



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

**DFPS Rider 24 Report for Utilization
of Appropriate Levels of Care in
Foster Care**

July 2021

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As required in Rider 24, Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall submit quarterly reports within 60 days of the end of the fiscal quarter updated information regarding implementation of plans to ensure foster children are placed in the most appropriate service level.

Year to Date Fiscal Year 2021

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 July 23, 2021, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services. There are currently no providers actively working to add the Intense Plus Service Level. One of the operations previously seeking intense plus service level is no longer in operation, one has opted out of moving forward with certification, and one had completed the initial compliance with the intense plus indicators but due to concerns with the placement their contract was not amended.

Treatment Family Foster Care Services

Treatment Family Foster Care is a time-limited service through which providers are held accountable for reducing the acuity of need and facilitating placements into a less restrictive, more family-like setting. DFPS awarded three contracts for Treatment Foster Family Care Services to be provided across the state. The three contracts were effective September 1, 2018. Each contractor has a capacity growth plan with targeted milestones for both the number of treatment foster family homes certified to offer this service and the number of children served under each contract. The contractors continue to report that training and preparing the foster families takes longer than anticipated and that the model works best with one rather than two children in the home receiving this service. As such, the program continues to grow but at a slower pace than originally anticipated. Previously, the TFFC program was limited to children ages 10 and under. As capacity grew, DFPS and the TFFC contractors worked together to expand the ages of children accepted in the program. As of February 1, 2021, the age has been expanded to all children in DFPS conservatorship ages 17 and under. CPAs have begun training new and current families to work with older youth, but it is taking longer than expected for older youth to be accepted into these homes. As of July 23, 2021, 256 unique children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.ⁱ

Financial Impact Due to Expanded Service Array

At this time, there is no significant financial impact resulting from the addition of Intense Plus and Treatment Family Foster Care. Currently, there are two RTCs contracted to provide Intense Plus Services. To date, thirteen children have received Intense Plus services.

As of July 23, 2021, there are 101 active Treatment Family Foster Care foster homes among the three contracted Child Placing Agencies. Of those 101 TFFC homes, 26 are in SSCC catchment areas. There are 85 DFPS childrenⁱⁱ placed in those homes. All three providers regularly review children for placement.

As the capacity in the Treatment Family Foster Care program grows and additional providers add Intense Plus Services to the array, DFPS should realize more of an impact based on the additional service.

Utilization of Service Levels

This Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care Report is for FY 21 YTD (September 1, 2020- May 31, 2021) data. These data exclude child specific contracts and children placed in a Single Source Continuum Contract (SSCC) through Community Based Care. Data will fluctuate due to payments processing through the systems.

Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care FY21 YTD (September 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021)

Table 1 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts and the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date.

Table 1: Children in Paid Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	11,988	\$26,044,101
Oct-20	12,077	\$26,864,924
Nov-20	11,933	\$25,758,483
Dec-20	11,764	\$26,293,092
Jan-21	11,548	\$26,024,369
Feb-21	11,414	\$23,265,697
Mar-21	11,445	\$25,343,370
Apr-21	11,110	\$23,913,817
May-21	10,768	\$23,868,271

Table 2 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 2: Paid Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	13,835	\$78,667,508
2	13,143	\$75,583,158
3	12,727	\$73,125,458

Table 3 represents the number of children in and spending for child specific contracts. Child specific contracts are only applicable for children not in the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date.

Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	221	\$2,419,099
Oct-20	246	\$3,005,933
Nov-20	270	\$3,068,878
Dec-20	266	\$2,920,166
Jan-21	288	\$3,178,522
Feb-21	298	\$2,966,082
Mar-21	293	\$3,261,295
Apr-21	302	\$3,257,028
May-21	273	\$3,115,620

Table 4 represents the number of children with and spending for special waivers of a child's service level. Special Waivers are issued when there is a gap in the authorized service level period of time or a need to provide services at a level greater than what is authorized by the third-party review. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date.

Table 4: Children in Paid Foster Care on Special Waivers

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	110	\$643,451
Oct-20	120	\$736,379
Nov-20	115	\$762,449
Dec-20	122	\$832,754
Jan-21	128	\$849,120
Feb-21	130	\$761,602
Mar-21	144	\$938,503
Apr-21	154	\$1,004,792
May-21	140	\$832,577

Table 5 represents the number of children in and spending for paid foster care by service level during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts and the SSCC. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, monthly numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children by service level will not match the total number of children in paid foster care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 5: Total Children in Paid Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Month	Quarter	Basic	Basic Amount	Moderate	Moderate Amount	Intense	Intense Amount	Intense Plus	Intense Plus Amount
Sep-20	1	7,634	\$9,517,856	1,793	\$4,404,648	346	\$2,275,488	8	\$79,743
Oct-20	1	7,695	\$9,910,327	1,801	\$4,636,577	334	\$2,293,113	6	\$74,534
Nov-20	1	7,624	\$9,467,167	1,757	\$4,381,441	336	\$2,300,181	2	\$24,043
Dec-20	2	7,534	\$9,771,763	1,739	\$4,404,936	329	\$2,379,942	3	\$24,043
Jan-21	2	7,430	\$9,702,533	1,667	\$4,258,168	318	\$2,284,913	2	\$19,635
Feb-21	2	7,365	\$8,824,245	1,618	\$3,777,653	299	\$1,882,927	2	\$14,827
Mar-21	3	7,415	\$9,589,829	1,626	\$4,159,733	293	\$1,995,755	1	\$2,805
Apr-21	3	7,224	\$9,140,908	1,601	\$3,987,871	273	\$1,850,531	0	\$0
May-21	3	6,992	\$9,202,159	1,603	\$4,116,121	276	\$1,916,094	1	\$2,404

