TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 15 Report for Community-Based Care

Performance Measures and Analysis

March 2026

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 89th Texas Legislature, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15, the agency shall, on March 31st and September 30th of each year of the biennium, "report selected performance measures identified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that will allow for comparative analysis between the Legacy foster care and the Community-Based Care (CBC) systems." The report "shall contain the most recent data for the selected comparative performance measures, an analysis of the data that identifies trends and related impact occurring in the Community-Based Care system, identification and analysis of factors negatively impacting any outcomes, recommendations to address problems identified from the data, and any other information necessary to determine the status of the Community-Based Care system." The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) collaborates with DFPS to complete this report. This is the March 2026 report with data through the end of Fiscal Year 2025. Since that time, the Department has experienced notable changes in performance and has filed for receivership over an SSCC in accordance with Senate Bill 2034 from the 89th Legislative session. Accordingly, the data and findings presented in this report represent a prior period and may not reflect current conditions or recent improvements.

Contained in this report is the status of implementation for CBC in Texas, as well as the current performance of the legacy system, and the SSCC providers and other relevant information to inform the status of the CBC system. A more detailed update on the status of implementation can be found in the Quarterly Report on Implementation Status.

Background

CBC changes how DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based contract, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community area. In Stage I, the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) provider is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. SSCC providers also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC provider expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements and services to parents, and the SSCC provider has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC provider continues the provision of all Stage I and II services, and DFPS is statutorily authorized to provide SSCC providers with financial incentives or remedies for outcomes related to performance. The logic model, created when Community-Based Care was first proposed, outlines the goals and expected outcomes for CBC in Texas. The legislatively required metrics analyzed in this report reflect SSCC performance on specific outcomes examined in this report and do not represent a comprehensive assessment of their overall contract performance. Many additional contractual responsibilities and qualitative factors are considered when evaluating how an SSCC is performing within its community.

Performance Populations

The format identified by the LBB for reporting data supports comparative analysis of performance trends for the state, non-CBC communities (also known as legacy), and individual SSCC providers.
DFPS reports the performance of each population as follows:

- **Statewide –** Reports the performance of the entire state population of children.
- **Statewide Non-CBC –** Reports the aggregated performance of entire state population, excluding active SSCC areas.
- **CBC (SSCC) –** Reports the performance for each SSCC provider individually for children in conservatorship under the care of the SSCC provider.

For this submission of the Rider 15, the performance for the CBC population includes the SSCC providers below.

Table 1
Names of Community Areas and their Respective SSCC Contractor and Division Names

Catchment	Community	Contractor Legal Name	SSCC Division Name
1	Panhandle	Saint Francis Community Services, Inc	Saint Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc (Saint Francis)
2	Big Country and Texoma	Texas Family Initiative	2INgage
3E	Metroplex East	Texas Family Initiative	EMPOWER
3W	Metroplex West	Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)	Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)
4	Piney Woods	Arrow Child & Family Ministries	4Kids4Families
5	Deep East	Pressley Ridge	Texas Family Care Network
8B	South Central and Hill Country	SJRC Texas	Belong

Performance will be reported by the SSCC Division name.

Considerations for Interpretation of Performance

As CBC progresses through staged implementation, the data can be used to help inform the following questions. The questions below are provided to help guide interpretation of the data in this report, offering a framework for understanding SSCC performance within the broader context of Community-Based Care implementation.

1. **Are there statewide changes which could also affect SSCC performance?** To answer this, examine trends over time in statewide performance. If there are trends upward or downward across the state, this may point to statewide factors influencing performance.
2. **How is the CBC system performing over time?** To answer this, compare SSCC performance to the performance of the "Non-CBC" population over time. If the SSCC designated community areas are improving more than the legacy catchment areas, the changes made to the foster care system under CBC may be more effective.
3. **How is a particular SSCC provider performing over time?** To answer this, compare individual SSCC provider performance across fiscal years. Improvement may take time as services are transitioned to each SSCC provider, and the SSCC provider works to build the network of services in the area.
4. **Are some SSCC providers performing better than others?** To answer this, compare SSCC provider performance to others. While each area has unique strengths and challenges, if a specific SSCC provider is improving outcomes compared to historical performance at a faster rate, the strategies implemented by the SSCC provider may be more effective.

Interpreting the performance of each SSCC provider and of the CBC model requires considering two important factors: the impact of the transition to CBC in each community and system factors outside of the direct control of each SSCC provider. These are detailed below.

Direct Impact of Transition

Time Needed to Make Change

An important factor in assessing the performance of individual SSCC providers is the time each has had to complete the transition. The first full fiscal year post-transition to Stage II, where the SSCC provider alone provides all services (as opposed to shared DFPS-SSCC service provision in the data) are summarized below.

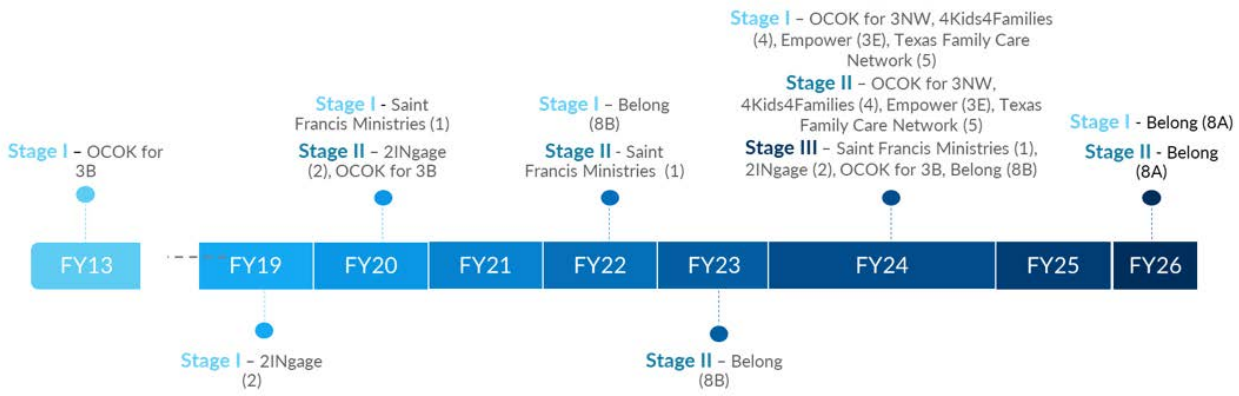
Table 2
First Fiscal Year of Individual Performance

Catchment	Community	Stage II Start	First Fiscal Year of Non-Shared Performance
1	Panhandle (Saint Francis)	FY22 Q3	FY23
2	Big Country and Texoma (2INgage)	FY20 Q4	FY21
3E	Metroplex East (EMPOWER)	FY24 Q3	FY25
3W	Metroplex West (OCOK)	FY20 Q3	FY21
4	Piney Woods (4Kids4Families)	FY24 Q3	FY25
5	Deep East (TFCN)	FY24 Q3	FY25

8B	South Central and Hill Country (Belong)	FY23 Q1	FY23

For a full timeline of Stage I, Stage II, and Stage III transition for each of the current SSCC providers, see below.

Figure 1
Timeline of Community-Based Care Transition for Current SSCC Providers



SSCC providers who entered Stage II prior to fiscal year 2024 have had more time since their transition, and therefore, have had an opportunity to overcome issues that may have impacted them more immediately post-transition. SSCC providers who entered Stage II during fiscal year 2024 have had less time to resolve those issues, and therefore, their performance in fiscal year 2025 may still reflect challenges associated with the transition to CBC. When asked to provide feedback on the performance measure outcomes during this reporting period, one SSCC stated their performance declined as a neighboring catchment transitioned to Stage I. When an SSCC goes live in Stage I, it becomes the SSCC's responsibility to maintain the placement network within the catchment area. When another SSCC or DFPS seeks placement into the catchment area after the SSCC begins Stage I, the receiving SSCC must approve it. While this practice has historically helped ensure that each SSCC is able to effectively oversee the capacity of their catchment area, DFPS recognizes the need to reexamine capacity sharing practices across catchment areas as the state continues to expand CBC statewide.

Effects of Transition on Casework

In order to produce quality outcomes for children and families, an SSCC provider needs a stable and well-trained workforce. This is one of the core priorities between Stage I and Stage II, as well as in the early period of Stage II. DFPS and OCBCT recognize that if there is difficulty attracting existing DFPS staff and a significant proportion of the workforce is new, this can cause a decrease in the quality of case work or documentation. Early performance on outcomes, such as permanency, may be impacted as new staff get up-to-speed on cases and familiar with court requirements.

Challenges Posed by Systemic Factors

Change in Conservatorship Population

The number of children in DFPS conservatorship started to decline after FY18, as the population dropped from 31,766 children on February 28th, 2019 to 17,321 children on February 28th, 2026[1]. This represents a 45% decrease in children in conservatorship.

In the context of the performance data, this consideration can be especially informative. The population of children in conservatorship today is nearly half what it was in 2018, which makes comparisons to prior fiscal years complex. Compared to prior fiscal years, small numeric changes to performance have a bigger impact on percent change. This consideration is even more relevant to measures with particularly small denominators, such as the Percent of Youth Age 16 or Older who have a Driver's License or State Identification Card and Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training.

This reduction in the population size is largely attributable to the reduction in removals each fiscal year: removals fell by 37.5% for FY25 when compared to FY21[2]. With fewer children removed, there are fewer children in care at 60 days and fewer children in conservatorship altogether compared to prior fiscal years. Performance metrics that focus on new removals, such as placements in kinship at 60 days and time to permanency, may be influenced by a reduction in new removals.

