



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Fiscal Year 2026 Capacity Building Plan Based on the Foster Care Needs Assessment**

**As Required by  
Senate Bill 11, 85th Legislature,  
Regular Session, 2017**

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**November 2025**

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# Introduction

Chapter 264.1261, of the Family Code, requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to use data collected on foster care capacity needs and regional availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement to develop a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in regions where Community-Based Care (CBC) has not been implemented. The [Foster Care Needs Assessment](#) assists to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of non-CBC regions 7, 9, 10, and 11.

## Goals of the Texas Foster Care System

When a court finds that a child cannot safely remain in their own home due to abuse or neglect, they may enter what is known as “substitute” care. The main goal of substitute care is to find a safe place for the child to live, preferably with a non-custodial parent or a kinship caregiver, while DFPS and family works toward reunification or an alternate permanency outcome. If placement with a parent or kinship caregiver is not an option, the child enters the foster care system.

No matter the community, or DFPS region, the overarching goals of Texas’ Foster Care System are to have sufficient capacity and quality services so that children in foster care can:

- Have their custom and changing needs met through service adjustment by the caregiver, versus the child having to change placements to receive the needed services;
- Maintain familial bonds through placement with siblings;
- Preserve community connections by living in or near their community of origin;
- Find comfort and healing in family-like settings by matching children with the least restrictive appropriate caregiver based on their custom needs.

A major initiative underway to increase the capacity of the Texas Foster Care System is the replacement of the Service Level System with Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C).

## Transition to Texas Child-Centered Care

For over 40 years, the Texas Foster Care System has relied on the Service Level System as its foundational infrastructure. Under the Service Level System, children’s records are assessed, and they are assigned one of 4 or 5 “service levels”, primarily based on their documented behavior. Recognizing the need for a modernized approach to care, the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature appropriated funding to support implementation of a new foster care system.

While the overarching goals remain the same, this new model, known as T3C, represents a complete transformation of the foster care system. T3C replaces the outdated Service Level System with a Texas-specific trauma and evidence-based child assessment tool known as the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) 3.0, as well as twenty-four clearly defined Service Packages, three Add-On Services, and a new rate methodology that aligns the cost of care to high quality services.

Providers must develop policies, procedures, training, and have infrastructure in place to transition to the T3C System. Once they have developed their program they apply to become “credentialed” to specialize in one or more of the distinct T3C service packages. Children are assessed using the CANS 3.0 tool, which results in a Recommended Service Package.

Using this information, along with other documentation, a decision is made by the caseworker and the child’s service planning team on the child’s selected service package. The child is then matched with a service provider that specializes in and is credentialed to provide the selected service package. Each service package has an associated methodological daily rate that is paid to the provider.

## **Implementation Status of T3C**

DFPS began working with foster care providers to transition to the T3C System in January 2025. As of the date of this report, approximately 37 percent of children in foster care across the state are benefiting from one of the new T3C Service Packages. Forty-one Child Placing Agencies and 51 General Residential Operations have applied for and become credentialed to specialize in one or more of the twenty-four service packages.

The full transition to T3C is not anticipated to occur until fiscal year 2028, at which time the state will have more comprehensive data on child needs which will improve the ability to better predict foster care service and capacity needs. Since fiscal year 2026 is the first full year of transition to T3C system, there is limited historical utilization and assessment data available to help predict future need.

As the state prepares for full transition to the T3C System, the Department is in the process of creating new methodology to be used in development of a T3C-centric Foster Care Needs Assessment in fiscal year 2027. During this transition, T3C is influencing the capacity building plans of the Regions throughout the state.

## Region 7 Plan to Increase Capacity

At the date of this report, approximately 34 percent of children in foster care from Region 7 were benefiting from a T3C Service Package.

On September 5, 2025, a stakeholder and provider meeting was held in 7A and 7B. The team discussed new ways to increase capacity for youth needing placements, providing behavioral and mental health treatment, and how to engage various agency and stakeholder partners in this work. The team also discussed how to support kinship caregiver placements.

As part of the Region’s strategy to expand placement capacity and strengthen family-centered care, CPS will prioritize family finding efforts. These efforts will aim to identify, engage, and support relatives or fictive kin who can provide safe and nurturing homes, thus reinforcing family connections and reducing the need for higher levels of care and placement capacity.

DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the regional capacity strategic plan:

- Arrow Children’s Ministries
- A World for Children
- New Horizons
- Bair Foundation
- The Brotherhood Academy
- Nightlight Christian Adoptions
- Caring Hearts for Children
- Circle of Care
- 4 Points
- Circles of Living Hope
- DePelchin Children’s Center
- Divinity Family Services
- CK Family Services
- Starr Resiliency
- Renaissance Family Services of Texas
- Lifeworks of Austin
- Bluebonnet Haven
- Methodist Children’s Home
- Garden of Hope
- Foster Texas
- Helping Hand Homes
- Family Link
- Central Texas Table of Grace
- Upbring
- Pathways
- SAFE Austin
- The Settlement Home
- The Burke Foundation

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team.

## **Goal 1: Increase support for existing caregivers and placement capacity**

Caregivers sometimes find navigating the system difficult as they provide support for youth placed in their care. It is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources to assist in meeting the youth's needs while maintaining a stable placement.

### **Objective 1.1: Education on STAR Health services**

STAR Health offers extensive behavioral, mental health, and complex case management services; however, case managers and families are often not aware of all the services available.

- Child Protective Services (CPS) will arrange for STAR Health to provide training for all child placing agency (CPA) case managers at a regional provider meeting.
- CPS will continue to invite STAR Health representatives to all provider meetings.

### **Objective 1.2: Identification of LMHA resources and coordination with the Youth Crisis Outreach Team**

It is important for families to understand the support and services the local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and the Youth Crisis Outreach Team can provide for families and foster youth.

- CPS will coordinate with a Youth Empowerment Services waiver provider to attend a regional meeting and explain their services to CPA case managers.
- CPS will collaborate with CPA case managers and LMHAs to develop and provide a county specific list of resources and contact phone numbers for families.
- CPS will coordinate with Bluebonnet Trails Community Center for access to the Youth Crisis Outreach Team services.

## **Goal 2: Increase capacity across all levels of foster care**

Increasing placement capacity that serves children along a continuum of treatment needs is imperative. Developing foster family homes specially trained to provide T3C Treatment Foster Family Care will allow youth to remain in the community in the least restrictive

placement, while receiving specialized care tailored to their needs. The T3C Treatment Foster Family Care Service Package can also serve as an option for youth after having received psychiatric care.

### **Objective 2.1: Targeted recruitment**

- CPS will partner with the Foster Care Coalition to recruit individuals who have experience working with youth in various capacities and collaborate with agency partners to support recruitment efforts through coordinated messaging, shared events, and community engagement.
- As part of its targeted recruitment efforts, CPS regional staff will host informational meetings on regional capacity needs for professional groups with a history of working in juvenile detention, hospitals, schools, and law enforcement.
- Community Liaisons will assist in the recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive parents from faith-based organizations, strengthening ongoing community partnerships.
- CPS will partner with the DFPS Faith-Based Specialist to coordinate targeted outreach efforts for each CPA, ensuring collaboration with local churches, ministries, and faith networks to identify potential foster, adoptive, and respite caregivers.
- Continued efforts will be made across Central Texas to partner with faith-based partners, civic groups, and interdenominational leadership councils to explore opportunities for capacity growth, wraparound support, and community-driven recruitment initiatives.

### **Goal 3: Increase support for kinship caregivers in becoming licensed foster parents**

Throughout the region, children and youth placed with kinship caregivers continues to increase. Kinship families often struggle with the foster care licensure requirements. The region will continue to support kinship families to navigate the different systems, secure licensure, and provide tools to support youth.

### **Objective 3.1: Partner with CPAs to engage kinship families**

- Immediately upon placement, CPS will engage kinship families to provide guidance on the benefits of licensure, the process for selecting a CPA, and ongoing support available through DFPS, CBC providers, and community partners.
- CPS will partner with local CPAs to facilitate regular informational meetings and roundtable discussions with kinship caregivers, giving families the opportunity to

ask questions, share experiences, and receive direct assistance with licensing paperwork and available financial support.

- CPS will collaborate with the DFPS Faith-Based Specialist to identify faith-based organizations willing to host kinship support sessions, provide wraparound resources (e.g., clothing closets, respite care, mentoring), and assist with overcoming practical barriers such as transportation or home modifications.
- CPS will address barriers to licensure by promoting new kinship licensing standards and partnering with local nonprofits, civic groups, and businesses to provide kinship families much needed resources such as payment of criminal history background check fees, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/first aid training, or home safety improvements.
- CPS will continue outreach across Central Texas to expand awareness of kinship care needs and grow networks of support that enhance placement stability and long-term caregiver retention.

