

Employment and Human Services Department

CalFresh Report



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (EHSD)
REPORT TO THE FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE | JULY 25, 2022
PRESENTED BY REBECCA DARNELL, WORKFORCE SERVICES INTERIM BUREAU DIRECTOR

CalFresh Overview



Contra Costa County at a Glance

**CalFresh Emergency Allotment anticipated to end October 2022
This results in at least a \$95 reduction in monthly benefit**

\$259,997,322

CalFresh assistance issued to
Contra Costa residents
between
July 2021 – June 2022

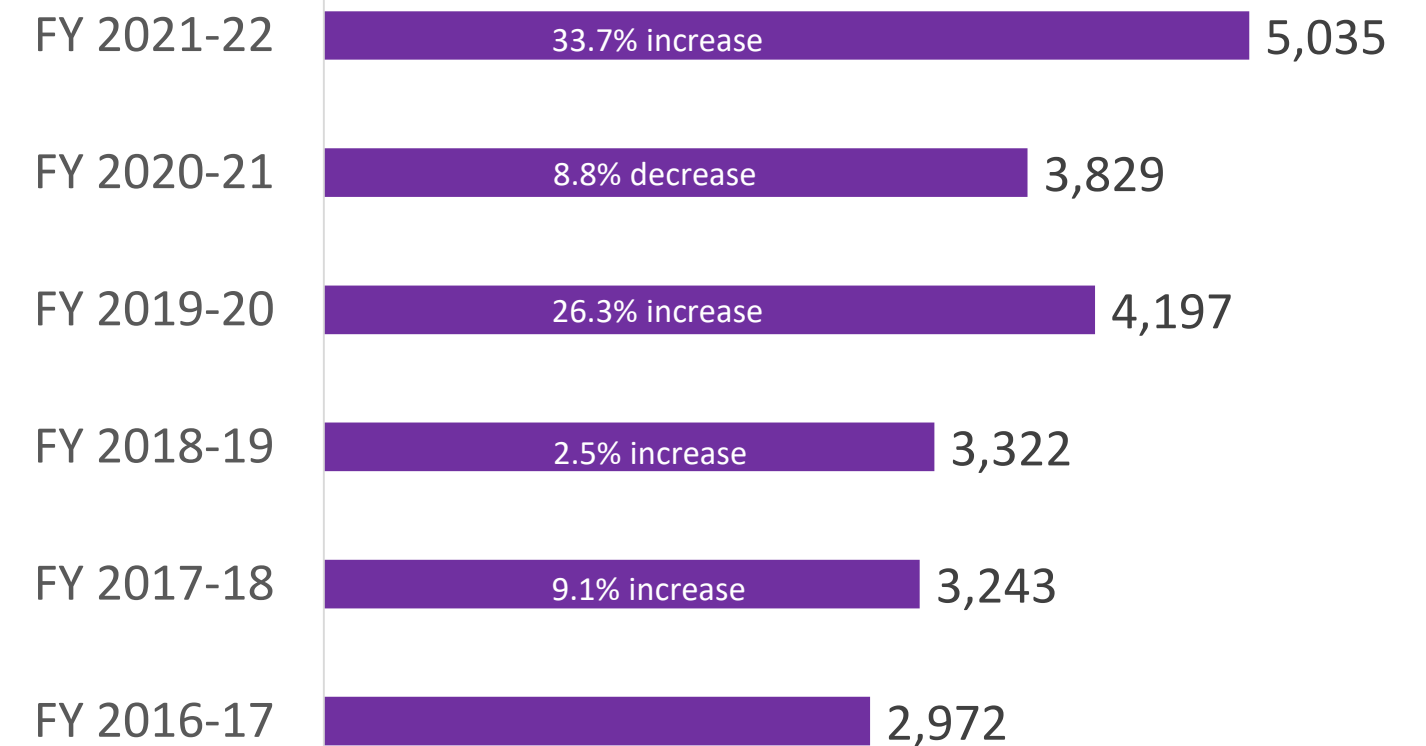
87,462

Residents on CalFresh as of
June 2022

31,486 (36%)

