



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Foster Care Needs Assessment**

## **Executive Summary**

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November 2021

## Executive Summary

In accordance with Senate Bill 11 (85th Texas Legislature, 2017), the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) must use data collected on substitute care needs to develop an annual Foster Care Needs Assessment for areas in which Community-Based Care (CBC) has not been implemented.

Building capacity depends largely on contracted provider efforts. These important providers develop and manage over 90 percent of all foster homes across the state, all foster homes for higher needs children, and all residential care.

To better support contracted providers and stakeholders in understanding and using the information in the Foster Care Needs Assessment, this year DFPS is rolling out a Foster Care Needs Assessment dashboard. This dashboard will provide:

- average daily capacity data
- quarterly updates; and
- forecasting for future capacity needs

Utilizing the dashboard data, Regional leadership will be hosting regional strategic capacity building meetings including not only foster care providers but local faith-based entities, child advocates, and other organizations. In these meetings regional leadership will facilitate a collaborative discussion regarding the data in the dashboard and develop and/or update regional strategic capacity building plans which will be posted on the DFPS website. Through these meetings and other collaborative efforts, DFPS will continue to routinely partner with contracted providers and other stakeholders to address capacity needs by identifying and expanding strategies that are working, changing or discontinuing those that are not and exploring and incorporating new strategies, as appropriate.

The analysis for this year indicates a need for the following:

- capacity for youth 13 and older with basic and moderate service levels;
- capacity for all higher needs children and youth; and
- capacity in rural areas for all ages and service levels.