### **Objective 3.2: Strengthening Family Finding and Early Kinship Engagement**

- CPS will ensure family finding begins immediately at case initiation to identify relatives and fictive kin for possible placement and support roles.
- CPS will ensure relatives identified through family finding efforts are connected to available licensing resources and support services.

## **Goal 4: Increase awareness of post adoption support services**

After adoption, families may seek assistance to address youth and family needs, and it is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources. By providing adoptive families with community resources, youth and caregivers can get the help they need at home to avoid further system involvement.

### **Objective 4.1: Educate families and service providers on post adoption services**

Contracted post adoption service providers offer an array of services including complex case management services. However, case managers and families may not be aware of the services available.

- CPS will arrange for the regional post adoption services provider to train CPA case managers at a regional provider meeting.

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- CPS will continue to invite post adoption service providers to provider meetings.
- CPS will host a minimum of two information sessions with the post adoption services contractor and invite all families who have consummated an adoption within the year.
- CPS will work with the Heart Gallery of Texas and discuss longer-term solutions such as mailing letters and flyers to families reminding them of support available.
- CPS will encourage families to sign the consent form to release their information to their local post adoption provider prior or at the time of adoption consummation. This will enable the provider to make targeted calls to families.

## Region 9 Plan to Increase Capacity

As of the date of this report, approximately 37 percent of children in foster care from Region 9 were benefiting from a T3C Service Package.

On September 17, 2025, a stakeholder and provider meeting in Region 9 was held. The team discussed new ways to assist in increasing capacity for youth with complex needs.

DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the ongoing discussions and initial development of the regional capacity strategic plan:

- High Sky Children's Ranch
- One Accord for Kids
- Pathways Youth & Family Services
- Open Homes Initiatives
- A World for Children
- New Horizons
- Concho Valley

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team.

### **Goal 1: Increase placement capacity for youth 12 and under**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified the need for additional homes and placement options for youth under the age of 12.

#### **Objective 1.1: Providers will seek to increase capacity**

- Providers will continue to identify and prepare families to accept placement of elementary age children without complex needs within already licensed homes and through recruitment efforts of newly licensed homes.
- Providers will build connections with community resources such as local sports teams, colleges and universities, local business owners, and media outlets to spread foster care awareness and the need for FAD homes.

- Providers will collaborate, create, and hold a regionwide foster parent training and networking event. This event will serve as a recruitment effort by requesting attendees bring a friend interested in learning more about becoming a FAD parent.

### **Objective 1.2: Recruitment efforts for respite care**

- CPAs will encourage prospective FAD families to assist in respite care after they have completed the required background checks, CPR certification, and training. This allows the family to get a true understanding of the youth they want placed in their home and the expectations of being a foster home.

## **Goal 2: Reach people interested in fostering and adopting**

### **Objective 2.1: Increase awareness**

- New Horizon and West Texas Together will continue working together to raise awareness of foster agencies in the region by holding informational meetings to educate communities about fostering and adopting.
- The Region will continue joint in-person outreach efforts, events, and question and answer sessions. Sessions continue to be scheduled near the start of foster parent pre-service orientations to keep recruitment momentum going.
- The Region will expand informational meetings to rural counties.
- The Region will partner with faith-based communities and leverage social media outlets to spread awareness and educate communities about fostering.

## **Goal 3: Recruit foster and adoptive placements for teenagers**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment continues to identify the need for additional placements for teens.

### **Objective 3.1: Utilize strategies in place to reach people interested in fostering and adopting teenagers**

- Stakeholders and CPAs will use region-wide recruitment events and marketing strategies focused on the recruitment of homes specific to teenagers.
- CPS will work with local CPAs to match teenagers free for adoption to adoptive homes.

### **Objective 3.2: Use adoptive family's success stories to address misconceptions and fears about fostering and adopting**

- The Region will ask families who have successfully adopted teenagers to join outreach events, so they can show potential adoptive families how rewarding and positive adopting a teenager can be.

