



Colusa, Sutter and Yolo Regional Child Support Agency Leadership Advisory Committee

To: RCSA Leadership Advisory Committee
From: Colin S. Anderson, Assistant Director
Subject: Performance (Agenda Item #8)
Date: May 26, 2021

During the February Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting performance presentation, our goal was to provide you with county specific performance data for the prior federal fiscal year, as we had not yet regionalized. Going forward, it is our intent to provide you with regionalized data that shows the performance of our RCSA. With regularity, the RCSA will present to the LAC data metrics that will allow for analysis and understanding of regional performance over time.

In summary when reviewing our performance collectively last year (as compared to the prior year), RCSA child support staff collected more money for families, collected a greater percentage of money in the month in which was due, had more collections on cases with arrears owing and had a greater percentage of cases with orders established. Areas for opportunity include establishing parentage and total case count.

Child Support caseloads are declining locally, in California and nationally, with few exceptions. For perspective, in our three counties we collectively had 12,950 cases in FFY 2017 and by FFY 2020 we decreased by almost 9% to 11,810 cases. California had 1,446,118 cases in FFY 2017 and by FFY 2020 the state was at 1,386,807 cases a 4% decrease. There are a variety of reasons and theories for the declining caseloads which include:

- Declining birth rates - According to kidsdata.org, California birth rates are declining. Yolo County has the lowest birth rate per 100,000 women in the state; Millennial women are delaying having children (average age is up from 21 to 26 years old [Forbes]) and the rate of childless women in California is increasing Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).
- Change in immigration patterns – After decades of growth, the total number of immigrants entering California is leveling off. From 2010-2019 the number of undocumented immigrants in California declined from 2.9 million to 2.3 million according to the PPIC. The decline in international immigration has contributed to the slowdown of California's overall population growth. Child Support is an international program, serving individuals regardless of US citizenship status.
- Decreasing welfare caseloads and referrals – excluding the period of time associated with the COVID pandemic, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, TANF caseloads have declined by 68% between 1996 and 2019. Furthermore, California policy makers have excluded



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some participants/families from TANF funded programs preferring state only funded programs. These policies result in fewer mandatory referrals to Child Support.

- A one size fits all program – the Child Support program includes a variety of enforcement remedies, which can be successful in obtaining payment from individuals disinclined to pay. However, for parents who have even a moderately effective co-parenting relationship, the programs enforcement strategies can be a disincentive to apply for services. The California DCSS recognizes this issue and is working to change policy and regulation accordingly. Potential legislation will likely be necessary as well.
- The program has a reputation which is often shared generationally, as being historically ineffective and a heavy handed enforcement program causing some to think we only serve the very hard to serve or families receiving public assistance.

Declining caseloads is an important local, state and national issue and needs unique, and ongoing focus.

As it pertains to the performance of our existing caseload, the RCSA wants to continue to emphasize is how well staff have done in the middle of a global pandemic, pivoting to telework, using technology, remaining focused on regionalization, and collecting more child support for families. As viewable in the included PowerPoint, collections rose to almost \$29 million in FFY 2020.

Families need to be able to depend on consistent, reliable child support payments. One indicator of consistent payments is by measuring the percentage of child support paid, in the month in which it was due – referred to as Current Support Collections (this is a subset of total collections and excludes arrears or past due child support). This is money intended for the general care of the child(ren) including housing, clothing, shoes, food, sports programs and hobbies, field trips, etc. The data shows an 8% increase in current support over the past five years from \$15,558,112.06 to \$16,783,974.76. The direct impact to families can be seen in the average current support collected monthly per case paying monthly support improving from \$405.50 in FFY 2017 to \$441.36 in FFY 2020. The region is not outpacing the State in this particular collection effort. One nuance that is valuable to understand as it pertains to the average collection per case, is the difference in average order size in counties across the state. For example, the income and cost of living in a county such as San Mateo is higher than for example Sutter. This will result in a lower average child support order for families in lower income areas as the amount of the order is largely dependent on parental income and custody/visitation. As a result it is difficult to make county to county comparisons, or comparisons to the state average on average collections per case.

