

DFPS Rider 24 Report for Comparison

As required in Rider 24, Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 85th 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 24 report submitted in October 2020, 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 these 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 awarded three contracts for services across the state for Treatment Foster Family Care Services. 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. As of October 30, 2020, 68 children are receiving Treatment Family Foster Care services. There are 86 active TFFC homes.

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 3, 2020, two RTCs have been contracted to provide Intense Plus services. They are currently serving eight children who require Intense Plus services. As of November 3, 2020, three additional RTCs were authorized to provide Intense Plus services and their contracts are 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, fourteen providers have shown interest. Of those fourteen providers, six have opted not to implement the program. Of the remaining eight, two are contracted to provide Intense Plus services, three have been approved to provide the services and the contracts are in the process of being amended, two are no longer contracted with DFPS, and one is pending the submission of its policies and procedures to the third-party reviewer.