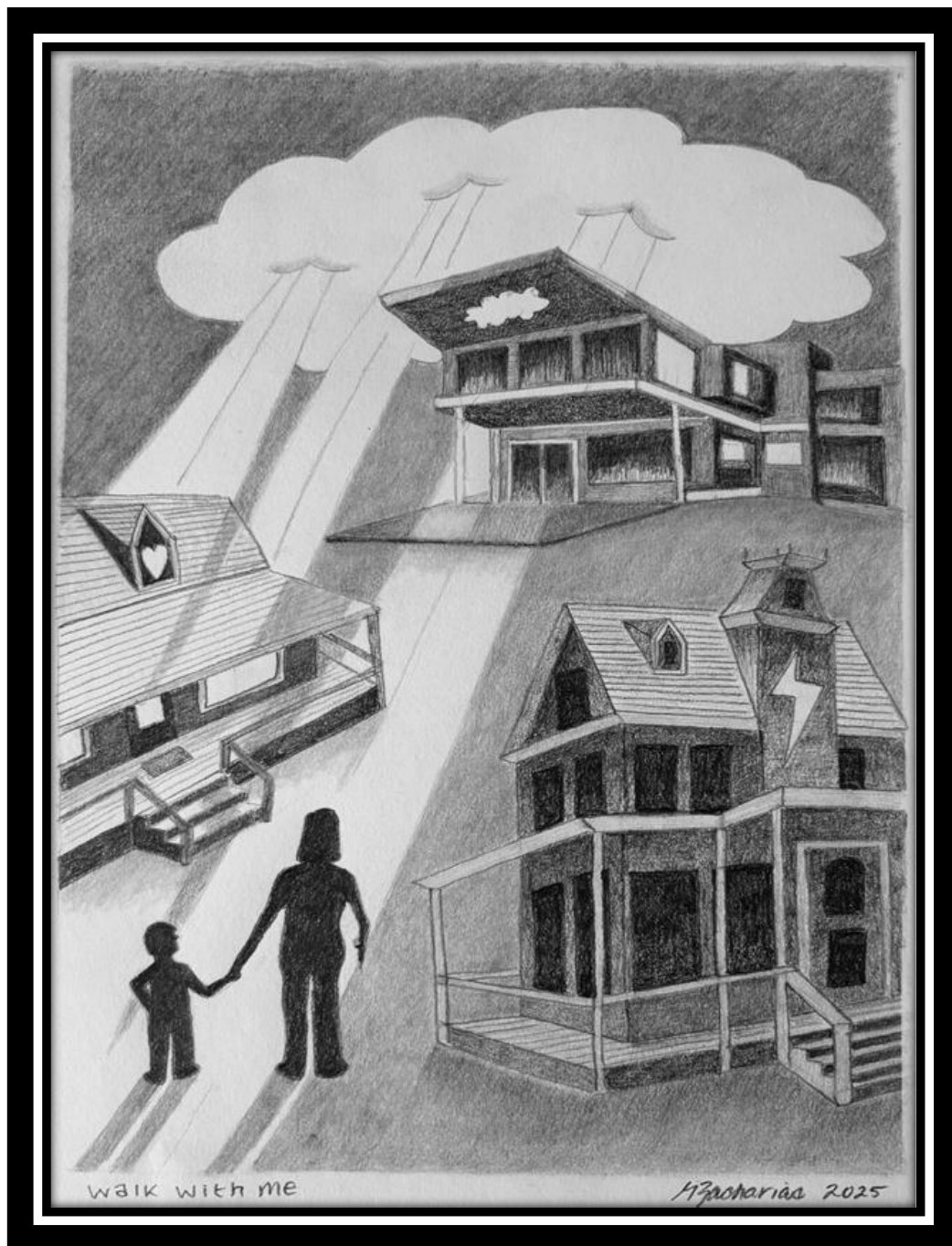




Child & Family Services

OF CENTRAL MANITOBA

2025-2026 92nd Annual Report

Message from the President, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba (CFSCM) I wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the Agency staff. They have shown themselves to be a highly professional group committed to the well-being of the children and families of our region.

The Board of CFSCM includes 8 members: Carol Braun from Altona, Steven Bauer from Winkler, Giselle Limaya Brito from Winkler, Christiana Ozumba from Morden, Greg Younka from Portage la Prairie, Virginia Beckwith from St. Eustache, Jill Stuart-Edwards from Morden and Bruce Wood from Morden. A special thank you to Carol who led us in the adoption of Policy Governance, a journey of many years with more work ahead. She will be leaving the Board this year after completing her third, 3-year term. Also, thank you to Anne Malyon, a recently retired member, who coordinated our board education related to the Policy Governance process this year.

The most distinctive feature of our board is the pursuit of the Policy Governance approach to leadership. It is not intended that the Board provide management of the day-to-day activities of the Agency. We have a highly competent Executive Director and staff to do this. Our aim is to monitor the results of the Agency's work toward the ENDS the Board has established. Our ENDS focus on the statement "Children and Young Adults in the Central Region are safe and well". These ENDS and the results will be clarified in this annual report.

The board, with assistance from Carol Braun and Anne Malyon, have worked hard to refine its skills at understanding how to evaluate monitoring reports and to shape the Directors' expectations of the Executive Director who prepares them for us. The reports provide evidence that the Executive Director and staff are conducting business within the Executive Limitations Policies we have established for legal, professional, financial and ethical practices. The monitoring reports on the ENDS statements provide us with evidence of the results of the Agency's work on behalf of children, young adults and families.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to express our appreciation to Chris Chabbert, the Executive Director for her work at focussing the work of the Agency on our expected results and her diligence in researching and preparing the monitoring reports.

The board has concentrated on community connections for the past two years and is planning to continue to do so in 2026/2027. The previously gathered information from families and community groups will inform our next round of outreach and our review of our ENDS.

Thank you to the Board and the Agency for the opportunity to be a part of this work. I have appreciated the collaborative spirit of the board members and their commitment to good governance. I have developed an appreciation for the professionalism and dedication of the Agency staff and a sense of their positive relationships established with the children and families in the Central Region.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Wood, President, CS-CM Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director

As Executive Director of Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba, I am honoured to present this Annual General Meeting Report and to reflect on the work accomplished over the past year.

Every day, our staff demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the children, youth, and families we serve. They work in challenging and complex circumstances, often walking alongside families during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Their professionalism, compassion, resilience, and unwavering dedication are the foundation of our success. I am incredibly proud of the work they do and the positive impact they have on the lives of children and families throughout our communities.

The information contained within this report reflects the strength of our organization and the meaningful outcomes that can be achieved when dedicated professionals work together with families, caregivers, community partners, and other service providers. The results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to ensuring children are safe, helping families build the skills and supports they need to thrive, maintaining strong community connections, and promoting positive outcomes for children and youth both in their families and in care.

