Child Welfare Outcomes

Lunch & Learn

October 22, 2026

Adam Sechrist, LFD

Legislative Fiscal Division

Child Welfare: Main Service Categories

2027 Budget Category	General Fund	State Special Revenue	Federal Revenue
Foster Care Benefits	$26.6 Million	$1.4 Million	$8.4 Million
Adoption Benefits	$13.7 Million	$0	$17.1 Million
Guardianship Benefits	$9.5 Million	$0	$4.7 Million
Total	**$49.8 Million**	**$1.4 Million**	**$30.2 Million**

Data Source: SABHRS

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL DIVISION

Social Security Act: Title IV-E

FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP COVERS:

- ✓ Foster care
- ✓ Adoption
- ✓ Guardianship
- ✓ Administrative functions
- ✓ Prevention activities

- Provides federal matching funds depending on service/function
  (standard FMAP for most services; 50.0% for admin)
- State must prove compliance with federal regulations to continue receiving federal match
- Each case is subject to regular redetermination

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL DIVISION

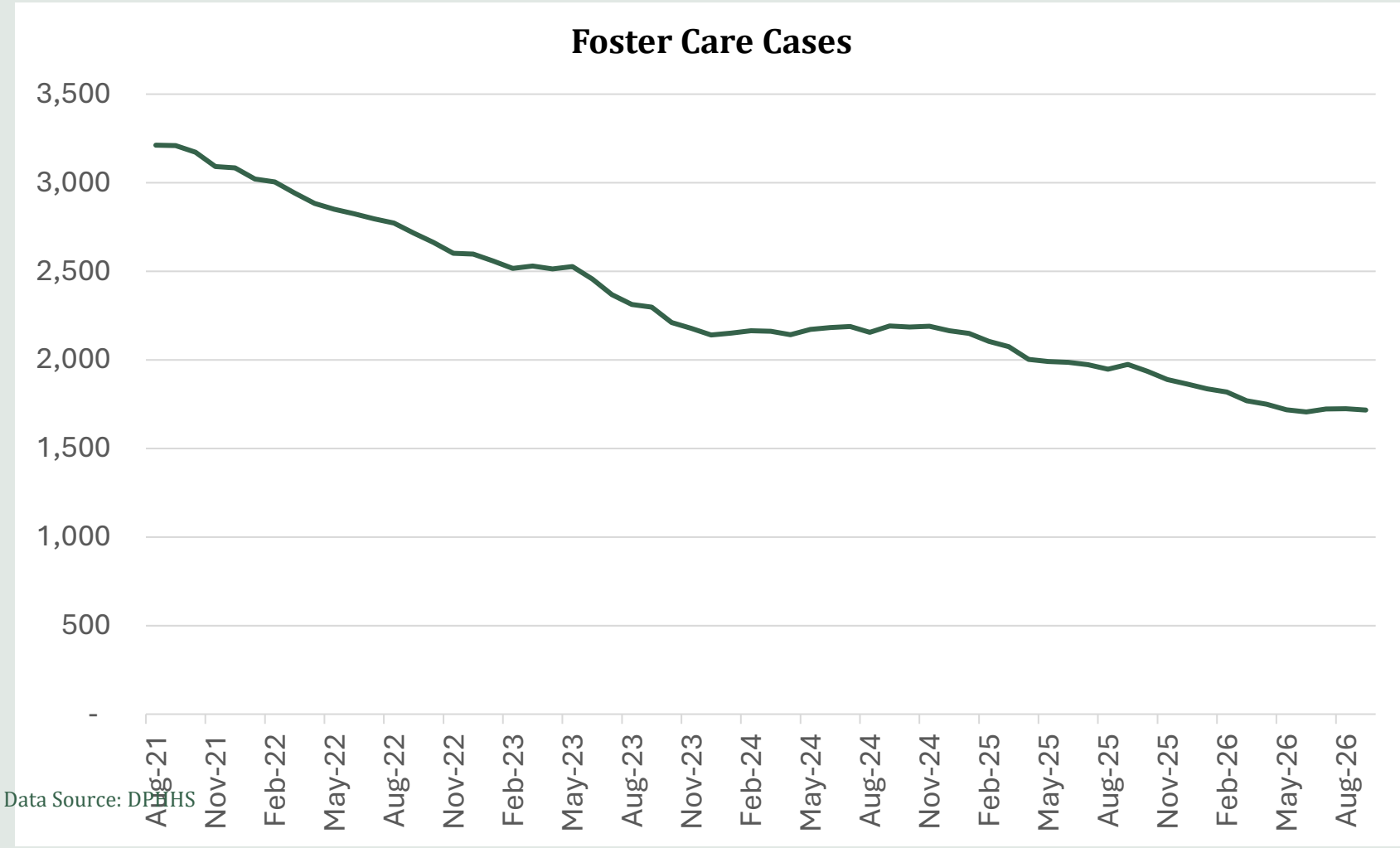
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