At our last meeting, we referenced the five (5) Federal Performance Measures (FPM) by county and have included a regional display as compared to state performance in this months' packet. The data shows that we exceed the performance of the State in every category. A few nuances to be aware of:

- Child Support Orders: A child support agency will never be 100% as there are always new applications for services, and work being done to obtain an order. If there is a large influx of



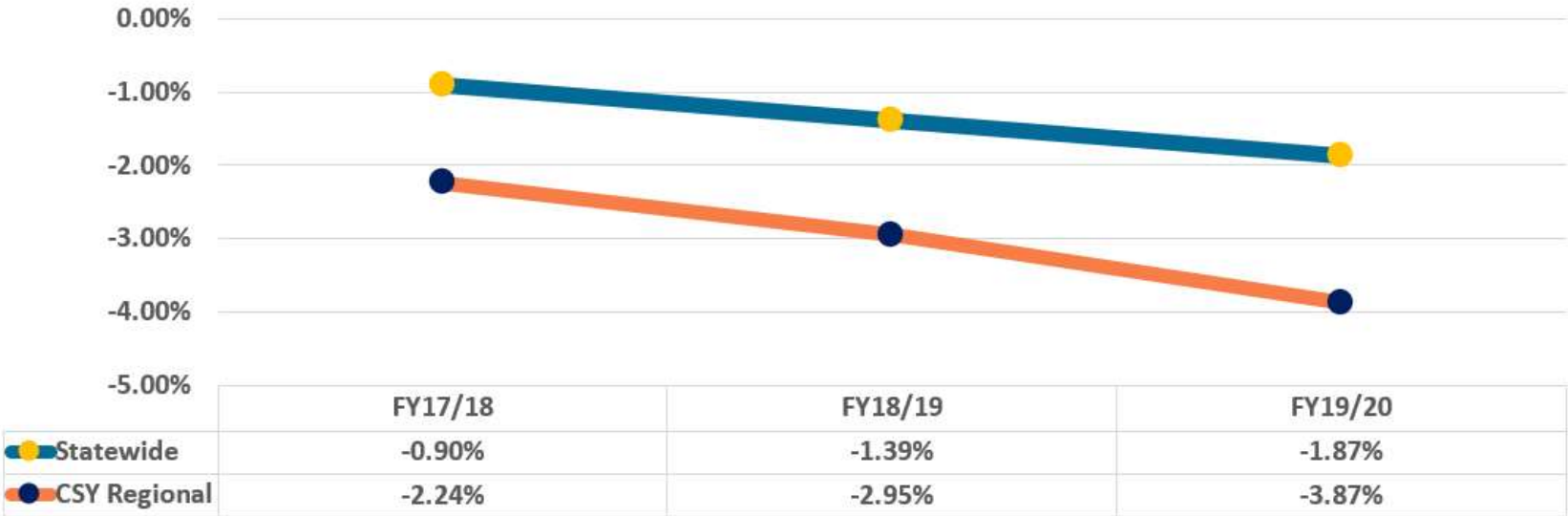
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new cases, or if a backlog develops, this percentage will decline. This is an important measure for without a court order, we cannot collect child support and distribute to families.

- **Paternity:** The Statewide Paternity Establishment Percentage measures the total number of children born out-of-wedlock for whom paternity was acknowledged or established in the fiscal year compared to the total number of children in the state born out-of-wedlock during the preceding fiscal year, expressed as a percentage. Because this is measured year over year, if a county has declining birth rate, the percentage can exceed 100%. It is difficult to influence outcomes in this measure beyond establishing parentage as quickly and efficiently as possible on cases that are open in our office.
- **Current Support:** This performance standard measures the amount of current support collected as compared to the total amount of current support owed, expressed as a percentage. As noted earlier, this is a good indication of whether families are receiving child support in the month in which it is due, and while the child is still a minor. Current Support is a subset of total collections. We as a region are far outperforming the State average. The state on this FPM has stayed consistent at around 66% for the last four years. The RCSA has shot up to 71.3% of current support collected. Thus, for every dollar ordered by the court we as region in FFY 2020 collected 71.3 cents of that dollar. Compare that to the State who on average collects 66.5 cents for every dollar in the same fiscal year.
- **Child Support Arrears:** This measures the number of cases with child support arrearage collections as compared with the number of cases owing arrearages during the federal fiscal year, expressed as a percentage. This is not an ideal measure, and one that the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement recognizes needs updating. In the context of this measure, a collection can be as low as \$1 and still count as a collection on arrears. Nonetheless, our RCSA increased significantly on this measure this last year, in large part due to the intercept of the first stimulus payment (not the subsequent two), enhanced unemployment benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) which was particularly helpful for those who lost income during the pandemic and were self-employed or part of the gig economy.
- **Cost Effectiveness:** This measure compares the total amount of distributed collections to the total amount of expenditures for the fiscal year, expressed as distributed collections per dollar of expenditure. This is a good measure of efficiency and effectiveness. We do anticipate that our cost effectiveness will decline in the current year despite regionalization. We held a number of positions vacant while exploring regionalization and have been working diligently to fill them. It is also likely that child support collections will decline as COVID related payment stop being issued.