Our success would not be possible without the many partnerships we have built across the Central Region. We are fortunate to work alongside schools, health providers, community organizations, law enforcement, and numerous interagency committees that share our commitment to supporting children and families. These collaborative relationships strengthen our services, enhance access to supports, and help create healthier and safer communities for everyone.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors. Their ongoing support, guidance, and confidence in our management team have been invaluable. I am particularly grateful for the trust they place in me to carry out the responsibilities of Executive Director and for their unwavering commitment to the mission and values of our Agency. Their stewardship helps ensure that our organization remains accountable, forward-thinking, and focused on achieving positive outcomes for children and families.

Most importantly, I would like to thank our staff as well as the families, caregivers, foster families, community members, and young people who place their trust in us. We recognize that meaningful change happens through relationships, and we are privileged to be invited into the lives of those we serve. The courage, perseverance, and commitment shown by the families we work with continue to inspire us every day.

This report highlights many accomplishments, but it also reflects something equally important: our commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. We are proud of the progress that has been made, while recognizing that there is always more we can do to strengthen our services and better meet the needs of children, youth, and families across the region.

On behalf of Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba, thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are helping ensure that children and young adults in the Central Region are safe, well, connected, and given every opportunity to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,
Chris Chabbert
Executive Director
Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba

2025-2026 Board of Directors



*...Healthy children,
healthy families,
healthy communities...*



Child & Family Services of Central Manitoba Inc. was established in May 1934 as the Children's Aid Society of Central Manitoba. The Agency is a charitable organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that provides services under the Child and Family Services Act, the CFS Authorities Act and the Adoption Act of Manitoba.

The Central Region is a rather large geographical area located West of the City of Winnipeg, and the Red River on its eastern limit, by the International Boundary on the southern limit, by a line approximately halfway between the City of Portage la Prairie and the City of Brandon on its western limit and, just north of the Town of Alonsa on its norther limit. Primarily agricultural in its economic base, the total population of this catchment area is over 104,000. The head office of the organization is located in Portage la Prairie and a sub office is located in Winkler.



CFS-CM Exists So That Children and Young Adults in the Central Region Are Safe and Well

Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba works to ensure that children and youth are safe, supported, connected to their families, and given opportunities to thrive. Agency services are focused not only on responding to immediate safety concerns, but also on strengthening families, building community supports, and helping children achieve positive long-term outcomes.



Throughout the year, the Agency continued to prioritize child safety through comprehensive assessment, supervision, quality assurance, and family-centered service delivery. Internal quality assurance reviews confirmed strong oversight and consistent application of safety standards across programs. Supervisory review of assessments, case plans, and safety planning helped ensure that services remained focused on protecting children while supporting families.

The Agency maintained a strong commitment to prevention and family preservation. Families received practical supports designed to strengthen parenting capacity, address safety concerns, and promote stability within the home. In-home support services, family-centered planning, caregiver skill development, and ongoing social work intervention helped families build the capacity necessary to safely care for their children and reduce the need for more intrusive interventions.



For children who required care outside their immediate home, the Agency continued to emphasize family-based care and family connections. The vast majority of children in care lived with relatives, kinship caregivers, or foster families rather than in group care settings. Placement stability remained strong, and reunification planning continued whenever it could be achieved safely.

Children and youth in care were supported to achieve success in all areas of development. Health, dental, educational, emotional, and life-skill needs were monitored through annual reviews and individualized planning processes. Children requiring therapeutic services were connected to supports, educational progress was actively monitored, and youth were provided opportunities to develop independence and life skills that prepare them for adulthood.

A key contributor to positive outcomes for children and families is the strength of community partnerships. The Agency worked closely with schools, health services, community organizations, and numerous interagency committees throughout the region. Families were connected to housing supports, food security resources, mental health services, and community-based supports that help promote stability and wellbeing.



Quality assurance reviews of the Intake Investigation Teams in Portage and Winkler further demonstrated the Agency's commitment to service excellence. The review found a high level of consistency, strong investigative practice, accurate assessments, meaningful engagement with children and caregivers, and substantial improvement across many areas of practice.

The work of Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba extends far beyond responding to child protection concerns. Through prevention services, family strengthening supports, community partnerships, quality assurance processes, and dedicated staff, the Agency helps ensure that children and young adults are safe, healthy, connected, and positioned for success. The results achieved throughout the year demonstrate a strong commitment to family-focused practice and continuous improvement. Together with families, caregivers, community partners, and staff, the Agency continues to create environments where children and young people can grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.





**Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba exists so that
Children and Young Adults in the Central Region are safe and well**

Agency target ends (outcomes)

Children are safe
within a family

Children in our care
are successful

Children live in a
stable environment
with a caring adult

Family connections
are maintained

Families are able to
meet needs of
children

Vulnerable families
have a support
plan created with
the family

Caregivers have the
necessary skills to
care for children

Families are
supported by
their community

Inter-agency
relationships
support children
and families

Each family has a
support network

Adopted May 13, 2024

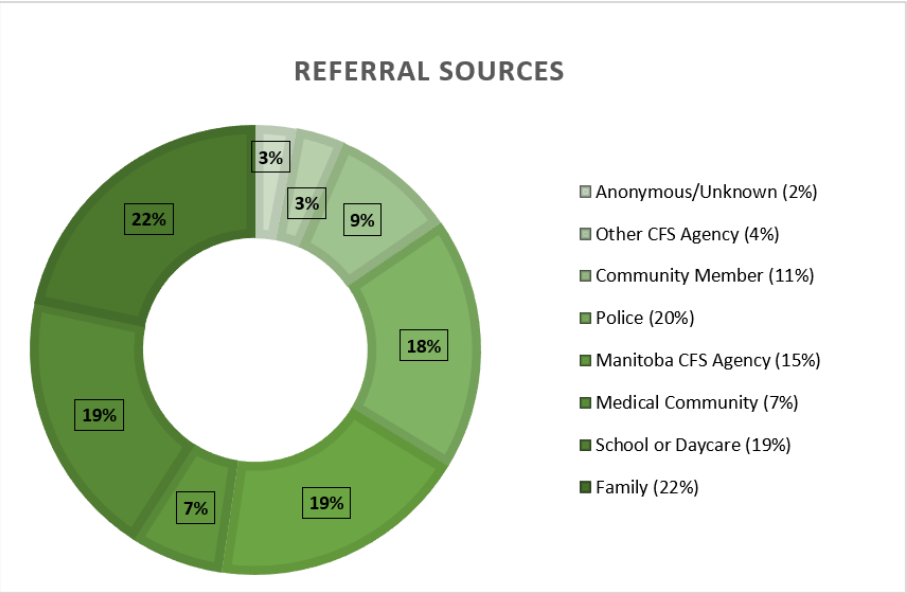
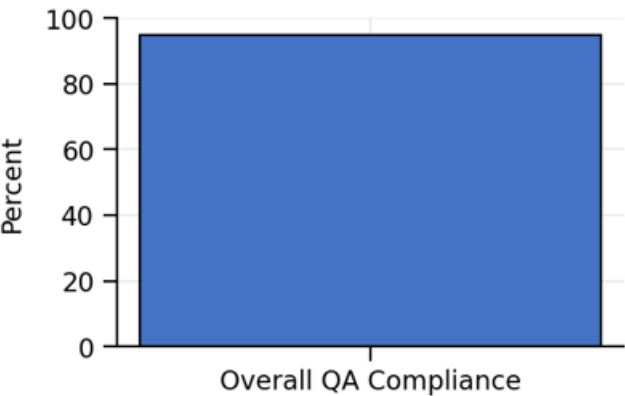
Intake and After-Hours

The 2025/26 quality assurance review of the Agency's investigation services found a high level of consistency and quality across both the Portage and Winkler intake teams. The review examined key areas of intake practice, including assessment completion, documentation, client engagement, safety planning, interviewing practices, and adherence to child welfare standards. Overall compliance across the intake program was 95%, demonstrating strong and reliable service delivery.

