



# WMPC In Action

Creating a community of belonging, resiliency, and hope where children and families flourish.

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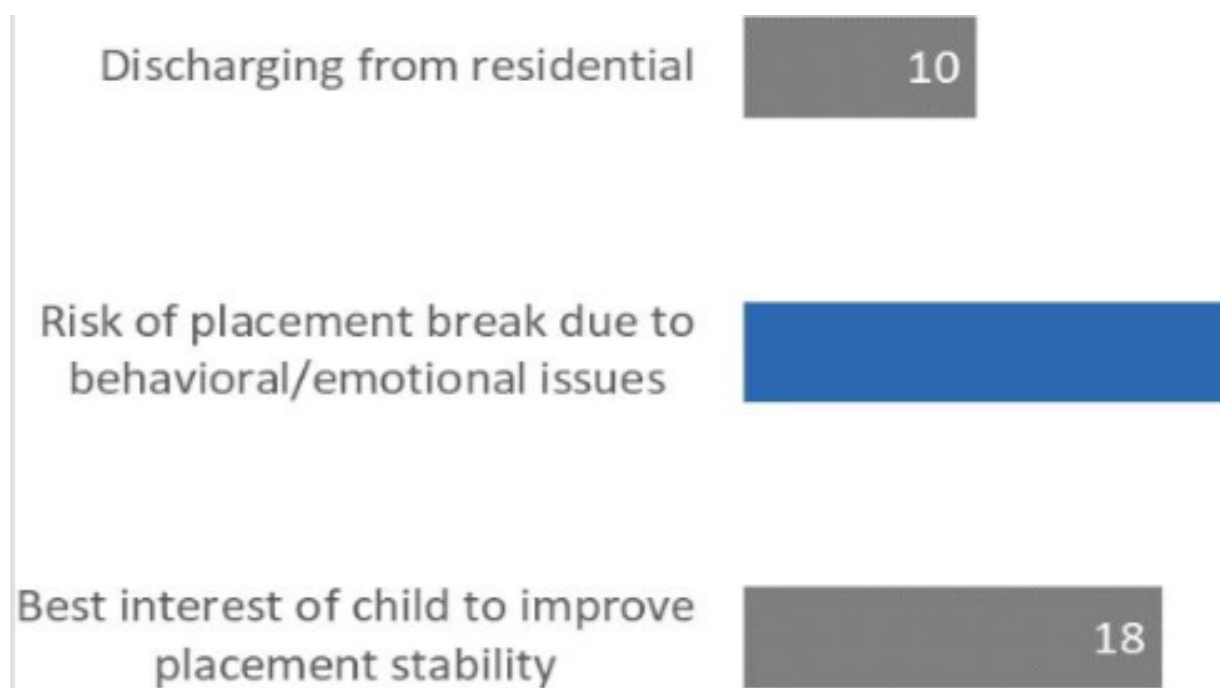
## Facts in Foster Care

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### Enhanced Foster Care

[Enhanced Foster Care](#) (EFC) was officially implemented at each of WMPC's five partner agencies in January 2018. Between January 1st and July 20th, 56 children have been enrolled. The graph below shows the reasons for referral. The greatest number of youth were referred due to "risk of placement break due to behavioral/emotional issues." In these cases, EFC is often diverting youth from a residential placement and limiting the

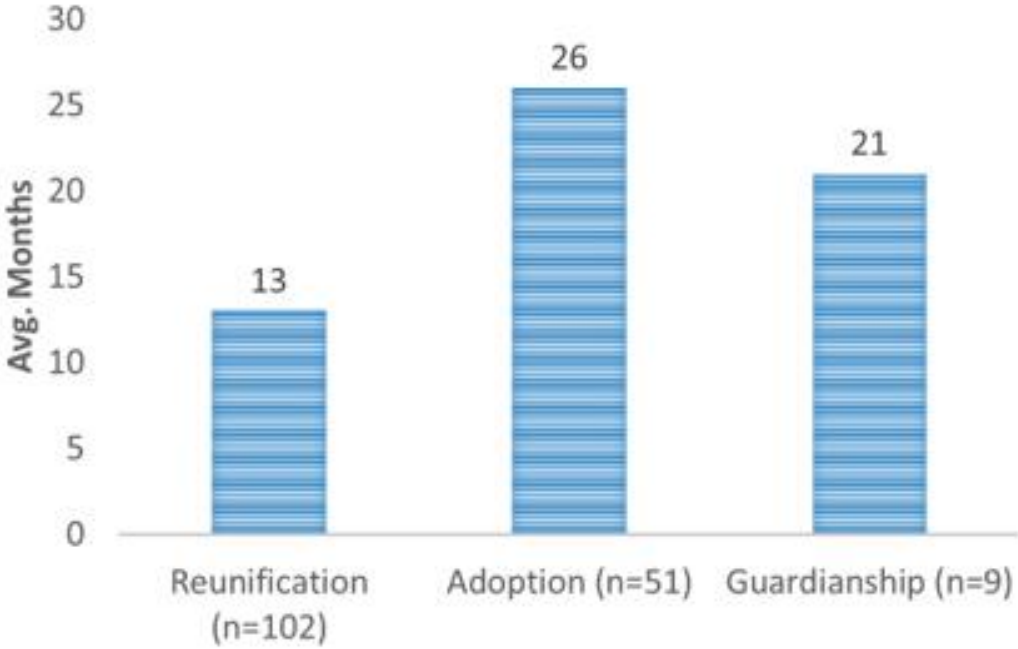
number of placement disruptions. EFC has also been utilized as a less restrictive placement for youth discharging from residential. As EFC referrals continue to be steady, it is clear there is a need for this service in the community, and WMPC will continue to track the progress of this initiative in serving families in need and increasing positive outcomes.



