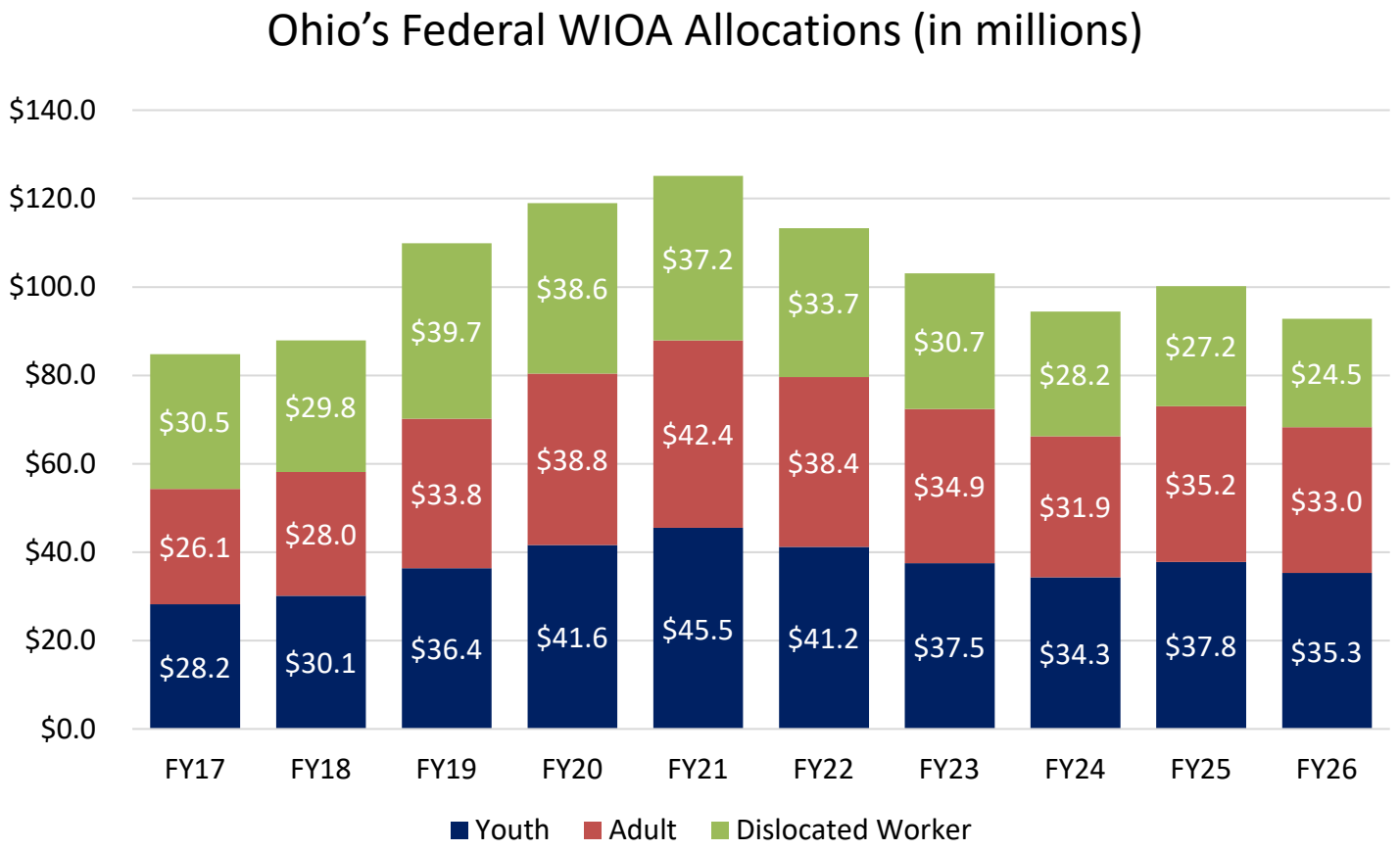
Ohio's federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants decrease slightly



Sources: U.S. Department of Labor; Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)

- Ohio's total federal WIOA grant increased from $94.4 million in FY 2024 to $100.2 million in FY 2025 – a 6.2% increase. However, the grant decreased to $92.7 million in FY 2026 – a 7.5% decrease.
- WIOA's purpose is to increase opportunities for individuals with employment barriers, to provide workers with the necessary skills to advance in their jobs, to increase participants' retention and earnings, and to promote economic growth.
- Eligibility for each component is as follows:
  - **Adult services** – must be 18 years of age or older, legally authorized to work in the U.S., and be properly registered for selective service.
  - **Dislocated Worker services** – must meet the requirements specified for Adult services and other requirements such as being terminated from employment through no fault of their own or employed at a facility in which there is a substantial layoff or plant closure.
  - **Youth services** – varies depending on whether the youth is in-school or out-of-school. In-school youth must be between 14 and 21 years of age and low income. Out-of-school youth must be between 16 and 24 years of age. Both must also have an employment barrier such as having justice system involvement or being skills deficient (for in-school youth), a high school dropout (for out-of-school youth), pregnant, a parent, or homeless.