






# **Executive Director's Report**

**Board of Directors' Meeting  
January 14, 2021**






# Federal News

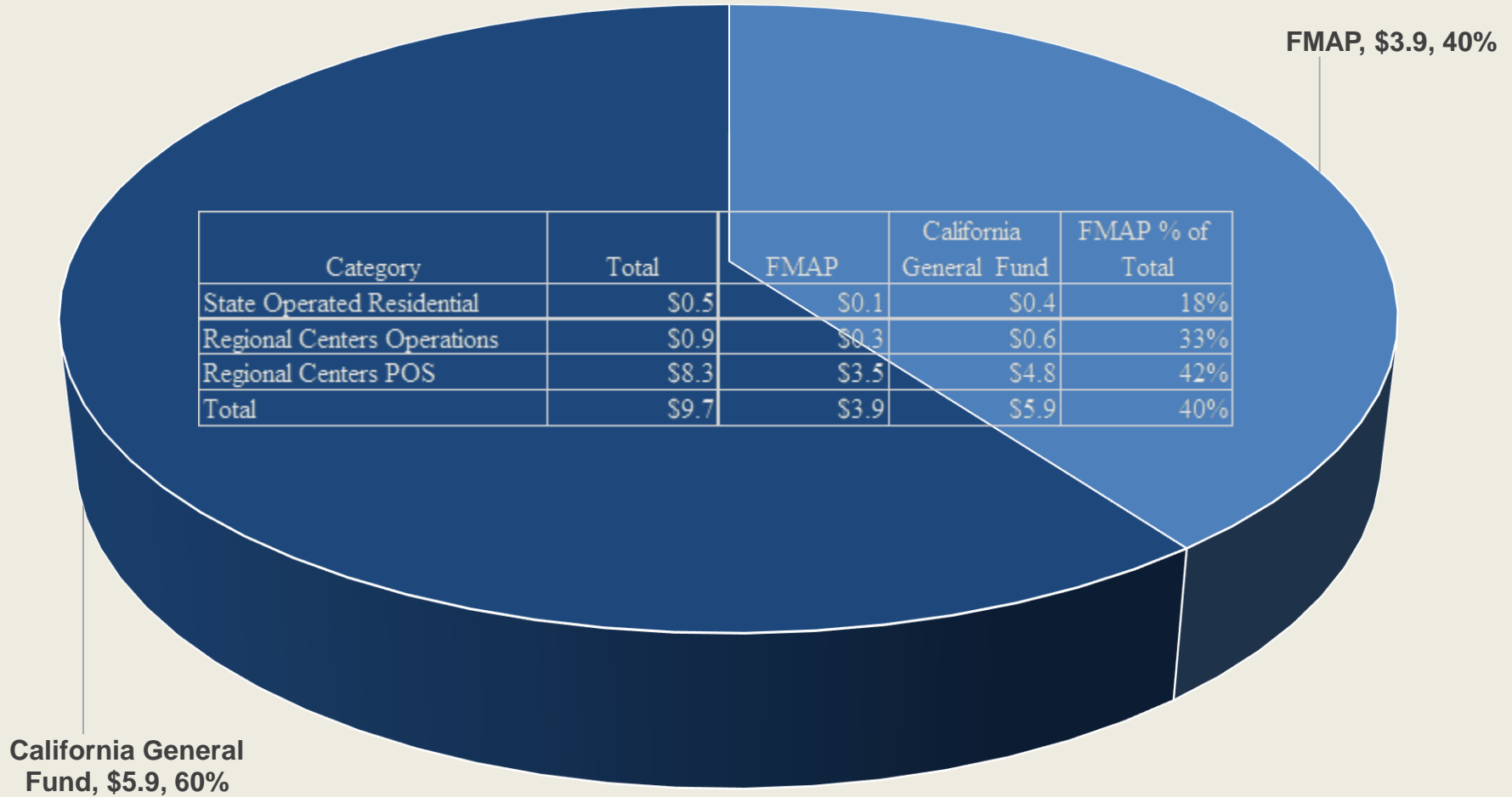
## Stimulus package just passed

-  \$286 billion in *direct economic relief for workers and families*
-  \$325 billion for *small businesses*
-  \$69 billion is provided for *COVID-19 vaccines, testing and tracing, community health and health care provider support*
-  Funding is also made available for schools, broadband, rental assistance, nutrition and agriculture, childcare transportation
-  The package also repurposes \$429 billion in unused Cares Act funds for emergency lending programs run by the Federal Reserve