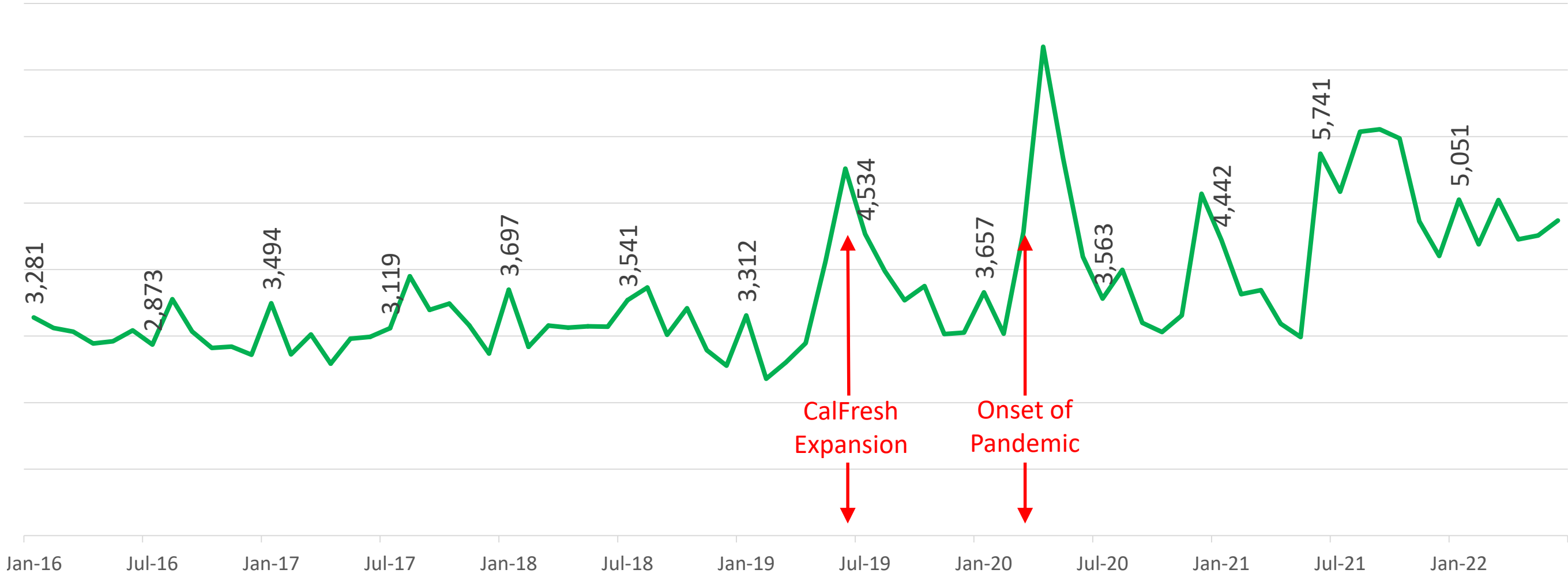
of CalFresh recipients are
children

Average Monthly CalFresh Applications 2019 - 2021



Application Trends

CalFresh Applications by Month January 2016 - April 2022



Source: CalWIN table AR_PGM_REQ_ON_SAWS1

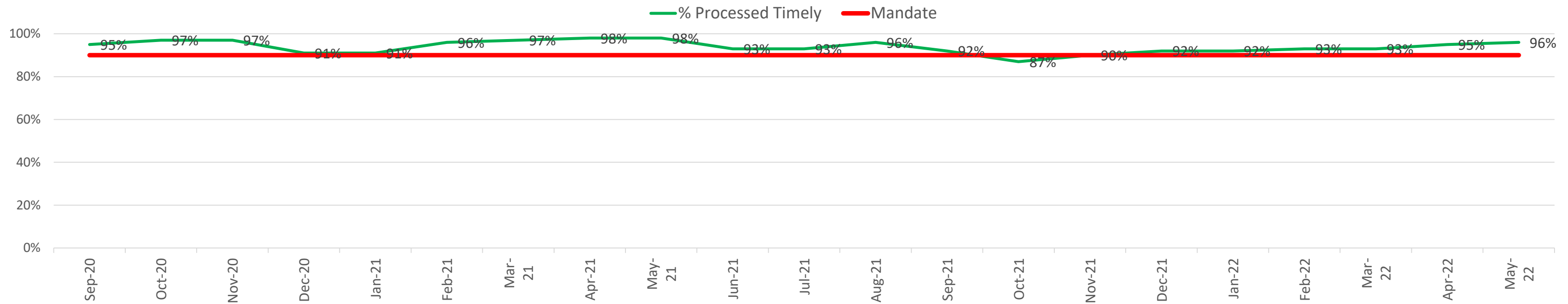
Fiscal Year	Total Apps	Denial Rate
FY 2016-17	35,659	59.8%
FY 2017-18	38,910	54.8%
FY 2018-19	39,860	54.8%
FY 2019-20	50,358	83.9%
FY 2020-21	45,946	59.9%
FY 2021-22	60,424	60.3%

Top 3 Denial Reasons

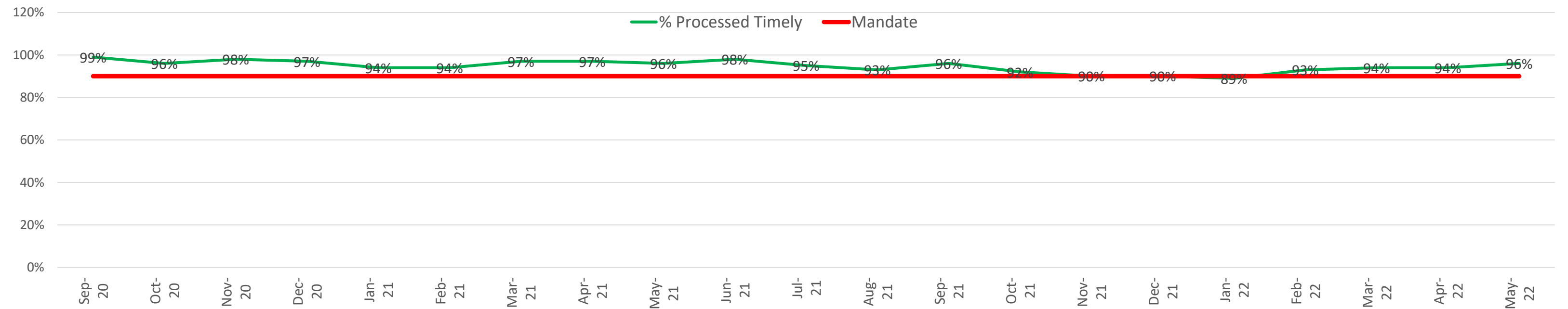
1. Over income
2. Missed mandatory interview appointment
3. Failed to provide mandatory verification