### **Goal 4: Increase awareness of post adoption services**

It is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources to assist in meeting their post adoption needs. By providing adoptive families with information about community resources, youth and caregivers can get the help they need at home to avoid further system involvement.

#### **Objective 4.1: Educate families and service providers about post adoption services**

Contracted post adoptions service providers offer extensive services and complex case management services. However, case managers and families are often unaware of the services available.

- CPS will arrange for the regional post adoption services provider to hold training for CPA case managers at a regional provider meeting.
- CPS will continue to invite post adoption service providers to all provider meetings.
- CPS will host a minimum of two information sessions with the post adoption services contractor and invite all families who have consummated an adoption within the year.
- CPS will work with the Heart Gallery of Texas and discuss longer-term solutions such as mailing letters and flyers to families reminding them of support available.
- CPS will encourage families to sign the consent form to release their information to their local post adoption provider prior or at the time of adoption consummation. This will enable the provider to make targeted calls to families.

### **Goal 5: Establish consistent family finding practices to locate and engage relatives and supportive adults**

#### **Objective 5.1: Conduct early family finding efforts to explore relatives and fictive kin as potential support and placement**

## **options prior to removal**

- Child Protective Investigations (CPI) will invite kinship staff to all Family Team Meetings to identify relatives and fictive kin at the onset of the case.
- CPI will conduct kinship finders sessions at the time of removal.
- CPI will have a designated kinship worker assigned to each unit to assist with potential kinship connections prior to and during removal.
- Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) will continue to invite kinship staff to family group conferences.
- CPS will ensure family finding begins immediately at case initiation to identify relatives and fictive kin for possible placement and support roles.
- CPS will ensure relatives identified through family finding efforts are connected to available licensing resources and support services.

## **Objective 5.2: Strengthen family finding practices by locating and actively involving relatives and fictive kin in case planning**

- Kinship staff and CASA will continue to be invited to and participate in post removal staffings to ensure quick connections and diligent searches for families.
- During Family Group Conferences, CPS staff will ensure the family is present to explore possible kinship placements and build support networks for youth in care.
- Placement disruption staffings will take place to address issues and prevent kinship placement disruptions.

## Region 10 Plan to Increase Capacity

As of the date of this report, approximately 18 percent of children in foster care from Region 10 were benefiting from a T3C Service Package.

On September 9, 2025, a stakeholder and provider meeting in Region 10 was held. The team discussed new ways to assist in increasing capacity for all placement types, to include youth needing placements that offer treatment services.

DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the regional capacity strategic plan:

- A World for Children
- Heart Gallery of El Paso
- Emergence Health Network
- Upbring

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team.

### Goal 1: Increase placement capacity for youth 12 and under

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies the need for additional homes and placement options for youth under the age of 12.

#### Objective 1.1: Providers will seek to increase capacity

- CPS will continue to identify and prepare families willing to accept placement of elementary age children without complex needs within already licensed homes and through recruitment efforts of newly licensed homes.
- CPS will build connections with community resources such as local sports teams, colleges and universities, local business owners, and media outlets to spread foster care awareness and the need for FAD homes.
- CPS will collaborate to create a regionwide foster parent training and networking event and request that attendees bring a friend interested in learning more about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.
- CPS will hold quarterly recruitment efforts in collaboration with stakeholders. In addition, attending at least 10 community events per fiscal year to recruit jointly.

- CPS will increase recruitment efforts in the rural counties of region 10 in conjunction with the Heart Gallery of El Paso.

### **Objective 1.2: Improve caregiver and youth wellbeing**

- Once a prospective family completes background checks, CPS certification, and required training, CPAs will encourage the family to act as a respite family for licensed foster homes, as they continue through the verification process. This offers them insight into the youth they may work with and a clearer understanding of foster care responsibilities.
- CPS staff will coordinate with Emergence Health Network for access to the Youth Crisis Outreach Team services.

### **Objective 1.3: FBCE liaisons will assist recruitment of FAD parents from faith-based organizations**

- The Faith Based and Community Engagement (FBCE) team will collaborate with CPAs to participate in events around the community to include presentations at local events and churches.
- CPAs will tap into local businesses, church parishes, and community resource groups for foster family support, activities, and other ways they can assist in supporting permanency for children.