# Federal News continued

-  The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued an Interim Final Rule with Comment (IFC) that reflects changes in the agency's interpretation of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) provisions related to the 6.2% enhanced FMAP included in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA)
-  One requirement in the FFCRA MOE is that states must maintain the enrollment and coverage of Medicaid beneficiaries who were enrolled as of or after March 18, 2020
-  The rule reminds states that one requirement for receiving the 6.2% FMAP increase is to "cover, without the imposition of cost sharing, testing services and treatments for COVID-19, including vaccines, specialized equipment, and therapies"

**Regional Center and State Operated Residential System  
Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP)  
(Dollars in Billions)**



# Statewide News

## 📍 Governor's 2021-22 budget for regional centers

📍 Regional center budget	\$10 billion 7.15% increase
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📍 Purchase of Services	\$9.1 billion 7.54% increase
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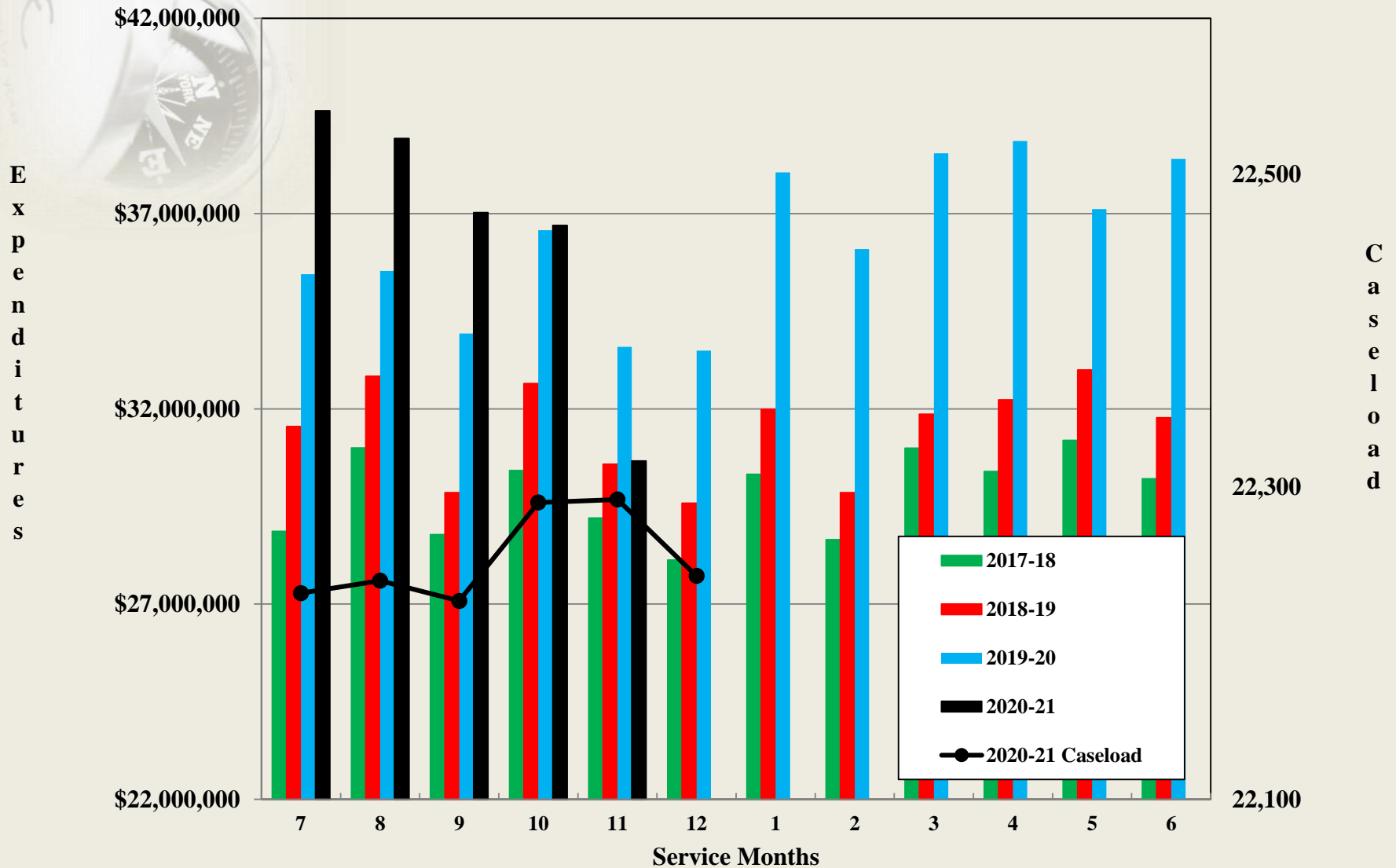
📍 Operations	\$0.9 billion* 3.67% increase
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*\*To support regional centers in addressing changes to the demand for services created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and address the anticipated backlog in new referrals, regional center operations were not adjusted for the lower caseload.*