The review identified numerous areas of strength. Intake workers consistently documented presenting concerns, completed required safety and risk assessments, accurately completed decision-making tools, met with caregivers, addressed concerns directly with families, and ensured children were interviewed when appropriate. Compliance was also exceptionally strong in areas such as collateral contacts, closing summaries, police report documentation, and the completion of specialized child protection processes where required.

The review further demonstrated significant growth in practice quality over the previous audit period. Twenty of the thirty areas measured showed improvement, with particularly noteworthy gains in documentation quality, assessment accuracy, home visits, engagement with caregivers, and the thoroughness of investigative interviews. These improvements reflect the teams' commitment to continuous learning and their ability to successfully implement quality improvement initiatives.

Quality Assurance Highlights Intake Team Quality Assurance Results



The results highlight the professionalism, dedication, and strong practice standards of both the Portage and Winkler Intake Teams. Families and children are receiving thorough investigations that emphasize child safety, meaningful engagement, and informed decision-making. The significant improvements achieved across many areas of practice demonstrate a culture of continuous improvement and a strong commitment to excellence in service delivery. Collectively, these results reflect a highly skilled and committed intake workforce that plays a vital role in protecting children and supporting families throughout Central Manitoba.

Children are Safe Within a Family

Evidence of impact

How prevention, oversight, family-based care and sustained connections help protect children and strengthen families

Bottom line

The monitoring report concludes that the agency complied with Policy 4.1 and each supporting policy. Every reported indicator met or exceeded its benchmark or fell within the stated acceptable range. Taken together, the evidence shows a functioning safety system that supports families early, reviews risk consistently, keeps most children in family settings, stabilizes placements, attends to child wellbeing and preserves family relationships.

100% of referred families received in-home support or were scheduled within two weeks	9% of open protection files had reopened within 12 months, below the 15% maximum	93% of children in care or under agreement lived with kin or in family-based foster care
94% met the agency placement-stability measure during the previous 12 months	100% coverage for core health, therapy, education and planning safeguards	100% of audited contact supervision notes and relevant court files documented family contact

What our work contributes

1 Prevent separation	2 Control risk	3 Stabilize care	4 Sustain belonging
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Evidence summary based on the agency monitoring report. All percentages are as reported.

Performance against the agency benchmarks

The positive indicators below compare the reported result with the minimum benchmark used in the monitoring report. All eight measures met or exceeded the minimum requirement.

Figure 1. Actual performance compared with the minimum benchmark.

Prevention is reaching families Every family referred for in-home support was receiving the service or scheduled to begin within two weeks.	Casework is consistently reviewed The September 2025 audit found supervisor review of assessments, case plans and safety plans in all 45 sampled files.	Family settings are prioritized Family-based placements, placement stability and home-assessment measures all met or exceeded their thresholds.
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How to read the results

A high percentage is desirable for service access, review, placement, stability, assessment and documentation measures.

A low percentage is desirable for reopened files and prolonged separation; those measures are compared with maximum limits.

These figures combine outcomes and process safeguards. Process compliance supports safety, but it should not be interpreted as eliminating every possible risk.

Children are being kept in stable, family-based settings

On January 7, 2026, the agency reported 77 children in care or under agreements. The placement mix shows a clear preference for kin and family-based care over group settings.

Figure 2. Placement profile for 77 children in care or under agreement as reported on January 7, 2026.

Stable placements met the agency placement-stability measure, above the 90% benchmark. ping children with kin, family friends or foster families supports continuity, attachment and belonging.	Safe homes and accountable exceptions of foster applicants with a child placed had a completed SAFE assessment; 100% had an initial assessment before placement. of Place of Safety homes had completed SAFE assessments within six months; 100% had initial assessments before placement. limited exceptions were used to keep children in their community and avoid group care while assessments were completed.
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Risk and permanency guardrails

Figure 3. Lower-is-better indicators remained within the limits set in the report.

Key interpretation

The 9% reopen rate is comfortably below the 15% maximum. The 21% long-term separation measure is still within the 22% maximum, but it is close to the upper limit and will remain a priority for monitoring and reunification planning.

Safety is reinforced through health, development and family connection

The report does not treat safety as placement alone. It also tracks whether children receive health and therapeutic care, remain engaged in education, develop age-appropriate skills and maintain safe, meaningful family relationships.

Figure 4. Core safeguards reported at 100% completion or coverage. Verification sources differ by measure, as noted below.

Health and emotional wellbeing All children were current with medical and dental needs or had a documented plan. All children identified as needing therapy were receiving it or scheduled, and progress reports were present after ten weeks of therapy.	Education and development Every child had a current Child Care Service Plan; no Annual Child in Care Reviews were outstanding. An 18-file audit found report cards in every sampled file, and developmental or life-skills needs were tracked in care plans.
Family connections All 45 audited files had supervision notes documenting discussion of parent-child contact. All relevant court files documented contact frequency. The agency also encourages the maximum safe and appropriate contact, including virtual contact where suitable.	Client voice The family survey response rate was 26%, within the 20-35% benchmark. Among respondents, 83% were satisfied or extremely satisfied, within the 70-85% benchmark. Results should be read as the views of respondents rather than all families.

The agency can reasonably conclude that its work is contributing to children being safer within family settings. The strongest evidence is the combination of prevention, structured review, family-based placement, placement stability, assessed caregivers, active reunification work, comprehensive child wellbeing planning and documented family contact. This is a stronger basis for assurance than any single percentage alone.

