

Hennepin County

2027 budget presentation

Law, Safety and
Justice

October 7, 2026





Agenda

- Serving residents
- 2027 proposed budget
- Line of business priorities
- Discussion

Leaders



Chela Guzmán-Wiegert
Assistant County
Administrator



Jeanette Boerner
Adult Representation
Services



Mary Ellen Heng
Community Corrections and
Rehabilitation



Dawanna Witt
Hennepin County Sheriff



Mary Moriarty
Hennepin County Attorney



Michael Berger
Chief Public Defender

Serving residents

60%

INCREASE IN ARS PREVENTION SERVICES

ARS provides legal advice and holistic support to individuals at risk for child protection or a guardianship action

78%

CASES SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED

Successful completion of probation/parole supervision supports individual well-being and community safety

80

ARS ANNUAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EVENTS

Sharing information about legal rights and resources with residents

Budget Overview

Operating budget

(In millions)	2026 adjusted	2027 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	16.11	16.35	1.5%
County Attorney's Office	92.79	99.68	7.4%
Adult Representation Services	22.96	24.55	6.9%
Court Functions	190,263K	351,069K	84.5%
Public Defender's Office	4.46	3.27	-26.5%
Sheriff's Office	182.85	204.27	11.7%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	150.42	157.32	4.6%
Radio Communications	4.81	4.94	2.6%
Total	\$474.59	\$510.73	7.6%

Property tax

(In millions)	2026 adjusted	2027 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	15.47	16.03	3.6%
County Attorney's Office	85.26	92.39	8.4%
Adult Representation Services	21.35	22.52	5.5%
Court Functions	190,263K	351,069K	84.5%
Public Defender's Office	4.42	3.27	-25.8%
Sheriff's Office	162.61	183.76	13.0%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	121.23	127.97	5.6%
Radio Communications	0	0	0.00%
Total	\$410.52	\$446.30	8.7%

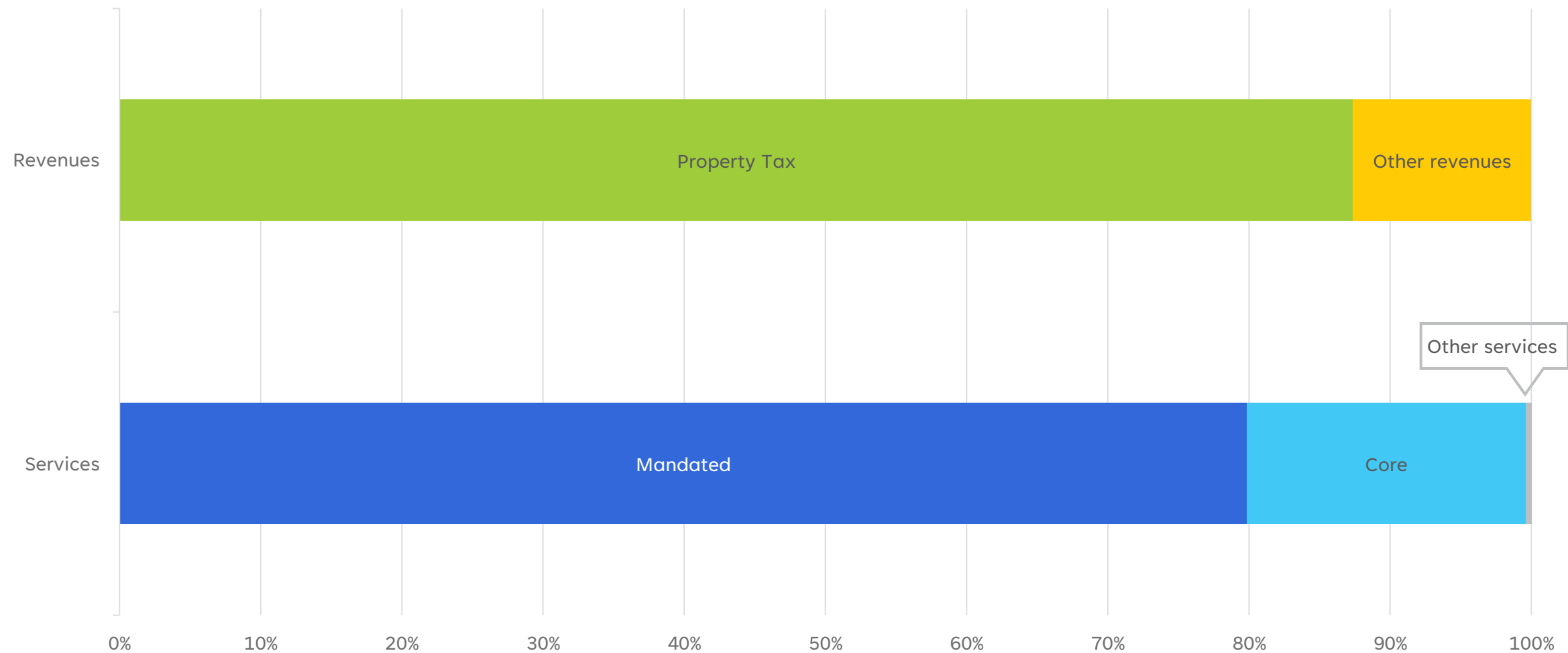
Full-time equivalents (FTEs)