# **Statewide News** continued

- **COVID-19** [update](#)
- **Alternative Service**
- **ARCA Academy**
  - **Open to all regional center board members**
  - **Third webinar on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.**
- **Developmental Services Task Force Workgroup meetings**

# **Purchase of Service Expenditures and 2020-21 Caseload** **Fiscal Years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 Year-to-Date**



# Current Priorities / Strategic Plan

- 📌 **Person Centered Thinking**
- 📌 **Increase Employment** [Ask the ExpertFlyer](#) [winter Spring Flyer](#)
- 📌 **Hy-Lond Intermediate Care Facility Closure**
- 📌 **Housing**
- 📌 **Legislative and Community Awareness** [Community Awareness](#)
- 📌 **Health and Wellness**





# **Intake and Outreach During the Pandemic**

Board of Directors' Meeting  
January 14, 2021



# Eligibility

- ◆ Early Start (0-3 years of age)
  - ◆ Infants and toddlers with developmental delay(s), established risk or at-risk
  - ◆ Eligible until 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday
- ◆ Lanterman
  - ◆ Individuals with an eligible condition (ID, CP, Epilepsy, Autism) that is substantially disabling and likely to continue indefinitely

# Early Start Eligibility

- ◆ Early Start eligibility is short-term, age-limited
  - ◆ Includes a variety of services: speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, infant stimulation, and behavior therapy
- ◆ 85% of Early Start children exit regional center services (i.e., not Lanterman eligible at age 3)
  - ◆ At age 3, those eligible for school district services transition to education supports
  - ◆ Those not eligible for school district services are referred to community resources

# Early Start & Lanterman Referral Sources

- ◆ Pediatricians/physicians
- ◆ Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs)
- ◆ Families/self-referral
- ◆ Community partners, including *Help Me Grow, First 5, California Home Visitation Programs, Family Support Network*
- ◆ Schools
- ◆ Other community partners, including *Orange County Mental Health, California's Department of Rehabilitation*



# Decline in Referrals

- ◆ The number of new referrals for assessment started to decline when Governor Newsom declared the State of Emergency in March
- ◆ During the pandemic, compared to the prior 12 months, Early Start and Lanterman referrals decreased ~40%

# Impact of COVID-19

- ❖ Generalized fear, anxiety and apprehension
- ❖ Pre-schools, schools and businesses, were closed, families at home, fewer professional eyes on children
- ❖ Less access (fewer doctors' appointments available)
- ❖ Longer appointment times (more exposure)
- ❖ Family distress
  - ❖ Balancing priorities
  - ❖ Some lost jobs
  - ❖ Loss of social supports

# Statewide Outreach Practices During the Pandemic

- ◆ Outreach to physicians
  - ◆ Letter to local pediatricians
  - ◆ DDS Early Start brochures for physicians and families
- ◆ Outreach to school districts
- ◆ Facilitating access
  - ◆ Enhanced customer service
  - ◆ Developing virtual means

# RCOC's Enhancements

- ◆ Announcements in American Academy of Pediatrics newsletter
- ◆ Online Application for Early Start
  - ◆ Electronic signatures
  - ◆ Fillable on mobile devices
- ◆ Access
  - ◆ Changes to our website
- ◆ Media
  - ◆ Announcement at RCOC's bi-weekly community meetings
  - ◆ Email reminders to community



