



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

**Rider 48**

**Semi-Annual Progress Report**

**As Required by**

**2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1,  
87<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Rider 48)**

**March 2023**



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## Purpose of Report

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Pursuant to Rider 48 of Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, DFPS is submitting this periodic report on the progress of increasing the capacity of qualifying community-based prevention and family preservation services, including a full accounting of funds expended.

This progress report provides DFPS's activities associated with Family First Transition Act Funds, Rider 48 conducted through February 2023.

## Required Reporting

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Per Rider 48, DFPS is required to report on the progress of increasing the capacity of qualifying community-based prevention and family preservation services, including a full accounting of funds expended. The report shall be prepared in a format specified by the Legislative Budget Board and shall be submitted by March 31 and September 30 of each fiscal year of the biennium. The report shall be provided to the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Human Services, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and any standing Joint Legislative Oversight Committees, as appropriate. The report shall also be posted on the agency's public webpage to ensure transparency with the public and stakeholders.

## Background

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DFPS was awarded \$50,265,902 of federal funds through the Family First Transition Act (FFTA) in Fiscal Year 2020. The period of availability for the grant is from October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2025, and is intended to support implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Prior to the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, DFPS requested authority and was authorized to expend up to \$16.4M of the grant in the following 3 areas:

- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot- estimated \$8.0 Million
  - Provide support of efforts by licensed General Residential Operations to become accredited under the QRTP model.
    - \$1.5 million in incentive grants for providers to obtain QRTP accreditation
    - \$5.5 million for residential provider payments
    - \$1.0 million for DFPS implementation staff (4.0 FTEs)
- IMPACT Modifications/Other Admin System Modification- Estimated \$8.4 Million

Senate Bill 1, The General Appropriations Act, 87<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session, Rider 48 directed DFPS on how to spend the remaining \$33.9M of FFTA funding during the FY 2022-2023 biennium.

## FFTA Finance Chart

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<b>FFTA Texas Grant<sup>1</sup> Award Amount Total</b>	<b>\$50,265,902</b>
<b>Total Projected FFTA Expenditure Amount SFY 2020-2023</b>	<b>\$19,034,813</b>
<b>Remaining Balance Projected Balance for SFY2024-25</b>	<b>\$31,231,089</b>
<b>FFTA Funds Obligated to Support Continuation of Programs in SFY 2024-25</b>	
<b>Texas Families First (TFF) Program<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$11,089,665</b>
<b>Transition of family-based safety services program to evidence-based programs included on FFPSA clearinghouse through expansion of PEI Hopes project</b>	<b>\$3,123,204</b>
<b>Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Implementation Support<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>\$569,862</b>
<b>Total Projected Obligation Amount in SFY 2024-25</b>	<b>\$14,782,731</b>
<b>Remaining Available/Unobligated Balance to Support Additional FFTA Eligible Programs and Services</b>	<b>SFY24-25 Projected: \$31,231,089</b>
	<b>Minus SFY24-25 Obligated: \$14,782,731</b>
	<b>Remaining Available Balance: \$16,448,358</b>

*\*Note: Funds shown in chart do not include funding for QRTP foster care services, foster care maintenance for children living with a parent who is in-inpatient substance use treatment, or IMPACT and administration system enhancements. It is assumed that DFPS would use existing transfer authority to request funds to support any capital projects associated with programs listed above.*

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<sup>1</sup> Grant period October 1, 2019-September 30, 2025

<sup>2</sup> Funding for TFF includes expenditures to support service provision, DFPS staff salaries, and evaluation services.

<sup>3</sup> Funding for QRTP Implementation Support includes expenditures to support DFPS staff salaries and does not include QRTP service provision.

## **Rider 48 Requirements and Progress Report**

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### **Rider 48 (a)**

Rider 48 (a) provides funding to pilot FFPSA prevention services, now referenced as The Texas Family First Pilot Program (TFF) coordinated through Child Protective Investigations (CPI) including homeless foster youth, contingent on enactment of HB 3041, or similar legislation relating to the provision of certain services by the DFPS as an alternative to removing a child and certain procedures with respect to children in the managing conservatorship of the department by the 87th Legislature, Regular Session.

DFPS contracted with the Public Policy Research Institute (PPRI) at Texas A&M University to study, per Senate Bill 910, the requirements necessary to transition Family Preservation Services into the Community-Based Care model, with a focus on the use of Title IV-E approved clearinghouse evidence-based services. PPRI has met all deliverable deadlines to date. Deliverable 1, Draft of Initial Research Plan, was received and there was no payment associated with this deliverable. Deliverable 2, Final Initial Planning Report, was received on November 4, 2021, and had an associated payment of \$80,000.00. Deliverable 3, 3-Month Research Progress Report, was received on January 3, 2022, and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. Deliverable 4, 6-Month Research Progress Report, was received on April 4, 2022 and had an associated payment of \$35,000.00. The next deliverable, the final deliverable, Final Study of Options Report, was received on August 31, 2022. The contract with Texas A&M University for the study, per SB 910 was concluded on August 31, 2022, concluding the usage of the \$300,000 of FFTA funds for this study.