Application Processing Mandates

Percentage of Expedited CalFresh Benefits Processed Timely



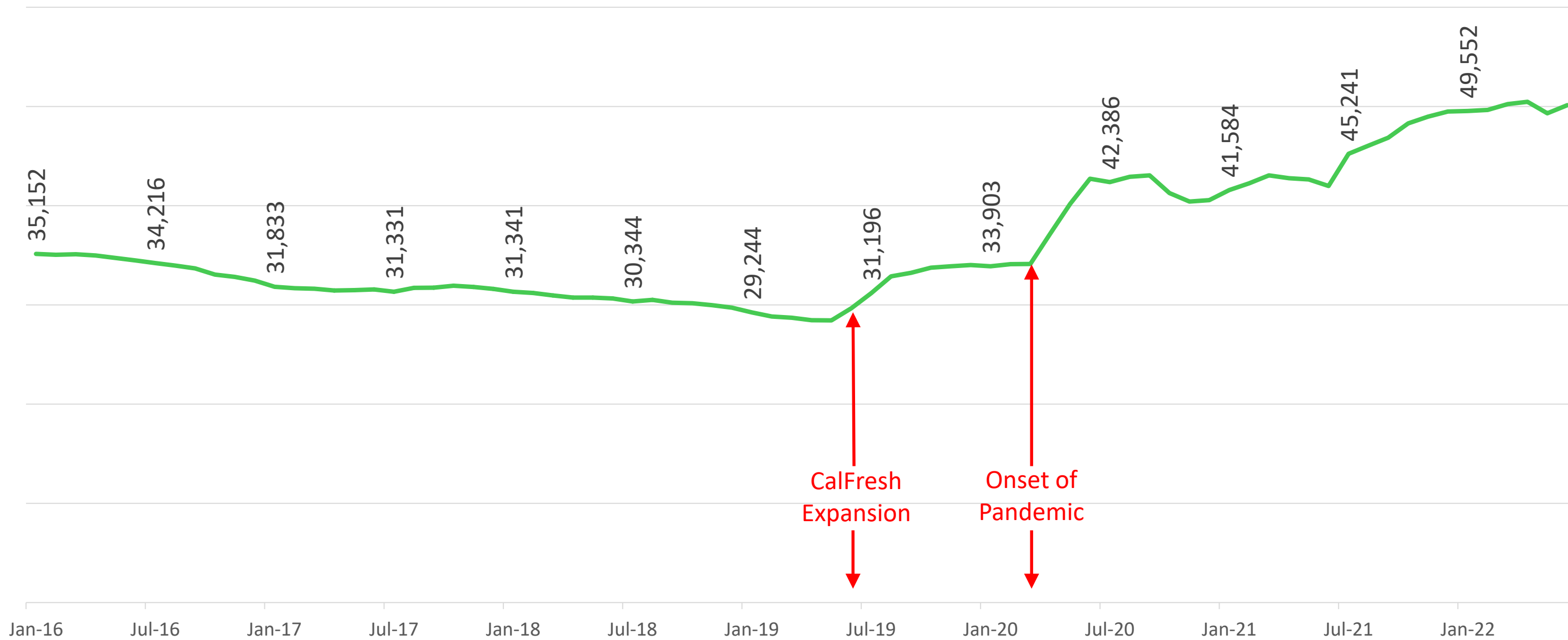
Percentage of Applications Processed Timely



