



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

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

January 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 January 25, 2021, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services. There are three additional providers in the process of becoming certified for Intense Plus Services.

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. As of January 25, 2021, 212 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, ten children have received Intense Plus services.

As of October 15, 2020, there are 101 active Treatment Family Foster Care foster homes among the three contracted Child Placing Agencies. There are 68 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- November 30, 2020) 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 - November 30, 2020)

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	11,786	\$25,511,916
Oct-20	11,751	\$26,038,172
Nov-20	11,176	\$24,100,649

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	13,340	\$75,650,736

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	210	\$2,298,339
Oct-20	217	\$2,750,756
Nov-20	200	\$2,453,673

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	103	\$587,332
Oct-20	108	\$671,444
Nov-20	97	\$626,045

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	7,522	\$9,413,952	1,761	\$4,340,289	337	\$2,205,802	8	\$79,743
Oct-20	1	7,516	\$9,711,238	1,751	\$4,524,026	321	\$2,196,858	6	\$74,534
Nov-20	1	7,107	\$8,899,057	1,690	\$4,233,270	309	\$2,131,151	2	\$24,043

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	1,710	\$7,069,300	523	\$1,651,260	24	\$185,233	52	\$377,882.37	98	\$123,179
Oct-20	1	1,664	\$7,046,956	569	\$1,708,963	21	\$187,505	49	\$370,483.35	99	\$128,727
Nov-20	1	1,575	\$6,503,476	500	\$1,590,747	22	\$178,895	46	\$346,857.79	98	\$120,702

Month	Quarter	COVID-19 Placement	COVID-19 Placement Amount
Sep-20	1	12	\$65,274
Oct-20	1	13	\$88,880
Nov-20	1	17	\$72,451

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	5,363	\$13,583,867
Oct-20	5,446	\$14,129,529
Nov-20	5,358	\$13,796,422

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	6,113	\$41,509,818

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	5,200	\$12,319,306	109	\$1,149,261	98	\$115,299
Oct-20	1	5,285	\$12,963,162	90	\$1,046,041	94	\$120,325
Nov-20	1	5,187	\$12,440,794	105	\$1,242,538	91	\$113,089

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

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