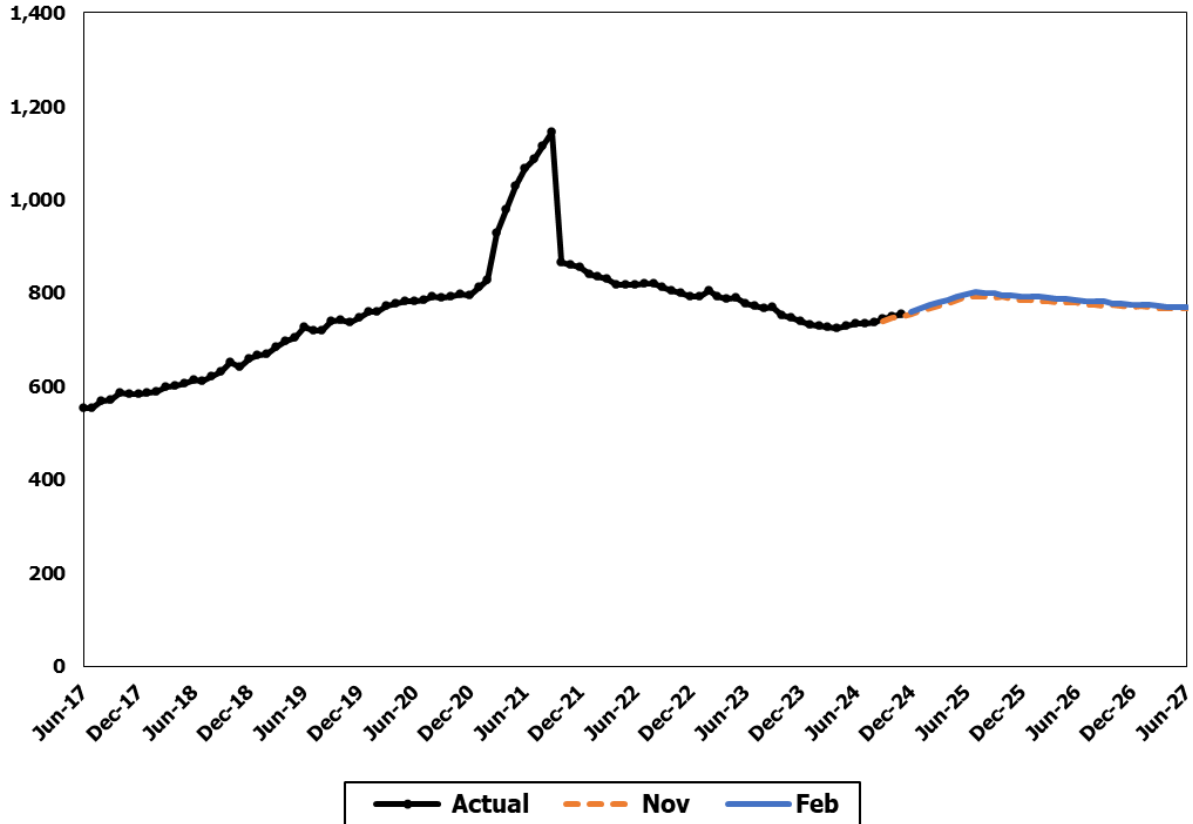


**Extended Foster Care**



The Extended Foster Care (EFC) caseload is the count of youth receiving certain foster care benefits after turning 18 years old. EFC is intended to promote better outcomes for youth who have aged out of the traditional foster care system.

**Forecast Comparisons (Fiscal Year Averages)**

Fiscal Year	Nov-24 Forecast	Feb-25 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2025	759	764	6	0.7%
2026	785	793	8	1.0%
2027	771	775	5	0.6%

The February 2025 forecast is 6 cases or 0.7 percent higher than the November 2024 forecast for FY 2025 and, on average, 6 cases or 0.8 percent higher for the 2025-27 Biennium.

### Tracking the Current Forecast

Month	Nov-24			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Sep-24	738	745	7	0.9%
Oct-24	747	748	1	0.1%
Nov-24	749	755	6	0.8%

Actuals are tracking, on average, 5 cases or 0.6 percent above the November forecast.

### Fiscal Year Caseload Change

	Fiscal Year	Caseload	Change from Prior Year	Percent Change
Actual	2018	586		
	2019	663	77	13.2%
	2020	753	90	13.5%
	2021	866	113	15.0%
	2022	907	41	4.7%
	2023	799	-108	-11.9%
	2024	743	-55	-6.9%
Forecast	2025	764	21	2.8%
	2026	793	28	3.7%
	2027	775	-17	-2.2%

Eligibility for EFC has been expanded repeatedly, which contributed to continued caseload growth through the middle of 2021. Case counts for the period from April 2020 through September 2021 reflect a temporary policy change that allowed youth who turn 21 while enrolled in EFC to continue receiving EFC support. The downward trend in the caseload seen since the end of the temporary extension is likely a downstream effect of declines in other foster care caseloads for children and youth aged 17 and under.

The February forecast includes a step adjustment modeling the estimated caseload impact of E2SSB 5908 (Chapter 192, Laws of 2024) which made changes to EFC eligibility requirements and directed the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to develop, subject to appropriations, incentive payments for youths in EFC who are engaged in certain educational or work activities or who are receiving Subsidized Independent Living payments.

#### *Risks to the Forecast*

The risks to this EFC forecast are moderate and primarily due to uncertainty around how many additional youths may participate in EFC given the revised eligibility standards and incentive payments to be made under E2SSB 5908.