	2026 adjusted	2027 proposed	Percent change
Law, Safety and Justice Operations	74.5	71.0	-4.70%
County Attorney's Office	521.6	520.9	-0.14%
Adult Representation Services	115.0	115.0	0.00%
Court Functions	0.0	0.0	0.00%
Public Defender's Office	17.3	12.8	-26.09%
Sheriff's Office	883.0	901.0	2.04%
Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	889.8	868.2	-2.43%
Radio Communications	0.0	0.0	0.00%
Total	2,501.2	2,488.8	-0.49%

Public Defender's Office budget summary

(In millions)	2026 adjusted	2027 proposed	Percent change
Operating Budget	\$4.46	\$3.27	-26.5%
Property Taxes	\$4.42	\$3.27	-25.8%
FTEs	17.25	12.75	-26.09%

2027 revenues and services summaries*



**Current data is an estimate, work is ongoing*

Achieving countywide priorities

- Equitable access
- Responsive strategies
- Steady stewardship



Equitable access

Advancing prevention and intervention

- 77% of ARS HELP clients are not referred to court

Advocating beyond the courtroom

- ARS provides pre-court legal advice in parent representation and housing court cases
- Legal clinics for ACF residents each month

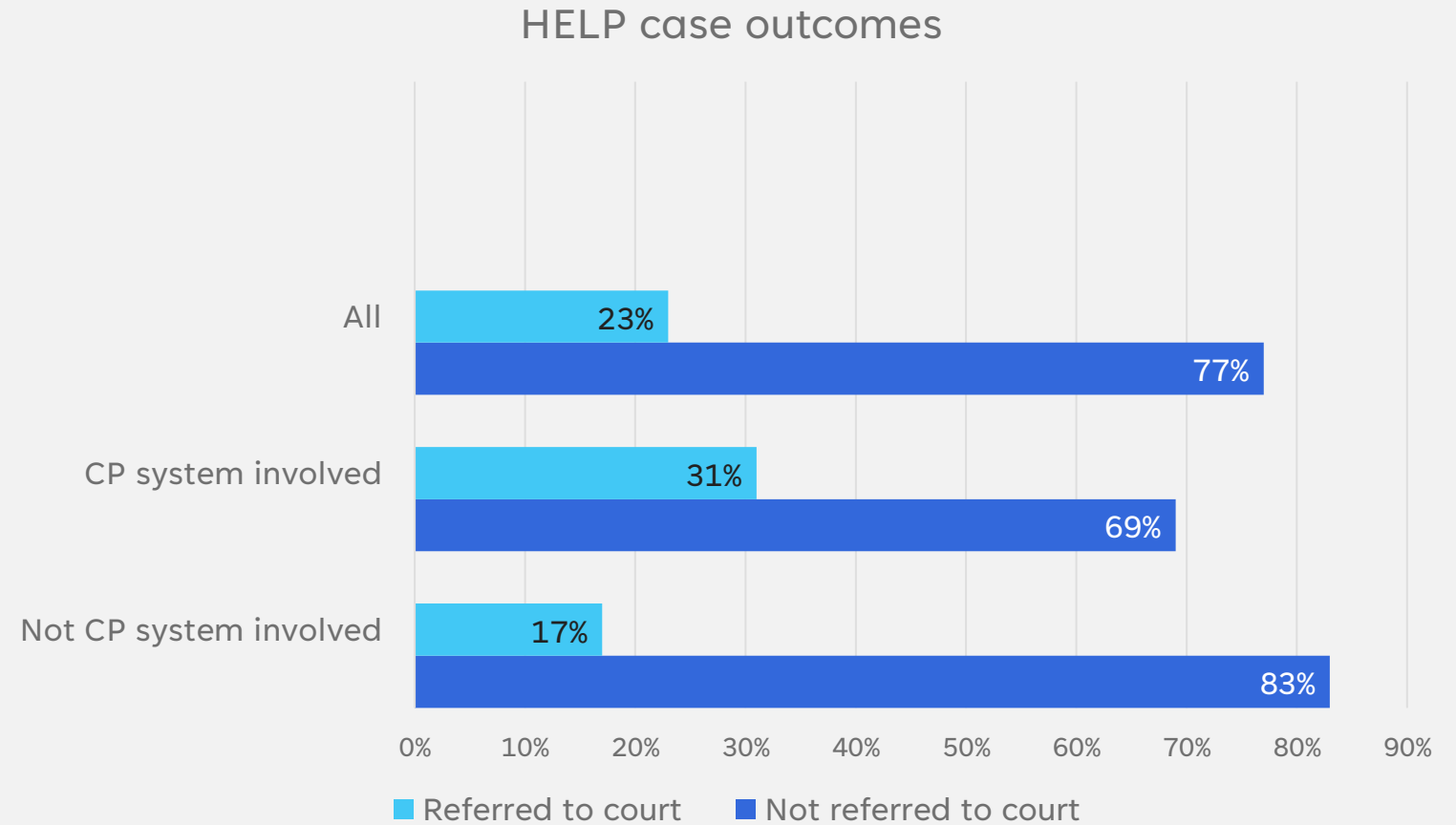
Connecting individuals to technology and educational resources

