



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Report on Federal Funds Maximization**

Fiscal Year 2022 Semi-Annual Update

**As Required by Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislative Session, 2021  
(Article II, DFPS, Rider 37)**

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March 1, 2022



# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Section I: Update to Federal Funding to Address COVID-19.....	1
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) .....	1
Section II: Update to Other Federal Grants .....	2
Kinship Navigator Grants .....	2
National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE).....	2
Section III: Update to FY 2022-2023 Active Projects.....	2
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot .....	2
Prevention Pilots.....	3
Update the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS).....	3
Section IV: Update to Foster Care Rate Methodology Examination and Modernization.....	3
Section V: Update to Title IV-E Funds for County Legal Services.....	4
Conclusion .....	4



# Introduction

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Rider 37 of Senate Bill 1, 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to submit progress reports related to the agency's efforts to maximize federal funds, including identifying the strategies DFPS has implemented and any successes and challenges in maximizing funding, as well as how the agency can maximize federal funds by program and funding source. Progress reports are required to be submitted by September 1 and March 1 of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Relevant federal funding updates since the [September 2021 report](#) are only included in this progress report which serves as a companion to the September report.

## Section I: Update to Federal Funding to Address COVID-19

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### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

#### *Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Supplemental Funds*

Since the September 2021 report, the agency has assessed needs across all eligible program areas and has developed a plan that supports the grant's intent. The spending plan includes the following:

- Services to support child abuse and neglect prevention,
- Services for youth and young adults with lived foster care experience,
- Advancing work to assess and address disproportionality,
- System improvements to support matching of children and youth to prospective adoptive families, and
- Implementation of a more efficient background check process.

#### *Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)*

Since the September 2021 report, DFPS received a second round of MIECHV funding and made a few adjustments to the plans for the first round of funding. Those are detailed below.

#### [MIECHV Round 1 \(\\$2.6 million\)](#)

- Evidence-based training program for prevention of postpartum depression for MIECHV providers;
- IT enhancements to improve online options for completing enrollments, assessments, and surveys virtually;
- Technology and connectivity (for home visitors and families) to support remote home visits;

- Retention/incentive pay for front-line direct service workforce to retain home visitors and other direct service staff;
- Training to support staff in providing remote home visits; and
- Funding to community grantees to retain a qualified home visiting workforce and provide emergency supplies for families, including diapers, wipes, infant formula, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food, and gift cards for perishable food items.

MIECHV Round 2 (\$ 5.2 million)

DFPS plans to pass the majority of funding on to MIECHV grantees to use within the same allowable uses in MIECHV Round 1 as described above. The plan will be submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration on March 3, 2022.

## **Section II: Update to Other Federal Grants**

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### **Kinship Navigator Grants**

DFPS is using approximately \$1,400,000 in federal grant funds to implement the 4 Kinship Navigator Program approaches developed in Fiscal Year 2021. The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division providers began the pilot implementation phase October 2021. A portion of these funds will be used to conduct a cross-site evaluation of the Kinship Navigator Program.

### **National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE)**

DFPS anticipates the work on the NEICE system to be completed on time.

## **Section III: Update to FY 2022-2023 Active Projects**

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### **Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot**

The procurement process is currently in the final stage of completion in order to release for the QRTP pilot. Implementation plans have been developed including modifications to DFPS IMPACT system and a training approach for legal stakeholders, DFPS staff and providers. Training will be held in late spring.

## Prevention Pilots

### *Rider 48(c)*

\$1,300,000 in Federal Funds in each fiscal year of the biennium for the Nurse Family Partnership to expand capacity as allowed by the FFPSA;

- The Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division is coordinating with the NFP National Service Office to implement these additional services and will be adding funds to existing NFP contracts.

### *House Bill 3041 FBSS Pilots*

DFPS along with the Office of Community Based Care Transition is working to release the Requests for Grant Applications for the HB 3041 Pilots, which will be released to all current Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) for proposals.

## Update the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS)

DFPS has developed a statement of work to support a modernized RMTS system and is working with HHSC on release of a procurement.

# Section IV: Update to Foster Care Rate Methodology Examination and Modernization

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In September 2021, DFPS published the [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Preliminary Service Descriptions](#), which included:

- Background information on the Texas Service Level System/rate methodology and the legislative charge;
- The goals, objectives, and parameters of the current Rate Modernization Project;
- Information detailing the approach DFPS utilized to arrive at the preliminary service descriptions contained in the report;
- DFPS's preliminary new service descriptions; and
- An overview of project next steps for the fall of 2021.

On December 31, 2021, DFPS published [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Final Service Descriptions](#), which provides information on several significant changes made to the preliminary service descriptions released in September 2021. The report includes details on:

- New service add-ons;
- Use of evidence-informed (as opposed to evidence-based) treatment models;
- Potential for gradation of foster care rates within each service add-on; and

- Implementation of a developmentally appropriate universal Human Trafficking training and prevention model for children, youth, and young adults in foster care.

DFPS worked with the Institute for Child and Family Well-being at University of Texas on a provider survey and met with numerous providers and advocacy groups to inform the assumptions for the final service descriptions. DFPS published the first Semi-Annual Progress Report detailing all related activities for this project on February 28,2022. DFPS will begin implementation planning for the new rates.

## Section V: Update to Title IV-E Funds for County Legal Services

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Since the September 2021 report, the number of counties participating in this opportunity has increased from 18 counties to 21 counties. In addition, DFPS continues to work with the Children’s Commission on expanding awareness, access, and utilization of this funding stream.

## Conclusion

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DFPS is making all efforts to maximize the drawdown and use of federal funds. With significant systemic changes in the child welfare system including Community-Based Care, the Family First Prevention Services Act and one-time COVID-19 funds for specific initiatives, federal funding remains critical to assisting DFPS with helping the agency implement its mission. DFPS will continue to focus on efficient and effective management of multiple federal funding streams.