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
Sep-20	1	1,741	\$7,170,464	552	\$1,705,202	27	\$217,800	67	\$488,553	95	\$119,072
Oct-20	1	1,708	\$7,207,029	613	\$1,788,436	25	\$221,943	72	\$520,818	96	\$123,266
Nov-20	1	1,679	\$6,893,489	570	\$1,756,954	25	\$185,259	73	\$556,550	95	\$114,536
Dec-20	2	1,663	\$7,064,435	543	\$1,729,816	28	\$231,661	72	\$552,617	81	\$101,020
Jan-21	2	1,648	\$7,086,739	512	\$1,733,914	30	\$223,798	70	\$548,728	75	\$97,124
Feb-21	2	1,629	\$6,397,501	500	\$1,568,570	30	\$188,751	74	\$521,019	76	\$86,198
Mar-21	3	1,620	\$6,994,693	540	\$1,707,548	31	\$254,684	77	\$541,415	75	\$96,906
Apr-21	3	1,537	\$6,434,991	500	\$1,626,737	25	\$212,113	74	\$566,209	73	\$94,458
May-21	3	1,446	\$6,274,211	446	\$1,552,635	20	\$113,635	73	\$600,140	73	\$90,872

Month	Quarter	COVID-19 Placement	COVID-19 Placement Amount
Sep-20	1	12	\$65,274
Oct-20	1	13	\$88,880
Nov-20	1	19	\$78,862
Dec-20	2	8	\$32,859
Jan-21	2	9	\$68,816
Feb-21	2	2	\$4,007
Mar-21	3	0	\$0
Apr-21	3	0	\$0
May-21	3	0	\$0

Table 6 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each month excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. The number of children in and payments for SSCC foster care has increased with the addition of an SSCC in catchment areas 1, 2, and 8a.

Table 6: Children in SSCC Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Children	Amount
Sep-20	5,461	\$13,918,709
Oct-20	5,504	\$14,618,917
Nov-20	5,512	\$14,175,067
Dec-20	5,476	\$14,597,955
Jan-21	5,441	\$14,501,579
Feb-21	5,468	\$13,399,496
Mar-21	5,508	\$14,475,368
Apr-21	5,425	\$13,985,714
May-21	5,297	\$14,322,016

Table 7 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care during each quarter, excluding children in child specific contracts. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children over the quarter will not match the cumulative count of children in each month in the quarter as the same child can be counted in multiple months but will only be counted once in the quarter.

Table 7: SSCC Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	6,257	\$42,712,692
2	6,267	\$42,499,031
3	6,220	\$42,783,098

Table 8 represents the number of children in and spending for children in SSCC care by the different payment rates during each month, excluding children in child specific contracts. The SSCC is not paid by a child’s service level. Instead, they are paid a single rate for each child that is a “blend” of the service level that would have been paid in the legacy system. There is also a provision for the SSCC to be paid an exceptional rate for some children that is similar in concept to a child specific contract. The rate for children in Supervised Independent Living (SIL) is also a separate rate. There is a lag in financial data and, as a result, numbers for recent months only represent what has been recorded to date. The count of children by different payment rates will

not match the total number of children in SSCC care as a child can have more than one service level during a month and so can be counted in multiple service levels.

Table 8: Children in SSCC Foster Care by Service Level Excluding Child Specific Contracts

Month	Quarter	SSCC Blended Children	SSCC Blended Rate Amount	SSCC Exceptional Children	SSCC Exceptional Amount Paid	SSCC SIL Children	SSCC SIL Amount
Sep-20	1	5,278	\$12,384,433	133	\$1,421,941	98	\$112,334
Oct-20	1	5,312	\$12,966,334	131	\$1,534,098	96	\$118,485
Nov-20	1	5,323	\$12,507,813	142	\$1,554,529	97	\$112,725
Dec-20	2	5,285	\$12,818,678	146	\$1,652,905	105	\$126,373
Jan-21	2	5,245	\$12,736,704	146	\$1,638,510	106	\$126,364
Feb-21	2	5,255	\$11,709,645	159	\$1,569,440	107	\$120,412
Mar-21	3	5,304	\$12,723,727	156	\$1,619,253	105	\$132,388
Apr-21	3	5,230	\$12,357,162	149	\$1,501,251	107	\$127,301
May-21	3	5,106	\$12,662,502	134	\$1,537,262	101	\$122,252

ⁱ Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.

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