The reduction in removals was not consistent across populations, both in geography and in child characteristics. Some catchment areas have had a greater change in removals than others. For example, Catchments 3E, 4, 5, 6A, 7A, 8A, 8B, 9, and 11B have had an increase in removals from FY2024 to FY2025.[3] Therefore, while all catchment areas saw their population sizes

[1] Data Source: cps_pp_03_dfps, Report Data as of 3/07/26, Report Retrieved 3/11/26.
[2] Data Source: DFPS Databook CPS 2.1 Removals - by Region with Child Demographics FY2016-2025, Report Data as of 2/12/26, Report Retrieved 3/11/25.
[3] Data Source: fps_sa_03, Report Data as of 11/07/25, Report Retrieved 3/11/26.

decline, performance may not change equally for all parts of the state. For instance, analysis has shown that there was a greater reduction in removals for older youth than younger children. Children and youth in conservatorship today have different needs and characteristics than the population in conservatorship in previous fiscal year, including more intensive behavioral, developmental, and medical needs.

Foster Care Capacity

This shift in the population of children in conservatorship has resulted in a need for the provider network to evolve to better meet the changing needs of children and youth. When a child is removed from their home, the Department and SSCCs need to place the child in a substitute care placement. Children should be placed in a kinship placement when possible, and, if an appropriate kinship placement is not available, in a licensed foster care placement, such as a foster home. Yet, kinship availability and foster care capacity are not distributed consistently with the population of children in care. Due to cultural, geographic, and systemic factors, some regions have a higher availability of kinship caregivers than other areas.

In rural areas, finding licensed placement near children's home communities can be a challenge due to the distance between towns, service providers, or population centers. These areas have lower population density and fewer service providers, resulting in longer travel times for families, foster caregivers, and staff to access essential supports. When a child or youth requires therapeutic treatment services, it is more likely they will be placed further from their community due to Residential Treatment Centers historically being concentrated in more urban areas.

Even when placement options are available, they must be an appropriate match for the child's specific needs. Licensed capacity in a given location does not guarantee that a placement is appropriate or that the provider is willing to accept the child; providers may lack the staff, resources, or conditions necessary to fully utilize that capacity. As the needs of children in conservatorship have evolved, the availability of appropriate placements has become an ongoing challenge for the child protection system in Texas. Finding placements that are both close to home and suited to a child's specific needs have become increasingly difficult. SSCCs report challenges in building capacity and securing placements for children and youth with higher needs. They attribute these challenges in part to providers' aversion to risk within the current regulatory environment, which they assert can make it more difficult to expand capacity in their designated catchment area. These foster care capacity challenges highlight the need to focus on increasing capacity through recruitment of highly skilled foster families and other capacity statewide, and negatively impact several performance measures, namely placing siblings together in paid foster care, the number of paid foster care placements per child, the percentage of children placed in paid foster care placements within 50 miles of removal location, the percentage of placement days in a home setting, and timely reunification.

State of the Community-Based Care System

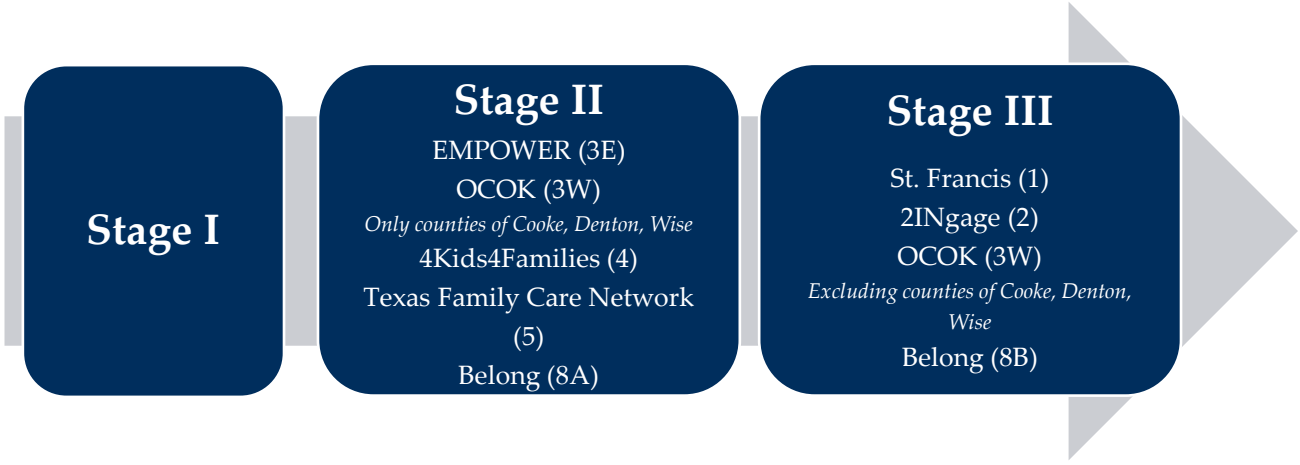
Community-Based Care is expanding to additional communities as they become ready to manage and provide foster care services. In each area, a single organization contracts with DFPS to coordinate a seamless system of services for children under DFPS conservatorship.

Implementation Status

DFPS and OCBCT are working toward full implementation of CBC statewide. See Appendix A for a map of the current status.

Figure 2

Community-Based Care Implementation Summary for Current SSCC Providers



Currently, of the 17,421 children in DFPS conservatorship, 60.6[4] percent are in SSCC community areas on February 8, 2026. As illustrated above, as of March 1, 2026, of the ten CBC catchments, four SSCC providers are in Stage III and five SSCC providers are in Stage II[5]. Contracts were awarded for regions 6A and 6B to Texans Together. These two catchment areas are in Stage I readiness, which is a formal review process utilized by DFPS to assess the ability of an SSCC to satisfy the responsibilities and administrative requirements to progress into the next stage of CBC. DFPS will expand CBC into regions 7A, 7B, 11A, and 11B in the next biennium.

While 8A is in Stage II as of the writing of this report, the performance period for this report ends on August 31st, 2025. As such, the below performance data will not reflect 8A, as the catchment was in Stage I at this time.

[4] Data Source: DFPS Data Warehouse, CPS pp_05; Report Data as of 2/08/26, Report Retrieved 2/13/26
[5] DFPS was granted receivership over the operations of EMPOWER in the Metroplex East community area after the period in scope for this report.

See Appendix A for a map of which parts of the state correspond to each catchment area.

Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems

DFPS and OCBCT assess contract performance measures (referred to as "Section B" and "Section C" of the excel version of the Rider 15) quarterly as part of formal contract monitoring and a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Through this process, DFPS, OCBCT, and each SSCC provider review performance measure results each quarter, along with other data used to identify potential trends and performance drivers. Performance drivers may include changes to the population of children, trends specific to those populations, placement utilization practices, and other data.

Below are high-level summaries of performance results for FY25. One consideration for interpreting trends over time is that variations in the measures, both positive and negative, are not always meaningful or substantive. Thus, the below summaries highlight changes in performance compared to FY 24 that are substantially improved or declined[6]. The summaries also refer to some of the performance drivers identified by the SSCCs.

Upward Trends in Performance

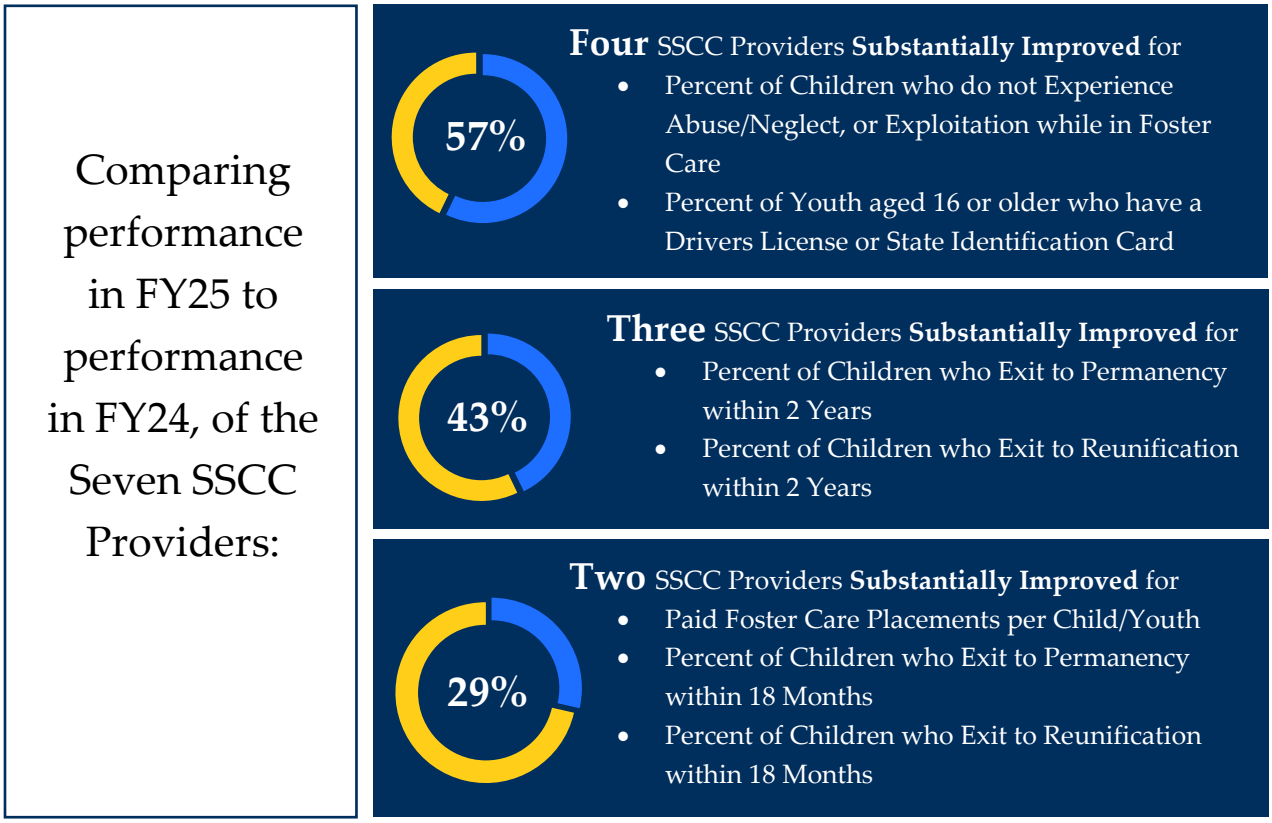
Overall, there was a system-wide improvement to Safety in Paid Care across the legacy and CBC system with more than half of the SSCC agencies improving. Two SSCCs maintained performance levels similar to FY24. Additionally, four of the seven SSCC providers had substantial performance improvement for the ID/Driver's Licenses performance measure while three SSCC providers performed similarly to the prior year.