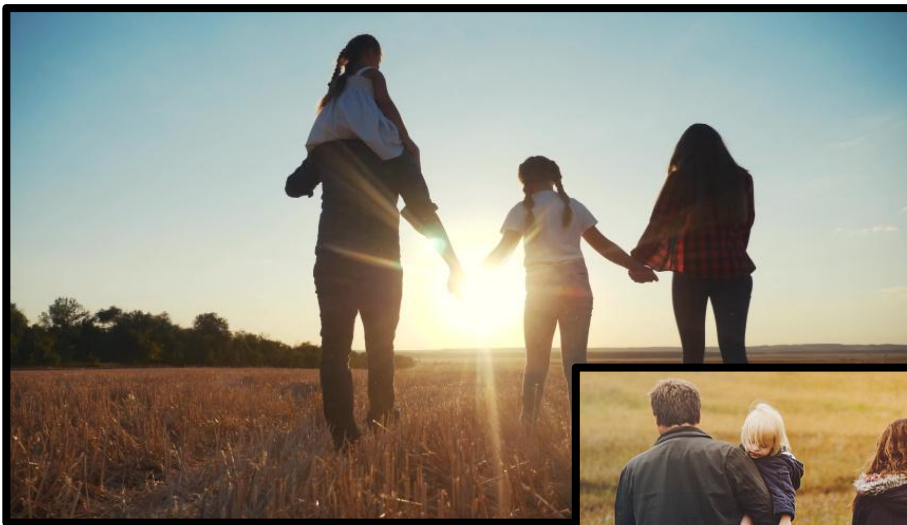
Families receive help before separation becomes necessary. All referred families were receiving in-home support or scheduled within two weeks.

Risk decisions are reviewed, not made in isolation. Audited assessments, case plans and safety plans all showed supervisor review.

Children remain in family environments whenever safely possible. Ninety-three percent were with kin, family friends or foster families; only 7% were in group care.

Children experience continuity and caring adults. Placement stability, initial home assessments and SAFE (detailed foster home assessment) completion all met agency expectations.

Safety includes the whole child and the whole family. Health, therapy, education, development and safe parent-child contact were systematically tracked.



Families are Able to Meet the Needs of Children

During the 2025/26 year, the Agency completed a Quality Assurance Review of randomly selected protection files to evaluate how effectively families are being supported to provide safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children. The review examined key areas of practice including family planning, support networks, caregiver skill development, in-home support services, case aide involvement, domestic violence responses, social work documentation, and supervisory oversight.

The review found that families were actively supported through a range of services aimed at strengthening parenting capacity and child safety. Support networks, including extended family, community resources, and service providers, were engaged when needed to help promote long-term family stability. In situations involving domestic violence, specialized supports and child-centred interventions were consistently utilized to assist families and enhance safety.

Children and families benefited from strong ongoing oversight and support. Monthly social worker contact and documentation were consistently maintained, and regular clinical supervision ensured that families received timely interventions and that progress was monitored throughout service delivery. Case aides provided supervised family visits where required, documenting caregiver strengths and opportunities for further growth.

The review also demonstrated a continued focus on strengthening caregiver skills. In-home support services worked directly with families to build parenting and life skills within the home environment, helping caregivers develop the knowledge and confidence needed to meet their children's physical, emotional, and developmental needs. Documentation showed that interventions were goal-oriented and focused on achieving positive outcomes for children and families.

Overall, the review demonstrated that the Agency continues to support families through assessment, planning, supervision, skill development, and community-based supports that help children remain safe and connected within their families whenever possible.

These findings reflect the Agency's ongoing commitment to strengthening families, promoting child wellbeing, and providing services that build long-term stability and resilience. Through collaborative partnerships with caregivers and communities, the Agency continues to support positive outcomes for children and families across Central Manitoba.



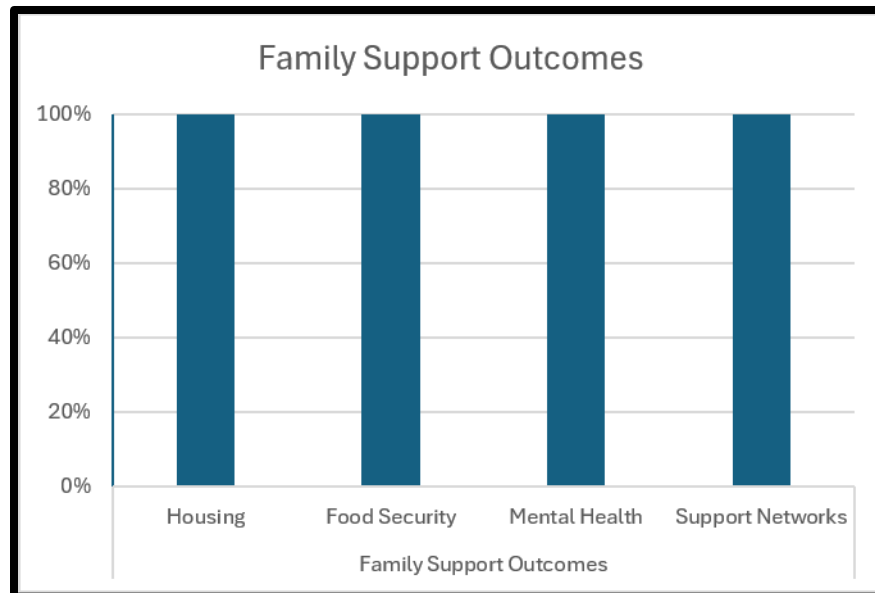
Families are Supported by Their Community

During the year, the Agency continued to strengthen community-based supports that help children remain safely connected to their families and communities. Families were supported through access to housing, food security resources, mental health services, and personal support networks that promote stability, caregiver capacity, and child wellbeing.

A review of protection files closed during the year found that all families had safe housing, adequate food security, and appropriate attention to mental health needs at the time of file closure. In addition, every family reviewed had identified community and/or family supports in place to help sustain stability and reduce isolation.

The Agency maintained strong partnerships with community organizations and service providers throughout the region. Staff actively participated in 12 interagency and community committees, accepting every invitation received to collaborate. These partnerships support coordinated services, improve referral pathways, identify community needs, and strengthen outcomes for children and families.

Quality assurance reviews also confirmed that support networks were offered whenever required, ensuring families had access to both formal and informal supports that promote long-term success and safety.



Support Networks: How they help families thrive

Submitted by Sally Marsolais, Support Network Supervisor



Support networks are groups of people who come together to help children, youth and families feel same, connected and supported. These networks can include extended family, friends, neighbors, community members, and professionals. They play a vital role in helping families navigate challenges and celebrate successes.

What is a support network?

A support network is a group of people who care about a child or family and are willing to be part of their journey. These individuals offer emotional support, practical help, and a sense of belonging. Support networks are built around the strengths, culture and values of each family.

The role of the Support Network Facilitator

A Support Network Facilitator helps families build and strengthen their support networks. They work alongside families to identify people who can offer support, organize meetings, and ensure everyone is working together. Facilitators are respectful compassionate, and focused on helping families lead their own planning and decision making.

How support networks help families

- Create a circle of care around children and caregivers
- Help families feel less alone and more empowered
- Support Safety, healing, and long-term well-being
- Encourage collaboration and shared responsibility
- Reduce the need for formal services over time

Support networks are about walking alongside families – not leading them. Together, we can build stronger, more connected communities where every child and family feels seen, heard, and supported.