# RCOC's Enhancements Continued

## ◆ Social Media

### ◆ "Friday Fun Facts" announcements

- ◆ Facebook
- ◆ Twitter
- ◆ Instagram



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**regionalcentrofoc** This week's #FunFridayFact! The human brain is social and relationship dependent. It grows and changes through relationships and social experiences with others, constantly absorbing and storing social experiences. This is especially true of our children who are ages 0-5, with children ages 0-3 in a critical developmental window. If you feel your child isn't meeting certain developmental milestones, our team can help answer questions and address concerns. Please call RCOC's Intake and Assessment Department at (714) 796-5354 or visit our website at [www.rcocdd.com/intake](http://www.rcocdd.com/intake) #earlystart #infants #toddlers #braindevelopment #zerotothree

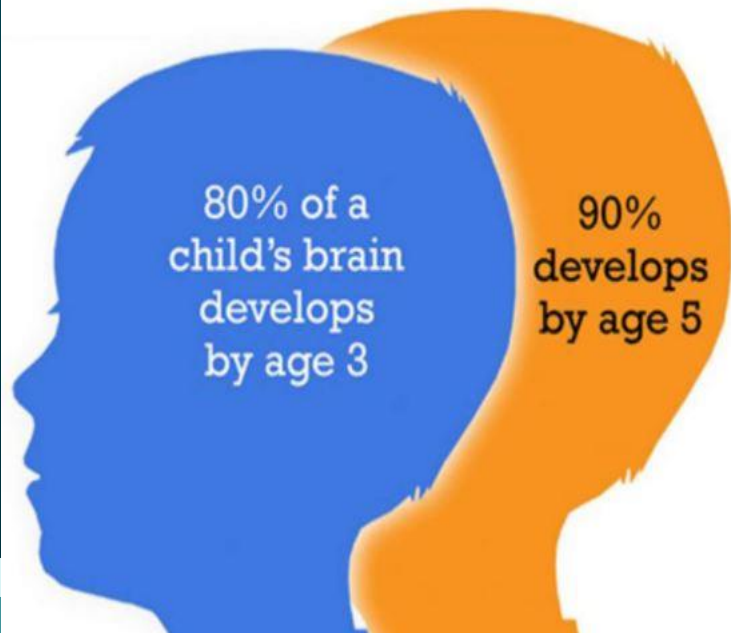


**Regional Center of Orange County**

Published by Anh Powers · November 20, 2020 ·



Did you know 80% of a child's brain is developed by age three and 90% is developed by age 5? Children with developmental delays can be supported through early intervention to give your family some tips and tools to help them meet milestones. If you have questions about developmental delays or would like to speak to someone about services through the Regional Center of Orange County, please contact our Intake Department at (714) 796-5354 or visit our website, [www.rcocdd.com/intake](http://www.rcocdd.com/intake) #FridayFacts #earlystart #developmentalmilestones #firstfive







# An Early Start Is the Best Start!

For infants and toddlers, those first five years are critical for their development.

Those who are at risk of a developmental disability, as well as children showing signs of developmental delays, have an amazing opportunity for life-changing interventions through a program called "Early Start."

This program, with services coordinated by regional centers, can change an infant's developmental arc. With tailored therapies, professional guidance, and the work of parents/caregivers, infants and toddlers can see changes that yield a lifetime of benefits.

Even with pandemic restrictions, Regional Center of Orange County is still working to ensure your child has the right services to meet their needs. If you are concerned your child doesn't seem to be at the same place as kids their age, start with a call today!



Regional Center of Orange County Intake Department (714) 796-5354

# RCOC's Enhancements in 2021

## ◆ Outreach

- ◆ Letter to genetics clinics
- ◆ Announcements
- ◆ Revisions/updates to RCOC's brochures