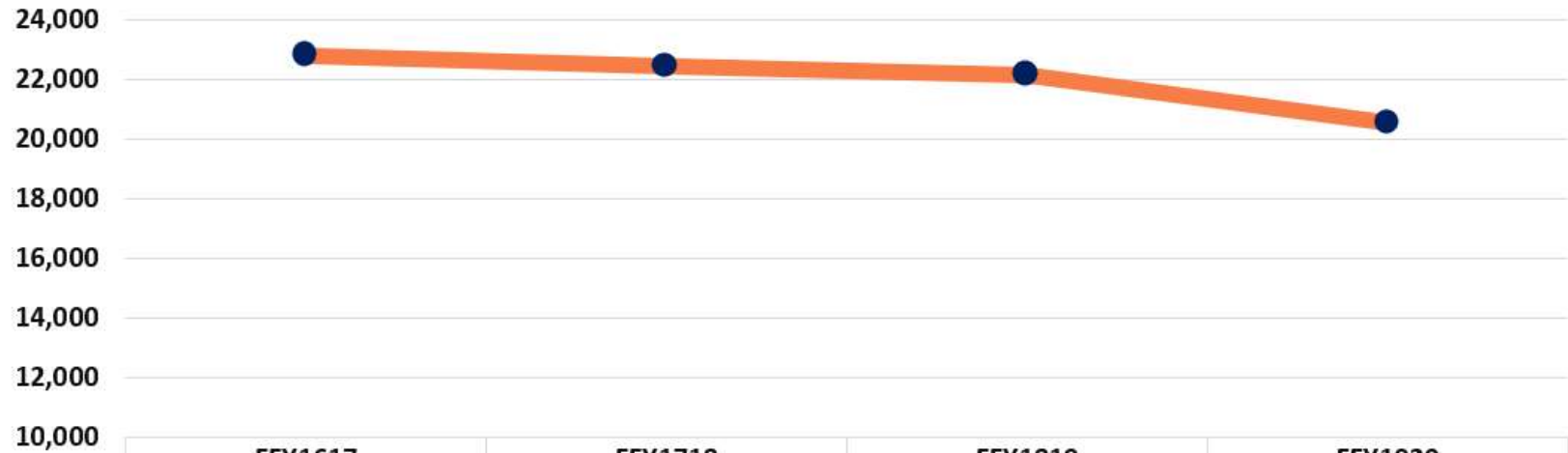
In summary, all this improvement was done in the shadow of a declining caseload and doing business during a global pandemic. It is our hope that this presentation allows you a glimpse into the good work we doing as a Region and as individual child support professionals.

Statewide and Regional Caseload Decline



Number of Cases per Federal Fiscal Year				
	FFY1617	FFY1718	FFY1819	FFY1920
Statewide	1,446,118	1,433,156	1,413,198	1,386,807
CSY Regional	12,950	12,660	12,286	11,810