CASELOAD



Data Source: DPHHS

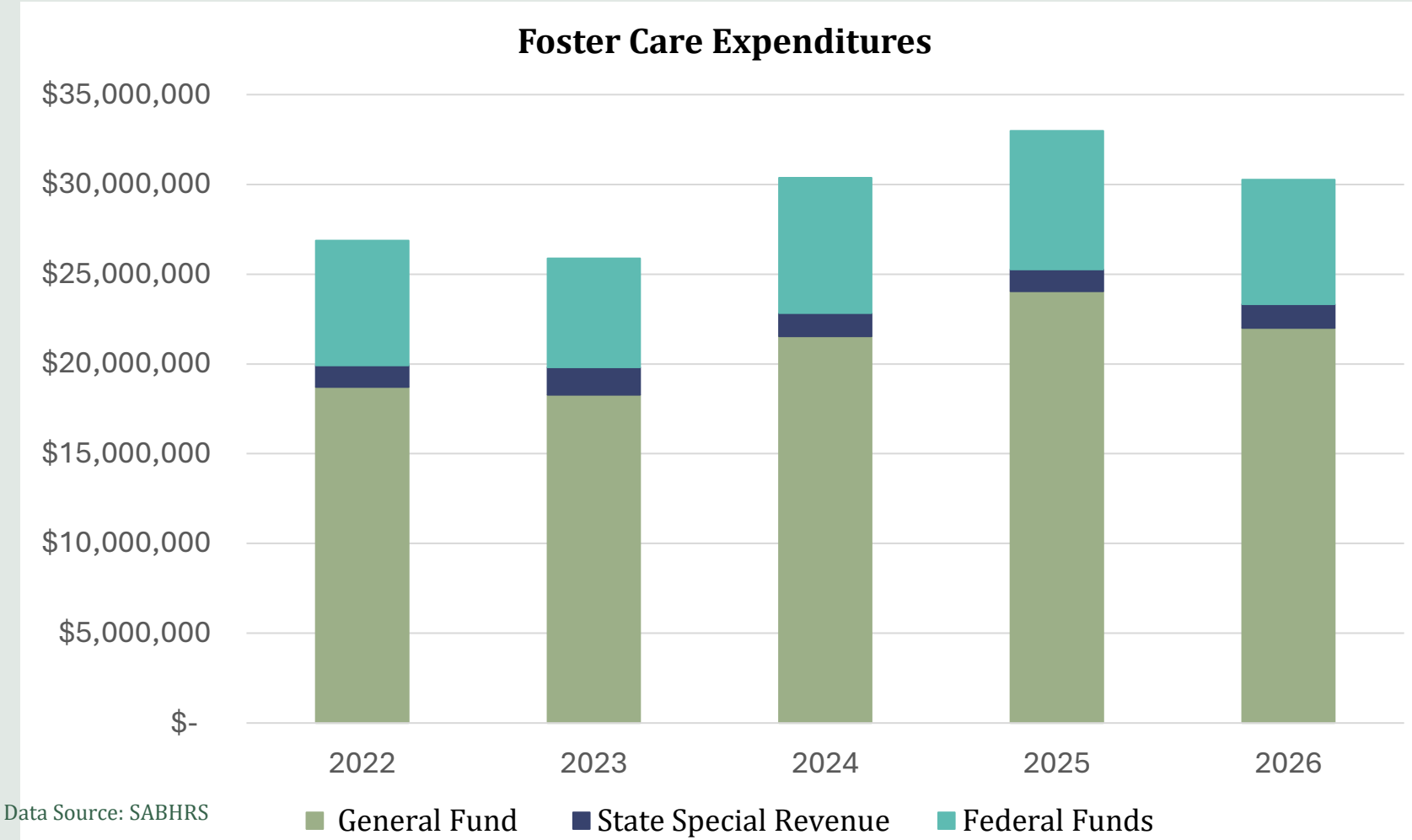
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

