



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

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

April 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 April 23, 2021, two RTCs are contracted to provide Intense Plus services. There are currently no providers actively working to add the Intense Plus Service Level. One of the operations previously seeking intense plus service level is no longer in operation, one has opted out of moving forward with certification, and one had completed the initial compliance with the intense plus indicators but due to concerns with the placement their contract was not amended.

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. Previously, the TFFC program was limited to children ages 10 and under. As capacity grew, DFPS and the TFFC contractors worked together to expand the ages of children accepted in the program. As of February 1, 2021, the age has been expanded to all children in DFPS conservatorship ages 17 and under. CPAs have begun training new and current families to work with older youth. As of April 23, 2021, 237 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 April 23, 2021, there are 106 active Treatment Family Foster Care foster homes among the three contracted Child Placing Agencies. Of those 106 TFFC homes, 36 are in SSCC catchment areas. There are 75 DFPS 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-February 28, 2021) 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 – February 28, 2021)

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	11,950	\$25,919,842
Oct-20	11,996	\$26,615,991
Nov-20	11,654	\$25,143,388
Dec-20	11,565	\$25,724,081
Jan-21	11,268	\$25,244,732
Feb-21	11,036	\$22,376,414

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	13,722	\$77,679,221
2	12,853	\$73,345,228

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	216	\$2,385,875
Oct-20	239	\$2,957,915
Nov-20	257	\$2,945,955
Dec-20	254	\$2,839,426
Jan-21	249	\$2,883,675
Feb-21	251	\$2,536,587

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	105	\$603,787
Oct-20	110	\$685,012
Nov-20	107	\$711,424
Dec-20	114	\$758,269
Jan-21	121	\$805,230
Feb-21	118	\$696,901

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	7,618	\$9,511,690	1,783	\$4,387,966	346	\$2,267,999	8	\$79,743
Oct-20	1	7,666	\$9,889,506	1,782	\$4,591,606	331	\$2,285,069	6	\$74,534
Nov-20	1	7,435	\$9,230,371	1,726	\$4,310,395	330	\$2,260,240	2	\$24,043
Dec-20	2	7,450	\$9,681,777	1,707	\$4,324,295	318	\$2,316,979	3	\$24,043
Jan-21	2	7,267	\$9,524,697	1,638	\$4,183,960	300	\$2,143,415	2	\$19,635
Feb-21	2	7,154	\$8,593,205	1,583	\$3,703,628	277	\$1,780,159	2	\$15,227

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
Dec-20	2	1,730	\$7,137,570	547	\$1,698,602	27	\$217,800	59	\$431,415	97	\$121,782
Jan-21	2	1,691	\$7,140,657	601	\$1,761,938	24	\$217,077	59	\$440,658	98	\$126,066
Feb-21	2	1,648	\$6,775,527	549	\$1,715,078	23	\$179,644	59	\$451,981	97	\$117,247

Month	Quarter	COVID-19 Placement	COVID-19 Placement Amount
Sep-20	1	12	\$65,274
Oct-20	1	13	\$88,880
Nov-20	1	19	\$78,862
Dec-20	2	8	\$32,859
Jan-21	2	9	\$68,816
Feb-21	2	2	\$4,007

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	5,430	\$13,854,237
Oct-20	5,478	\$14,562,711
Nov-20	5,473	\$14,089,127
Dec-20	5,367	\$14,337,564
Jan-21	5,351	\$14,088,291
Feb-21	5,369	\$12,929,369

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	6,222	\$42,506,074
2	6,167	\$41,355,224

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	5,249	\$12,331,232	131	\$1,410,009	97	\$112,996
Oct-20	1	5,291	\$12,926,128	130	\$1,519,871	92	\$116,711
Nov-20	1	5,292	\$12,456,501	139	\$1,522,863	91	\$109,763
Dec-20	2	5,185	\$12,707,003	130	\$1,507,408	98	\$123,153
Jan-21	2	5,179	\$12,675,107	115	\$1,293,551	97	\$119,633
Feb-21	2	5,197	\$11,677,597	116	\$1,141,908	95	\$109,864

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

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