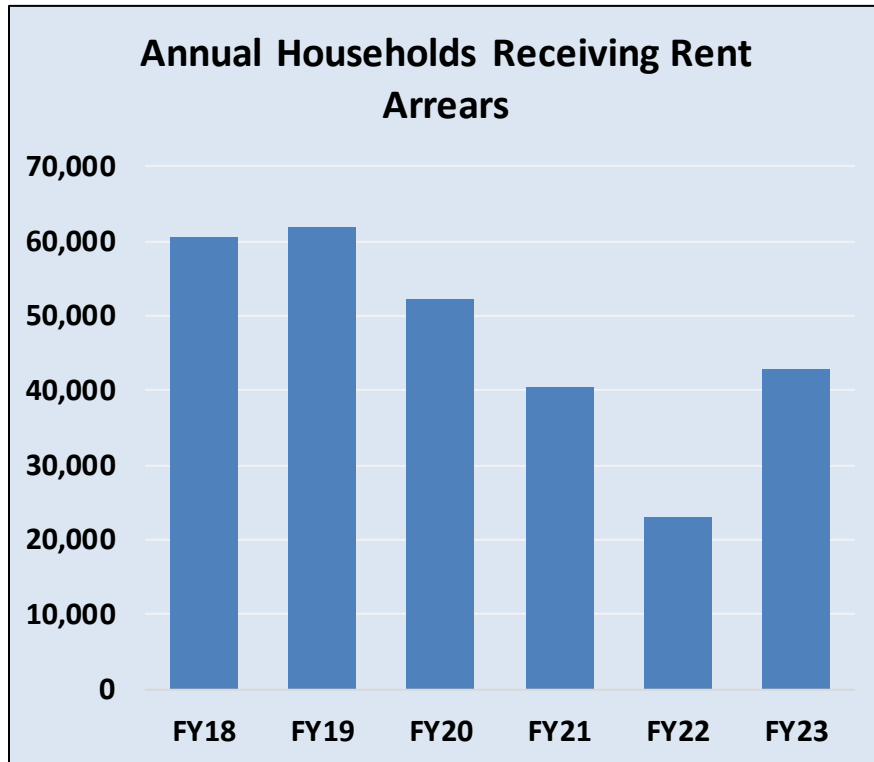
- ✓ Expanded childcare assistance to 12 months after exiting CA.
- ✓ Raised the income limit for Fair Fares eligibility to 120% of Federal Poverty Level. As of the beginning of March, 317,300 people are enrolled.
- ✓ Provided nearly one million Heating and Cooling assistance grants in 2022 and 2023 – the highest numbers on record.



**Addressing Homelessness  
and Housing Instability**

# Emergency Assistance and Eviction Prevention

- In FY23 DSS issued over \$300M in emergency rent payments to 43,000 households
- In FY23 DSS assisted over 40,000 households with legal services to prevent eviction



# Affordable and Supportive Housing Accomplishments

- In FY23, DSS saw a 17% increase in the number of households exiting shelter for permanent housing. The PMMR illustrates continued growth in shelter exits.
  - 46% more New Yorkers were connected to permanent supportive housing in 2023 than in the preceding fiscal year.
- In addition, almost 1,000 people who were experiencing unsheltered homelessness were placed in permanent housing.
- DSS has taken steps to strengthen rental assistance programs:
  - Made CityFHEPS easier to use by reducing work requirements and eliminating the 90-day rule;
  - Allowed for use of CityFHEPS statewide;
  - Launched the Affordable Housing Services initiative to use social service dollars to create affordable housing;
  - Rolled out extensive training to improve housing package submission processes.



# Creating Economic Stability

# DSS/HRA/DHS WORK TOGETHER TO OFFER SERVICES THAT MOVE NEW YORKERS TO SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

- DSS is revitalizing its training, education, and job placement initiatives post pandemic:
  - Launched the PINNC program to connect clients to construction and industrial jobs.
  - Restructuring career services programs and contracts to focus on career ladders with potential for growth.
- Implementing new income disregards to support clients' economic growth:
  - Training/subsidized work
  - One-time disregard for any employment income
- Maximizing “win/win” hiring of clients into human services jobs:
  - In FY23, human service providers hired 5,862 Public Assistance clients





**THANK YOU**