Number of Children Served

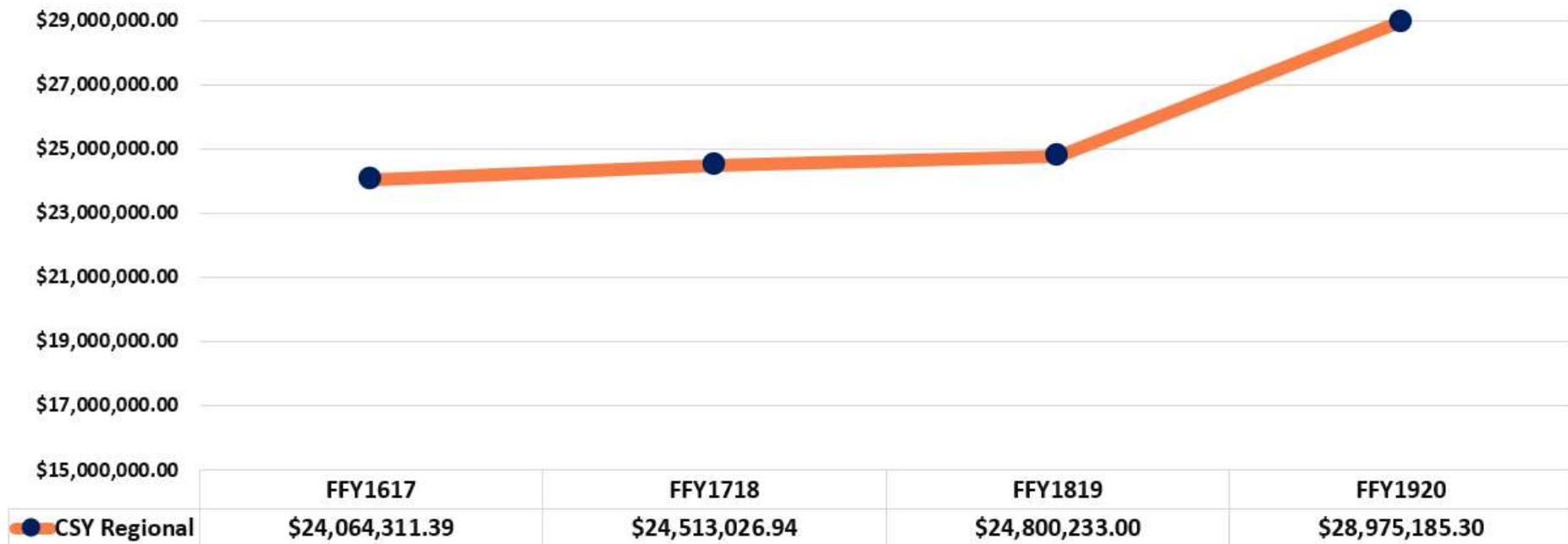


	FFY1617	FFY1718	FFY1819	FFY1920
CSY Regional	22,822	22,457	22,138	20,558

Total Count of Children on Cases Open During Federal Fiscal Year

	FFY1617	FFY1718	FFY1819	FFY1920
Statewide	2,455,488	2,444,483	2,418,762	2,327,621
CSY Regional	22,822	22,457	22,138	20,558

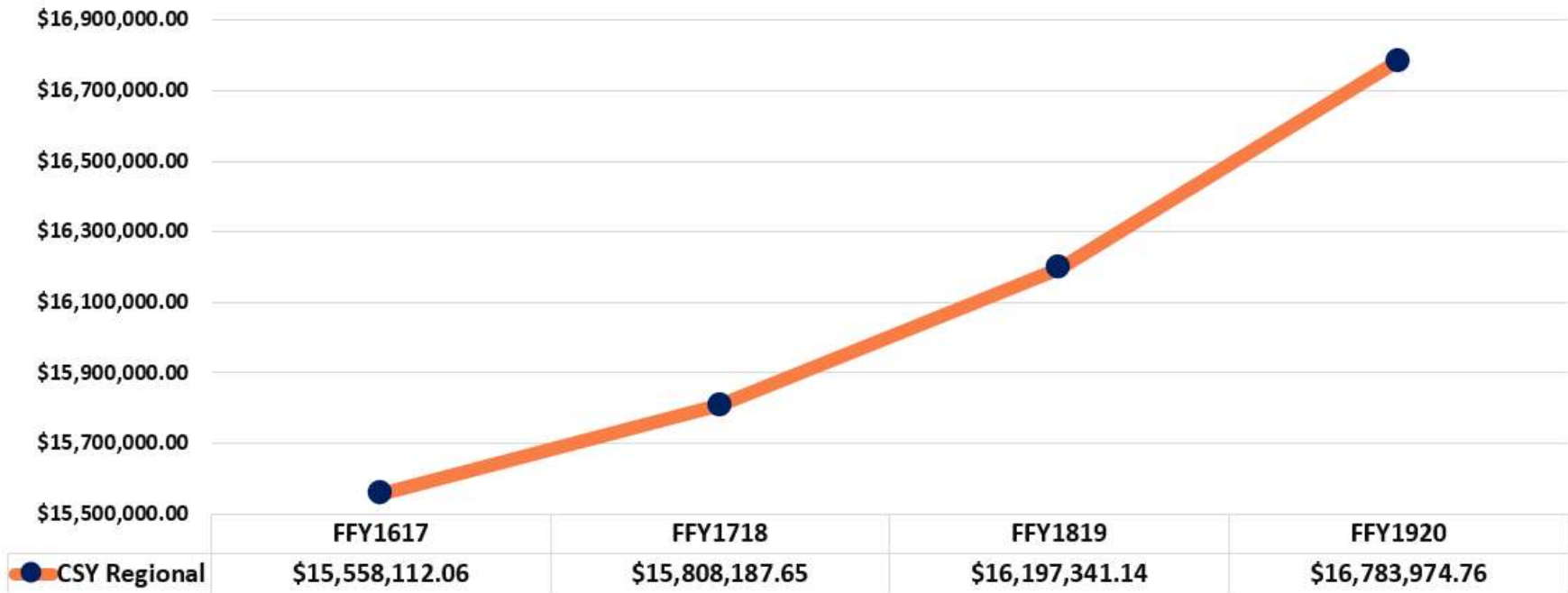
Total Child Support Collections



Total Collections Received during Federal Fiscal Year - State to CSY Regional

Location	FFY1617	FFY1718	FFY1819	FFY1920
Statewide	\$2,426,084,160.23	\$2,459,601,218.27	\$2,500,633,091.84	\$2,817,121,947.49
CSY Regional	\$24,064,311.39	\$24,513,026.94	\$24,800,233.00	\$28,975,185.30

