



Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
on Health and Human Services
Feb. 9, 2016

*Department of Health and Human Services
Work First Program Substance Use Initiative*



Work First Program Overview

- The Work First program is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children.
- The program provides parents with cash assistance and other services to help them become employed and move toward self-sufficiency.
- Welfare Reform resulted in reducing the number of households receiving cash assistance.
 - FFY 1995 - 125,503 households received ongoing assistance
 - SFY14-15 - an average of 17,728 households received ongoing assistance
- An estimated 62% of Work First cases are “Child Only.”

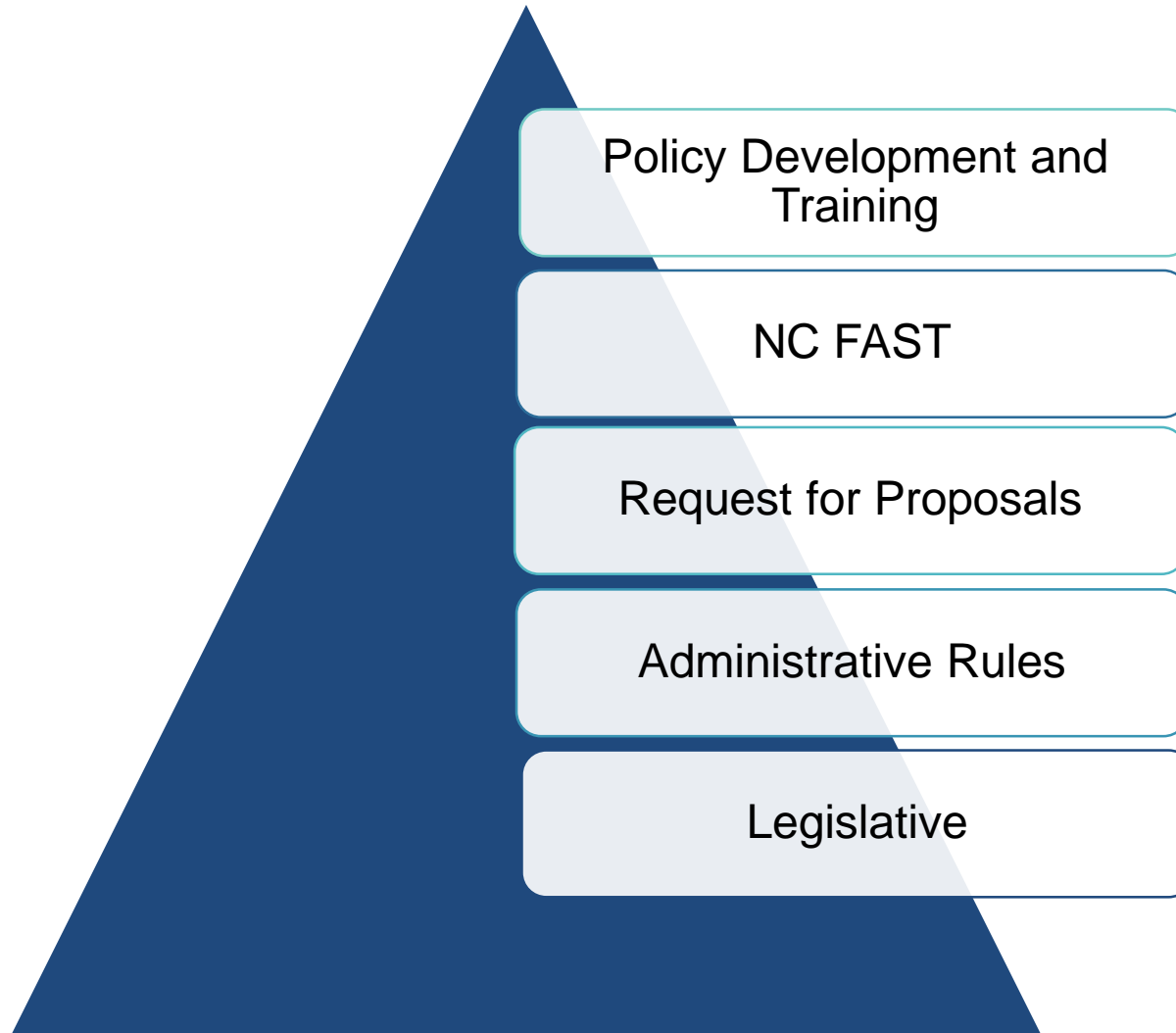


Statutory Requirement

- Session Law 2013-417, Part II, Section 4(a) revised NC GS§ 108A-29.1 to require a drug test to screen each applicant for or recipient of Work First Program assistance whom the Department reasonably suspects is engaged in the illegal use of controlled substances.
- In July of 2014, Session Law 2014-100 (Senate Bill 144) allocated funds for the implementation of the Substance Use Initiative.



