



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

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

January 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 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 January 30, 2020, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services.

Treatment Family Foster Care Services

Treatment Family Foster Care is a time-limited service through which providers will be held accountable for reducing the acuity of need and facilitating placements into a less restrictive, more family-like setting. As of this reporting period, DFPS has 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 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 lower rate. As of January 8, 2020, 112 children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.ⁱ

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, one of which had two children placed that meet the Intense Plus criteria for services. One child remains placed at the RTC receiving Intense Plus services and the other child receiving Intense Plus services successfully lowered to an Intense service level and remains in placement at the RTC. The other RTC became contracted to provide Intense Plus services on November 29, 2018, and currently there are no children placed in that facility who meet the Intense Plus criteria for services.

As of January 8, 2020, there are 80 active homes among the three Treatment Family Foster Care providers with 72 childrenⁱⁱ. All homes are in the process of reviewing 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- November 30, 2019) 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. Final FY2019 data will be submitted with the next quarterly report.

Utilization of Service Levels in Foster Care FY20 YTD (September 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019)

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report, including final FY2019 numbers.

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
09/2019	13,772	\$29,765,162
10/2019	13,792	\$30,800,475
11/2019	13,092	\$28,612,154

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report. 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

Table 2: Paid Foster Care by Quarter Excluding Child Specific Contracts and SSCC

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	15,552	\$89,177,791

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report, including final FY2019 numbers.

Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts

Table 3: Children in Paid Child Specific Contracts *excluded from other counts

Month	Children	Amount
09/2019	172	\$1,706,334
10/2019	158	\$1,656,878
11/2019	144	\$1,472,868

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report, including final FY2019 numbers.

Table 4: Children in Paid Foster Care on Special Waivers

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

Month	Children	Amount
09/2019	255	\$1,605,659
10/2019	215	\$1,404,317
11/2019	195	\$1,291,439

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report. 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

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
09/2019	1	8,976	\$11,067,166	1,819	\$4,454,754	456	\$3,168,824	1	\$12,022
10/2019	1	8,988	\$11,450,329	1,811	\$4,560,275	470	\$3,423,722	2	\$18,433
11/2019	1	8,468	\$10,550,627	1,722	\$4,245,216	460	\$3,176,593	1	\$12,022

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
09/2019	1	1,952	\$7,914,232	749	\$2,073,002	88	\$631,690	48	\$328,115	97	\$115,357
10/2019	1	1,904	\$8,090,204	742	\$2,167,559	73	\$576,365	57	\$391,628	96	\$121,960
11/2019	1	1,853	\$7,657,419	647	\$1,952,112	71	\$484,562	55	\$419,488	91	\$114,116

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report, including final FY2019 numbers. The number of children in and payments for SSCC foster care has increased with the addition of an SSCC in catchment areas 2 and 8a.

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

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

Month	Children	Amount
09/2019	4,010	\$10,354,672
10/2019	3,989	\$10,633,104
11/2019	3,911	\$10,059,752

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report, including final FY2019 numbers. 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

Table 7: SSCC Foster Care by Quarter *excluding Child Specific Contracts

Quarter	Children	Amount
1	4,589	\$31,047,528

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. Numbers will be updated in the next report including final FY2019 numbers. 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

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
09/2019	1	3,878	\$9,128,572	93	\$1,165,874	46	\$59,525
10/2019	1	3,861	\$9,437,488	91	\$1,131,690	48	\$63,177
11/2019	1	3,794	\$9,073,115	76	\$922,961	48	\$62,951

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

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