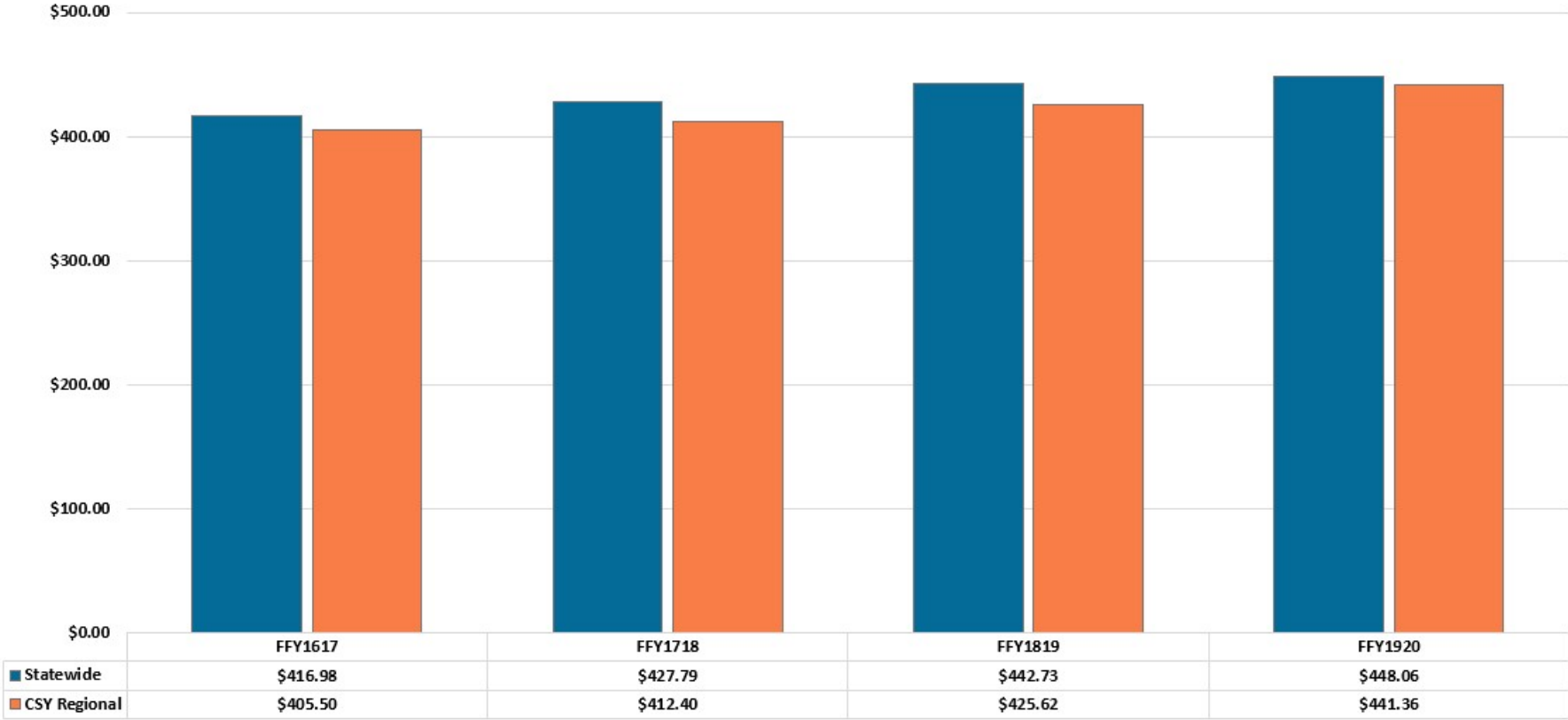
Current Monthly Support Collected



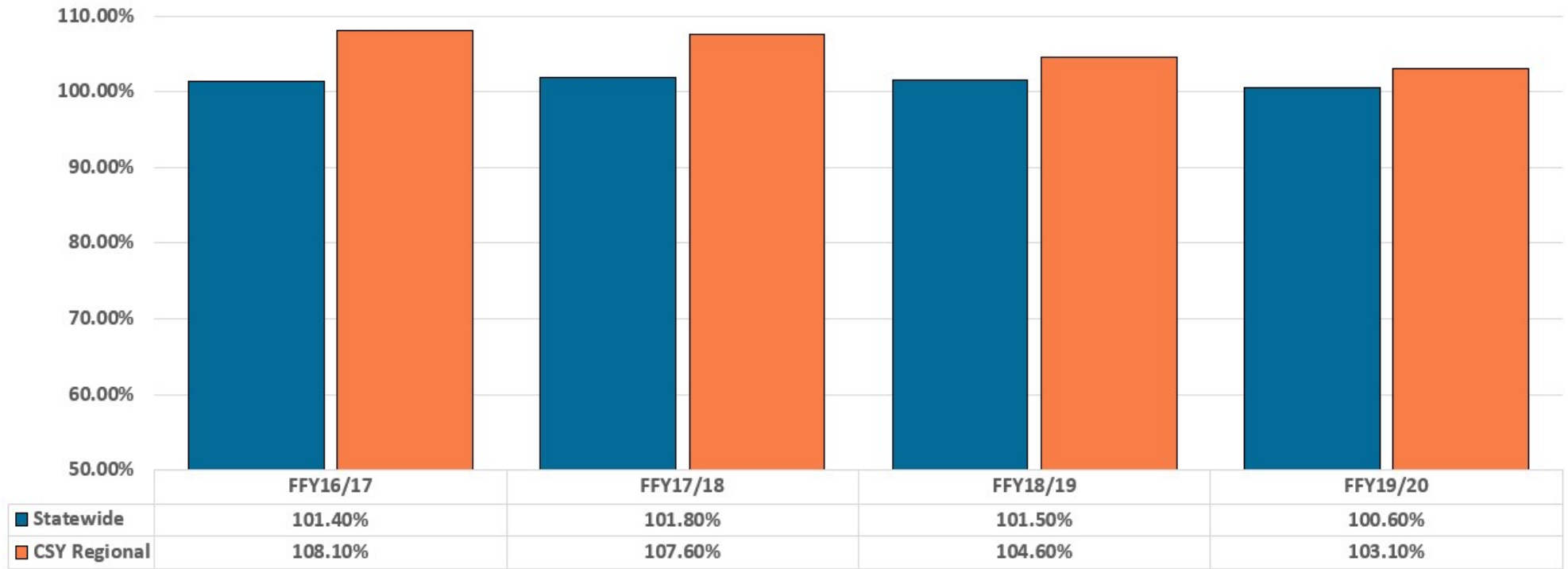
Current Support Collections Received during Federal Fiscal Year - State to CSY Regional

Location	FFY1617	FFY1718	FFY1819	FFY1920