Source: CF 296 State Report, September 2020 to May 2022

Caseload Trends

Participant Households by Month January 2016 - April 2022



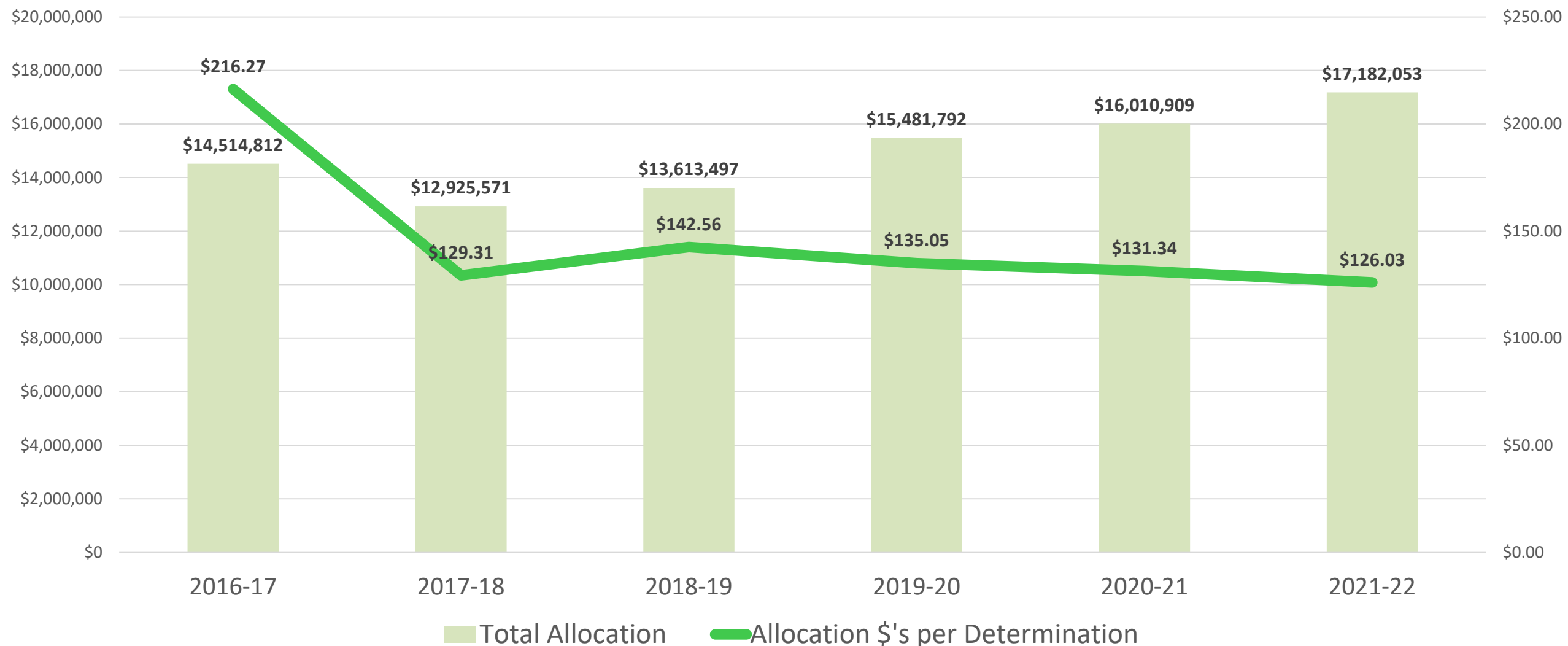
Fiscal Year	Average Individuals per Household
FY 2016-17	2.01
FY 2017-18	1.99
FY 2018-19	1.95
FY 2019-20	1.83
FY 2020-21	1.80
FY 2021-22	1.76

Source: EHSD Program and Data Dashboard (CF 296 State Report)

Allocation Amounts



CalFresh: Total Allocations vs. Allocation per Eligibility Determination, FY 2016-17 to Present (through May 2022)



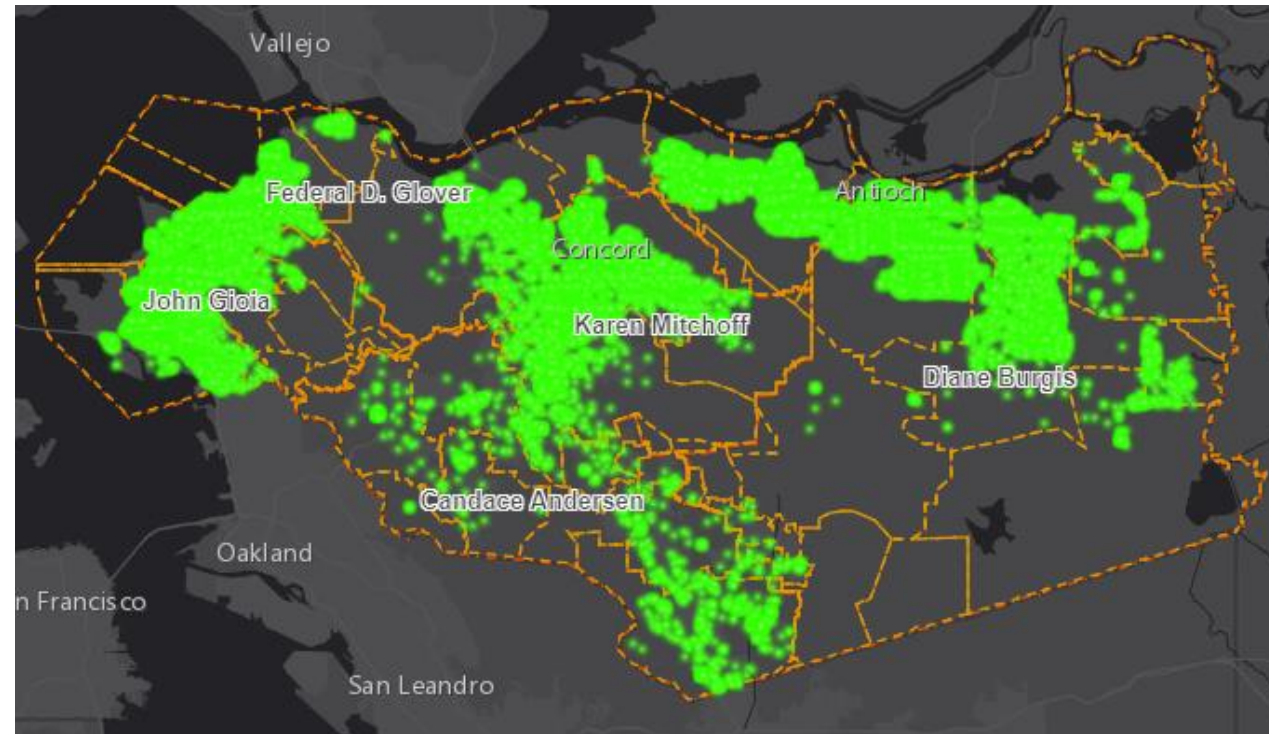
While the CalFresh allocation increased over time, the workload associated with higher demand for CalFresh increased at a faster rate. From FY 2016-17 to present, allocation dollars per CalFresh eligibility determination decreased by nearly 42%.