The graph below summarizes the performance measures in which current performance improved over last year's performance per SSCC provider. This graph represents the performance of multiple SSCCs, and not all bullets apply to the same SSCC. Detailed performance results for each SSCC can be found on pages 15-48.

[6] Substantial change in performance means any performance where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.

Figure 3

Summary of Substantial[7] Upward Trends in Performance for Current SSCC Providers[8]



Potential drivers for these performance improvements may stem from the innovation and flexibility SSCCs bring to service delivery. SSCC providers have flexibility in their service models, which allows them to respond quickly to emerging trends. They can engage their staff in new initiatives promptly, which allows them to respond to their community needs quickly. This enables SSCCs to tailor services in ways that reflect local circumstances.

According to the SSCC providers, several internal efforts contributed to the increase in safety in paid care. Some SSCC providers report strengthening training practices and enhancing tracking of abuse and neglect investigations. Also, some SSCC providers describe integrating performance and risk-management teams into safety staffings when new investigations come in regarding network providers. Others report conducting broader leadership and provider meetings to discuss emerging trends and determine where system-wide practice adjustments may be needed.

[7] Substantial change in performance means any performance where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.
[8] Of the six providers that improved performance for the Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training, two maintained performances at 100%.

According to SSCC-reported feedback, obtaining a driver's license or state ID for youth aged 16 and older remains challenging due to factors outside of their direct control. Many youth enter care without essential identity documents, and securing these records requires coordination with other governmental agencies that have varying requirements and timelines. Some SSCCs have described inconsistent recognition of SSCC authority by some external offices.

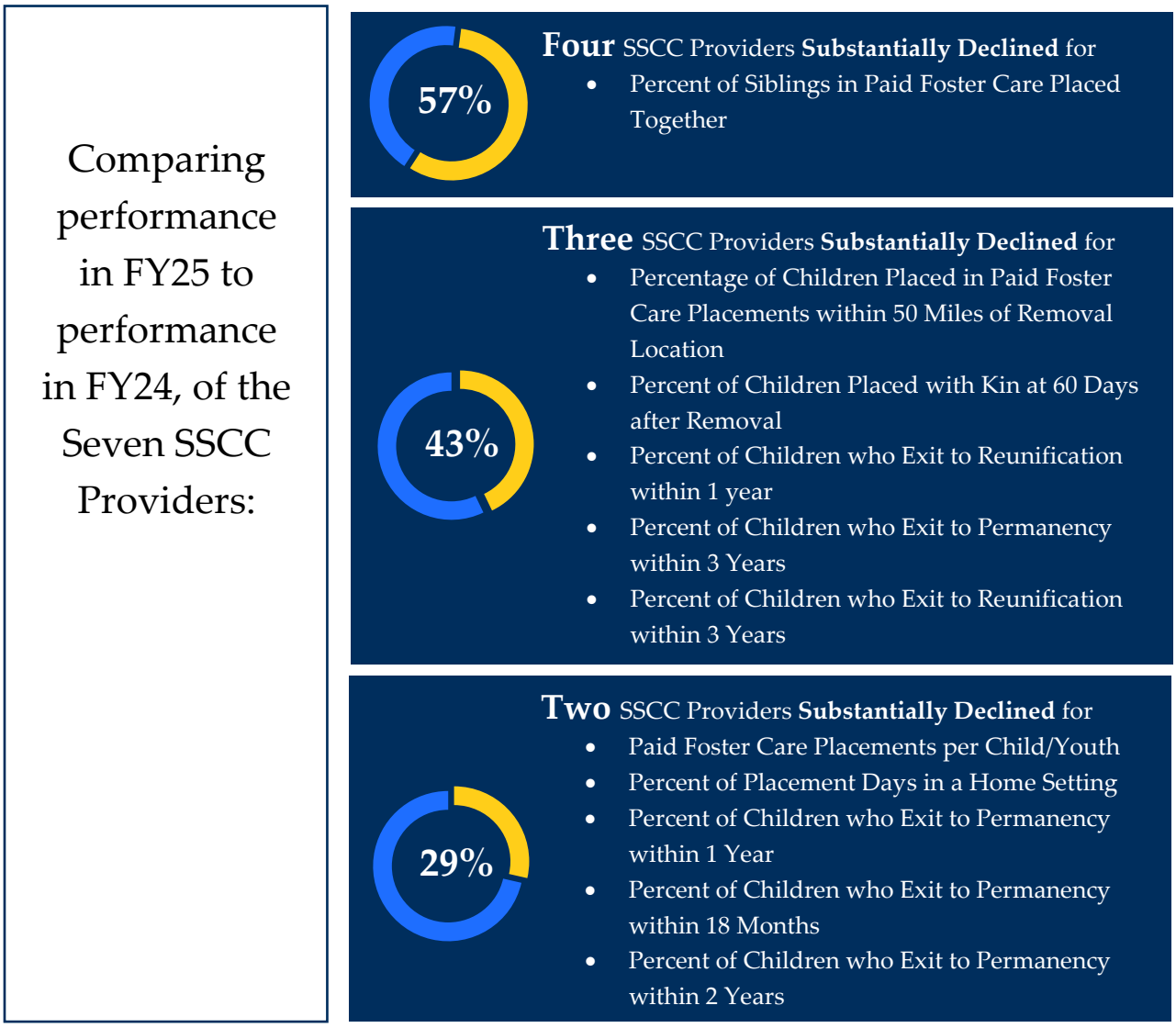
In response, some SSCCs report implementing several strategies to improve performance. These include centralizing and streamlining internal workflows for document gathering, assigning and training specialized staff, building relationships with local governmental offices, and strengthening tracking and follow-up procedures within their agencies.

SSCCs also report pursuing grants to expand kinship supports, youth services, and their placement networks. SSCCs work closely with their provider network to meet the ever-evolving needs of their communities.

Downward Trends in Performance

The graph summarizes the performance measures in which current performance did not improve upon last year's performance per SSCC provider. The graph represents performance of multiple SSCCs, and not all bullets apply to the same SSCC. Detailed performance results for each SSCC can be found on pages 15-48

Figure 4
Summary of Substantial[9] Downward Trends in Performance for Current SSCC Providers



Some SSCCs report that drivers of declining performance include capacity challenges and geographic factors. SSCCs report therapeutic needs of children and youth have increased, making it more difficult to locate placements that can serve sibling groups with varying levels of need. Facility closures across multiple setting types have further reduced placement options statewide. Although there has been a significant decrease in removals statewide after FY 18, regions 3E, 4, 5, 6A, 7A, 8A, 9 and 11B have experienced an increase in removals since last

[9] Substantial change in performance means any performance where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.

year.[10] This places further pressure on already limited placement resources in their communities. Together, these factors reduce flexibility within placement networks and likely contribute to the downward trends observed.

Placement proximity and sibling placement measures declined for some SSCC providers from FY24 to FY25. There was not a substantial change in statewide performance. SSCCs consistently report that limited in-region capacity, particularly in rural areas and for children with high needs, continues to be the most significant driver. High bed utilization, provider closures and out-of-region youth occupying available beds were frequently cited as issues that impact these measures. These constraints often result in children being placed farther from home and, at times, separated from siblings. SSCC providers report these challenges greatly impact older youth, large sibling groups, and sibling sets with differing acuity needs. SSCC providers also describe broader system and geographic factors, which are discussed later in this report. Some SSCC providers have declined in kinship placements at 60 days which is likely to place additional pressure on their limited bed availability.

In response to these challenges, SSCCs report focusing on expanding and better aligning capacity within their communities. Efforts include targeted foster home recruitment, sharing capacity needs data with their provider networks, and reviewing children placed far from home or separated from siblings. SSCCs also described strengthening internal workflows and launching initiatives intended to return children to their home communities and reunify separated siblings when possible. The CQI process enables DFPS and OCBCT to understand the significance of performance measure trends and assess the strategies each SSCC provider has in place to maintain or improve performance. Whenever DFPS and OCBCT identify performance concerns or compliance issues, DFPS will intervene as indicated in the contract progressive intervention process, which includes a range of required actions the SSCC provider will take to reverse the trend or address the area of non-compliance. The progressive intervention plan for the SSCC providers can be found in the Annual CBC Implementation Plan, which is released at the end of each calendar year.

Performance measure data referenced below reflects performance through FY25. Percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Foster Care Performance Measures (Stage I Objective – Section B)[11]

The measures listed below are effective in Stage I, and all measures continue into Stage II and Stage III. The goal of Stage I is to create and sustain a network of paid foster care providers

[10] Data Warehouse Report FPS_SA_03R Children Removed from Home; FY24 Data as of 11/7/24, FY25 Data as of 11/7/25. Report Retrieved 3/23/26.
[11] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.

within the catchment area to ensure paid care placements provide safety and well-being, such as being placed as a sibling group or close to home.