Safety Networking Program

Submitted by Sally Marsolais, Support Network Supervisor

Over the past year, we have continued to reflect on the roots of our practice and the different approaches that may be needed depending on the needs, strengths, history, and context of each family. Within our own program, and alongside our provincial General Authority Community of Practice colleagues, we have been deepening our understanding of social architecture — the relationships, trust, community connections, cultural norms, informal helping systems, and support structures that exist around families.

This learning has helped us think more carefully about why Safety Networking may gain traction more easily in some families and communities, while being much more difficult in others. Some families do not begin with strong, safe, or stable networks. They may have experienced chronic trauma, poverty, violence, displacement, addiction, grief, mistrust of systems, or repeated child welfare involvement. In these situations, the issue is not simply that a family is unwilling to engage. It may be that the conditions needed for networking — trust, belonging, safe relationships, transportation, stability, and emotional capacity — are fragile or not yet in place.

This has become an important part of how we continue to strengthen and adapt our practice. Safety Networking is not a rigid checklist. Sometimes the right next step is a formal network meeting. Other times, the most meaningful work is preparation, relationship-building, helping the family identify who feels safe, strengthening one trusted connection, or supporting professionals and informal supports to better understand the worries for the children. This means choosing the right approach based on what the family needs, what the children need, and what conditions are necessary for safety to grow.

We are also continuing to deepen our understanding of regional and cultural differences across our service area. Families and communities do not all have the same history, resources, relationships, or experiences with helping systems. In some communities, there may be stronger intergenerational ties, church connections, kinship networks, or expectations of mutual aid. In others, networks may have been weakened by colonial trauma, poverty, housing instability, grief, transiency, violence, or mistrust of institutions. This ongoing learning helps us avoid blaming families when networking is difficult and instead ask better questions about what barriers exist, what supports have been disrupted, and what needs to be built first.

Another important area of learning has been strengthening how we incorporate the Safe & Together Model into our Safety Networking practice. When domestic abuse is a concern, safety planning cannot rest only on the victim/survivor.

The person causing harm must remain visible, with clear expectations for behaviour change and a network that understands the worries, recognizes patterns of harm, and supports accountability and safety.

This continues to be complex and evolving practice. Our work requires us to support the victim/survivor with dignity and care, while also helping the network stay focused on the behaviour of the person causing harm, the impact on the children, and what needs to happen next for safety. This also includes continuing to recognize post-separation abuse and the ways harmful behaviours can continue to impact survivors and children after a relationship has ended.

This quote has helped capture the heart of our Safety Networking work:

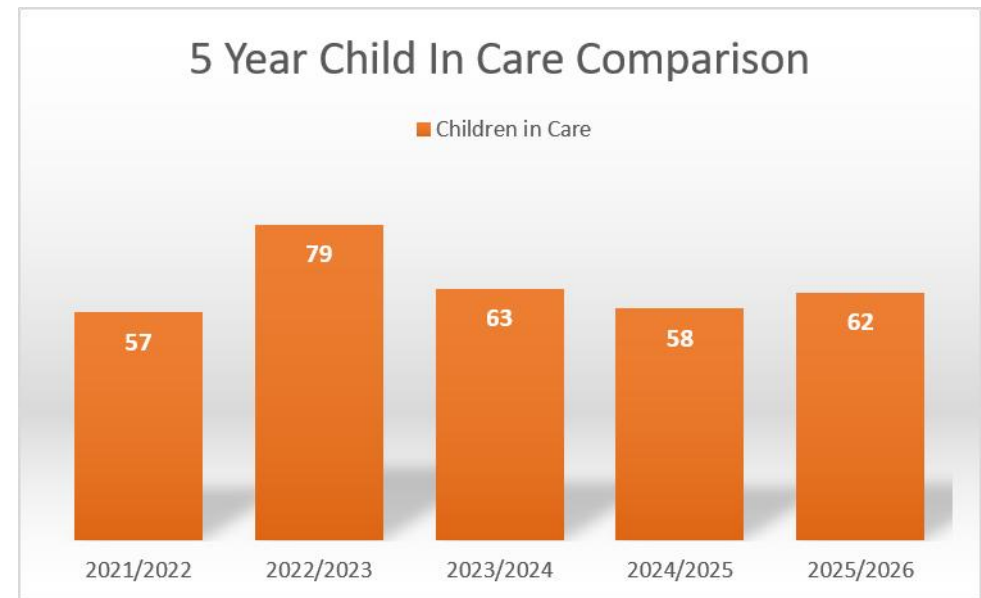
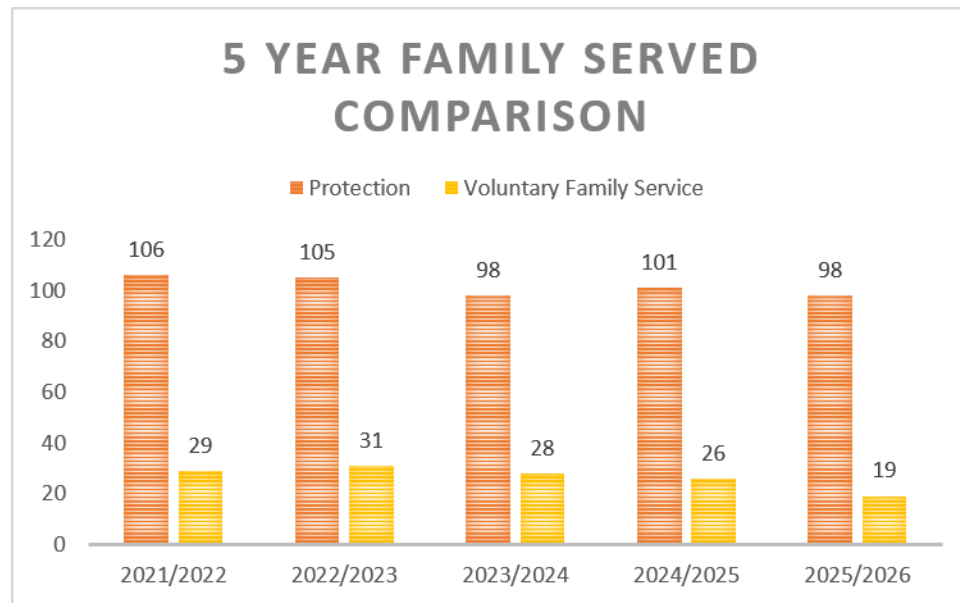
“Engaging people’s best thinking about complex issues without easy answers will be the key to creating the futures we want rather than being forced to live with the futures we get.”

—Eric E. Vogt, Juanita Brown & David Isaacs, *The Art of Powerful Questions: Catalyzing Insight, Innovation, and Action* (Whole Systems Associates, 2003)



As a program, we continue to strengthen our work by focusing on what most meaningfully supports children and families. This includes partnering closely with our colleagues, preparing carefully before meetings, keeping children at the centre, and adapting our approach when natural supports are fragile. This work continues to stretch and strengthen the Safety Networking Program by deepening our practice, sharpening our language, and helping us build family-led networks that are clear, courageous, culturally responsive, and capable of supporting real safety.