Key Areas of Effort



Implementation Activities



Deployment of the Work First Substance Use Initiative

- On Aug. 3, 2015, County Social Services Agencies operationalized Work First Program Substance Use “Drug Testing.”
- Centralized “Command Center” staffed by NC DSS/Work First, NC FAST and NC DHHS OST.
- Staff dedicated for trouble shooting with contract vendor to address system functionality.



Work First Program Data

- Substance Use Initiative data is available for the period beginning Aug. 3 through Dec. 31, 2015.
- Limited data is available to provide a comparison of impact of the initiative on caseloads over time.
- Comparison data is confined to the months of August–December of the cited years.
- The following slides provide information on:
 - Substance Use Referrals and Test Results
 - Costs Related to Substance Use Testing
 - Pre- and Post-Substance Use Initiative Caseload Data
 - Caseload Data Over Time



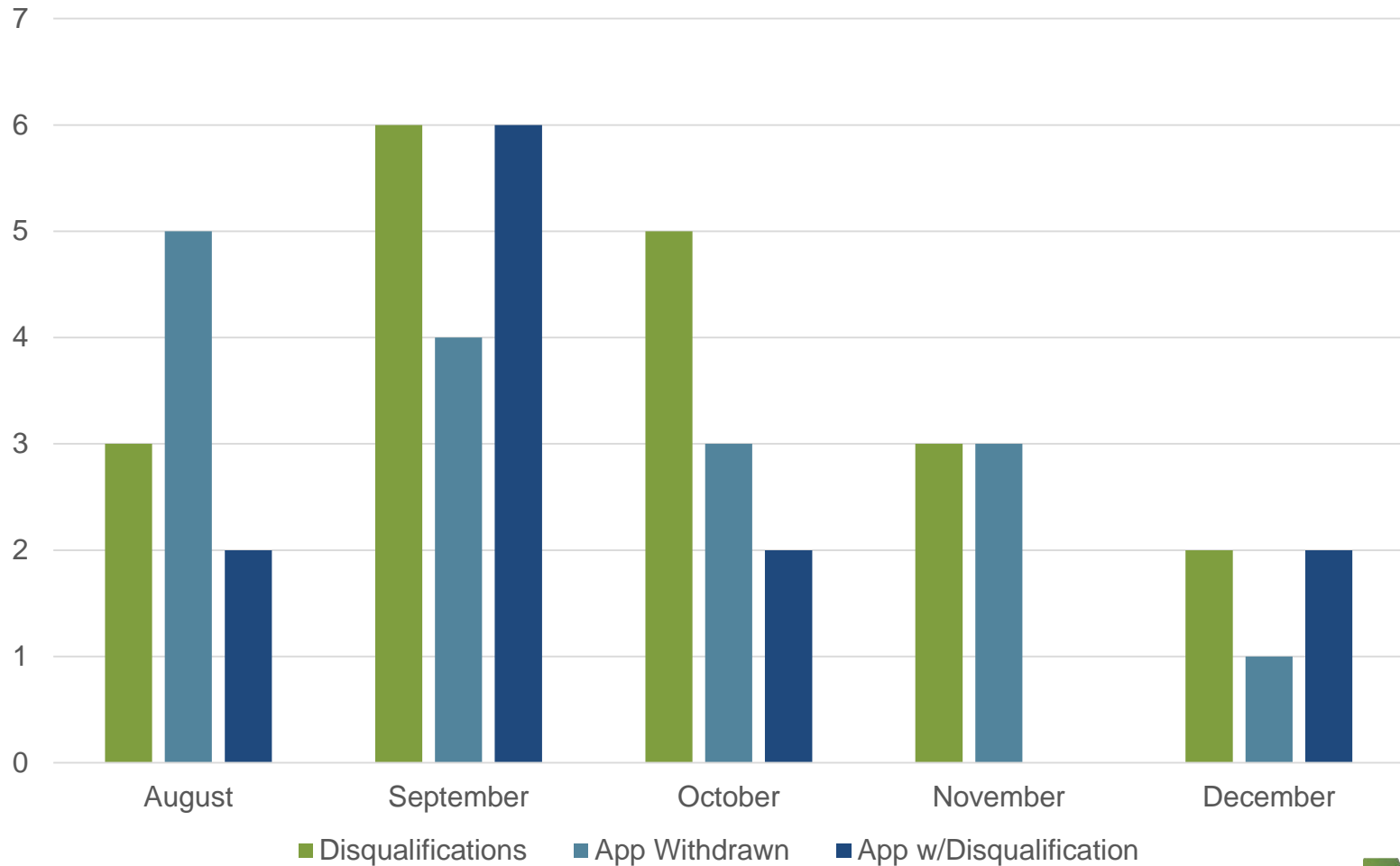
Work First Program Substance Use Initiative