Percentage of Children Safe in Paid Foster Care[12]

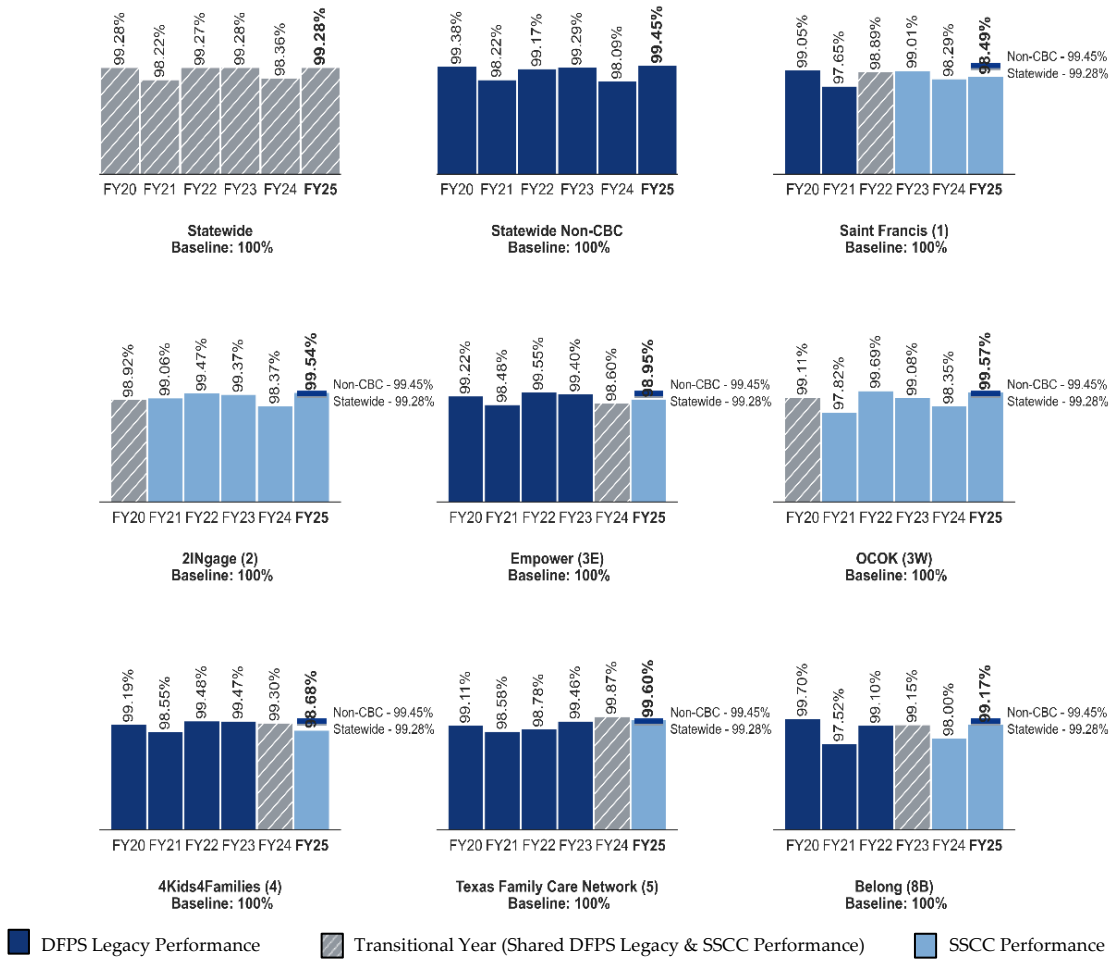
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who do not experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation while in paid foster care. All safety performance below 100% is an area for improvement. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children safe in paid foster care increased by 0.92% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[13] The percentage of children safe in paid foster care increased by 1.36% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC**: Five SSCC providers show performance improvements in keeping children safe in paid foster care in FY25 compared to FY24.

Figure 5
Children Safe in Paid Foster Care

[12] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[13] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.


99.28%
98.22%
99.27%
99.28%
98.36%
99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Statewide
Baseline: 100%
99.38%
98.22%
99.17%
99.29%
98.09%
99.45%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Statewide Non-CBC
Baseline: 100%
99.05%
97.65%
98.89%
99.01%
98.29%
98.49%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Saint Francis (1)
Baseline: 100%
98.92%
99.06%
99.47%
99.37%
98.37%
99.54%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
2INgage (2)
Baseline: 100%
99.22%
98.48%
99.55%
99.40%
98.60%
98.95%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Empower (3E)
Baseline: 100%
99.11%
97.82%
99.69%
99.08%
98.35%
99.57%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
OCOK (3W)
Baseline: 100%
99.19%
98.55%
99.48%
99.47%
99.30%
98.68%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
4Kids4Families (4)
Baseline: 100%
99.11%
98.58%
98.78%
99.46%
99.87%
99.60%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Texas Family Care Network (5)
Baseline: 100%
99.70%
97.52%
99.10%
99.15%
98.00%
99.17%
Non-CBC - 99.45%
Statewide - 99.28%
FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 FY24 FY25
Belong (8B)
Baseline: 100%
DFPS Legacy Performance
Transitional Year (Shared DFPS Legacy & SSCC Performance)
SSCC Performance

Paid Foster Care Placements per Child/Youth[14]

This performance measure is defined as the number of SSCC foster care placements per child. This measure is cumulative throughout the fiscal year. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

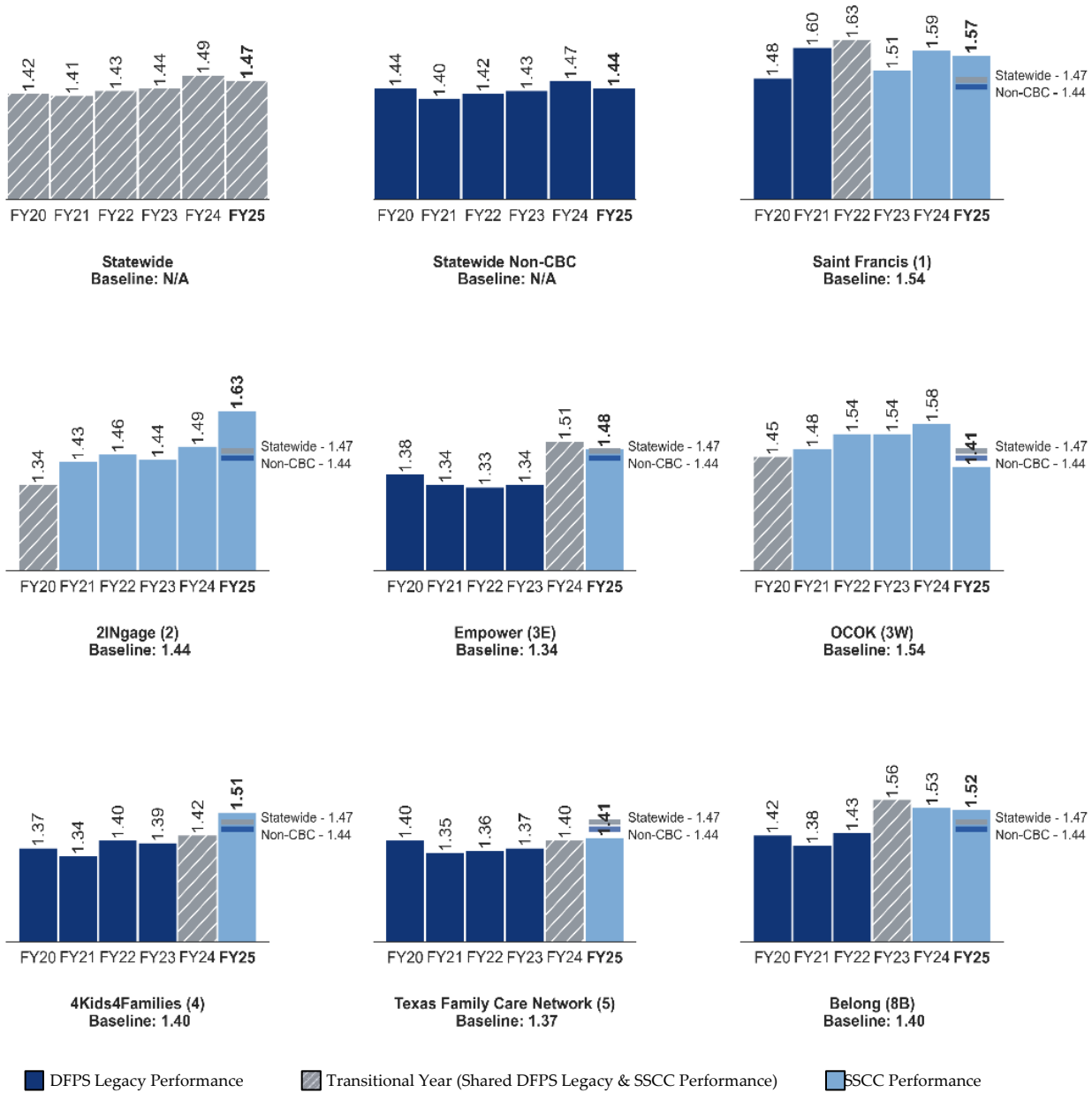
Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** Placements in Paid Foster Care for children/youth improved in FY25 compared to FY24, decreasing from 1.49 to 1.47 paid foster care placements per child, indicating improving stability.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[15] Placements in Paid Foster Care for children/youth improved in FY25 compared to FY24, decreasing from 1.47 to 1.44 paid foster care placements per child, indicating improving stability.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show improved performance in Paid Foster Care Placements for children in their care in FY25 compared to FY24.