Costs



Data Source: SABHRS

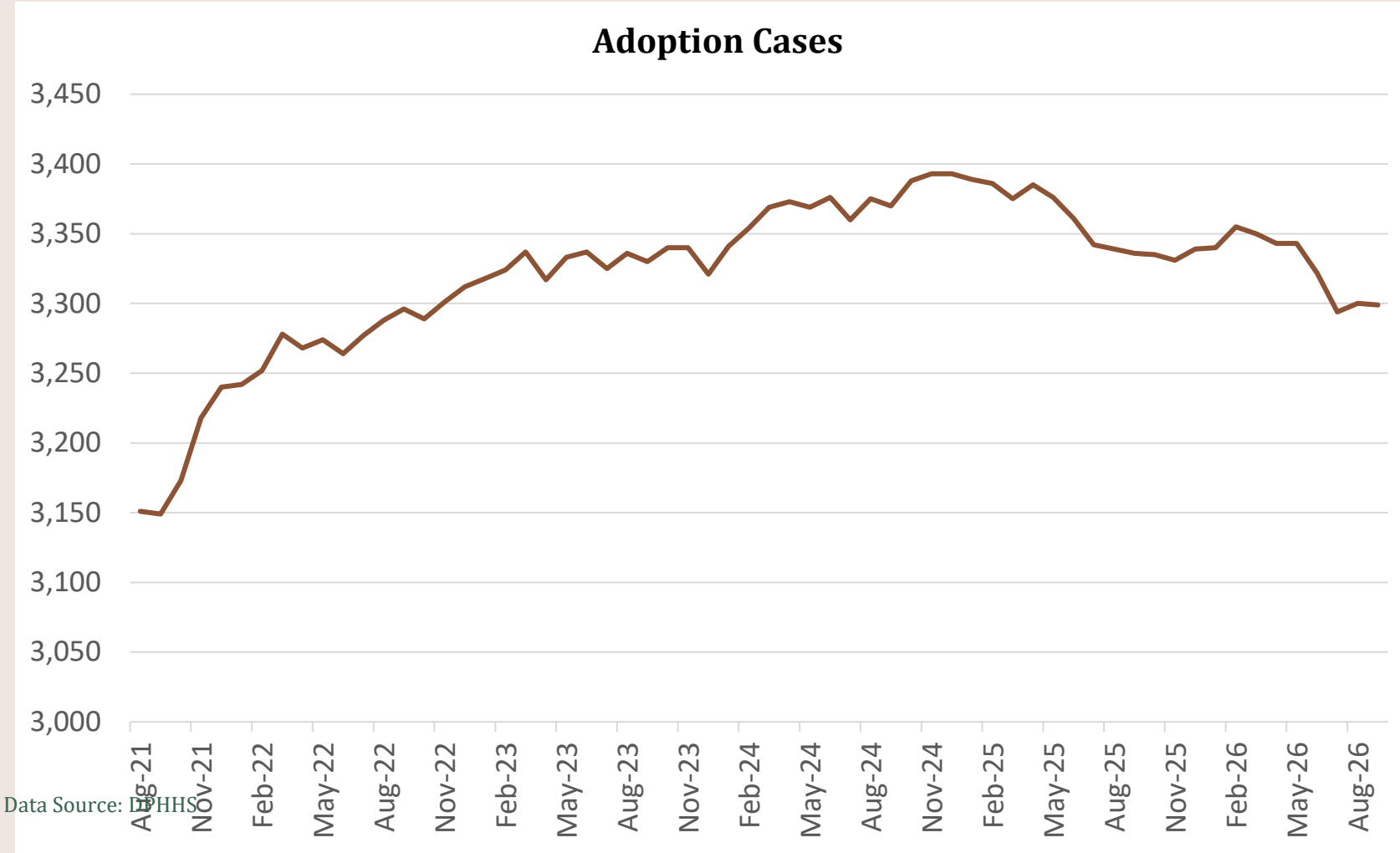
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