Substance Use Referrals and Test Results Aug. 3, 2015 – Dec. 31, 2015

Report Month	Missed Appointments	Number of Tests Performed	Confirmed Positive Result
August	7	5	2
September	13	18	3
October	15	24	5
November	20	19	3
December	15	23	8
Total	70	89	21



Case Disposition for Individuals with Confirmed Positive



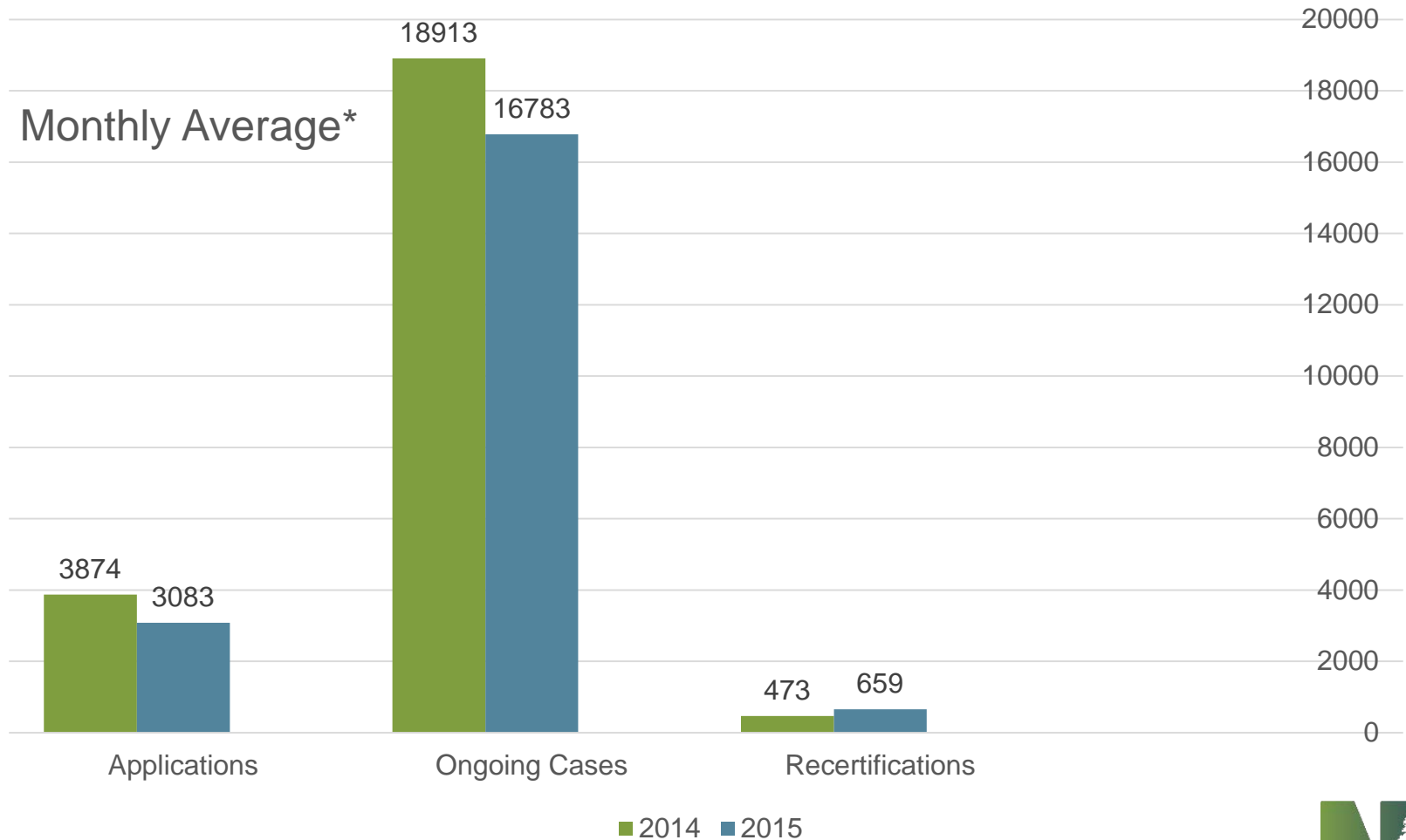
Costs Related to Substance Use Testing

Aug. 3, 2015 – Dec. 31, 2015

- As of Dec. 31, 2015, 89 tests have been administered at the contract cost of \$55.00 per test for a total of \$4,895.00.
- Fortes Laboratories of Wilsonville, Oregon, is the service provider for substance use testing.
- Fortes has contracts with local testing facilities to ensure all 100 counties have access to collection sites.
- The substance use test is a urine toxicology that screens for:
 - Cannabinoids (marijuana, weed);
 - Cocaine (cocaine; crack);
 - Methamphetamines (meth, crystal, crank)/Amphetamines (speed, uppers);
 - Opiates (heroin, opium); and
 - Phencyclidine (angel dust, PCP)