[14] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[15] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 6

Paid Foster Care Placements



Percentage of Children Placed in Paid Foster Care Placements within 50 Miles of Removal Location[16]

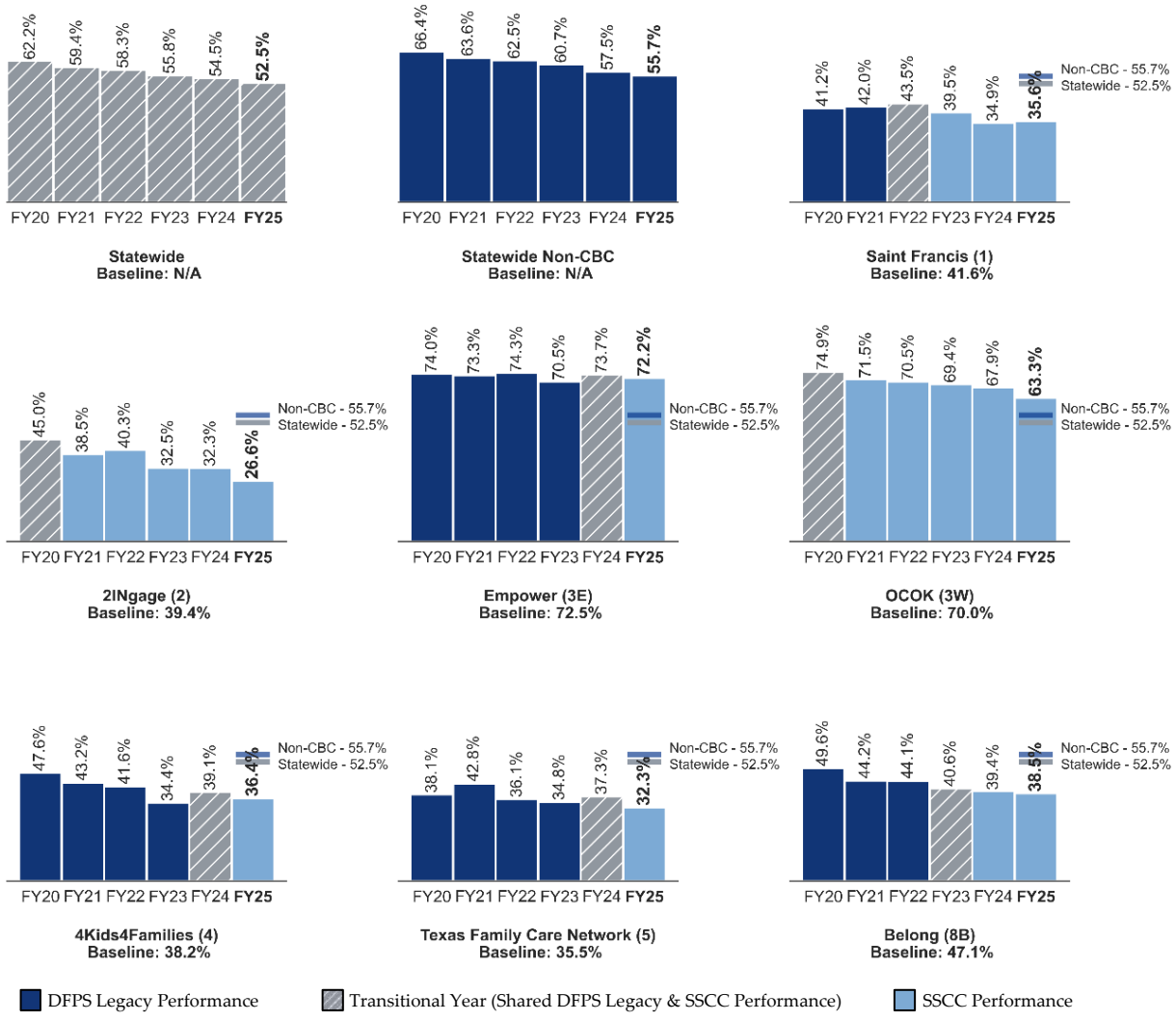
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children/youth in paid foster care placements within 50 miles of their home. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below. Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children placed close to home decreased by 2.0% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[17] The percentage of children placed close to home decreased by 1.8% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in placing children close to home in FY25 compared to FY24.

[16] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[17] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 7

Children in Paid Foster Care Placements within 50 Miles of Removal Location



Percentage of Siblings in Paid Foster Care Placed Together[18]

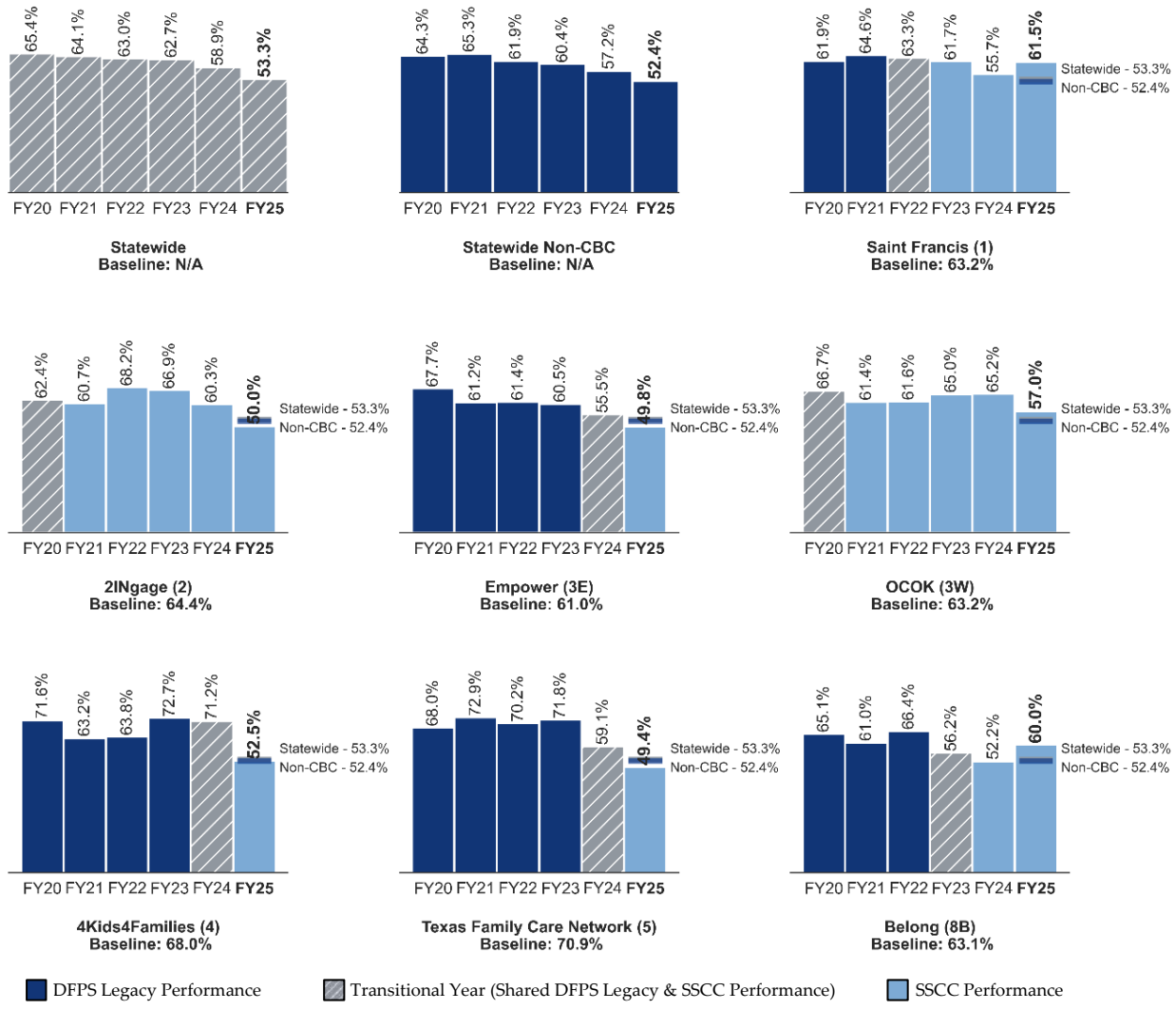
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of sibling groups all placed together in paid foster care on the last day of the reporting period. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together decreased by 5.6% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:[19]** The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together decreased by 4.8% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing siblings together in paid foster care in FY25 compared to FY24.

[18] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[19] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 8
Siblings in Paid Foster Care Placed Together



Conservatorship Performance Measures (Stage II Objective – Section C)[20]

The goal of Stage II is to improve exits to permanency for children in DFPS conservatorship, including both the number of children exiting permanency and the speed at which they exit. These measures and objectives continue into Stage III.

Please note for the measures related to exits to Permanency and to Reunification, the cohorts used are entry cohorts, meaning they represent children who are removed in the Fiscal Year for which performance is reported.

For each removal cohort, each child needs an equal opportunity to reach the desired outcome. For example, for each child removed in FY20, there needs to be at least one full year after removal before data is reported on who exited to Permanency or Reunification within 12 months of removal. Thus, the data cannot be reported until after August 31st, 2021. For a full list of when to expect performance for each time period and fiscal year, see below.

Table 3
Time Parameters for Entry Cohort Reporting

Parameters for Entry Cohort Outcome Reporting	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Last Possible Day of Removal	8/31/2020	8/31/2021	8/31/2022	8/31/2023	8/31/2024
12 Months after Last Possible Day of Removal	8/31/2021	8/31/2022	8/31/2023	8/31/2024	8/31/2025
First Quarter to Report on 1 Year Outcome	FY22 Q1	FY23 Q1	FY24 Q1	FY25 Q1	FY26 Q1
First Quarter to Report on 18 Months Outcome	FY22 Q3	FY23 Q3	FY24 Q3	FY25 Q3	FY26 Q3
First Quarter to Report on 2 Years Outcome	FY23 Q1	FY24 Q1	FY25 Q1	FY26 Q1	FY27 Q1
First Quarter to Report on 3 Years Outcome	FY24 Q1	FY25 Q1	FY26 Q1	FY27 Q1	FY28 Q1

[20] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.