CASELOAD



Data Source: DPHHS

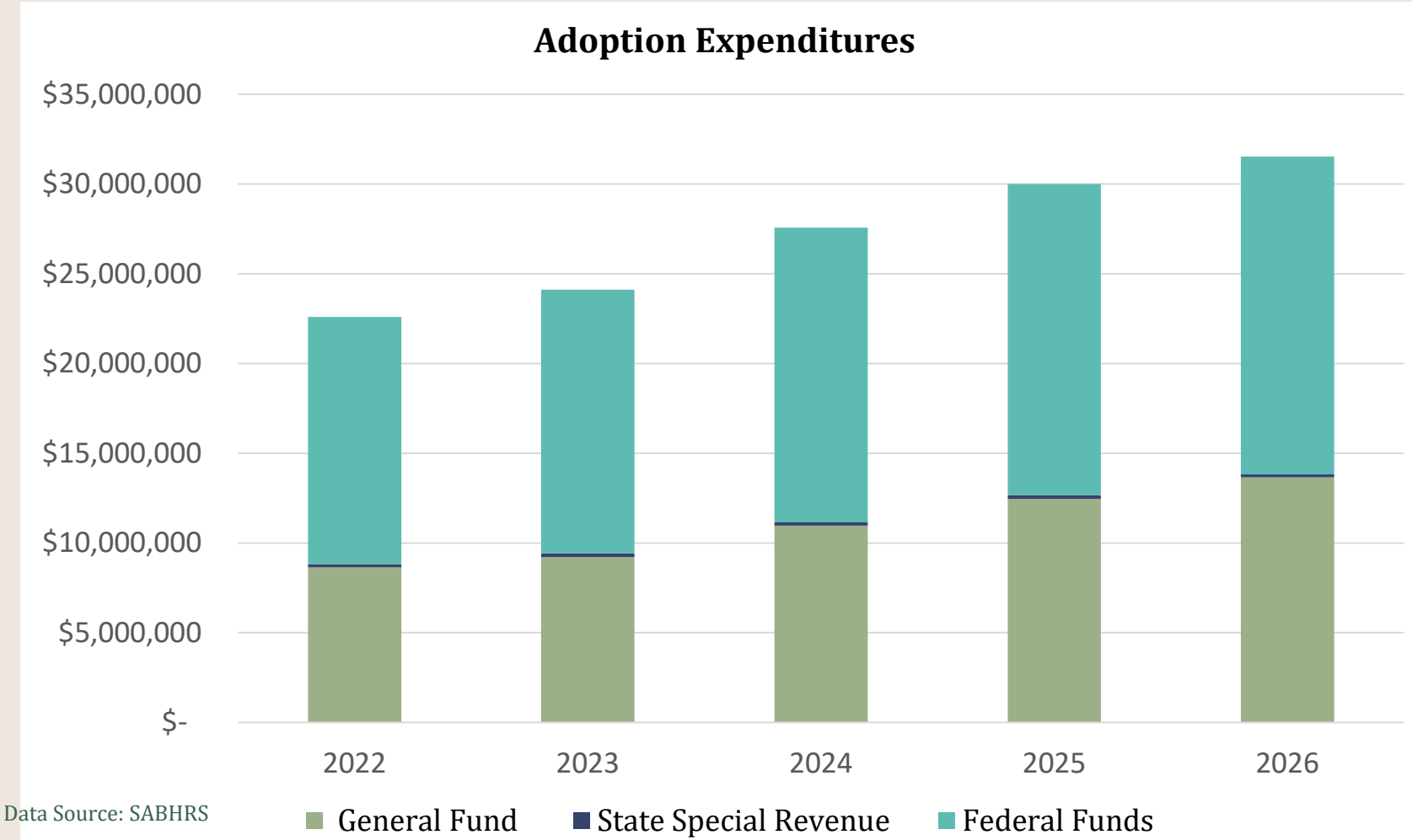
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