Statewide	\$1,576,514,368.41	\$1,602,855,482.27	\$1,647,400,987.96	\$1,671,593,648.23
CSY Regional	\$15,558,112.06	\$15,808,187.65	\$16,197,341.14	\$16,783,974.76

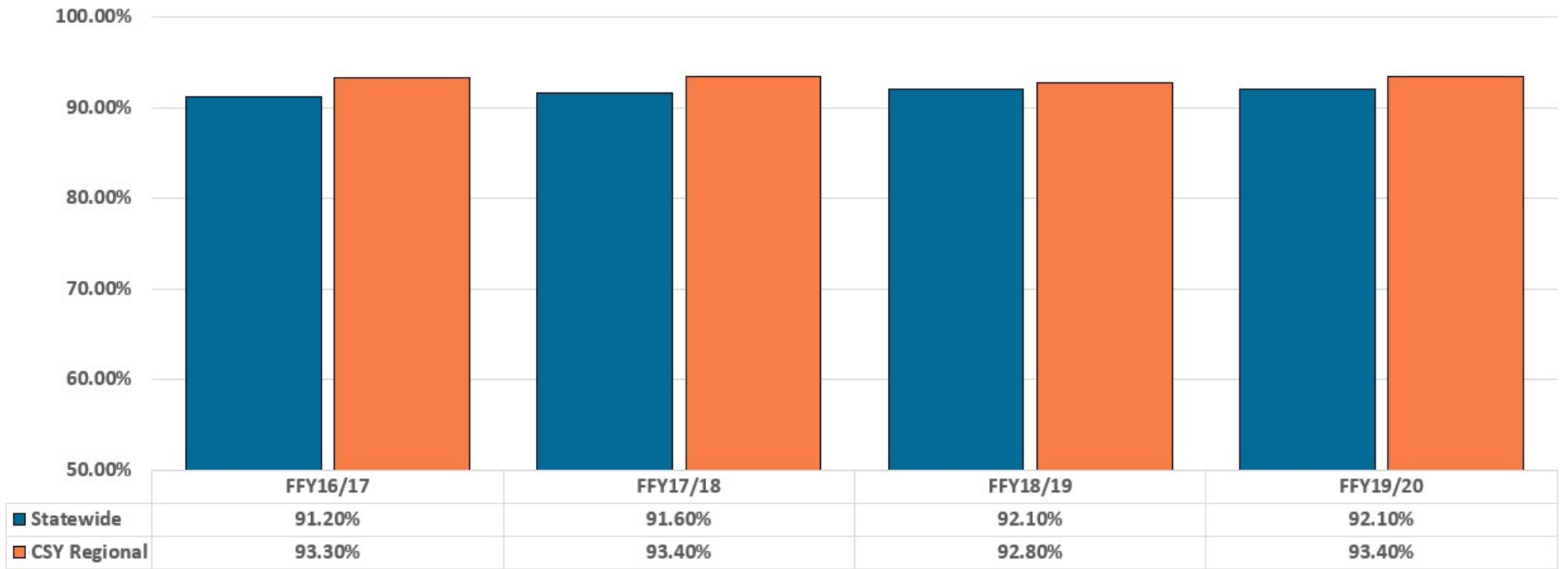
Average Current Support Distributed Per Case (for cases receiving collections)