Positions to aid in the transition of family prevention services to the community were created. DFPS is working to fill these supportive positions.

### **Rider 48 (b)**

Rider 48 (b) provides funding to pilot services and interventions for children who are at imminent risk of being removed. The TFF pilot program is designed as a new tool to prevent children from entering foster care by providing court-ordered services to families to alleviate safety concerns. As directed by HB 3041, 87th Texas Legislature (2021), DFPS is piloting TFF in certain areas of the state and will report back to lawmakers upon the one-year anniversary of implementation. DFPS is partnering with community-based providers to stand up evidence-based preservation services in the pilot areas. On March 18th, 2022, DFPS released a grant funding opportunity for current Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) to apply to participate in the pilot project. Applicants proposed at least one evidence-based program approved by Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that has been evaluated and rated Well-Supported in the areas of mental health or substance abuse. SSCCs could also propose additional evidence-based programs approved by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse that have been evaluated and rated on the Title IV-E Clearinghouse in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, or in-home parent skill-based training to ensure services are available for families with children ages zero to seventeen.

DFPS executed contract amendments with four Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) providers as of August 31, 2022. In FY22, \$3,187,926 of the funds were paid out through these amendments to the contracts, with a remaining \$2,732,085 projected to be utilized in FY 23. DFPS and the SSCCs are working together to find ways to engage more families into the Texas Family First Pilot and communicating regularly. As of March 8, 2023:

- In Region 1, St. Francis (SSCC) is currently working with 5 families
- In Region 2, 2INgage (SSCC) is currently working with 8 families
- In Region 3W, OCOK(SSCC) is currently working with 5 families
- In Region 8B, Belong (SSCC) is currently working with 6 families

#### **Rider 48 (c)**

Rider 48(c) provides funding for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program to expand capacity as allowed by Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). DFPS' Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) division finalized contract updates to incorporate these additional funds into eight existing NFP contracts to serve pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. Sites include: Any Baby Can, Travis County; Children's Shelter of San Antonio, Bexar County; Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Brazos County; and the City of Port Arthur, Jefferson County; Coalition of Health Services, Potter and Randall Counties; North Texas Area United Way, Wichita County; University of Texas Permian Basin, Ector and Midland Counties; United Way San Antonio, Bexar County. All eight NFP sites began hiring and recruiting eligible families immediately. PEI also added mental health consultation services to the contract with the NFP National Service Office (NSO) to better support NFP sites providing services to pregnant and parenting youth in foster care. In FY22, PEI expended \$192.108. PEI has budgeted \$2,000,000 to support these programs in FY23. Current FY 23 expenditures are \$193,249.

#### **Rider 48 (d)**

Rider 48(d) provides additional funding for the DFPS Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Pilot Project. A QRTP is a time-limited clinical intervention, which includes placement into and service delivery by qualified accredited residential facilities with highly trained, experienced, and qualified staff to meet the needs of children with complex mental, emotional, and behavioral health needs. The goal is to provide the child with the appropriate level of treatment for their individual needs in order to assist them in learning how to manage their behaviors so they transition out of foster care and back to their family of origin, or achieve positive permanency in a less restrictive environment while receiving after care support services for a minimum of six months.

The QRTP Open Enrollment Procurement documents and all required supplemental documents were published on Friday April 1, 2022. The information is posted on the Electronic State Business Daily site where potential providers can view necessary information to apply to become a contracted QRTP provider. Implementation details for internal and external processes have been established and shared with DFPS staff and external stakeholders through

meetings, webinars, workgroups, and cross training sessions which were conducted throughout the months of April, May, and June 2022. DFPS achieved readiness to serve the first youth by July 1, 2022, however, at this time, there are no established QRTP contracted providers. DFPS is working with several providers to add QRTP to their operations. To date DFPS has received 3 provider applications to become contracted QRTP's which are currently under review.

Although not a part of the Rider 48, but related as an underlying requirement for a placement to be considered a QRTP, on August 24, 2022 DFPS released a state grant opportunity through a Request for Application (RFA) to aid with costs of obtaining or maintaining Accreditation in efforts to incentivize QRTP contractors. Four separate Grantees to receive their funding and at the close of this RFA, DFPS intends to republish the RFA to extend additional opportunities with remaining funds.

#### **Rider 48 (e)**

Rider 48 (e) provides funding to support the transition of family-based safety services to evidenced-based programs under FFPSA. PEI added capacity to existing evidence-based programs to serve a portion of families in family-based safety services. PEI identified SafeCare and Parents as Teachers (PAT) as the most appropriate FFPSA approved evidence-based models for this project. DFPS has obligated \$1,561,602 for FY23.