Children and Families Served by our Agency



While our agency continues to focus on safely reducing the number of children in care, year-to-year changes are influenced by a range of factors and are not always within the agency's control. This year, the number of children in care increased by four children, representing approximately a 7% increase from the previous year.

There is no single identifiable reason for this increase. Recent changes in the criteria used by some Indigenous and Indigenous Governing Body (IGB) agencies when accepting file transfers may have contributed to fewer files being transferred outside of the General Authority. The increase may also reflect factors such as larger sibling groups entering care during the year, or normal year-to-year variation in the number of children requiring placement.

Our goal remains to safely reduce the number of children in care by keeping children with their families whenever possible. However, reducing apprehensions cannot come at the expense of child safety. Children can remain safely at home when sufficient safety can be created and maintained with their caregivers and support networks. When this cannot be achieved, including situations where caregivers are unable or unwilling to participate in the measures necessary to address identified safety concerns, placement may be required to ensure children are protected.

Safe & Together:

The Domestic Violence Response Strategy

Submitted by Jamie Small, DV Response Coordinator



Over the past year, the Domestic Violence Response Program has continued to grow as an important source of support, consultation, training, and field response for staff working with families impacted by domestic abuse. The program has provided specialized guidance to workers in both the Winkler and Portage la Prairie offices, helping to strengthen safety planning, improve case consultation, and support more domestic abuse-informed practice across the region.

A significant focus of the program has been helping staff better understand domestic abuse through a Safe & Together lens. This includes keeping the focus on the behaviour of the person causing harm, recognizing the impact of that behaviour on children and family functioning, and supporting the non-offending parent's efforts to promote safety. The program has also helped workers identify patterns of coercive control, post-separation abuse, manipulation, and the ways that domestic abuse can continue to affect families even after a relationship has ended.

During the past year, the Domestic Violence Response Coordinator provided a broad range of support, including coaching and consultation, field support, training, community engagement and partnership-building. This work has strengthened staff confidence and helped bring a more consistent domestic abuse response to complex child welfare cases.

The work of the program has shown how interconnected domestic abuse response must be. Field support strengthens training, training improves case planning, and case consultation helps workers respond more clearly and safely with families. The program has supported workers in preparing for interviews, understanding risk, developing safety plans, and thinking more carefully about how to engage both survivors and people causing harm.

One of the key learnings from this year is that domestic abuse work is often time-sensitive. When safety concerns escalate, when new information comes forward, or when a parent is ready to engage, staff need timely access to specialized support. The program has demonstrated strong value in helping workers respond to these moments with greater clarity, confidence, and attention to safety.

The program has also highlighted opportunities for future growth. There is strong potential to continue expanding Safe & Together practice across teams, increase domestic abuse-informed coaching, strengthen community partnerships, and further develop opportunities to grow the Caring Dads program. These areas will continue to be important as the program grows and as staff deepen their understanding of domestic abuse-informed child welfare practice.

Overall, the Domestic Violence Response Program has proven to be a valuable and necessary support for staff, families, and community partners. The work completed this year has helped strengthen safety-focused practice, support workers in complex situations, and build a stronger foundation for continued growth in domestic abuse response across the South-Central Region.

Caring Dads

Submitted by Jamie Small, DV Response Coordinator

Caring Dads is a 17-week program designed for dads who have been abusive to their children's mothers.

Our goal is to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and their mothers by giving dads the tools and knowledge to improve parenting. Whether they live together as a family, share custody, or have visits, Caring Dads helps dads develop the skills needed to improve their relationships with their children.

Caring Dads is a big commitment for both the facilitators and the dads, but with that commitment comes great reward. We are seeing dads move from blaming others to taking responsibility for their actions and their need to learn new skills. We get to discuss their implementation of these skills in communication, parenting, and restoring loving relationships with their children.



This year, Sharon Dueck and Jamie Small facilitated a Caring Dads group in the Winkler board room. Four participants successfully completed the program. While it was a smaller group, several participants shared that the smaller setting helped them feel more comfortable opening up and engaging in discussions in ways they felt they would not have in a larger group. A particular highlight was seeing fathers gain insight into how their own childhood experiences shaped their parenting and identify ways they wanted to parent differently with their children. This level of reflection and self-awareness is an important step toward creating safer and healthier family relationships.

Dads are typically referred to the program by a CFS-CM worker. This upcoming year we are planning to run a total of three sessions: one session in Portage from April to July, one in Carman from September to December, and one in Winkler from October to February.



In-Home Support Programming

Submitted by (L-R):

Nicole Fehr, Supervisor

Rod Sveistrup, Supervisor

Sharon Dueck, In-Home Support Coordinator



The In-Home Support Program consists of seven dedicated staff members who serve families throughout our region. Through in-home support and educational programming, staff work alongside parents, caregivers, and youth to strengthen parenting skills, improve family functioning, increase safety, and support positive outcomes for children. Using a strengths-based approach, families are supported in building the skills and confidence needed to create safe and stable home environments.

In addition to one-on-one services, the program offers a variety of groups that are open to all families in the community, regardless of Child and Family Services involvement. This year, staff facilitated a Caring Parent Workshop for mothers impacted by domestic violence, a Co-Parenting Workshop for separated parents, Active Parenting of Teens, a Teen Girl Group focused on empowerment and healthy relationships, and budgeting workshops that promoted financial literacy and life skills.



The program also recognizes the importance of caregiver wellness. Christmas and Spring Day Retreats provided opportunities for self-care, learning, and connection, while regular *Coffee Connections* gatherings encouraged ongoing peer support and community building.

Through the generosity of community donors, families were also able to access local attractions such as the Winkler Aquatic Centre, The Leaf, the Winnipeg Zoo, Winnipeg Goldeyes games and the Manitoba Museum. These opportunities helped families spend meaningful time together, strengthen relationships, and create positive shared experiences.



The In-Home Support Program remains committed to helping families build on their strengths, develop healthy relationships, and create safe, nurturing environments where children and youth can thrive.



Foster Care

Submitted by Rod Svstrup, Foster Care Supervisor

“Children don’t need perfection — they need someone who keeps showing up.” — Unknown

Foster parents play an extraordinary role in our work. They are everyday people who make an intentional choice to offer safety, comfort, and stability to children who are facing incredibly difficult circumstances. When a child enters care because of neglect, abuse, or a family crisis, foster parents become the steady presence they can rely on. They don’t just provide a bed and meals — they provide reassurance, patience, guidance, and a sense of belonging at a time when life feels uncertain.

Their involvement goes far beyond day-to-day caregiving. Many of our foster families take part in support networks, build relationships with children’s biological families, participate in regular check-ins, and help plan for youth who are preparing to transition out of care. Their commitment is often the anchor that helps a child feel grounded again.