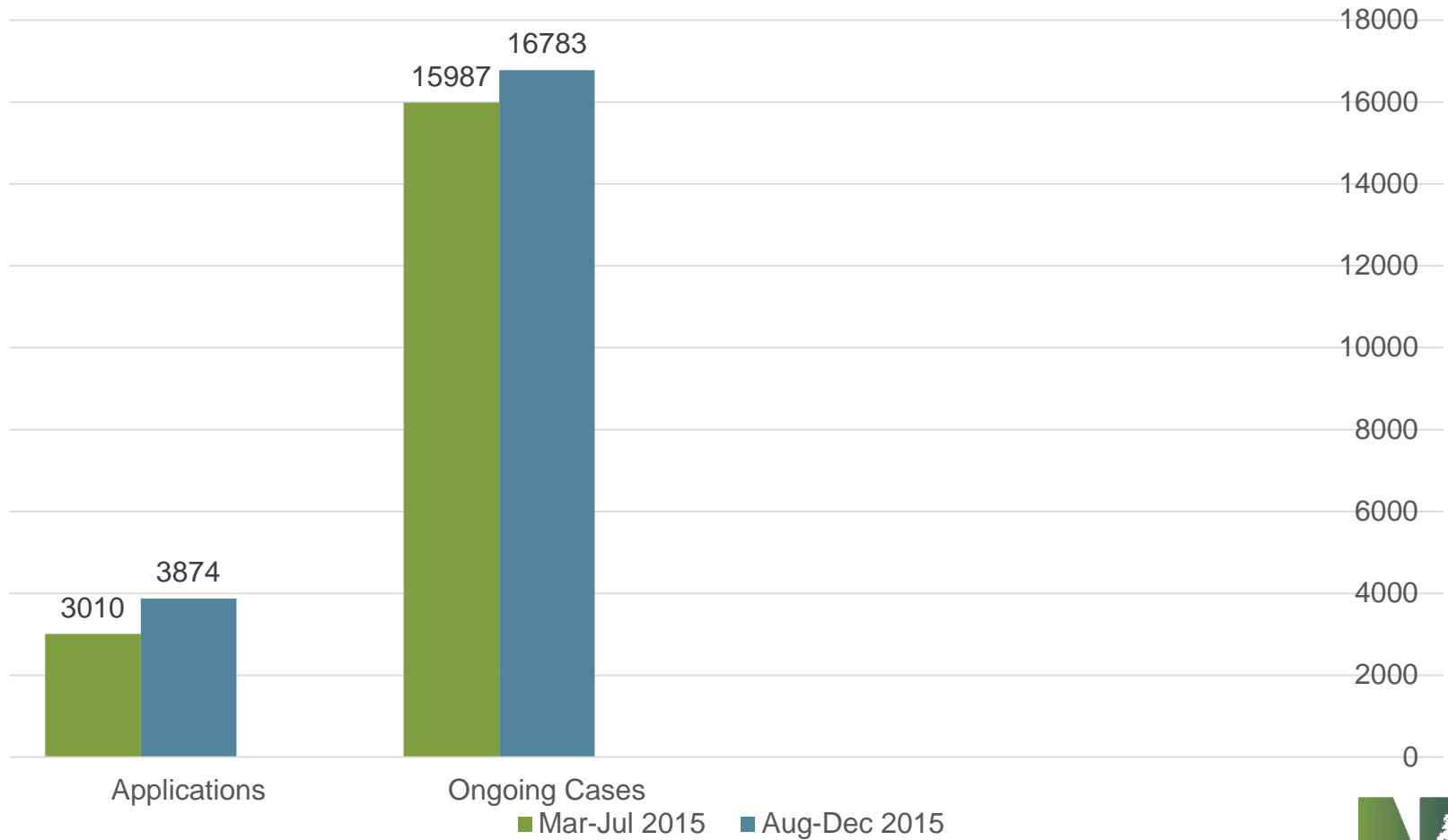
Monthly Average Applications and Eligibility Re-determinations



* An estimated 62% of Work First cases are Child Only



Pre- and Post-Substance Abuse Initiative



Note: An estimated 62% of cases are Child Only