## **Goal 2: Reach people interested in fostering and adopting**

### **Objective 2.1: Providers will increase marketing and awareness events and DFPS will track regional awareness events**

- Clinical coordinators, the community liaison, and the media specialist will create a marketing campaign in partnership with the University of Texas at El Paso and the Heart Gallery of El Paso, to bring awareness to all foster agencies in the region by encouraging people to inquire about fostering and adopting.
- CPS will continue joint in-person outreach efforts, events, and question and answer sessions near the start of foster parent pre-service orientations to keep recruitment momentum going.
- The Heart Gallery of El Paso will create a task force to help identify more foster families within the regional community.

## **Goal 3: Recruit foster placements for teenagers**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment continues to identify the need for additional placements for teens.

### **Objective 3.1: Reach people interested in fostering and adopting teenagers**

- In conjunction with the stakeholders and CPAs, CPS will use region wide recruitment events and marketing strategies focused on the recruitment of homes specific to teenagers.
- CPS will work with local CPAs and The Heart Gallery of El Paso to match teenagers eligible for adoption to adoptive homes.

## **Goal 4: Increase awareness of post adoption services**

After adoption, families find navigating the system difficult. As a result of increased youth and family needs, it is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources to assist in meeting their needs. By providing adoptive families with community resources, youth and caregivers can get the help they need at home to avoid further system involvement.

### **Objective 4.1: Educate families and service providers on post adoption services**

Contracted post adoption service providers offer an array of services including complex case management services. However, case managers and families may not be aware of the services available.

- CPS will arrange for the regional post adoption services provider to train CPA case managers at a regional provider meeting.
- CPS will continue to invite post adoption service providers to provider meetings.
- CPS will host a minimum of two information sessions with the post adoption services contractor and invite all families who have consummated an adoption within the year.
- CPS will work with the Heart Gallery of Texas and discuss longer-term solutions such as mailing letters and flyers to families reminding them of support available.
- CPS will encourage families to sign the consent form to release their information to their local post adoption provider prior or at the time of adoption consummation. This will enable the provider to make targeted calls to families.

### **Goal 5: Establish consistent family finding practices to locate and engage relatives and supportive adults**

#### **Objective 5.1: Conduct early family finding efforts to explore relatives and fictive kin as potential support and placement options prior to removal**

- CPI will invite kinship staff to all Family Team Meetings to try and identify relatives and fictive kin at the onset of the case.
- CPI will conduct kinship finders sessions at the time of removal.
- CPI will have a designated kinship worker assigned to each unit to assist with potential kinship connections prior to and during removal.
- Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) will continue to invite kinship staff to family group conferences.
- CPS will ensure family finding begins immediately at case initiation to identify relatives and fictive kin for possible placement and support roles.
- CPS will ensure relatives identified through family finding efforts are connected to available licensing resources and support services.

**Objective 5.2: Strengthen family finding practices by locating and actively involving relatives and fictive kin in case planning**

- Kinship staff and CASA will continue to be invited to and participate in post removal staffings to ensure quick connections and diligent searches for families.
- During Family Group Conferences, CPS staff will ensure the family is present to explore possible kinship placements and build support networks for youth in care.
- Placement disruption staffings will take place to address issues and prevent kinship placement disruptions.

## Region 11 Plan to Increase Capacity

As of the date of this report, approximately 32 percent of children in foster care from Region 11 were benefiting from a T3C Service Package.

On September 5, 2025, a stakeholder and provider meeting in region 11A and 11B was held. The team reviewed the Foster Care Needs Assessment, and a regional data presentation was shared focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for fiscal year 2026.

DFPS would like to thank the following agencies who participated in the creation of this plan:

- Arrow Child and Family Ministries
- Agape Ranch
- Sunny Glenn Children's Home
- Hands of Healing
- Matching Hearts
- Circles of Care
- The Bair Foundation Child and Family Ministries
- Buckner Children and Family Services
- Upbring
- Families Especial Foster Care and Adoption Services
- A World for Children

The following strategies were identified by stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team.

### **Goal 1: Increase the number of foster home placements that can serve youth with complex needs**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies the greatest need in both catchment areas as foster homes for children with complex needs.

#### **Objective 1.1: Education on STAR Health services**

STAR Health offers extensive behavioral, mental health, and complex case management services; however, case managers and families are often not aware of all the services available.

- Child Protective Services (CPS) will arrange for STAR Health to provide training for all child placing agency (CPA) case managers at a regional provider meeting.
- CPS will continue to invite STAR Health representatives to all provider meetings.