- 83 ACF residents enrolled in GED classes since February 2026
- 39 hotspots provided to supervision clients



Health Equity Legal Project (HELP)

ARS program designed for families at risk of child protection involvement



Responsive strategies

Mobilized rapid response during Operation Metro Surge

- Handled 33 habeas related matters

Expanding guardianship services

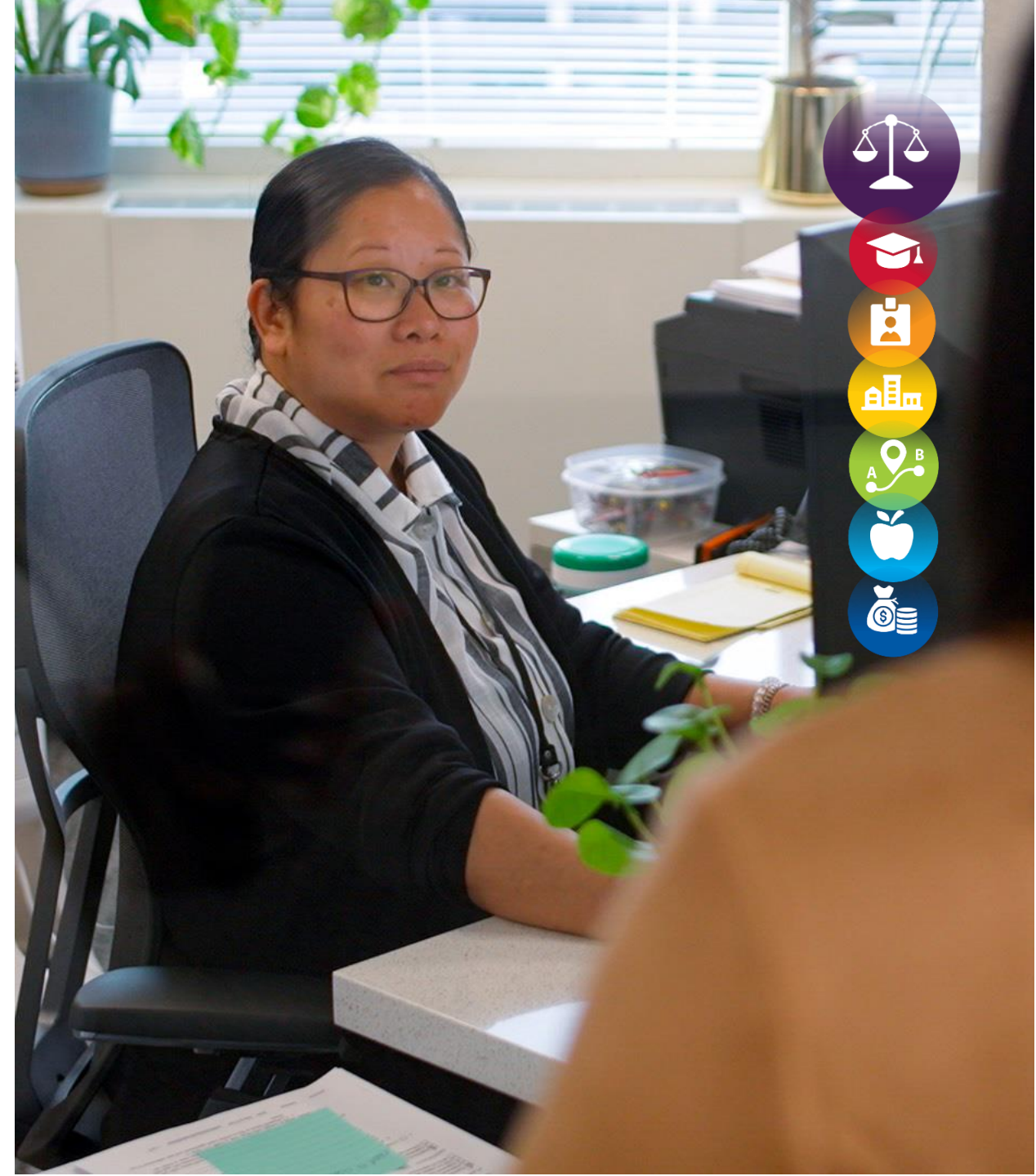
- 175 ARS Supported Decision Making clients regained or attained independence