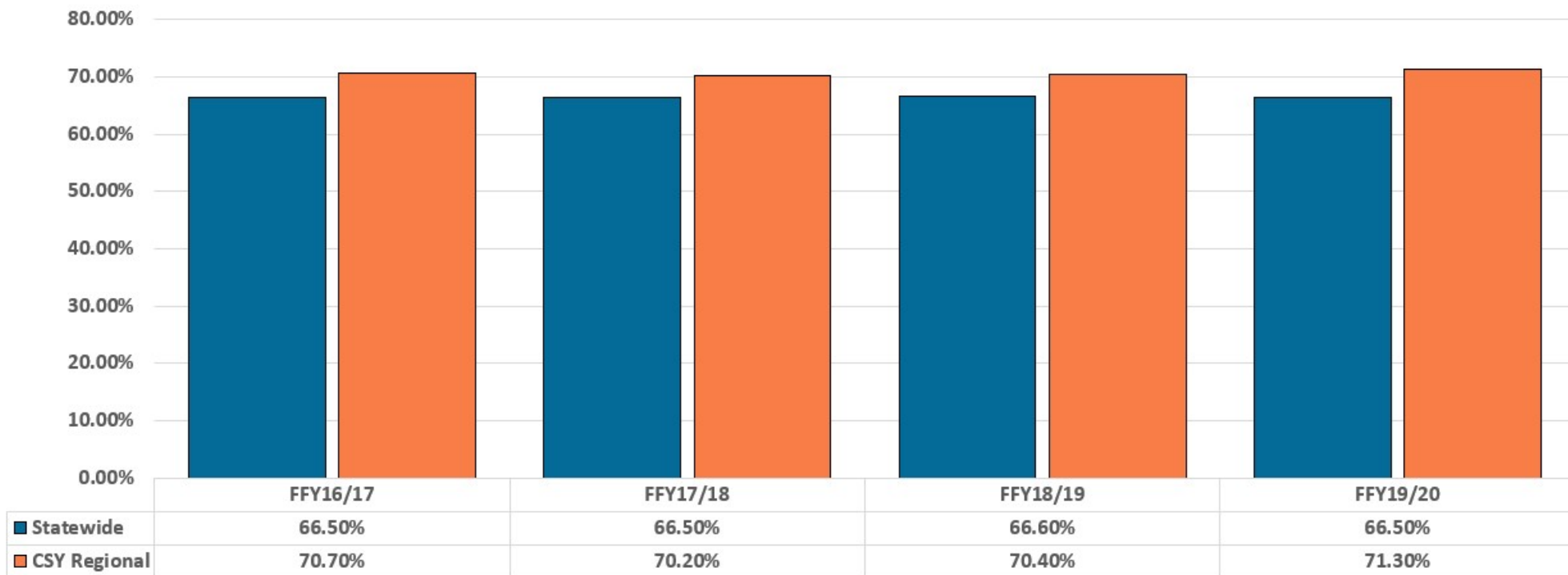
Federal Performance Measure: Paternity Establishment