Costs



Data Source: SABHRS

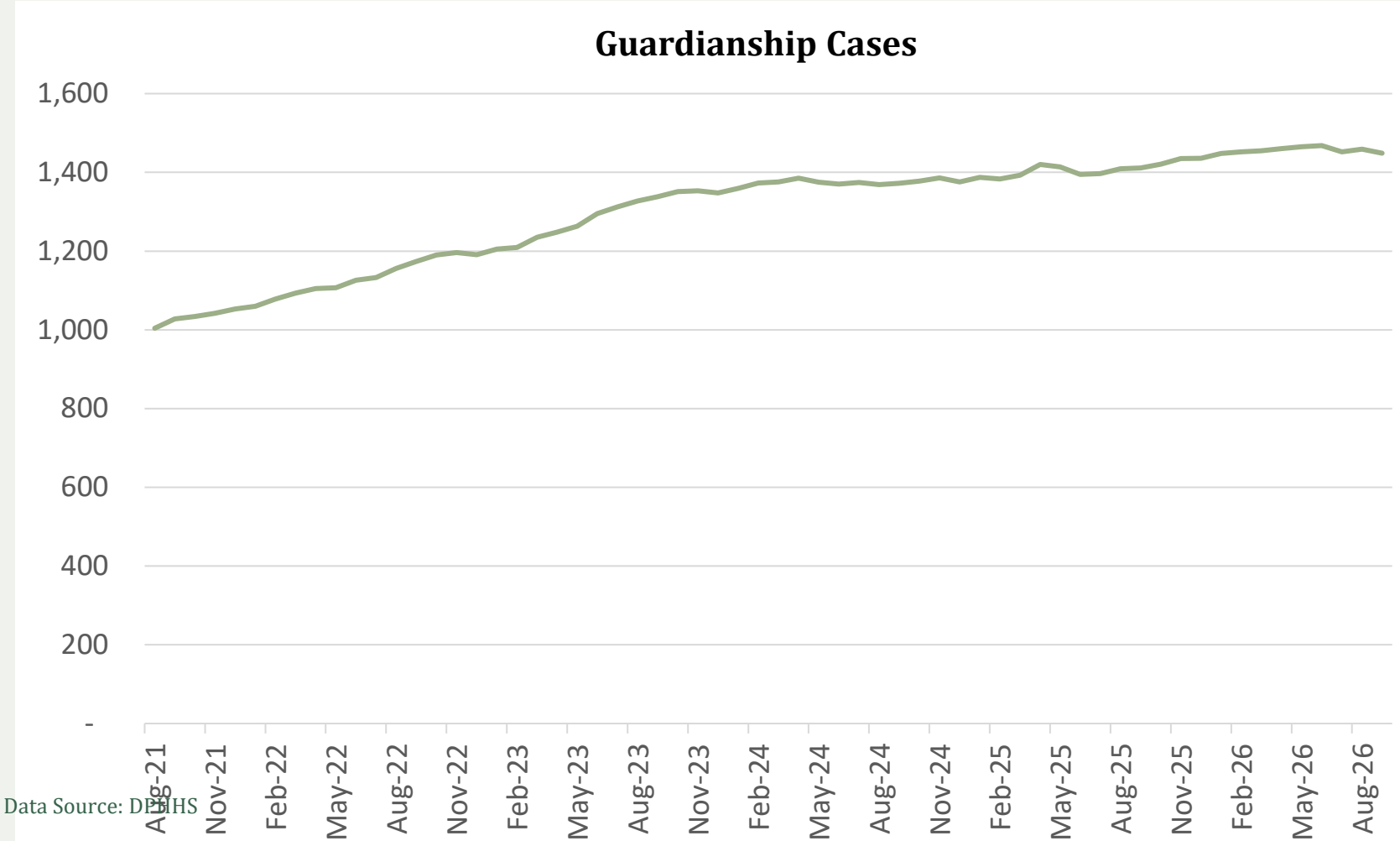
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