Many counties throughout California are raising concerns regarding the methodology for determining CalFresh allocation amounts. Unfunded mandates coupled with increased outreach have resulted in the inability to staff appropriately for the CalFresh workload.

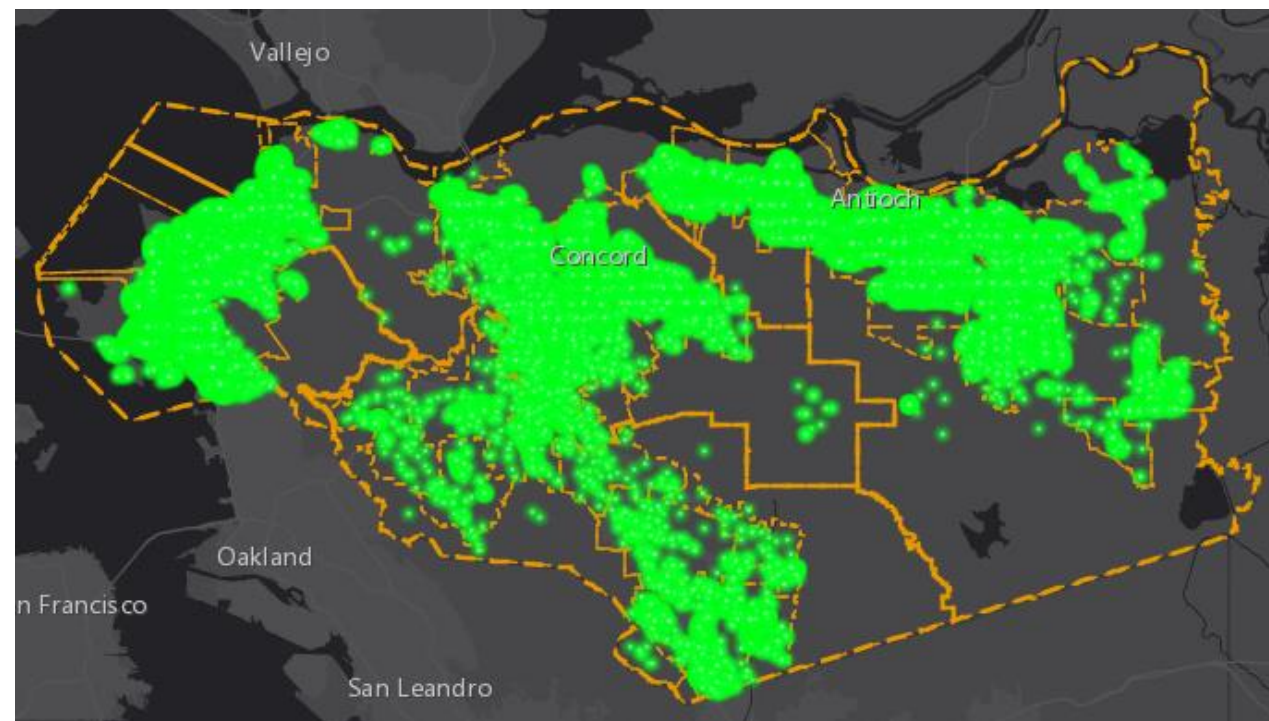
Source: Allocation dollars per determination includes eligibility determinations, processing SAR7s and redeterminations. Case management, phone calls and case action such as add a person are not included.

Caseload Changes

March 2020 Households



May 2022 Households



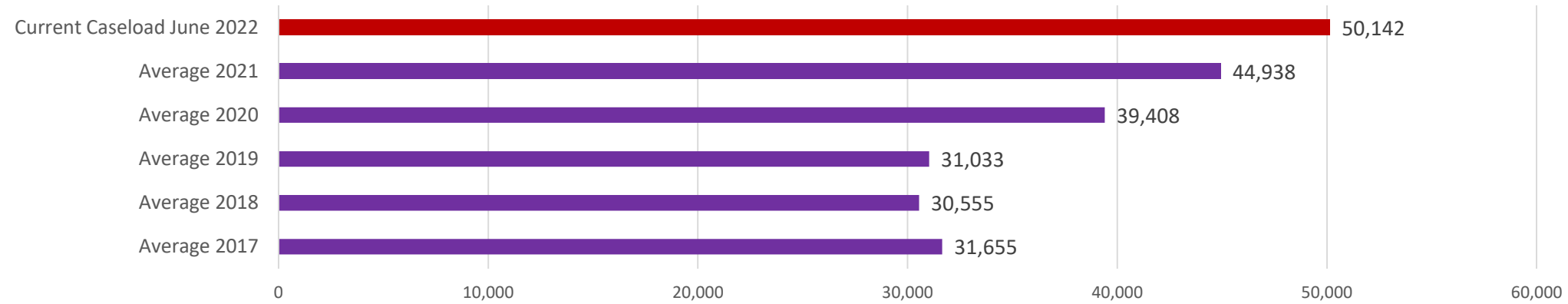
Sup District	March 2020 Households	May 2022 Households	Change
District 1	9,601	13,383	+39%
District 2	1,101	2,062	+87%
District 3	7,678	10,376	+35%
District 4	4,871	7,454	+53%
District 5	10,336	14,006	+36%
Total	33,587	47,281	+41%

