



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Rider 48

Semi-Annual Progress Report

As Required by

2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1,
87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Rider 48)

September 2022



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Purpose of Report

Pursuant to Rider 48 of Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, DFPS is submitting this periodic report on the progress of increasing the capacity of qualifying community-based prevention and family preservation services, including a full accounting of funds expended.

This progress report provides DFPS's activities associated with Family First Transition Act Funds, Rider 48 conducted through mid-September 2022.

Required Reporting

Per Rider 48, DFPS is required to report on the progress of increasing the capacity of qualifying community-based prevention and family preservation services, including a full accounting of funds expended. The report shall be prepared in a format specified by the Legislative Budget Board and shall be submitted by March 31 and September 30 of each fiscal year of the biennium. The report shall be provided to the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and any standing Joint Legislative Oversight Committees, as appropriate. The report shall also be posted on the agency's public webpage to ensure transparency with the public and stakeholders.

Background

DFPS was awarded \$50,265,902 of federal funds through the Family First Transition Act (FFTA) in Fiscal Year 2020. The period of availability for the grant is from October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2025, and is intended to support implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Prior to the 87th Legislative Session, DFPS requested authority and was authorized to expend up to \$16.4M of the grant in the following 3 areas:

- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot- estimated \$8.0 Million
 - Provide support of efforts by licensed General Residential Operations to become accredited under the QRTP model.

- \$1.5 million in incentive grants for providers to obtain QRTP accreditation
 - \$5.5 million for residential provider payments
 - \$1.0 million for DFPS implementation staff (4.0 FTEs)
- IMPACT Modifications/Other Admin System Modification- Estimated \$8.4 Million

Senate Bill 1, The General Appropriations Act, 87th Regular Legislative Session, Rider 48 directed DFPS on how to spend the remaining \$33.9M of FFTA funding during the FY 2022-2023 biennium.

Rider 48 Requirements and Progress Report

Rider 48 (a)

Rider 48 (a) provides funding to pilot FFPSA prevention services, now referenced as The Texas Family First Pilot Program (TFF) coordinated through CPI including homeless foster youth, contingent on enactment of HB 3041, or similar legislation relating to the provision of certain services by the DFPS as an alternative to removing a child and certain procedures with respect to children in the managing conservatorship of the department by the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

DFPS contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University to study, per Senate Bill 910, the requirements necessary to transition Family Preservation Services into the Community-Based Care model, with a focus on the use of Title IV-E approved clearinghouse evidence-based services. PPRI has met all deliverable deadlines to date. Deliverable 1, Draft of Initial Research Plan, was received and there was no payment associated with this deliverable. Deliverable 2, Final Initial Planning Report, was received on November 4, 2021, and had an associated payment of \$80,000.00. Deliverable 3, 3-Month Research Progress Report, was received on January 3, 2022, and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. Deliverable 4, 6-Month Research Progress Report, was received on April 4, 2022 and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. The next deliverable, the final deliverable, Final Study of Options Report, was received on August 31, 2022. The contract with Texas A&M University for the study, per SB 910 was concluded on August 31, 2022, and final invoice has been received from PPRI, concluding the usage of the \$300,000 of FFTA funds for this study.

Positions to aid in the transition of family prevention services to the community are being created.

Rider 48 (b)

Rider 48 (b) provides funding to pilot services and interventions for children who are at imminent risk of being removed. The TFF pilot program is designed as a new tool to prevent children from entering foster care by providing court-ordered services to families to alleviate safety concerns. As directed by HB 3041, 87th Texas Legislature (2021), DFPS is piloting TFF in certain areas of the state and will report back to lawmakers upon the one-year anniversary of implementation. DFPS is partnering with community-based providers to stand up evidence-based preservation services in the pilot areas. On March 18th, 2022, DFPS released a grant funding opportunity for current Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) to apply to participate in the pilot project. Applicants proposed at least one evidence-based program approved by Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that has been evaluated and rated Well-Supported in the areas of mental health or substance abuse. SSCCs could also propose additional evidence-based programs approved by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that have been evaluated and rated on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, or in-home parent skill-based training to ensure services are available for families with children ages zero to seventeen. Applications were due April 28th, 2022, and DFPS executed contract amendments with four Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) providers as of August 31, 2022. In FY22, \$2,950,005.30 of the funds were paid out through these amendments to the contracts, with a remaining \$2,950,005.27 projected to be utilized in FY 23.

Rider 48 (c)

Rider 48(c) provides funding for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program to expand capacity as allowed by Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). DFPS' Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division finalized contract updates to incorporate these additional funds into four existing NFP contracts to serve pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. Sites include: Any Baby Can, Travis County; Children's Shelter of San Antonio, Bexar County; Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Brazos County; and the City of Port Arthur, Jefferson County. All four NFP sites began hiring and recruiting eligible families immediately. Funds will be added to an additional four NFP contracts in Fiscal Year 2023. PEI is also working to add mental health consultation services to the contract with the NFP National Service Office (NSO) to better support NFP sites providing services to pregnant and parenting youth in foster

care. In FY22, PEI expended \$2,502 to date, with an additional \$24,536 obligated in FY22. PEI is projecting to utilize \$2,000,000 within these programs in FY23.

Rider 48 (d)

Rider 48(d) provides additional funding for the DFPS Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Pilot Project. A QRTP is a time-limited clinical intervention, which includes placement into and service delivery by qualified accredited residential facilities with highly trained, experienced, and qualified staff to meet the needs of children with complex mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs. The goal is to provide the child with the appropriate level of treatment for their individual needs in order to assist them in learning how to manage their behaviors so they transition out of foster care and back to their family of origin, or achieve positive permanency in a less restrictive environment while receiving after care support services for a minimum of six months.