Across the Central Region, our current foster care network includes:

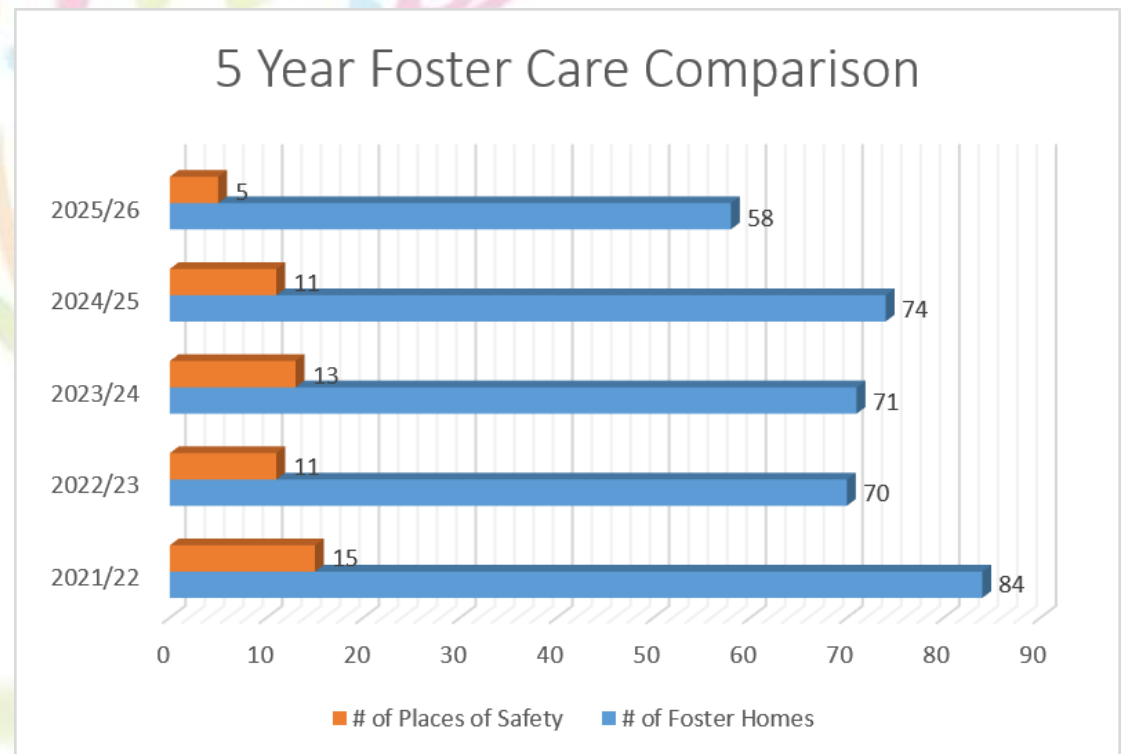
58 licensed foster families

5 Place of Safety (POS) homes

2 Kinship Homes, both short-term placements with relatives or close family connections

Places of Safety homes require licensing in the short-term future and once this occurs they are designated licensed foster families. Therefore, the number of POS homes does not accurately reflect the number of children placed with external family.

Alongside these homes, our agency continues to provide respite support, ensuring children and foster families have additional care resources when needed.



We continue to welcome new foster parent applications, especially as the need remains high for placements for youth ages 12–17. Emergency placements (DEP) for this age group are particularly challenging to secure. Our resource team has been incredibly resourceful in addressing these gaps, including exploring whether adoptive applicants may be open to long-term fostering — an approach that has already proven successful.



We also remain committed to honouring foster parents who have dedicated ten or more years of service. Their long-standing commitment reflects the profound impact foster families have on the lives of children and youth. Even when their efforts aren't always visible to the public, the difference they make is lasting, meaningful, and deeply appreciated.



Adoption

“Family is not defined by our genes, it is built and maintained through love.” — Amalia G.

Adoption is a powerful way to build family, creating bonds rooted in love, stability, and the promise of belonging. It offers children the chance to grow in homes where they are supported and valued, while giving adoptive parents the opportunity to open their hearts with compassion and commitment. Our adoption program plays a vital role in this journey by supporting foster parents adopting children in their care, guiding new applicants through each stage of the process, managing financial subsidies, preparing court documentation, facilitating openness agreements, responding to post-adoption inquiries, and delivering the mandatory education series required for all new applicants. Through this work, we help ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a safe, permanent home shaped by dedication and connection.

We currently have **20 adoption applications** either under assessment or waiting to begin assessment. An additional **6 families** have completed their adoption assessments and are now on the adoption registry awaiting placement. While our team provides service across all of Manitoba's Adoption Divisions, the majority of these applications fall under **Division 1 – Permanent Ward Adoptions**.

Over the past year, our team finalized **5 adoptions**:

- **3 Permanent Ward Adoption (Division 1)** for a CIC from our agency
- **2 Permanent Ward Adoption (Division 1)** for a CIC from another GA agency

We currently are awaiting finalization of **2 private adoptions** and finalization of **2 adoptions that are division 1** within our agency. It should be noted that since 2020, our adoption unit has been involved with **25 adoptions** in our region.

As of **March 31, 2026**, we were managing **35 Financial Subsidies** for adoptive families, providing ongoing financial support to help meet the needs of their children. We also offered post-adoption support to **14 adoptive and birth families**, often assisting with challenges related to openness agreements or helping children navigate the emotional complexities of their adoption stories. In addition, our team continued to respond to a significant volume of requests from adult adoptees seeking post-adoption services.