Key Observations

1. There was an overall increase in CalFresh households in Contra Costa (+41%) since the beginning of the pandemic
2. Some areas in the County experienced a higher increase than others; most notably, District 2 (+87%) and District 4 (+53%)

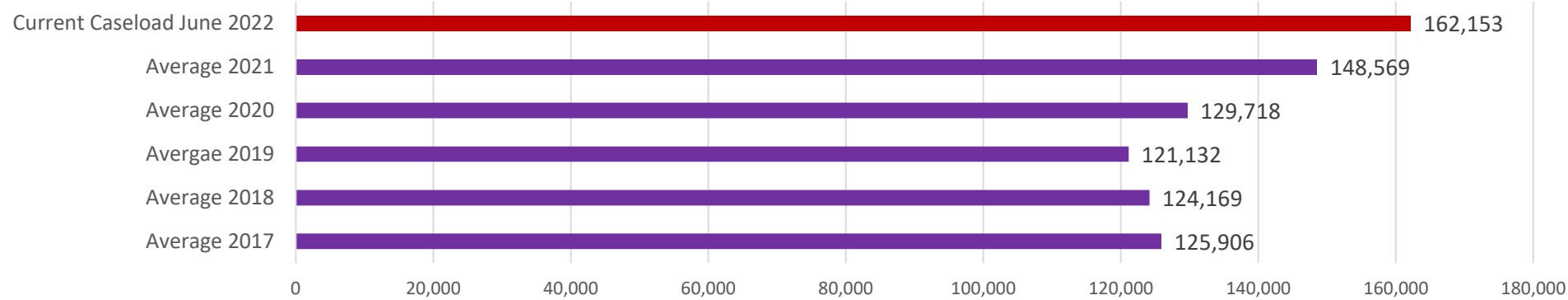
Program Comparison

CalFresh Caseload Averages 2017-2021 and Current (as of June 2022)



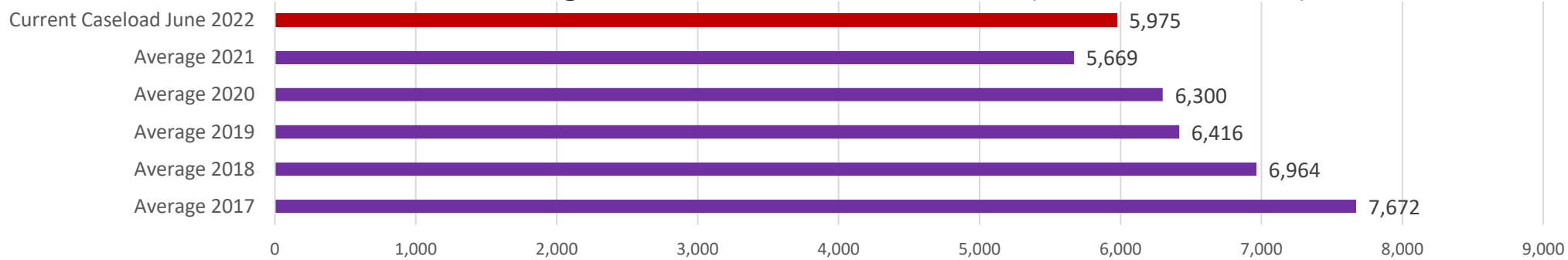
Number of CalFresh
Individuals served as of
June 2022:
87,462

Medi-Cal Caseload Averages 2017-2021 and Current (as of June 2022)



Number of Medi-Cal
Individuals served as of
June 2022:
314,305

CalWORKs Caseload Averages 2017-2021 and Current (as of June 2022)



