



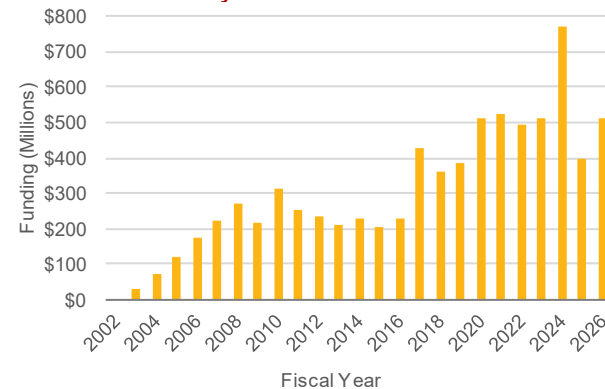
State Child Welfare Services

Overview

State Child Welfare Services funding, also known as State Preventive Services funding, aims to curb extended foster care placements for at-risk children, and to provide wraparound services for families before, during and after a child enters foster care. The grant is the culmination of an early 2000s shift away from prioritizing foster care placements towards a focus on family stabilization and reunification. Up to 62 percent of the City's qualified expenditures on child protective, preventive, after care, adoption services and independent living are eligible for State reimbursement.

The City's first State allocation, \$32.8 million, was received in FY 2003. Total allocations have increased substantially since, with receipts for FY 2026 totaling \$503 million as of the FY 2027 Adopted Budget (see Figure 1). Since FY 2003, the City has received about \$7.6 billion in funding through the grant, or about 53 percent of total statewide allocations over that period. The City anticipates receipts of \$478 million, or just under half of the \$959 million included in the SFY 2027 Enacted Budget.

FIGURE 1
State Child Welfare Services Funding Provided to New York City



Source: NYC Office of Management and Budget

FIGURE 2
FY 2026 State Child Welfare Services Funding as a Share of Total ACS Budget Function Expenditures
(Dollars in Millions)

ACS Budget Function	Total Function Expend.	State Child Welfare Funding	State Share of Total
Preventive Services	\$ 336.3	\$ 151.1	44.9%
Protective Services	418.7	157.6	37.6%
Foster Care Support	51.8	13.6	26.2%
Child Welfare Support	53.4	13.4	25.1%
General Admin.	317.5	78.7	24.8%
All Other	3,253.3	78.2	2.4%
Totals	\$ 4,431.0	\$ 492.5	11.1%

Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; OSC analysis

In FY 2026, about 97 percent of the associated grant receipts were allocated to the ACS, about 11 percent of the agency's budget. State grant funding accounts for about 45 percent of Preventive Services, 38 percent of ACS' Protective Services spending, and roughly a quarter of ACS spending for Foster Care and Child Welfare Support services and general administration (see Figure 2).

Impact

Preventive Services aim to prevent or reduce care placements and prioritize family reunifications. Protective Services are utilized to respond to allegations of abuse or neglect, and to subsequently monitor households until a safety determination can be made. Other State grant funding has generally reflected the declining number of new and cumulative preventive and protective cases (see Figure 3). Overall, ACS has seen a 47.4 percent drop in Preventive Services cases, and a 27.3 percent decline in Protective Services cases, since SFY 2003. This trend, which has occurred in phases, may be attributed to several factors, including the decline of the City's under-18 population.

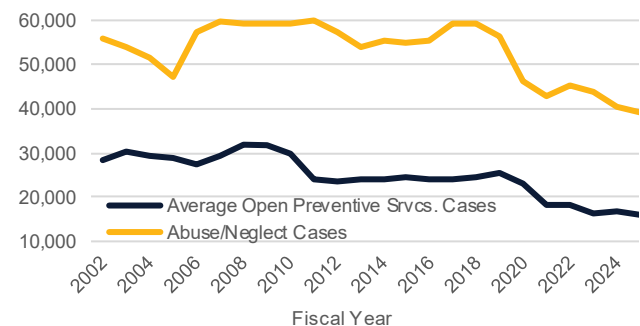
The number of Preventive Services cases initially increased from an average of about 24,100 in the three years prior to FY 2003, to a high of nearly 32,000 in FY 2008, before leveling off around 24,000 between FY 2011 and FY 2019. Beginning around the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACS has experienced a second notable decline in cases, from 22,860 in FY 2020 to 16,205 in FY 2026 through May.

Similarly, cases of abuse and neglect, which had been trending downward prior to the introduction of the State grant, climbed substantially from FY 2003 to FY 2006 as the City hired hundreds of new child protective specialists. ACS saw a second surge in cases in the mid to late 2010s, as several high-profile cases of child abuse in the media led to an uptick in civilian reports to the agency. However, as with Preventive Services, Protective Service cases have dropped substantially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a nationwide trend. ACS reported 39,158 cases in FY 2025, a more than 30 percent decline from the 56,336 cases reported in FY 2019. According to City data, this decline has also led to a drop in the average caseload per ACS child protective specialist, which fell from 10.5 at the end of 2019 to 7.0 at the end of 2025.

Initially, ACS attributed the recent decline in cases to the learn-from-home policies implemented during pandemic lockdown, which put students out of touch with teachers and administrators trained in identifying signs of abuse and neglect. As cases have continued to decline well after students have returned to the classroom, ACS maintains this is due to the preemptive work the agency does to support families before an abuse or neglect report is necessary.

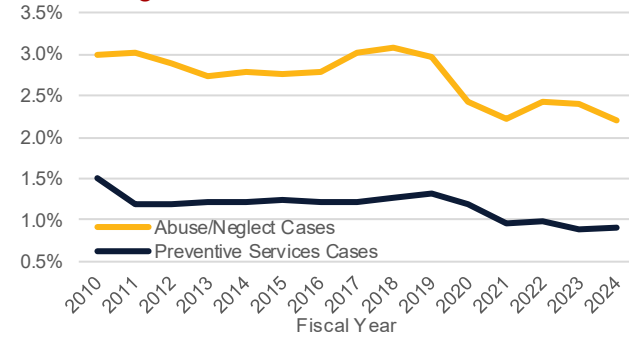
While cases of abuse and neglect have declined, the share of cases of New York City's children under the age of 18 have remained relatively steady (see Figure 4). In FY 2000, ACS handled

FIGURE 3
City Preventive Services Open Cases and Abuse/Neglect Cases



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget

FIGURE 4
Share of Under-18 Population Involved in
Abuse/Neglect or Preventive Services Cases



Sources: NYC Office of Management and Budget; U.S. Census Bureau; OSC analysis

55,540 cases of abuse or neglect, equaling roughly 2.59 percent of the City's 2.1 million children. This figure increased to about 2.9 percent of the total population from FY 2010 to FY 2019. Since FY 2020, the City has averaged 43,700 abuse or neglect cases per year, equaling about 2.34 percent of the average under-18 population of about 1.87 million. Likewise, Preventive Services cases equaled 1.09 percent of the under-18 population in FY 2000, 1.26 percent from FY 2010 to FY 2019, and 0.99 percent since FY 2020.

Grant funding also covers ACS' Foster Care Support and Child Welfare Support budgets. Foster Care Support allocations fund child pre-placement, child evaluation, contract agency assistance, and foster parent recruitment, as well as the Office of Contract Agency Case Management, which oversees foster cases that have been contracted through agencies outside of ACS. Child Welfare Support allocations fund various preventive, protective and foster care services. The majority of the State funding allocated to this budget function is allocated to Family Court for legal services, support, and the court's Executive Office.