**Length of Stay in Care by Discharge Reason**

WMPC assumed case management responsibility for approximately 850 youth in foster care in Kent County on October 1, 2017. From October 1st

to May 28th, 102 youth have been discharged from care and reunified with their parent or primary caregivers; 51 have been adopted; and 9 have been discharged to the care of a permanent guardian. The graph below shows the average length of stay in foster care for these discharge reasons. As one of WMPC’s strategic goals is to reduce time to permanency, we will continue to monitor these trends and assess ways to ensure children achieve permanency as quickly and safely as possible.



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# Success Stories

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## Finding Permanency through Enhanced Foster Care

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 will forever be a memorable date for one foster family licensed through Bethany Christian Services who accepted a short-term placement of a four-year-old male in need of a new foster home. Due to the needs of the child, EFC level three services were approved and began almost immediately to support the family and child. The family was very open and willing to work with any services to support this four-year-old child's short-term placement in their home.

The EFC team meets regularly with the family to help brainstorm new ideas and solutions as well as guide and support the family on their foster care journey. EFC Services have "empowered the family to recognize how capable they are of meeting this child's needs," said Hannah Strauel, Bethany Christian Services' EFC Supervisor.

What's next for this four-year-old foster youth who is available for adoption? Shortly after placement, the foster family recognized that they were meant to be this child's forever family and are currently in the beginning stages of the adoption process. EFC services assisted in promoting stability for this young child, which led him to finding his forever home.

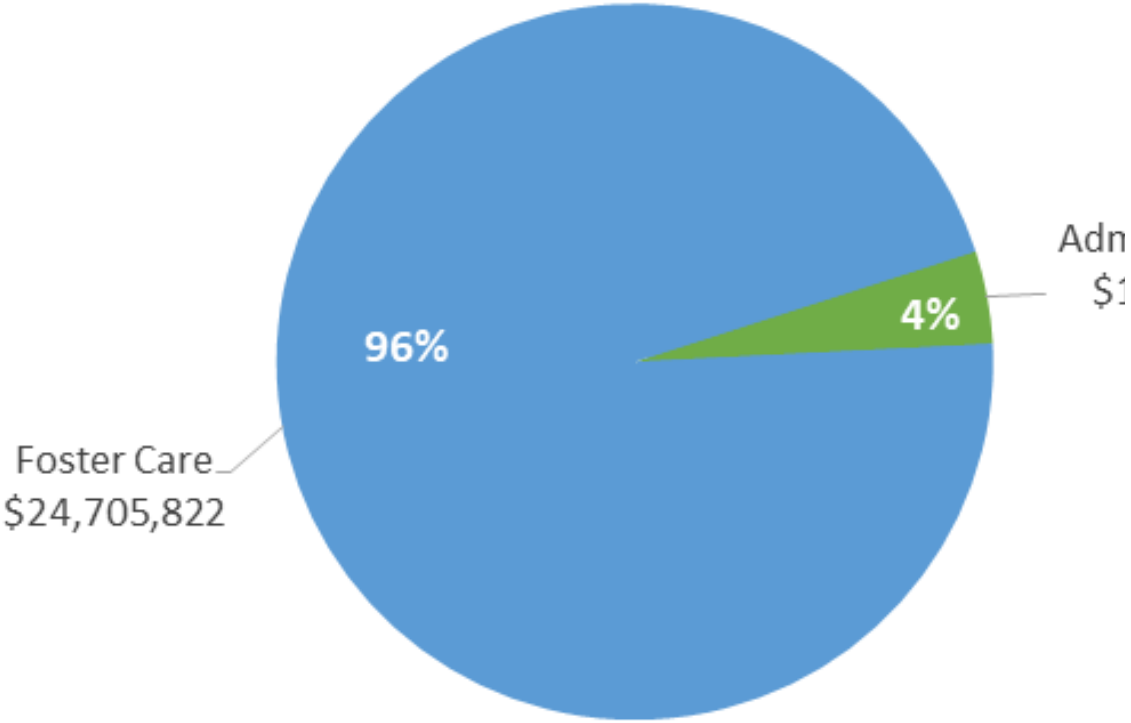
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## Finances in Foster Care

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WMPC began operations on October 1, 2017, with an estimated operating budget of \$35,000,000. Over the first nine months, WMPC spent \$25,786,321 on total operations, or 73.7 per cent of the estimated budget. Of the amount spent in total operations, \$24,705,822 (96 per cent of total expenditures) was passed through to the WMPC partners for foster care and adoption services while \$1,080,499 (4 per cent) was spent on WMPC staffing and administrative expenses.

**WMPC Expenses**  
**October 2017 - June 2018**  
**Total \$25,786,321**



# Here's what's new...

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Head over to [www.fosterkentkids.care](http://www.fosterkentkids.care) to check out our new branding for Foster Kent Kids, the coalition of Kent County child placing agencies that are responsible for recruitment of foster parents!

[Foster Kent Kids](http://www.fosterkentkids.care)

WMPC's website has new updates! Stop by [www.wmpc.care](http://www.wmpc.care) to view our *WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW* tab. It has everything you need to know about WMPC's documents, reports, and policies.

[WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW](#)



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**West Michigan Partnership for Children is administering an innovative, performance-based funding model for foster care funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).**

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