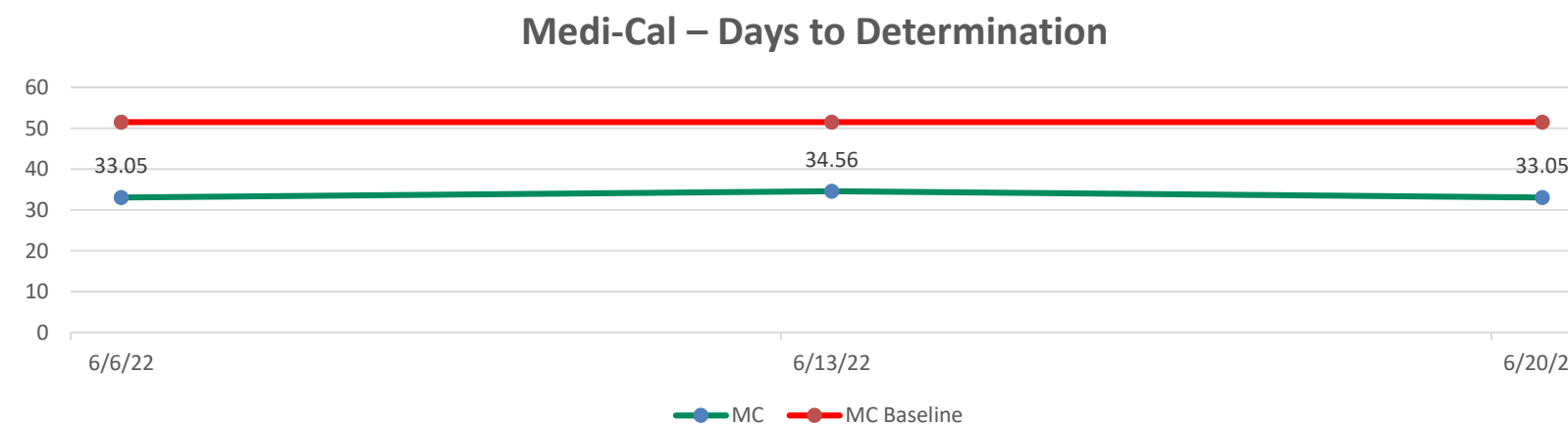
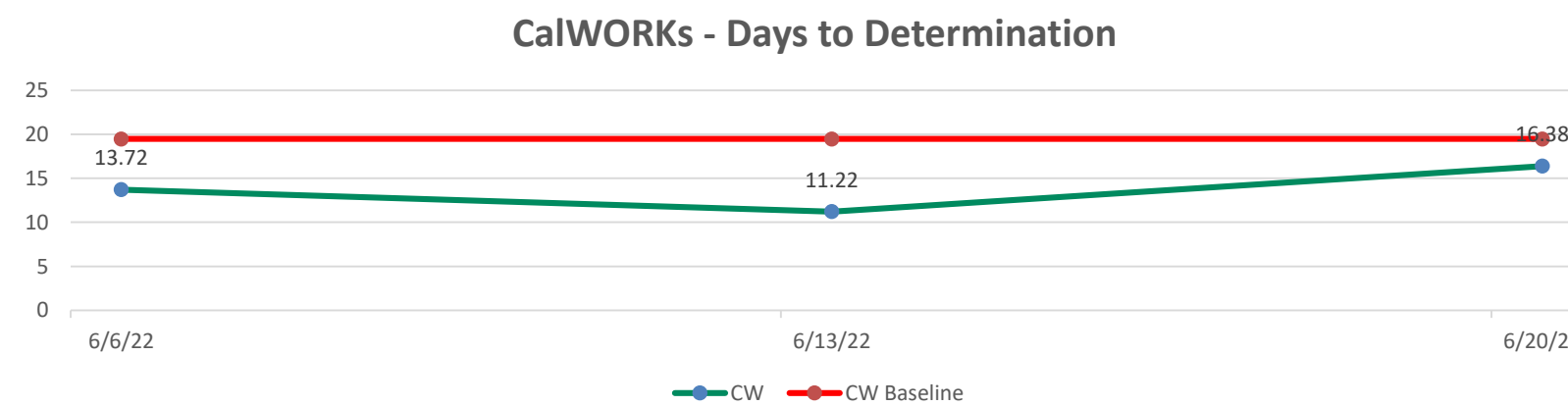
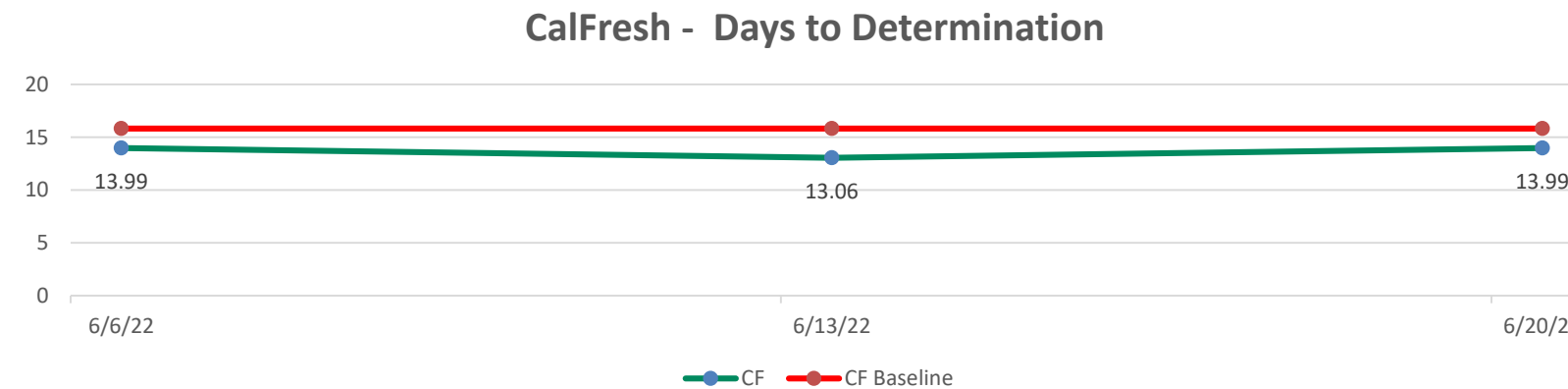
Number of CalWORKs
Individuals served as of
June 2022:
14,219

**Workforce
Services
benefit
programs serve
321,305
unduplicated
individuals
in 174,901
CalFresh, Medi-
Cal, and
CalWORKs
cases as of
June 30, 2022**

Business Process Redesign Update Charts

In October 2021, CDSS, Change and Innovation Agency (CIA), and EHSD began **Business Process Redesign** efforts to increase the likelihood of successful determination of eligibility

- Staff on workgroups developed the county plan
- Three main efforts were implemented:
 - ✓ Cold Calls
 - ✓ First Contact Resolution
 - ✓ Consistency Tools



KEYS Program for CalFresh Recipients



KEYS (Keeping Employment equals Your Success) Auto Loan Program

- Provides auto loans to assist participants in purchasing a reliable vehicle.
- Previously, this program was only available to CalWORKs recipients. In FY 2018-19 (pre-pandemic), 7 customers received cars with this program.
- Starting in May 2022, EHSD was able to expand the program to include a small pilot of CalFresh recipients.



