



**TEXAS**  
**Department of Family  
and Protective Services**

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

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April 2020

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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 with updated information regarding implementation of plans to ensure foster children are placed in the most appropriate service level.

## **Year to Date Fiscal Year 2020**

### **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 April 17, 2020, 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 has three contracts for Treatment Foster Family Care Services 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 foster family homes certified to offer this service and the number of children served under each contract. The contractors 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 rate. Between September 1, 2018, and April 17, 2020, 133 children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.<sup>i</sup>

### **Impact to Service Array**

At this time, there is little impact to the service array resulting from the addition of Intense Plus and Treatment Family Foster Care. There are two RTCs contracted to provide Intense Plus Services and only one of them has served children with Intense Plus needs to date. Of those three children, two remain placed at the RTC receiving Intense Plus services and the other child receiving Intense Plus services successfully lowered to a Specialized service level and remains in placement at the RTC.

As of April 17, 2020, there are 95 active homes among the three Treatment Family Foster Care providers with 64 children<sup>ii</sup>. 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 the impact of the additional service.

## Utilization of Service Levels

This Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care Report is for FY 20 YTD (September 1, 2019-February 29, 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. This report also includes the August 2019 data as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report’s submission.

Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care FY20 YTD (September 1, 2019 – February 29, 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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that that data was unavailable at the time of the last report’s submission. Table 1: Children in Paid Foster Care Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

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

Month	Children	Amount
Aug-19	14,013	\$30,529,253.86
Sep-19	13,884	\$30,100,115.51
Oct-19	13,934	\$31,297,645.30
Nov-19	13,561	\$29,802,239.94
Dec-19	13,245	\$30,256,676.03
Jan-20	13,005	\$29,696,071.59
Feb-20	12,829	\$26,663,369.25

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	15,804	\$91,200,000.75
2	14,986	\$86,616,116.87

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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report's submission.

**Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts**

Month	Children	Amount
Aug-19	200	\$1,916,269
Sep-19	185	\$1,810,984
Oct-19	176	\$1,766,613
Nov-19	178	\$1,716,245
Dec-19	163	\$1,705,215
Jan-20	150	\$1,703,914
Feb-20	144	\$1,495,205

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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report's submission.

**Table 4: Children in Paid Foster Care on Special Waivers**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Aug-19	294	\$1,973,636.43
Sep-19	263	\$1,659,882.36
Oct-19	232	\$1,546,938.51
Nov-19	219	\$1,461,134.49
Dec-19	217	\$1,513,301.28
Jan-20	204	\$1,531,048.99
Feb-20	194	\$1,279,224.66

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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report's submission. 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
Aug-19	4	9,075	\$11,172,596.66	1,829	\$4,414,277.59	476	\$3,294,838.16	1	\$12,422.32
Sep-19	1	9,013	\$11,098,923.03	1,831	\$4,473,116.98	464	\$3,214,358.04	1	\$12,021.60
Oct-19	1	9,015	\$11,476,312.82	1,832	\$4,601,298.19	480	\$3,487,251.02	2	\$18,433.12
Nov-19	1	8,705	\$10,776,760.68	1,799	\$4,427,329.20	476	\$3,277,785.71	2	\$23,272.20
Dec-19	2	8,455	\$10,882,150.33	1,771	\$4,459,254.03	444	\$3,176,517.50	2	\$24,073.64
Jan-20	2	8,360	\$10,797,879.33	1,736	\$4,372,776.09	441	\$3,154,879.89	2	\$24,061.64
Feb-20	2	8,205	\$9,480,824.26	1,756	\$4,066,559.93	432	\$2,841,541.49	2	\$22,458.76

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
Aug-19	4	2,004	\$8,271,773.64	794	\$2,100,386.65	104	\$835,367.17	49	\$322,567.89	95	\$105,023.78
Sep-19	1	1,976	\$7,986,802.22	801	\$2,186,961.45	90	\$644,791.78	54	\$364,173.39	99	\$118,967.02
Oct-19	1	1,938	\$8,205,445.06	804	\$2,321,609.18	76	\$593,584.15	68	\$468,372.26	99	\$125,339.50
Nov-19	1	1,933	\$7,930,539.82	745	\$2,202,629.69	74	\$505,524.11	71	\$541,165.42	94	\$117,233.11
Dec-19	2	1,950	\$8,265,751.04	732	\$2,189,068.14	75	\$589,502.09	73	\$550,400.11	93	\$119,959.15
Jan-20	2	1,921	\$8,096,264.97	689	\$1,978,082.58	79	\$633,116.97	69	\$525,913.29	90	\$113,096.83
Feb-20	2	1,881	\$7,383,729.23	610	\$1,846,766.28	76	\$521,499.95	57	\$399,725.94	88	\$100,263.41

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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report’s submission.

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

Month	Children	Amount
Aug-19	3,957	\$10,547,059.53
Sep-19	4,016	\$10,402,363.21
Oct-19	3,996	\$10,688,402.40
Nov-19	3,946	\$10,126,180.86
Dec-19	3,866	\$10,260,468.49
Jan-20	4,013	\$10,506,049.94
Feb-20	4,652	\$10,999,150.63

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	4,648	\$31,216,946.47
2	5,213	\$31,765,669.06

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. This report includes the August 2019 data, as that data was unavailable at the time of the last report’s submission.

**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
Aug-19	4	3,821	\$9,140,307.41	106	\$1,349,354.01	46	\$57,398.11
Sep-19	1	3,877	\$9,123,815.03	97	\$1,215,547.98	51	\$63,000.20
Oct-19	1	3,861	\$9,419,870.99	99	\$1,201,904.60	52	\$66,626.81
Nov-19	1	3,820	\$9,024,297.10	87	\$1,038,301.08	51	\$63,582.68
Dec-19	2	3,747	\$9,196,773.04	80	\$1,000,909.72	49	\$62,785.73
Jan-20	2	3,910	\$9,659,148.13	68	\$780,142.68	54	\$66,759.13
Feb-20	2	4,552	\$10,361,807.48	49	\$571,397.42	57	\$65,945.73

<sup>i</sup> Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.

<sup>ii</sup> Based on a manual count by Child Protective Services staff.