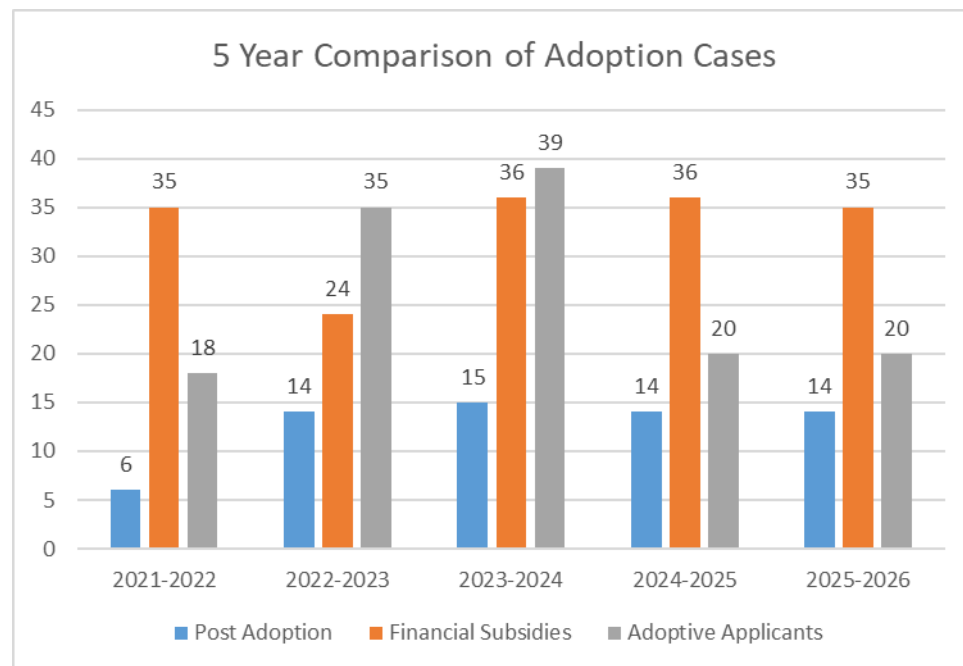
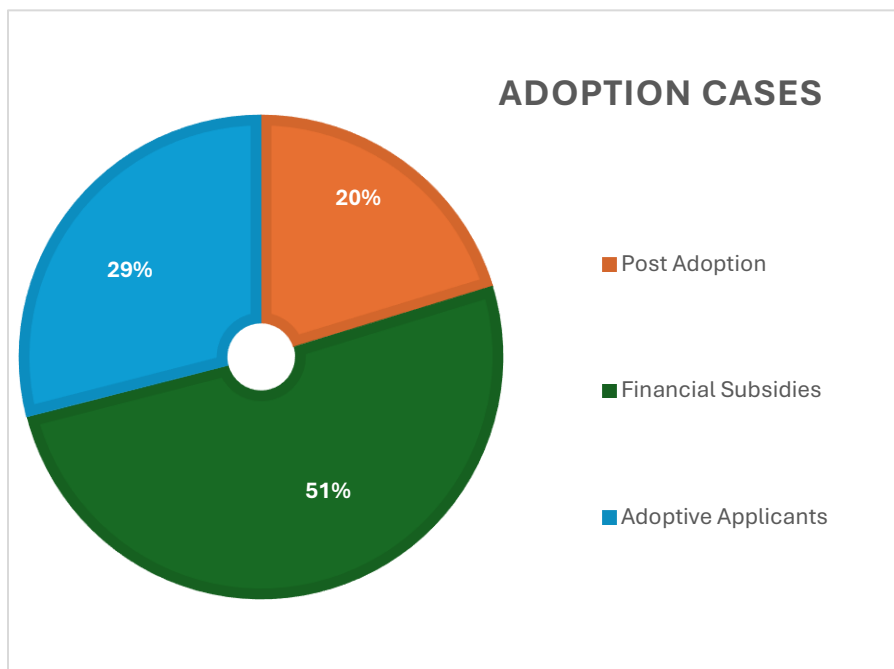
Our Resource Team—spanning both adoption and foster care—plays an active role in the agency's **Permanency Planning Committee**. This committee meets regularly throughout the year to review all child-in-care files with the goal of ensuring timely, thoughtful, and effective long-term planning. Its work focuses on:

- ensuring permanency planning is completed promptly and thoroughly

- exploring all viable options to determine the best plan for each child
- prioritizing meaningful, lifelong family connections for youth transitioning out of care
- incorporating the child's voice in decision-making when appropriate
- supporting frontline staff as they navigate complex permanency situations

Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to helping every child find stability, belonging, and the lifelong connections they deserve.

Our adoption worker also plays an important role in creating **Life Books** for children who are adopted or currently in care. In 2025, **5 Life Books were completed**, and **12 more are currently in progress**. Life Books are deeply meaningful tools for children and youth. A Life Book is a personalized record of a child's history—capturing their story, important relationships, cultural identity, milestones, and memories. It often includes photos, timelines, letters, artwork, and age-appropriate explanations of significant events in their lives. For many children in care, pieces of their early story may be missing, confusing, or difficult to understand. A Life Book helps fill those gaps in a gentle, supportive way. Life Books are more than keepsakes—they are essential tools for helping children make sense of their journey, build confidence in who they are, and move forward with a stronger sense of belonging and self-worth.



Statement of Operations for the Year End

March 31, 2026

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF CENTRAL MANITOBA INC.

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the year ended March 31, 2026

	Core Agency Support Fund	Ward Care Fund	Protection and Prevention Services	Designated Intake	Capital Fund	2026	2025
REVENUE							
General Child and Family Services Authority	\$ 1,121,698	\$ 3,738,992	\$ 1,495,597	\$ 1,121,698	\$ -	\$ 7,477,985	\$ 7,380,315
Other	298,615	207,666	63,250	-	-	569,531	610,822
Government of Canada	-	458,630	-	-	-	458,630	500,734
Amortization of deferred contributions	-	-	-	-	12,163	12,163	85,255
Province of Manitoba	-	71,413	-	-	-	71,413	46,167
	1,420,313	4,476,701	1,558,847	1,121,698	12,163	8,589,722	8,623,293
OPERATING EXPENSES							
Allocation of operational expenses	(212,176)	418,206	(103,015)	(103,015)	-	-	-
Amortization of capital assets	-	-	-	-	204,680	204,680	215,244
Field service costs	82,227	-	31,906	-	-	114,133	121,589
Office maintenance	263,485	-	-	-	-	263,485	231,698
Office operations	209,024	-	-	47,556	-	256,580	172,150
Other support	-	-	63,250	-	-	63,250	46,824
Salaries and benefits	970,348	1,705,512	1,507,664	1,304,650	-	5,488,174	4,994,045
Service support	107,405	-	112,061	24,327	-	243,793	380,737
Ward care expenses	-	2,352,983	-	-	-	2,352,983	2,956,118
	1,420,313	4,476,701	1,611,866	1,273,518	204,680	8,987,078	9,118,405
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	-	-	(53,019)	(151,820)	(192,517)	(397,356)	(495,112)
NET ASSETS - Beginning of year	1,151,675	4,391,088	129,261	16,449	937,757	6,626,230	7,421,531
NET ASSETS - Restatement (Note 2)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(300,189)
NET ASSETS - Beginning of year restated	1,151,675	4,391,088	129,261	16,449	937,757	6,626,230	7,121,342
NET ASSETS - Ending	\$ 1,151,675	\$ 4,391,088	\$ 76,242	\$ (135,371)	\$ 745,240	\$ 6,228,874	\$ 6,626,230

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF CENTRAL MANITOBA INC.

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2026

	Core Agency Support Fund	Ward Care Fund	Protection and Prevention Services	Designated Intake	Capital Fund	2026	2025
ASSETS							
CURRENT ASSETS							
Cash	\$ 714,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 714,615	\$ 103,990
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	22,029	168,809	-	-	-	190,838	108,426
Prepaid expenses	52,175	-	-	-	-	52,175	49,980
Current portion of investments (Note 5)	6,336,132	-	-	-	-	6,336,132	6,965,239
	7,124,951	168,809	-	-	-	7,293,760	7,227,635
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)	-	-	-	-	866,870	866,870	1,071,551
	\$ 7,124,951	\$ 168,809	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 866,870	\$ 8,160,630	\$ 8,299,186



Child & Family Services OF CENTRAL MANITOBA

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324 S. Railway Ave.

Winkler, MB R6W 0M8

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Designated Intake Agency for all four authorities in
Manitoba's Central Region (off-reserve)