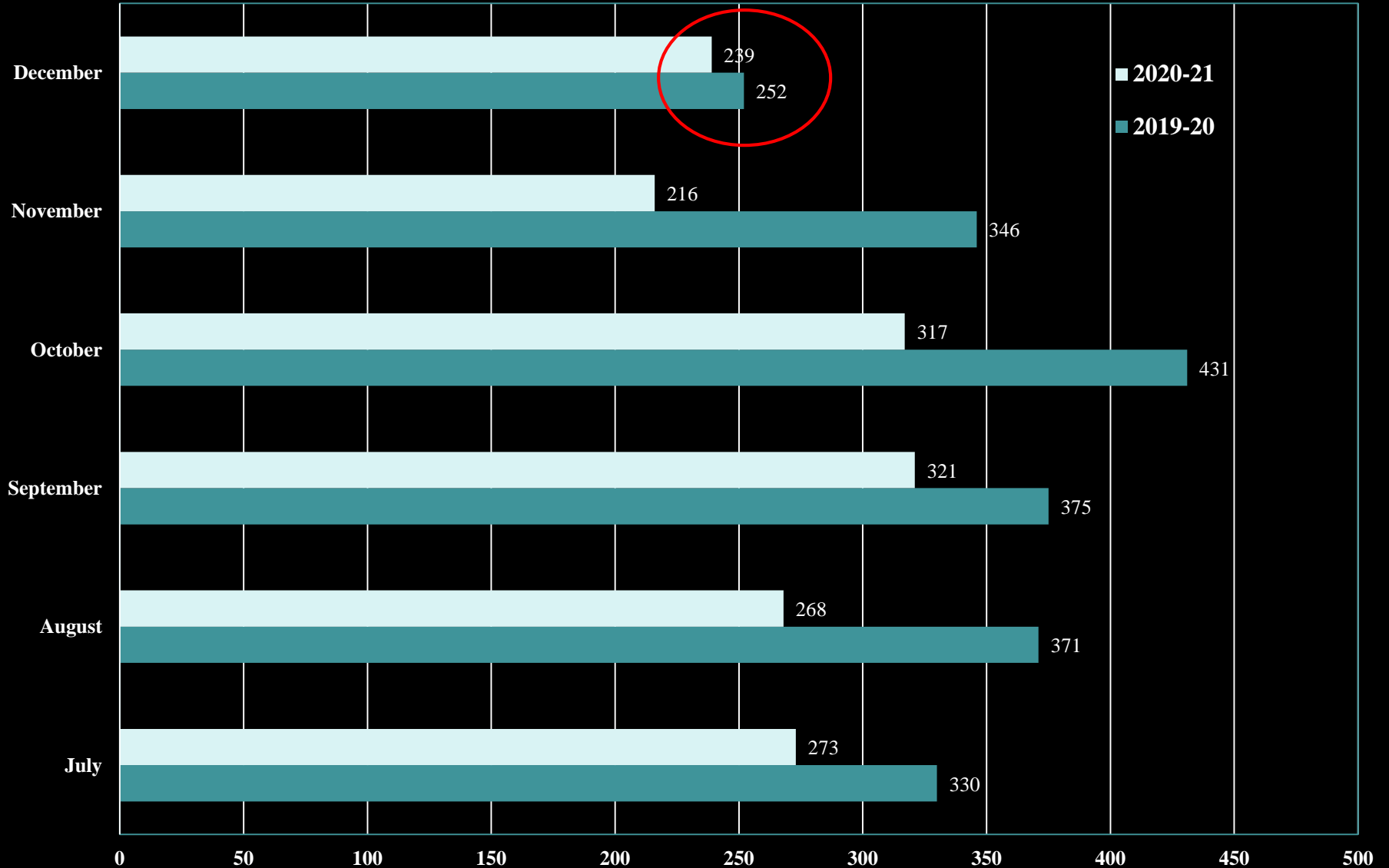
## ◆ Continuing education and training to our community including OC Rescue Mission and OC Department of Education



# Outcomes

- ◆ LA Times / Daily Pilot article on December 21, 2020
  - ◆ Referrals, starting to close the gap
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## Number of Early Start Intake Cases July to December 2019 Compared to July to December 2020





# Future of Early Start Referrals




- ◆ Decline in Early Start and Lanterman referrals are approximately the same, both will come back
- ◆ Going forward, we may see lower growth
- ◆ U.S. birthrate declined following the Great Recession of 2007-09
- ◆ Lower birth rate - U.S. births in 2019 lowest recorded since 1985 (down 1% from 2018) Source: *Center for Disease Control*
- ◆ Will there be a COVID baby boom or bust?
- ◆ Is California's population declining?

# RCOC COVID-19 News

- **Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
- **COVID updates via virtual meetings with our community every other week**
- **Dr. Himber, Dr. Ivers, Stacy and I met with the Orange County Health Care Agency Director and Orange County Health Officer, Clayton Chau, M.D., Ph.D.**



# RCOC News

-  **National Core Indicators (NCI) annual public meeting held virtually on December 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**
-  **Self-Determination Program Local Volunteer Advisory meeting held virtually on November 30, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.; next meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.**
-  **Wish Tree 2020** [present](#)