



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

**Capacity Strategic Plan**

**Region 10**

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October 1, 2018

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## **Introduction**

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.”

The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2018 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of each Catchment/Region.

Each region, led by regional DFPS leadership, has met with their regional stakeholders to develop a strategic plan. In addition, each region has partnered with a local provider contracted by CPS, to continue oversight and recommend changes as needed based on progress of goals established.

## **Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 10 occurred on 8/24/18 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2019.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Regional capacity strategic plan:

The University of Texas at El Paso, Alliviane, Juvenile Probation Department, Family Leadership Council, Texas Foster Care and Adoption Services, El Paso Child Crisis Center, El Paso Center for Children, A World for Children, Upbring, Children’s Hope, and Emergence Health Network.

The following strategies were identified by the stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team:

## **Regional Plan to Increase Capacity**

### **Goal 1: Assess Current Capacity**

It is believed there may be a surplus of basic homes identified for pre-school and school aged children in Region 10 that may not truly represent available capacity. In order to increase emergency placements into the least restrictive placement for this age group, an assessment will be conducted to determine actual capacity with each Child Placing Agency (CPA).

#### **Objective 1.1: Determine Availability of Emergency Placement Options**

- Develop a standardized method to collect information which will help determine current availability for this age group.
- Evaluate identified barriers within each CPA to taking emergency placements of preschool and school age children
- The Child Crisis Center will provide information on trends with emergency placements by CPS
- Based on the information collected, the CPAs will work jointly to evaluate and implement a system improvement plan to increase capacity for emergency placements

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings

### **Goal 2: Increase Placement Capacity for Teenagers**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified a need for two basic and six moderate foster homes for teenagers.

#### **Objective 2.1: Determine How to Grow Capacity**

- The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) will conduct a focus group with existing foster parents who service this population

#### **Objective 2.2: Recruit Foster Placements for Teenagers**

- Information gathered by UTEP will be used in recruitment efforts to increase placement capacity for teenagers
- Circle of Living Hope, A World for Children, Upbring, and CPS have committed to opening a minimum of two new foster homes for teenagers during this FY19. Children's Hope has indicated they will work on licensing one new foster home for teenagers.

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings

**Goal 3: Increase Support for Caregivers with High Needs Children**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified a need for eleven new specialized foster homes. In order to grow capacity in this area it is believed there must be increased support for existing caregivers.

**Objective 3.1: Identify Gaps**

- The University of Texas at El Paso will conduct a focus group/survey with existing foster parents to determine needs

**Objective 3.2: Address Identified Gaps**

- The CPAs will work with the Family Leadership Council on any identified resource gaps for foster parents

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at events such as provider meetings.