Percentage of Placement Days in a Home Setting[21]

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of placement days in a home setting for children and youth in conservatorship. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

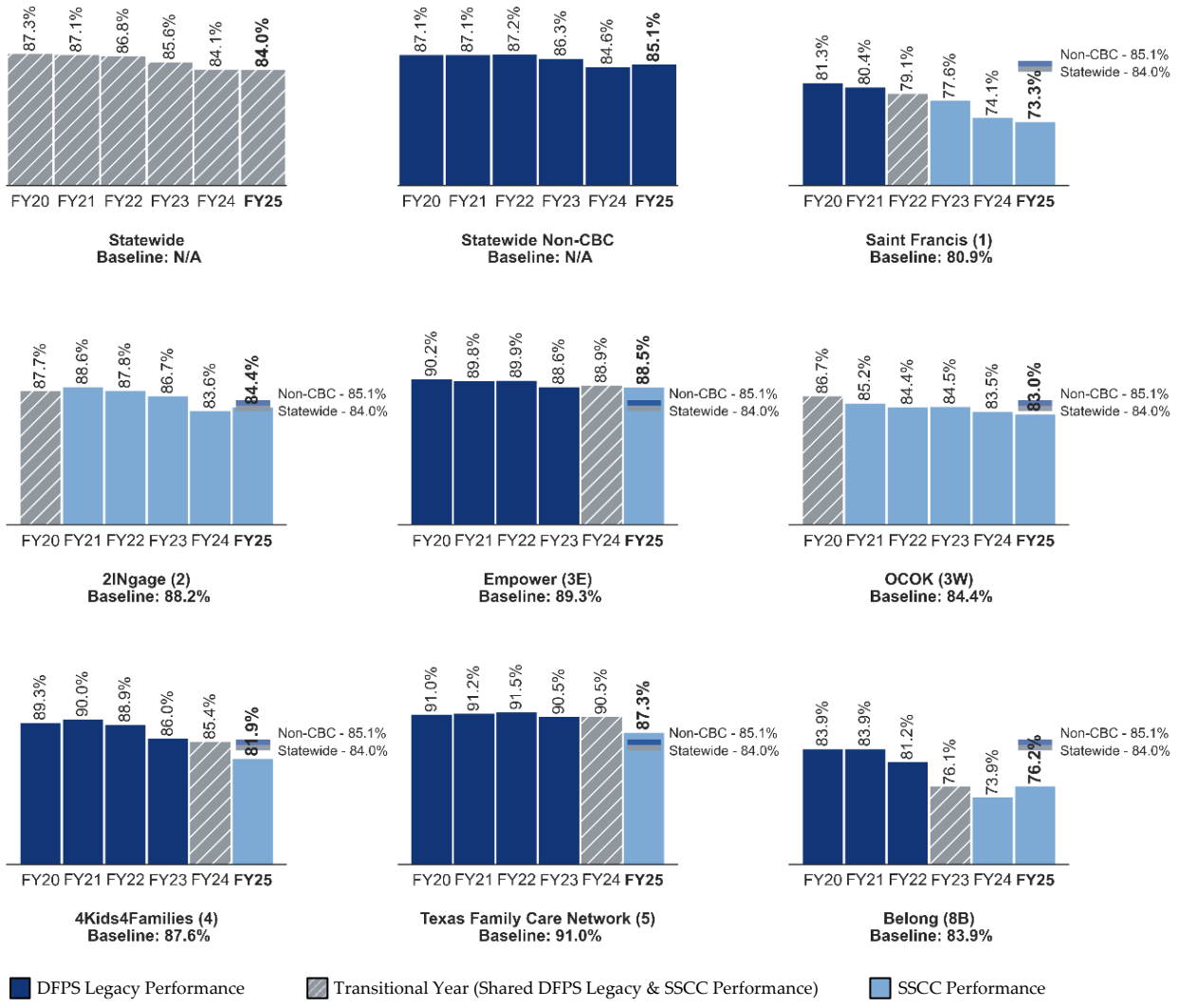
Overall, performance declined slightly for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of placement days in a home setting decreased by 0.1% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[22] The percentage of placement days in a home setting increased by 0.5% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing children in home settings in FY25 compared to FY24.

[21] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[22] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 9

Placement Days in a Home Setting



Percent of Youth Age 16 or Older who have a Driver's License or State Identification Card[23]

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

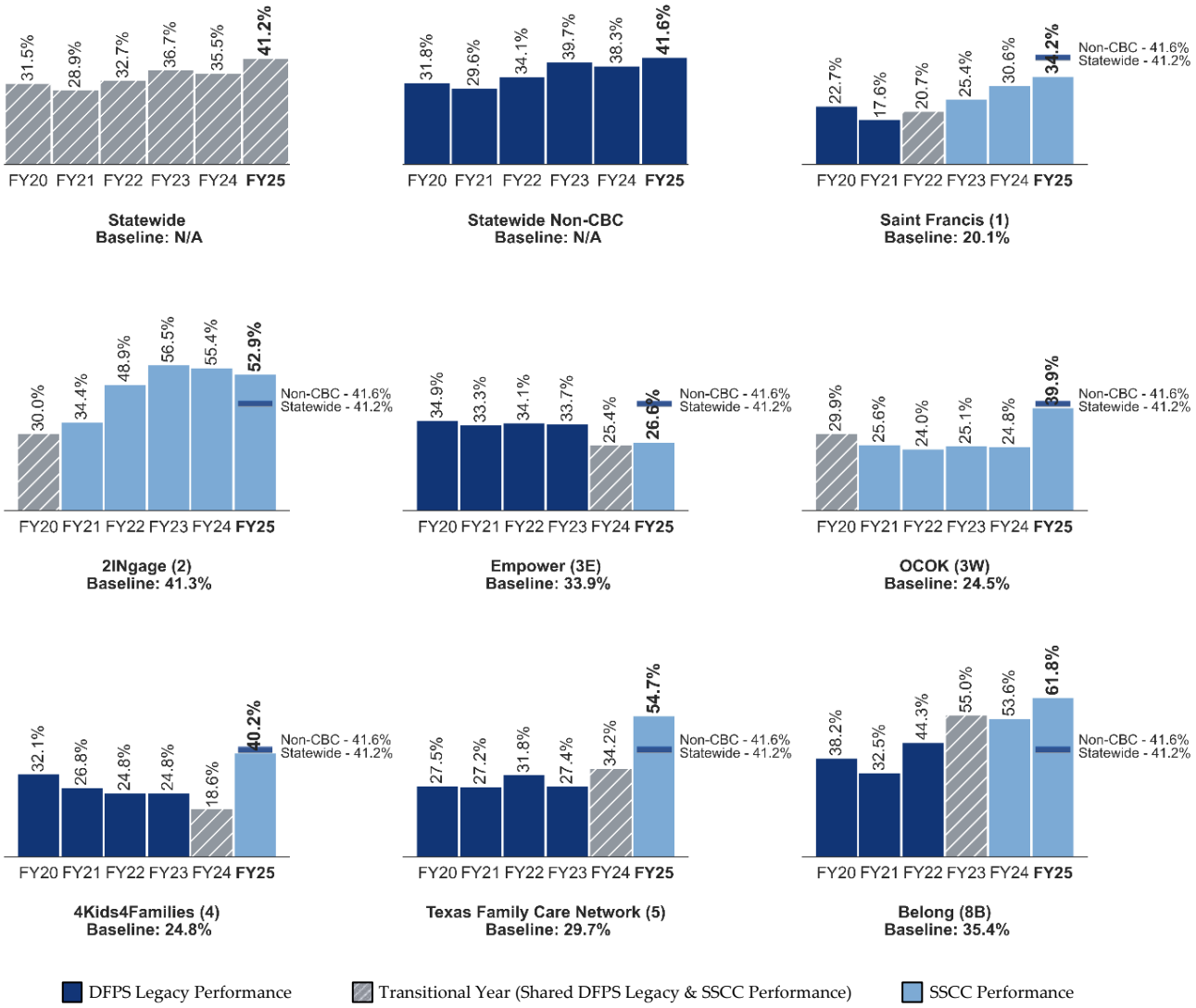
Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card increased in FY25 by 5.7% compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[24] The percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card increased in FY25 by 3.3% compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** Six SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card in FY25 compared to FY24.

[23] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[24] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 10

Youth Age 16 or Older with a Driver's License or State Identification Card



Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training[25]

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

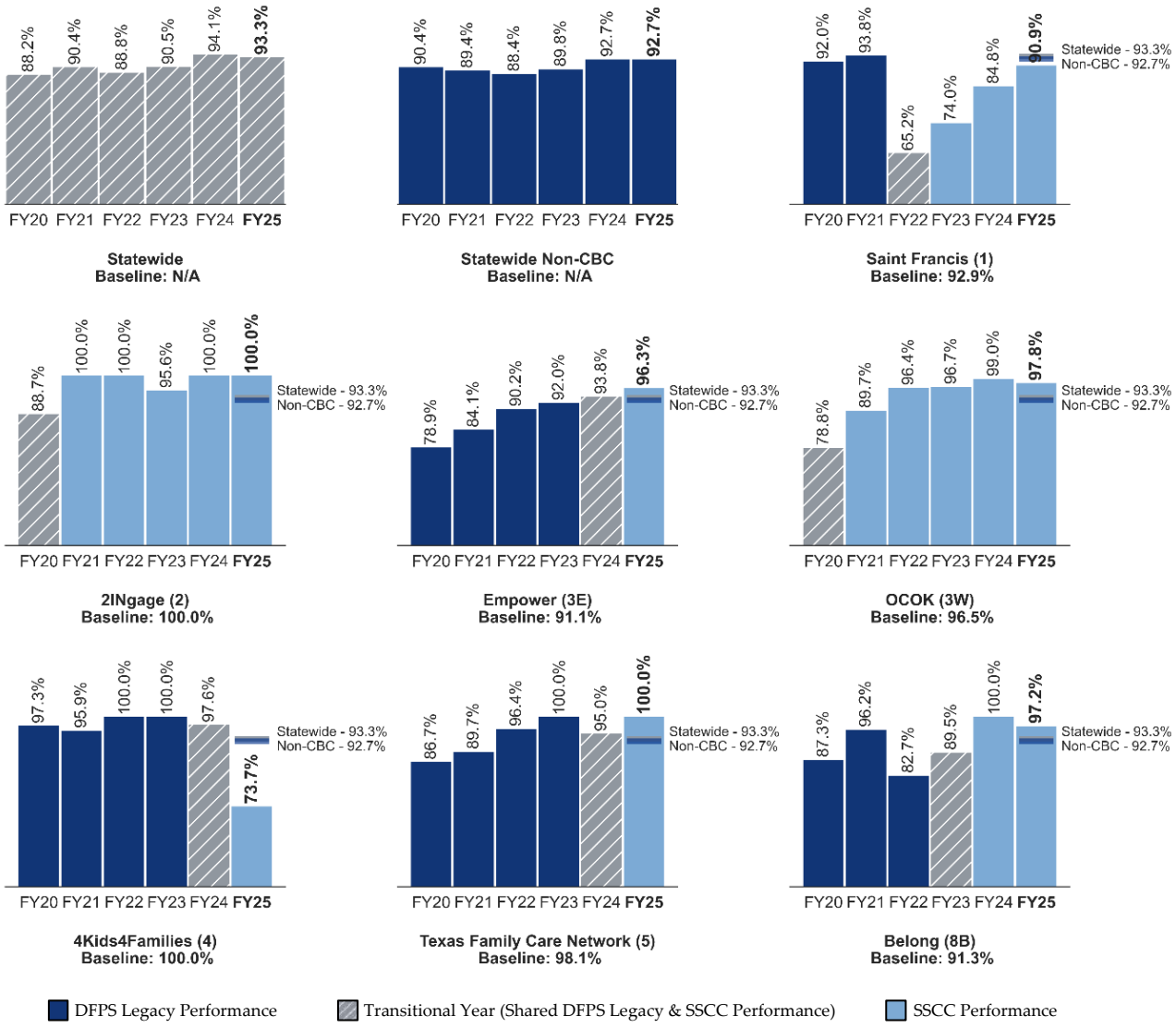
Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training decreased by 0.8% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[26] The percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training remained stable in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements while one provider remained stable at 100%, for the percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training in FY25 compared to FY24.