Providing access to opioid harm-reduction tools and education

- 1,329 Narcan kits distributed at probation offices

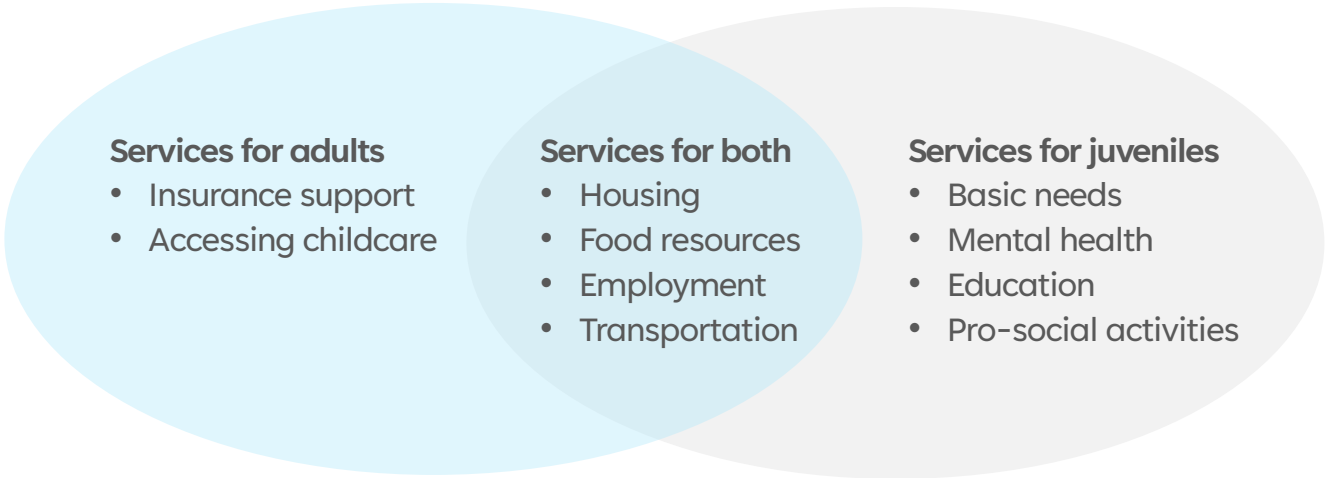
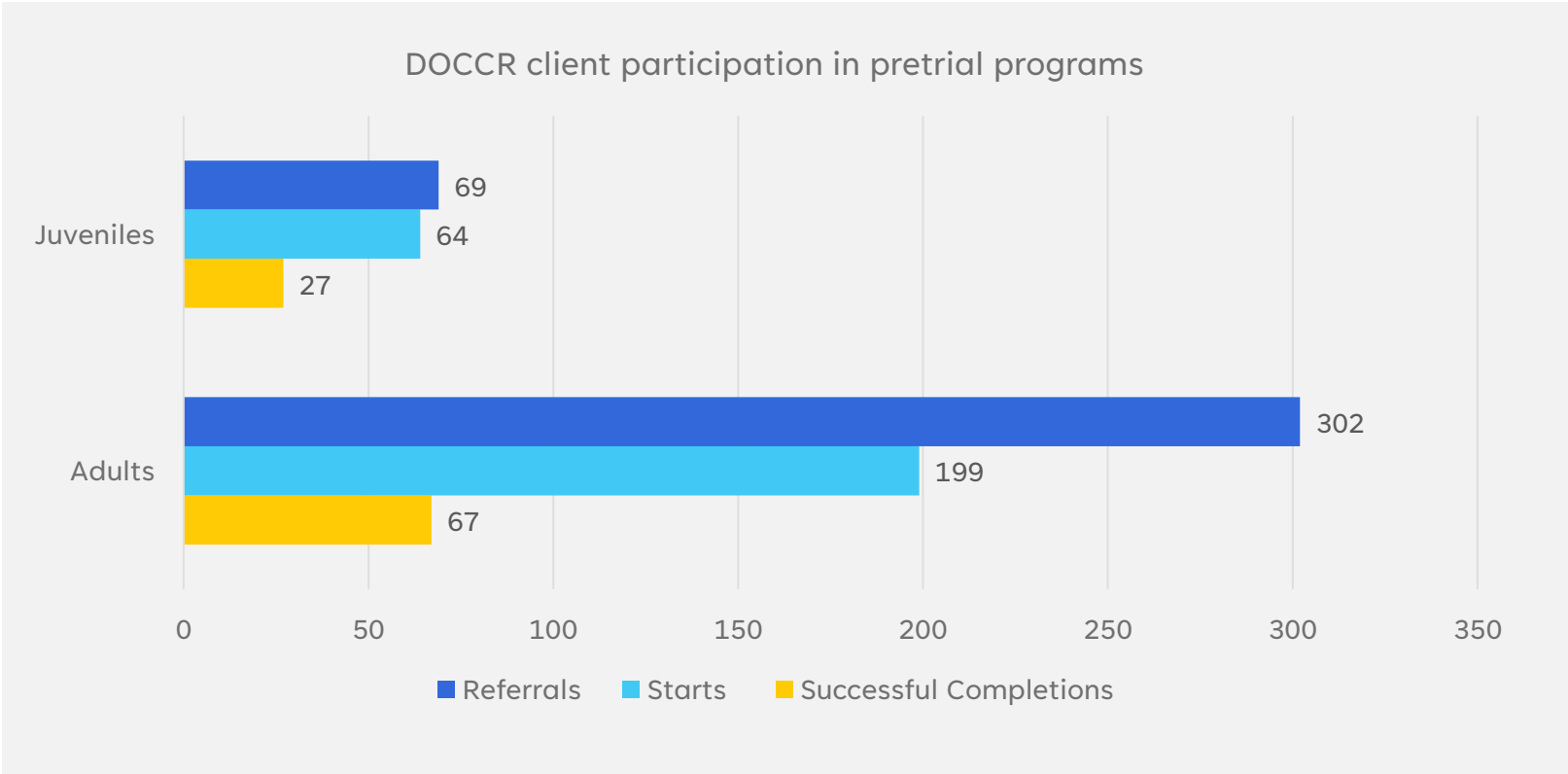
Growing voluntary pretrial supports

- 302 adults and 69 youth referred by DOCCR



Voluntary pretrial services

DOCCR’s pretrial programs promote stability and increase likelihood of success



Steady stewardship

Responding to fluctuating resources

- Sustainable staffing and service delivery models

Improving technology systems and integrations

Strengthening collaborations



Discussion

Thank you

