



# Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

**Commissioner**  
*H. L. Whitman, Jr.*

November 30, 2018

Ms. Ursula Parks  
Director, Legislative Budget Board  
1501 North Congress Avenue, 5th Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Ms. Parks:

Pursuant to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 37, 2018-2019 Article II of the General Appropriations Act, 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the agency has attached the report comparing the distribution of children across levels of care prior to and after implementation of the new levels of Treatment Family Foster Care Services and Intense Plus.

We will continue to submit the quarterly report required by Rider 37 that evaluates any significant changes in the distribution of children by level of care including the fiscal impact of those changes.

We will continue to apprise you of our progress to provide the effective, efficient services to the most vulnerable citizens in our state. Thank you for your continued interest and support. If you have any questions, please contact Rand Harris, Chief of Staff, at [Rand.Harris@dfps.state.tx.us](mailto:Rand.Harris@dfps.state.tx.us) or at (512) 438-3083.

Sincerely,

**H. L. WHITMAN, JR.**

Attachment

# DFPS Rider 37 Report for Comparison

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As required in Rider 37, Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall submit a report comparing the distribution of children across levels of care prior to and after implementation of new levels.

As demonstrated in the last quarterly Rider 37 report submitted in October 2018, there have been no major changes in the distribution of levels of care since the implementation of the new levels of Treatment Foster Family Care Services and Intense Plus. The programs are still relatively new and residential providers continue developing resources and programming to support implementation of the new levels. DFPS anticipates a continued decrease in the number of special waivers and child specific contracts when more residential providers begin contracting to provide Intense Plus services and more Treatment Foster Family Care homes become available.

## **Treatment Foster Family Care Services**

Treatment Foster Family Care Services (TFFC) is a time-limited service by which providers will be held accountable for reducing the acuity of need and facilitating placements into a less restrictive, more family-like setting. DFPS has awarded three contracts for services across the state for Treatment Foster Family Care Services. The three contracts for Treatment Foster Family Care Services were effective September 1, 2018. The training for Treatment Foster Family caregivers is robust, so the providers outlined plans for homes to be available to provide this new service starting in December 2018. As of November 2018, one child is receiving Treatment Family Foster Care services.

## **Intense Plus**

Intense Plus services are designed to address chronically serious to severe emotional and/or behavioral management problems that interfere with the child's ability to function in a family, school, or community setting outside of a therapeutic environment. At this time, Residential Treatment Centers (RTCs) are the only types of facilities that may provide intense plus services. As of November 13, 2018, one RTC has been contracted to provide Intense Plus services. They are currently serving two children who require Intense Plus services. As of November 13, 2018, a second RTC was authorized to provide Intense Plus services and their contract is being updated to reflect that change.

DFPS maintains regular outreach and communication to the residential providers about Intense Plus services. Since the implementation of Intense Plus services eleven providers have shown interest. Of those eleven providers, six have opted not to implement the program. Of the remaining five, one is contracted to provide Intense Plus services, one has been approved to provide the services and the contract is in the process of being amended, and two are pending the submission of their policies and procedures to the third party reviewer, and one withdrew from the process.