



**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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October 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 October 15, 2020, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services. There are four 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 October 15, 2020, 177 children have been placed in a Treatment Foster Family Care placement.<sup>i</sup>

### **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 86 active Treatment Family Foster Care foster homes among the three contracted Child Placing Agencies. There are 64 children<sup>ii</sup> 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 20 YTD (September 1, 2019- August 31, 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 FY20 YTD (September 1, 2019 - August 31, 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
09/2019	13,901	\$30,150,644
10/2019	13,961	\$31,352,282
11/2019	13,585	\$29,874,342
12/2019	13,271	\$30,351,797
01/2020	13,041	\$30,083,207
02/2020	12,853	\$27,288,489
03/2020	12,623	\$28,672,271
04/2020	12,309	\$27,429,755
05/2020	12,103	\$27,793,777
06/2020	12,332	\$27,119,082
07/2020	11,974	\$27,119,258
08/2020	11,679	\$26,015,305

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	\$91,377,267
2	14,986	\$87,723,493
3	14,109	\$83,895,803
4	13,828	\$80,253,645

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
09/2019	188	\$1,827,884
10/2019	180	\$1,814,063
11/2019	182	\$1,737,686
12/2019	174	\$1,771,553
01/2020	175	\$1,860,358
02/2020	176	\$1,721,874
03/2020	181	\$1,595,673
04/2020	169	\$1,668,151
05/2020	145	\$1,648,100
6/2020	165	\$1,595,555
7/2020	167	\$1,679,927
8/2020	160	\$1,727,574

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**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Amount</b>
09/2019	141	\$944,675
10/2019	131	\$898,149
11/2019	136	\$888,716
12/2019	134	\$970,220
01/2020	143	\$1,000,216
02/2020	138	\$891,567
03/2020	135	\$889,824
04/2020	127	\$910,616
05/2020	112	\$759,864
6/2020	118	\$805,414
7/2020	136	\$827,956
8/2020	106	\$635,569

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
09/2019	1	9,016	\$11,098,809	1,833	\$4,474,496	466	\$3,222,124	1	\$12,022
10/2019	1	9,024	\$11,482,047	1,836	\$4,611,950	483	\$3,506,876	2	\$18,433
11/2019	1	8,720	\$10,781,887	1,811	\$4,450,228	479	\$3,297,292	2	\$23,272
12/2019	2	8,475	\$10,880,767	1,785	\$4,491,401	447	\$3,199,662	2	\$24,074
01/2020	2	8,436	\$10,869,708	1,779	\$4,477,185	449	\$3,215,432	2	\$24,062
02/2020	2	8,375	\$9,584,956	1,792	\$4,131,672	456	\$2,991,732	2	\$22,459
03/2020	3	7,968	\$10,100,129	1,787	\$4,461,545	432	\$3,026,255	2	\$24,062
04/2020	3	7,831	\$9,878,771	1,752	\$4,296,738	407	\$2,833,189	3	\$26,084
05/2020	3	7,654	\$10,036,784	1,736	\$4,418,088	403	\$2,895,358	3	\$35,701
6/2020	4	7,798	\$9,727,851	1,712	\$4,201,760	414	\$2,894,707	4	\$43,715
7/2020	4	7,564	\$9,832,627	1,737	\$4,461,709	372	\$2,671,468	8	\$71,765
8/2020	4	7,455	\$9,667,040	1,699	\$4,402,280	337	\$2,406,635	6	\$63,732

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	1,985	\$8,005,694	811	\$2,209,793	90	\$644,792	54	\$364,173	99	\$118,741
10/2019	1	1,948	\$8,227,531	803	\$2,319,550	76	\$593,584	68	\$468,372	98	\$123,939
11/2019	1	1,944	\$7,956,043	748	\$2,202,781	74	\$505,524	71	\$541,165	93	\$116,149
12/2019	2	1,963	\$8,292,159	737	\$2,198,520	75	\$589,876	73	\$556,780	92	\$118,559
01/2020	2	1,947	\$8,176,050	702	\$2,004,993	81	\$642,475	74	\$559,247	91	\$114,055
02/2020	2	1,924	\$7,508,059	660	\$1,941,225	80	\$555,938	64	\$450,811	90	\$101,636
03/2020	3	1,891	\$7,961,119	643	\$1,978,278	72	\$536,994	67	\$476,329	85	\$107,559
04/2020	3	1,869	\$7,679,413	536	\$1,706,578	57	\$479,340	57	\$426,676	85	\$102,967
05/2020	3	1,821	\$7,925,824	510	\$1,608,181	44	\$329,659	56	\$444,158	78	\$100,024

Month	Quarter	Specialized	Specialized Amount	Emergency	Emergency Amount	Psychiatric Transition	Psychiatric Transition Amount	Treatment Foster Care	Treatment Foster Care Amount	SIL	SIL Amount
6/2020	4	1,852	\$7,654,066	582	\$1,668,020	38	\$291,612	72	\$529,555	91	\$107,796
7/2020	4	1,774	\$7,508,051	559	\$1,738,272	31	\$259,487	63	\$453,420	92	\$112,840
8/2020	4	1,675	\$7,211,460	498	\$1,533,040	22	\$150,391	49	\$370,943	98	\$114,479

Month	Quarter	COVID-19 Placement	COVID-19 Placement Amount
09/2019	1	0	\$0.00
10/2019	1	0	\$0.00
11/2019	1	0	\$0.00
12/2019	2	0	\$0.00
01/2020	2	0	\$0.00
02/2020	2	0	\$0.00
03/2020	3	0	\$0.00
04/2020	3	0	\$0.00
05/2020	3	0	\$0.00
6/2020	4	0	\$0.00
7/2020	4	7	\$9,617
8/2020	4	14	\$95,304

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
09/2019	4,090	\$10,635,056
10/2019	4,051	\$10,893,282
11/2019	4,013	\$10,324,282
12/2019	3,907	\$10,427,367
01/2020	4,059	\$10,655,151
02/2020	4,719	\$11,164,903
03/2020	4,952	\$12,518,341
04/2020	5,112	\$12,669,545
05/2020	5,159	\$13,106,134
6/2020	5,209	\$13,178,457
7/2020	5,202	\$13,328,471
8/2020	5,250	\$13,312,390

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	4,716	\$31,852,620
2	5,287	\$32,247,421
3	5,783	\$38,294,019
4	6,037	\$39,819,318

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
09/2019	1	3,938	\$9,238,854	106	\$1,326,475	56	\$69,727
10/2019	1	3,903	\$9,503,987	107	\$1,315,717	57	\$73,578
11/2019	1	3,876	\$9,114,780	95	\$1,142,803	54	\$66,699
12/2019	2	3,779	\$9,261,394	87	\$1,098,987	52	\$66,987
01/2020	2	3,947	\$9,707,593	75	\$879,127	56	\$68,430
02/2020	2	4,606	\$10,425,083	58	\$671,300	61	\$68,521
03/2020	3	4,851	\$11,846,723	53	\$594,683	65	\$76,934
04/2020	3	5,005	\$12,000,007	52	\$590,857	66	\$78,682
05/2020	3	5,052	\$12,442,407	55	\$580,898	67	\$82,454
6/2020	4	5,072	\$12,088,094	86	\$1,003,093	75	\$87,270
7/2020	4	5,073	\$12,442,027	75	\$786,776	80	\$99,668
8/2020	4	5,124	\$12,498,537	65	\$706,662	88	\$107,191

<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.