### **Objective 1.2: Identification of LMHA resources and coordination with the Youth Crisis Outreach Team**

It is important for families to understand the support and services the local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and the Youth Crisis Outreach Team can provide for families and foster youth.

- CPS will coordinate with a Youth Empowerment Services waiver provider to attend a regional meeting and explain their services to CPA case managers.
- CPS will collaborate with CPA case managers and LMHAs to develop and provide a county specific list of resources and contact phone numbers for families.
- CPS will coordinate with Border Region Behavioral Health Center for access to the Youth Crisis Outreach Team services.

### **Objective 1.3: FBCE will assist in the recruitment and retention of FAD parents from faith-based organizations**

- CPS regional staff will provide data and demographic information to the child welfare boards to provide prospective foster parents with information to start the fostering process.
- CPS staff will collaborate with the communities to develop child welfare boards in counties that do not have an existing one.
- CPAs will tap into their local child welfare boards, local businesses, faith community, and community resource groups to foster family support, activities, and other ways they can assist in supporting placements for children.
- FBCE and CPAs will support existing families through awareness events, respite care, and continue to help build existing family placement and service capacities.
- CPS regional staff will maintain updated CPA contact information.
- CPS regional staff and regional CPAs will continue to have collaborative informational meetings to provide information to prospective families in face to face and virtual meetings, allowing prospective families the ability to choose the agency they would like to work with.

- CPS staff will utilize zip code-level disaggregated data to assist in focusing efforts and conversations to support higher need communities.

### **Objective 1.4: CPAs will continue working to increase the number of available beds**

- CPAs will continue working together to recruit foster families.
- CPAs will continue to hold and attend recruitment awareness events throughout the region and will engage local media markets to raise awareness for recruitment opportunities.
- CPAs will reach out to current respite care providers and inquire if they would consider taking placements of children with complex needs.
- CPAs will collaborate with general residential operations (GROs) for observational hours for current foster parents to observe the care of youth with higher needs.
- CPAs will recruit foster homes that can work with children who have medical needs.

### **Goal 2: Increase the likelihood a CPA or GRO will accept a referred placement**

#### **Objective 2.1: CPAs and GROs will continue providing available placement bed information to CPS**

- CPS, in collaboration with CPAs and GROs, will conduct and facilitate match meetings, preplacement visits, and virtual interviews for children to provide as much information about the child as possible to find a placement able to meet their needs.
- Pathways to placement daily staffings will continue to be held and facilitated by DFPS staff and include discussions on children's unmet mental health needs and next steps to support the child.
- Clinical coordinators will continue to hold Placement Support Staffings with CPAs and caregivers prior to discharging a youth from placement to alleviate concerns and identify resources and supports.
- CPAs will collaborate with capacity work groups that foster shared solutions to increase placement capacity.

#### **Objective 2.2: CPAs will continue to collaborate with Residential Child Care Regulation and Heightened Monitoring Representatives**

CPAs have expressed a focus on increasing the comfort level of foster parents and their employees during interactions with DFPS Residential Child Care Regulation (RCCR) team members.

- CPAs will continue to invite RCCR and Heightened Monitoring (HM) staff to training, meetings, and other events to help foster communication and understanding. Both RCCR and HM have agreed to invitations.
- RCCR will send information about forums throughout the fiscal year to DFPS and CPAs regarding new and upcoming licensing regulations and changes.
- CPAs will continue to invite CPS leadership to foster parent events and agency meetings.

**Objective 2.3: CPS staff will place special emphasis on strengthening kinship placements and offering maximum support**

- At the initiation of a legal case, CPI and FBSS staff will complete the preliminary kinship assessment to place children with appropriate relatives.
- Kinship and FAD staff will continue to hold informational meetings to encourage kinship families to become licensed and provide information on CPAs families can choose from.
- Kinship and FAD staff will be assigned within 48 hours of placement to provide any support needed to the caregivers.
- DFPS will continue to utilize the Collaborative Family Engagement model to identify kinship caregivers not only for placement, but also to provide support and assistance to other caregivers.
- Staff will complete proactive efforts to establish kinship connections and will continue family finding efforts through diligent searches, SENECA searches and Regional family finding best practices.
- Agape Ranch will continue to provide respite through the citywide respite program.
- DFPS will continue to strengthen communication between CPS conservatorship and FAD staff by ensuring FAD staff are invited to legal staffings and informed of court decisions.