[25] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[26] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 11

Youth Who Turned 18 and Have Completed Required PAL Life Skills Training



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year[27]

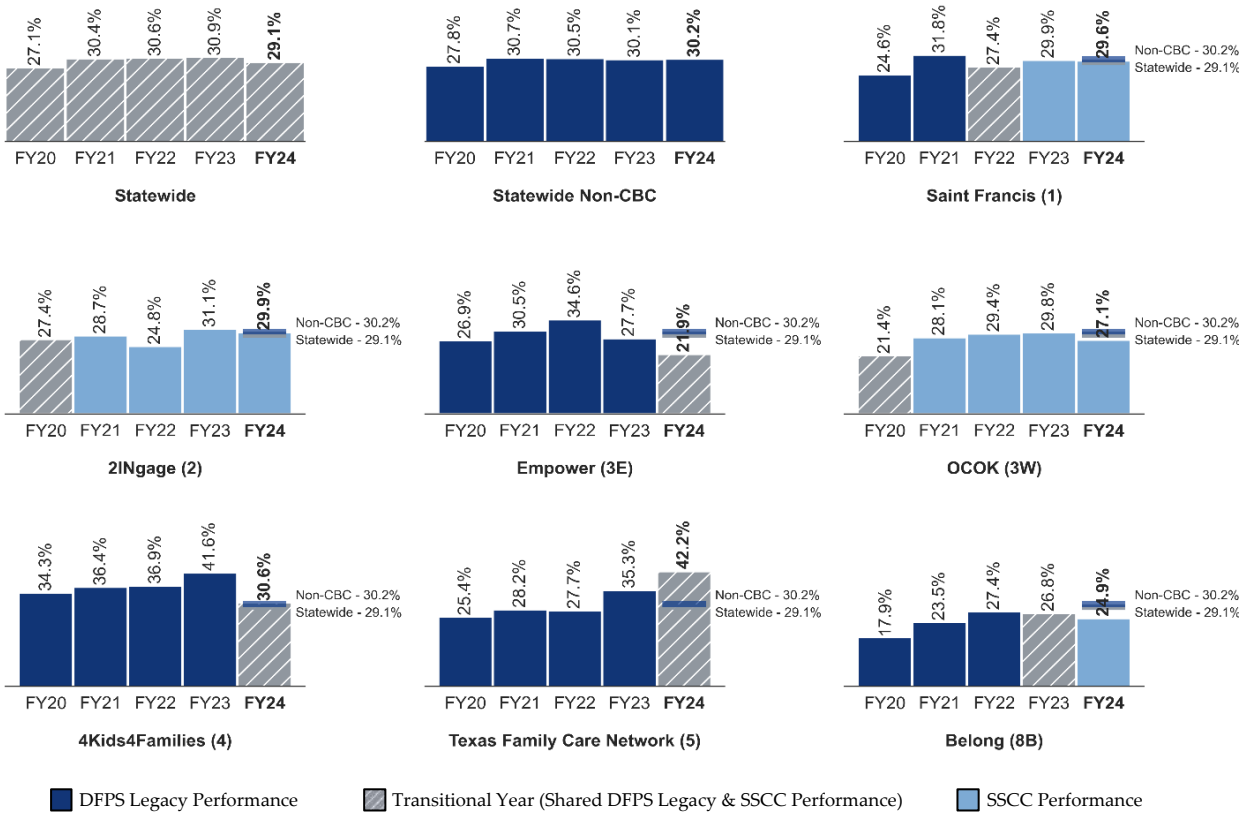
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 12 months of entering care. As described on page 18, a full year must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 12-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year decreased by 1.8% in FY24 compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[28] The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year increased by 0.1% in FY24 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year in FY24 compared to FY23.

[27] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[28] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 12
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 1 Year



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months[29]

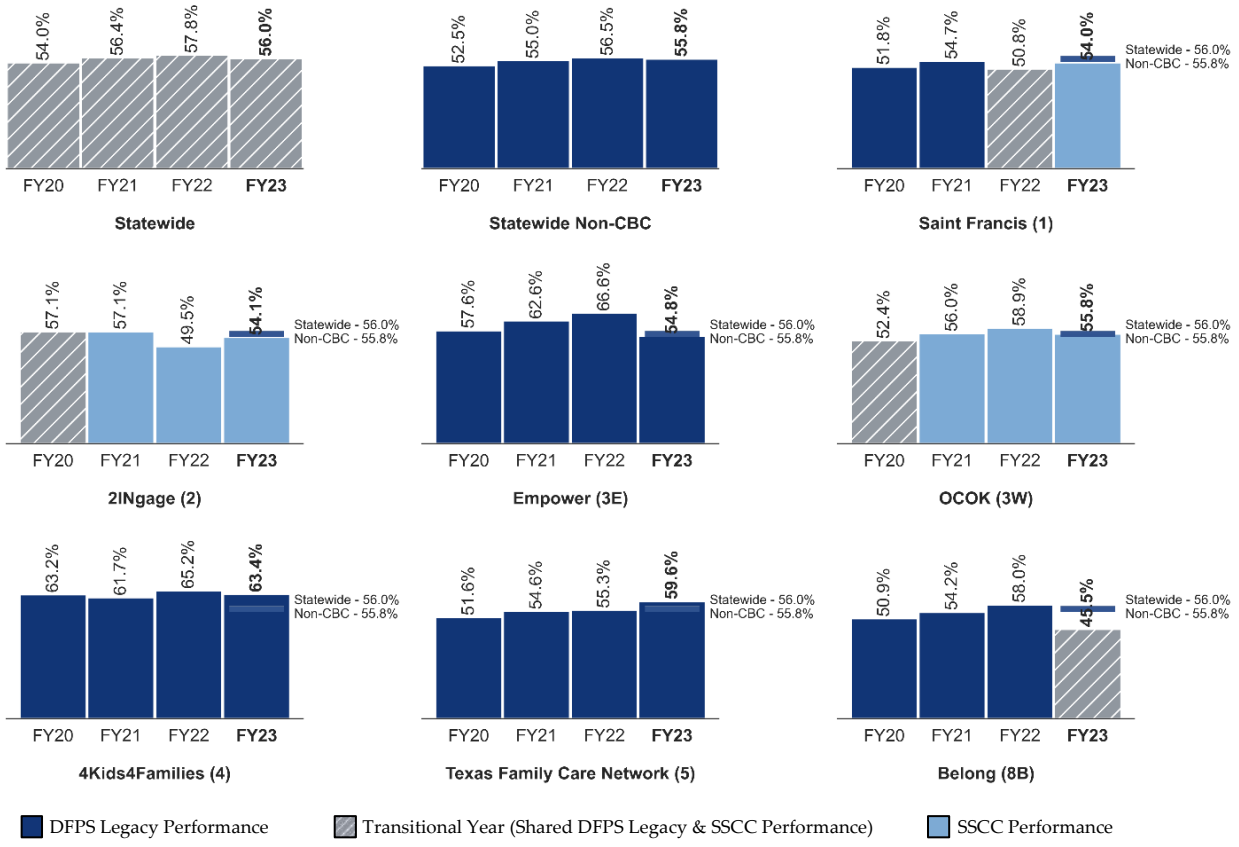
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 18 months of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 18 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 18-month follow-up period is children removed in FY22. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months decreased by 1.8% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[30] The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months decreased by 0.7% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months in FY23 compared to FY22.