The QRTP Open Enrollment Procurement documents and all required supplemental documents were published on Friday April 1, 2022. The information is posted on the Electronic State Business Daily site where potential providers can view necessary information to apply to become a contracted QRTP provider. Implementation details for internal and external processes have been established and shared with DFPS staff and external stakeholders through meetings, webinars, workgroups, and cross training sessions which were conducted throughout the months of April, May, and June 2022. DFPS achieved readiness to serve the first youth by July 1, 2022, however, at this time, there are no established QRTP contracted providers. On September 2, 2022, an addendum to the Open Enrollment was published to provide clarifying information for potential applicants.

Although not a part of the Rider 48, but related as an underlying requirement for a placement to be considered a QRTP, on August 24, 2022 DFPS released a state grant opportunity through a Request for Application (RFA) to aid with costs of obtaining or maintaining Accreditation in efforts to incentivize QRTP contractors.

Rider 48 (e)

Rider 48 (e) provides funding to support the transition of family-based safety services to evidenced-based programs under FFPSA. DFPS has established a plan for use of these funds to aid in the transition of FBSS services to evidence-based programs under FFPSA

and anticipates implementation in the fall of 2022. The established plan is projected to utilize the full \$2,600,000 in FY 23.

Estimated Expenditures as of September 10, 2022

Rider 48 Sub-Section	Budgeted FY 2022	Expended FY 2022	Budgeted FY 2023
48 (a) Totals	\$4,450,000	\$300,000	\$4,450,000
Texas A&M Study	\$300,000	\$300,000	NA
48 (b) Totals	\$4,900,000	\$2,950,005.30	\$4,900,000
HB 3041- TFF Pilot Program	\$2,950,005.30	\$2,950,005.30	\$2,950,005.27
48 (c) Totals	\$1,300,000	\$27,037	\$1,300,000
NFP contracts	\$1,300,000	\$27,037	\$2,000,000
48 (d) Totals	\$4,986,933	\$0	\$4,986,933
QRTP, Open Enrollment	\$4,986,933	\$0	\$4,986,933
48 (d) Totals	\$1,300,000	\$0	\$1,300,000
Transition of FBSS services to evidence-based programs.	\$1,300,000	\$0	\$2,600,000

Appendix A. Rider 48 Report, March 2022

Pursuant to Rider 48 of Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, DFPS is submitting this periodic report on the progress of increasing the capacity of qualifying community-based prevention and family preservation services, including a full accounting of funds expended.

Rider 48 (a) and (b) provides funding to pilot services and interventions for children who are at imminent risk of being removed. The 87th Legislative Session enacted HB 3041 that requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to establish a court-ordered, time limited, evidence-based service pilot project in a rural and urban area for families in the Family Based Safety Service (FBSS) stage of service. On March 18th, 2022, DFPS released a grant funding opportunity for current Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) to apply to participate in the pilot project. Applicants must propose at least one evidence-based program approved by Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that has been evaluated and rated Well-Supported in the areas of mental health or substance abuse. SSCCs may also propose additional evidence-based programs approved by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that have been evaluated and rated as Well-Supported and/or Supported in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, or in-home parent skill-based to ensure services are available for families with children ages zero to seventeen engaged in FBSS. Applications are due April 28th, 2022, and DFPS anticipates contract amendments will be completed June 6th.

DFPS is also in the process of creating a Program Specialist VII position to coordinate FFPSA services for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. This position will oversee program planning and will serve as the subject matter expert regarding best practices in delivering evidence-based programming for pregnant and parenting youth in care, as well as ensure community programmatic needs and contract requirements are met.

Rider 48(c) provides funding for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program to expand capacity as allowed by FFPSA. DFPS' Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division is in the process of finalizing contract updates to incorporate these additional funds into four existing NFP contracts to serve pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. Sites include: Any Baby Can, Travis County; Children's Shelter of San Antonio, Bexar County; Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Brazos County; and the City of Port Arthur, Jefferson County. All four NFP sites will begin hiring and recruiting eligible families immediately. In addition, PEI is working to add mental health consultation services to the contract with the NFP National Service Office (NSO) to better support NFP sites providing services to pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.

Rider 48(d) provides additional funding for the DFPS Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Pilot Project. A QRTP is a time-limited clinical intervention, which includes placement into and service delivery by qualified accredited residential facilities with highly trained,

experienced, and qualified staff to meet the needs of children with complex mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs. The goal is to provide the child with the appropriate level of treatment for their individual needs in order to assist them in learning how to manage their behaviors so they transition out of foster care and back to their family of origin, or achieve positive permanency in a less restrictive environment while receiving after care support services for a minimum of six months.

On April 7, 2022, DFPS published an Open Enrollment Opportunity for licensed General Residential Operations (GRO's) to become contracted QRTP Providers. The anticipated date for an operation to serve the first DFPS youth in a QRTP setting is July 1, 2022.

Rider 48 (e) provides funding to support the transition of family-based safety services to evidenced based programs under Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA). DFPS contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University to study, per Senate Bill 910, the requirements necessary to transition Family Preservation Services. PPRI has met all deliverable deadlines to date. Deliverable 1, Draft of Initial Research Plan, was received and there was no payment associated with this deliverable. Deliverable 2, Final Initial Planning Report, was received on November 4, 2021, and had an associated payment of \$80,000.00. Deliverable 3, 3-Month Research Progress Report, was received on January 3, 2022, and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. Deliverable 4, 6-Month Research Progress Report, was received on April 4, 2022 and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. The next deliverable, Draft Study of Options Report, is due by June 1, 2022. PPRI is on-track to meet this deadline. The final deliverable, Final Study of Options Report, is due on August 1, 2022.