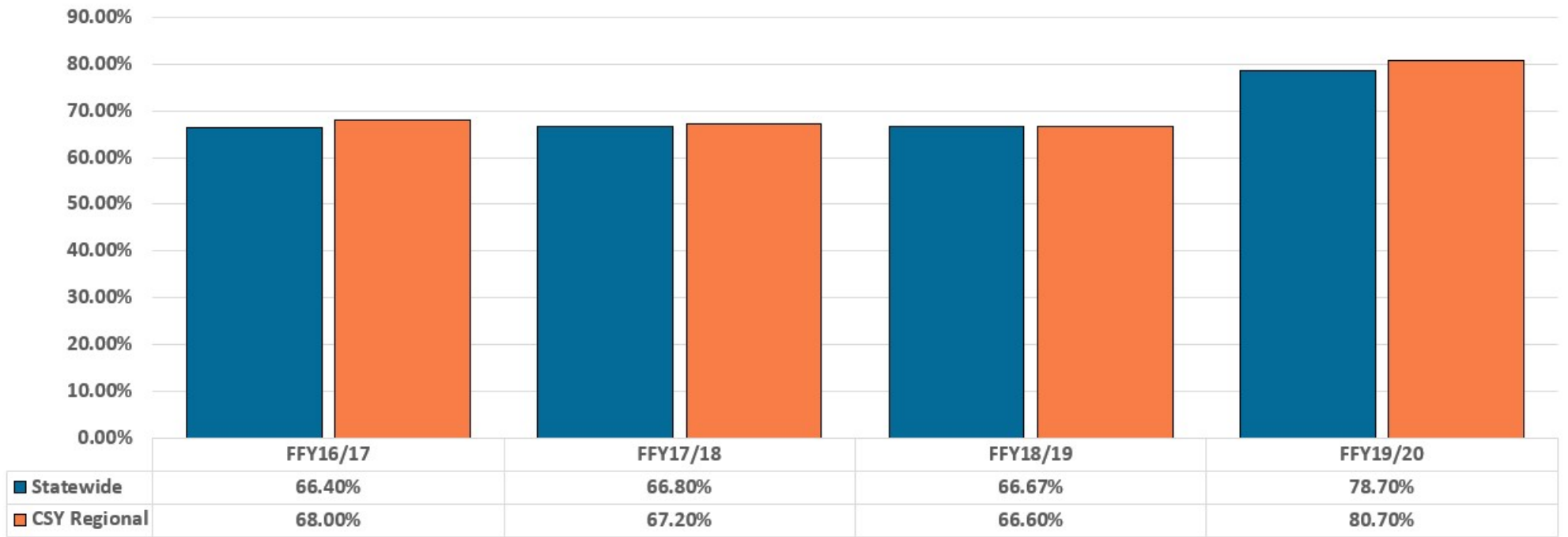
Federal Performance Measure: Cases with Orders



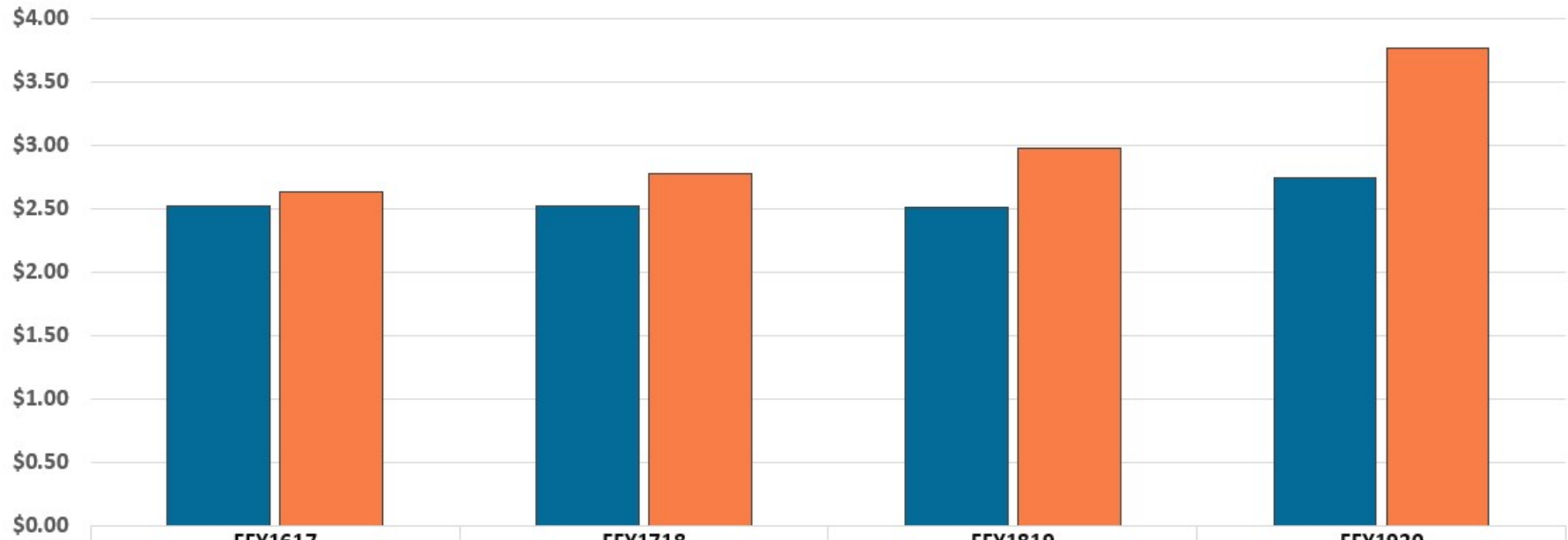
Federal Performance Measure: Current Collections



Federal Performance Measure: Arrears (Past Due) Collections



Federal Performance Measure: Cost-Effectiveness



■ Statewide	\$2.52	\$2.52	\$2.51	\$2.74
■ C S Y Regional	\$2.63	\$2.78	\$2.98	\$3.76