**Objective 2.4: CPAs will provide DFPS with their new agency goals to increase foster care capacity**

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- CPS staff will obtain CPAs' written plans to increase capacity in region 11 after the start of their new fiscal year on January 1, 2025.
- Each CPA will provide DFPS with their agency's plans for increasing foster care capacity during quarterly in person meetings.
- CPS will continue to ensure capacity building is an agenda item during quarterly provider meetings to present progress on goals.
- CPAs will make efforts to have a representative present at all provider meetings.

### **Goal 3: Increase sibling placements and build capacity for sibling groups**

Region 11 will explore all possibilities to keep siblings together. If siblings cannot be placed together, every effort will be made to place siblings in homes within the same CPA and near each other to ensure visits and connections are maintained.

#### **Objective 3.1: CPS and CPAs will work to ensure siblings are placed together**

- CPAs will provide support to placements that maintain siblings placed together.
- CPAs will remind foster parents of the importance of sibling connection, and the need for them to promote and facilitate sibling visits and interaction.
- CPAs will continue to work with CPS to explore options to place siblings together in foster homes.
- CPAs will train foster parents on the need to support the permanency goal of the youth they care for and their siblings.
- CPS Centralized Placing Unit (CPU) staff will hold bi-monthly sibling separation meetings to discuss options to place siblings together.
- CPU will prioritize foster and kinship home placement requests where the siblings are placed.
- CPAs will send CPS information on siblings in separate foster homes to reunify siblings who are separated.
- DFPS will utilize the General Placement Search (GPS) function to assist in placing siblings near one another.
- CPAs will ensure GPS information is updated and accurate to reflect the current

census.

- CPS will use proactive efforts to establish kinship connections and family finding efforts through diligent searches.

## **Goal 4: Increase Capacity in T3C Service Packages Designed for Children with High-Acuity Needs and Residential Treatment Center beds for teens**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identified the need for 48 residential treatment center (RTC) beds to meet Region 11's need in fiscal year 2026.

The T3C model offers new opportunities for children with high acuity needs to be served in a foster family home setting. Expansion of Service Packages like those focused on meeting the needs of children with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) or that are on the Autism Spectrum, those with Mental or Behavioral Health needs, or children that may benefit from T3C Treatment Foster Family Care Services in Region 11 would allow children to have their needs met in their home community.

### **Objective 4.1: Network with providers to expand RTC regional capacity**

- DFPS will continue to hold stakeholder meetings and discuss the need for therapeutic foster care and RTC placements.
- DFPS will partner with local stakeholders to discuss the implementation of specialized programs to meet the needs of our youth.

## **Goal 5: Increase awareness of post adoption services.**

After adoption, families may seek assistance to address youth and family needs, and it is important to educate and empower caregivers to access resources. By providing adoptive families with community resources, youth and caregivers can get the help they need at home to avoid further system involvement.

### **Objective 5.1: Educate families and service providers on post adoption services**

Contracted post adoption service providers offer an array of services including complex case management services. However, case managers and families may not be aware of the services available.

- CPS will arrange for the regional post adoption services provider to train CPA case

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managers at a regional provider meeting.

- CPS will continue to invite post adoption service providers to provider meetings.
- CPS will host a minimum of two information sessions with the post adoption services contractor and invite all families who have consummated an adoption within the year.
- CPS will work with the Heart Gallery of Texas and discuss longer-term solutions such as mailing letters and flyers to families reminding them of support available.
- CPS will encourage families to sign the consent form to release their information to their local post adoption provider prior or at the time of adoption consummation. This will enable the provider to make targeted calls to families.

## List of Acronyms

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Full Name</b>
CANS	Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths
CBC	Community-Based Care
CPA	Child Placing Agency
CPI	Child Protective Investigations
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CPS	Child Protective Services
CPU	Centralized Placement Unit
DFPS	Department of Family and Protective Services
FBSS	Family Based Safety Services
FAD	Foster and Adoptive
FBCE	Faith Based and Community Engagement
GPS	General Placement Search
GRO	General Residential Operations
HM	Heightened Monitoring
IDD	Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
LMHA	Local Mental Health Authority
RCCR	Residential Child Care Regulation
RTC	Residential Treatment Center
T3C	Texas Child-Centered Care

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