CASELOAD



Data Source: DPHHS

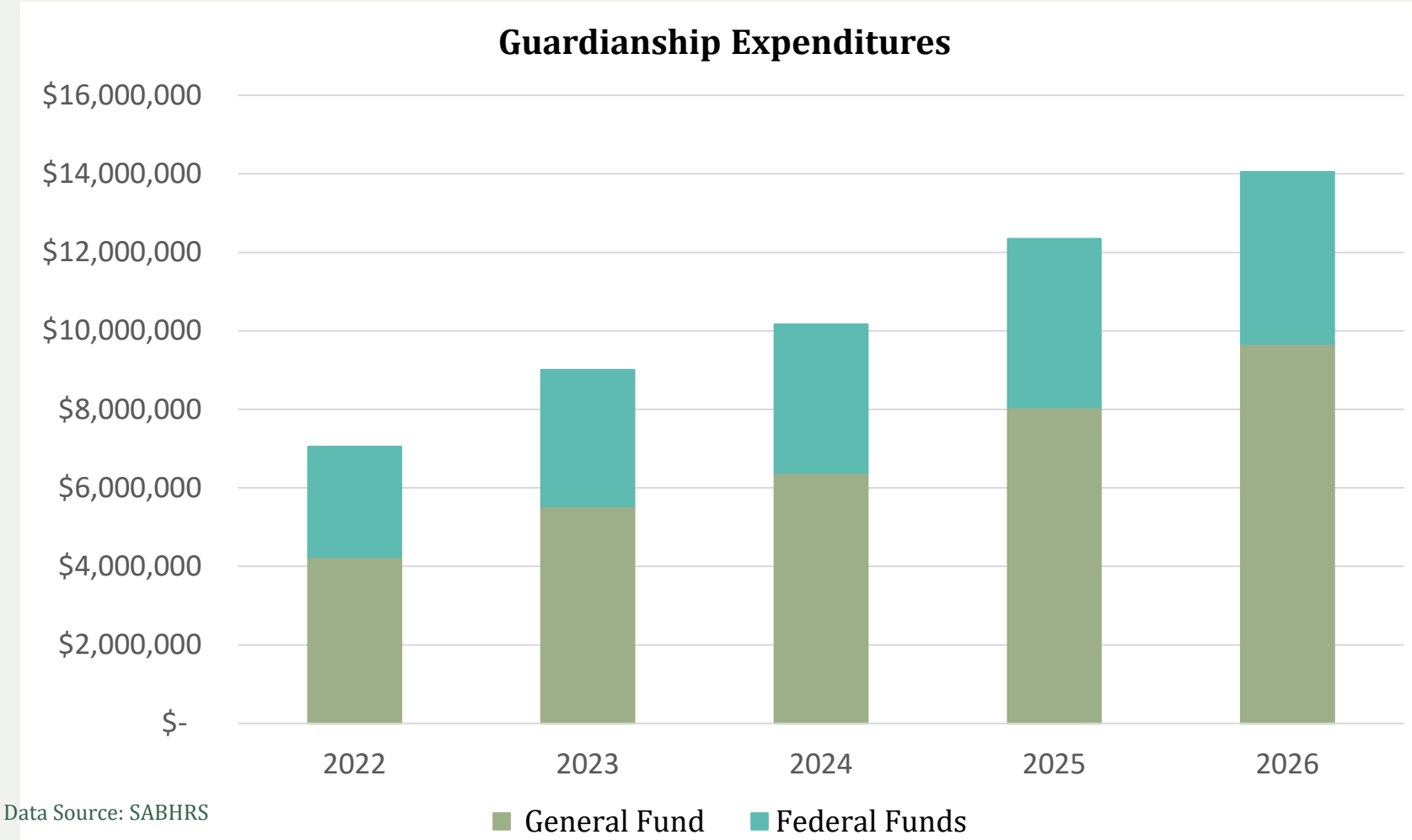
Foster Care

Adoption

Guardianship

Other

Costs



Data Source: SABHRS

Other Child Welfare Expenses

2027 Budget Category	General Fund	Federal Revenue
Field Services (Staff)	$24.3 Million	$9.5 Million
Title IV-E Passthrough	$0	$3.1 Million
Chafee Ind. Living	$575,000	$1.1 Million
Total	**$24.9 Million**	**$13.7 Million**

Data Source: SABHRS

Thank you!

Adam.Sechrist@legmt.gov

Office: 406-444-2538
Cell: 406-425-5923

LEGISLATIVE
FISCAL DIVISION