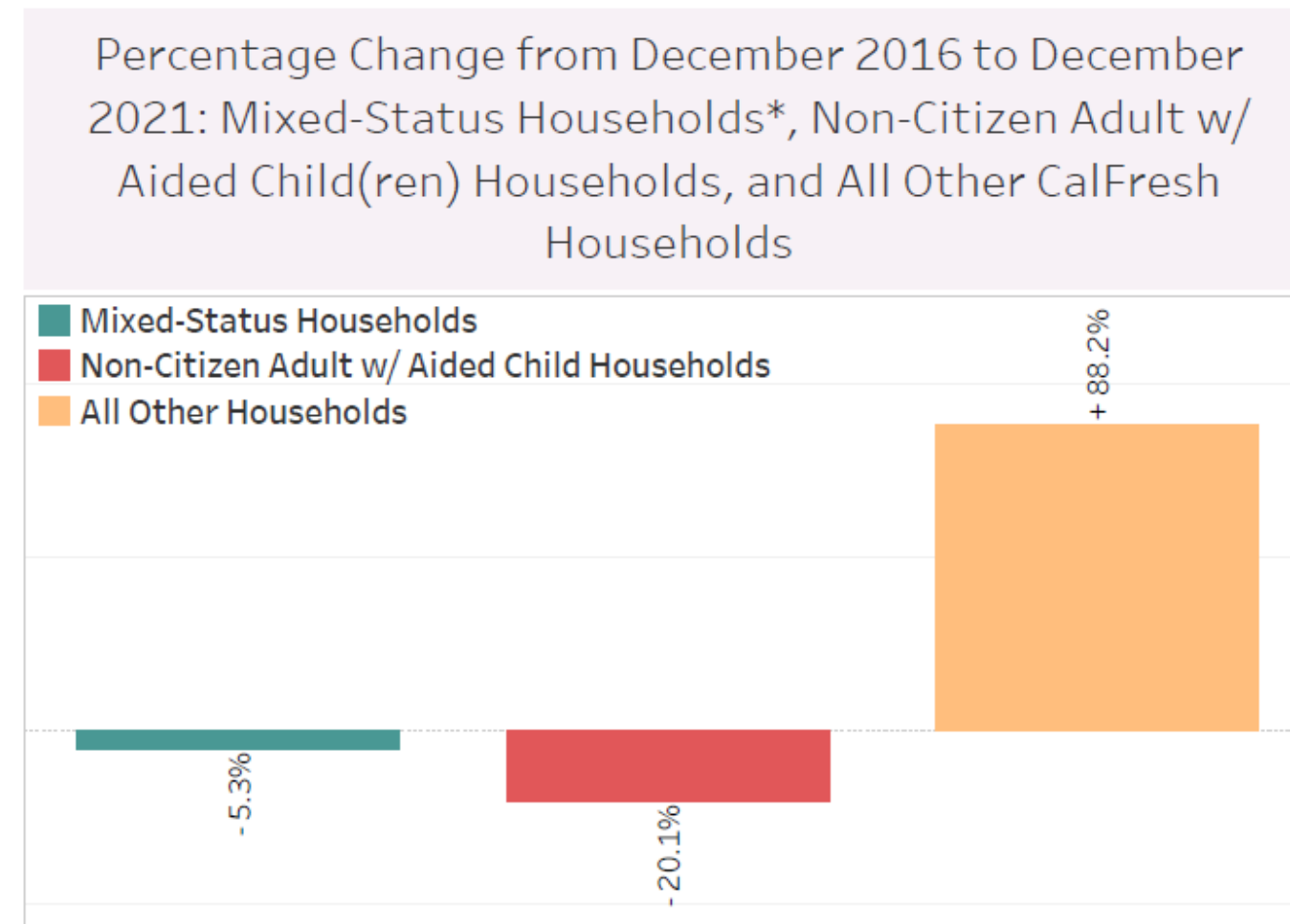
Wrap Up

CalFresh has been a key support to vulnerable populations

- Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) allowed families with school age children to temporarily receive emergency nutrition benefits. School-age children eligible to free or reduced-price meals and age 0-5 CalFresh recipients received the benefit. In Contra Costa, P-EBT has assisted approximately **65,919 free or reduced-meal recipients per year over three school years¹**, plus **a portion of 14,847 age 0-5 CalFresh recipients²** between October 2020 and August 2021 not receiving free or reduced-price meals.
- Per latest Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) Fact Sheet dated April 25, 2022, **each \$1 in CalFresh spent results in \$1.5 in economic activity³**

What's going on with the populations we serve?

- The Public Charge “chilling effect” continues to have lingering impacts on enrollment of mixed-status and non-citizen w/ aided child households



* Mixed-status households are households which have at least one non-citizen and one citizen

Erick:
Confirming that “all other households” does not include mixed and non-citizen households

- Impact of inflation on purchasing power, stimulus supports fading, and risk of an economic recession

¹ California Department of Education (CDE) Free or Reduced Meals Data

² CalWIN Table MR0007E

³ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: California CalFresh SNAP Fact Sheet

Questions?