[29] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[30] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 13
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 18 Months



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years[31]

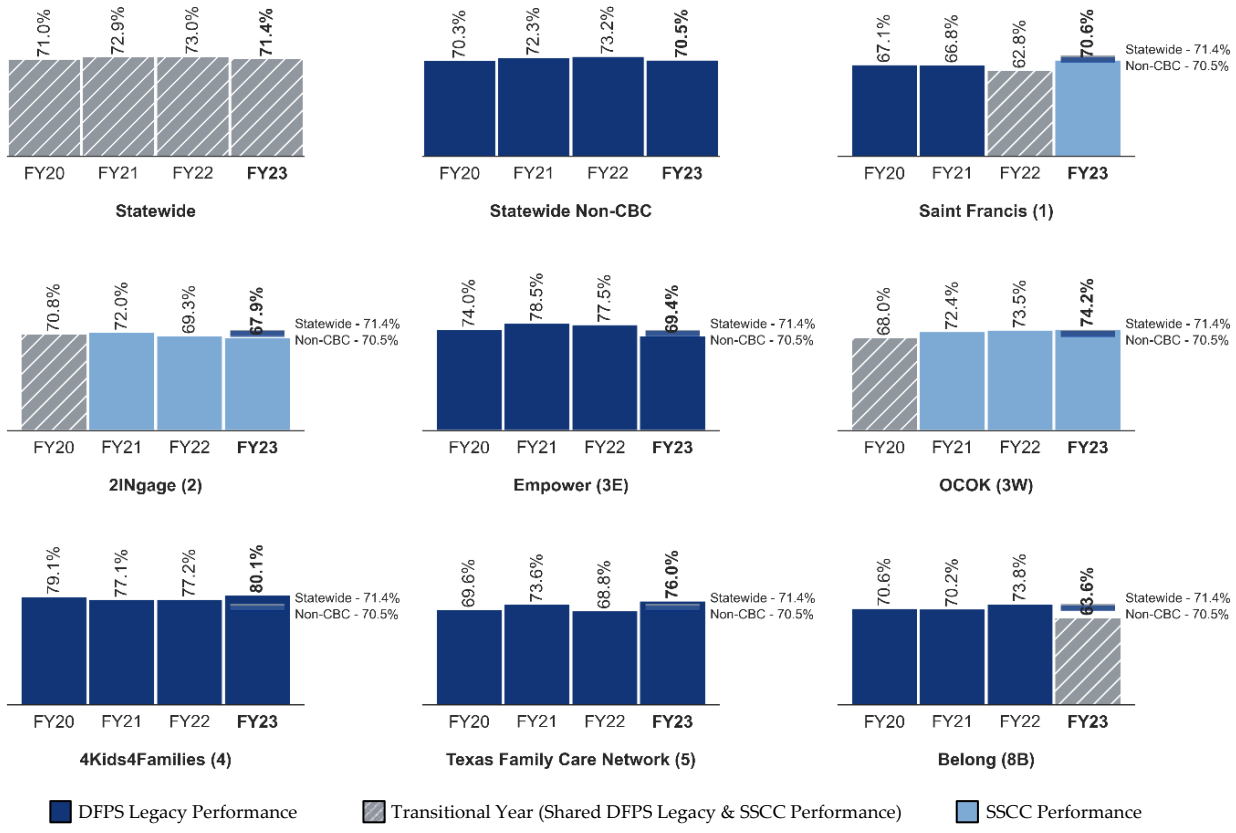
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 2 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 24 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 24-month follow-up period is children removed in FY23. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years decreased by 1.6% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[32] The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years decreased by 2.7% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years in FY23 compared to FY22.

[31] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[32] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 14
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 2 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 3 Years[33]

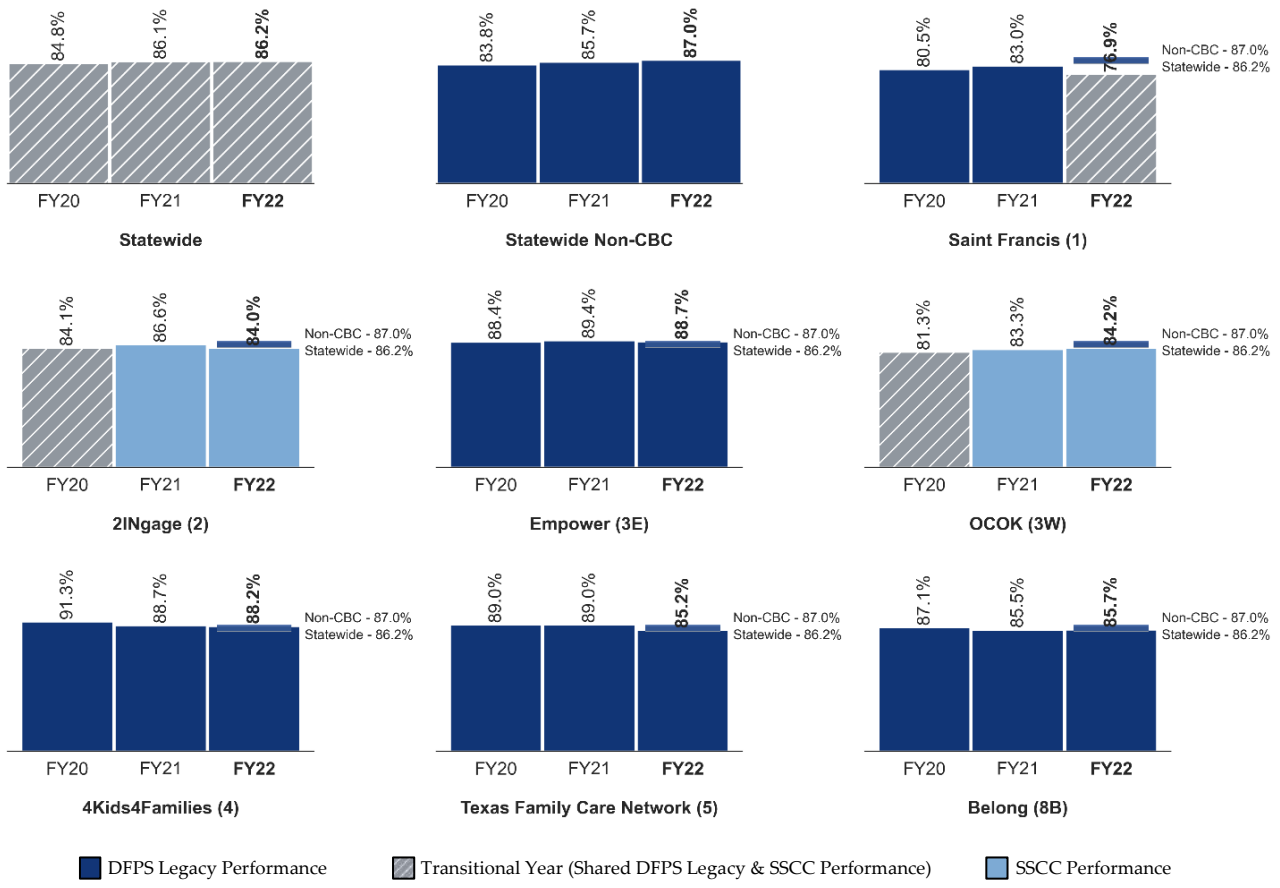
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 3 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 36 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 36-month follow-up period is children removed in FY22. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years increased by 0.1% in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[34] The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years increased by 1.3% in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years in FY22 compared to FY21.

[33] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[34] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 15
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 3 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year[35]

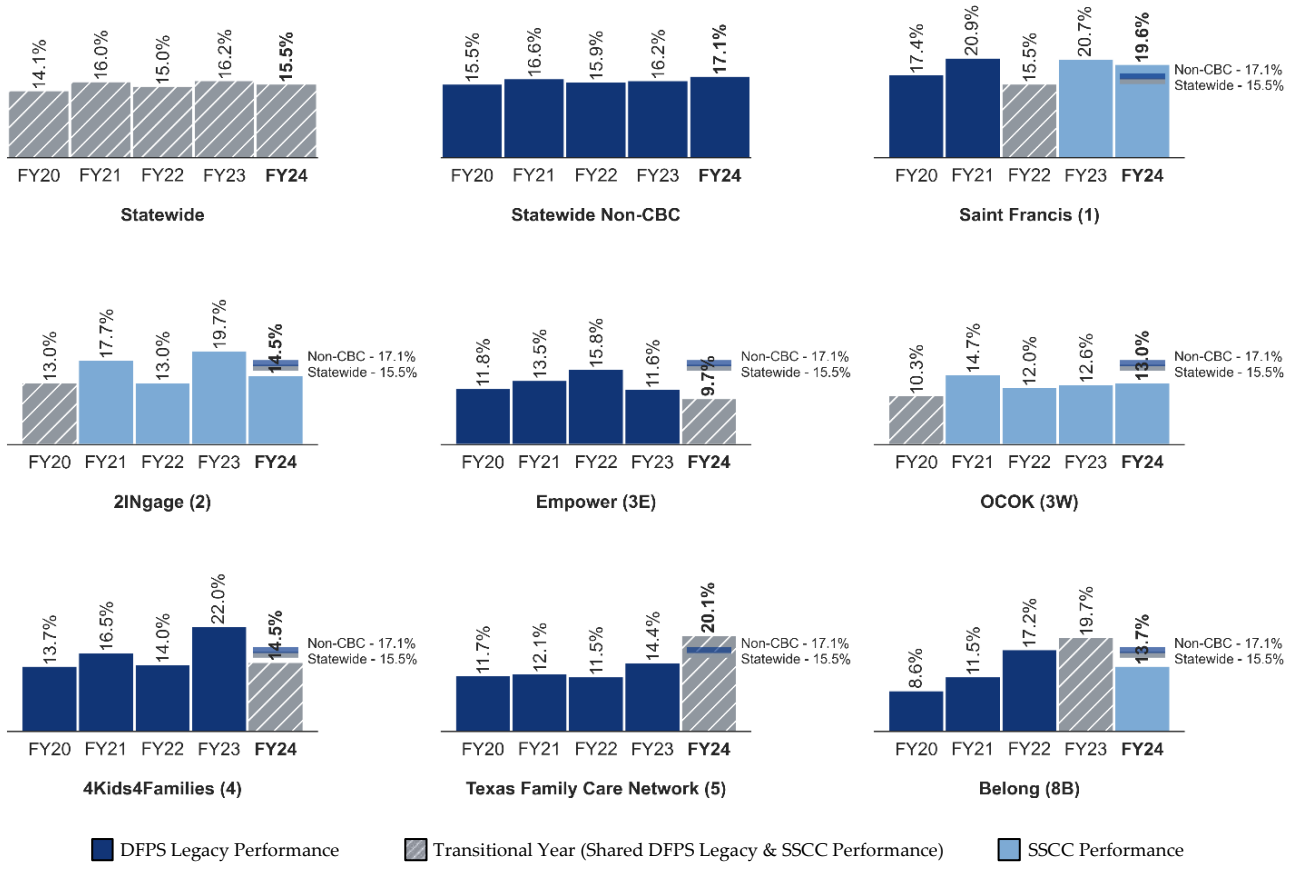
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 12 months of entering care. As described on page 18, a full year must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 12-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year decreased by 0.7% in FY24 compared to FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[36] The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year increased by 0.9% in FY24 compared to FY23.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year in FY24 compared to FY23.

[35] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[36] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 16
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 1 Year



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months[37]

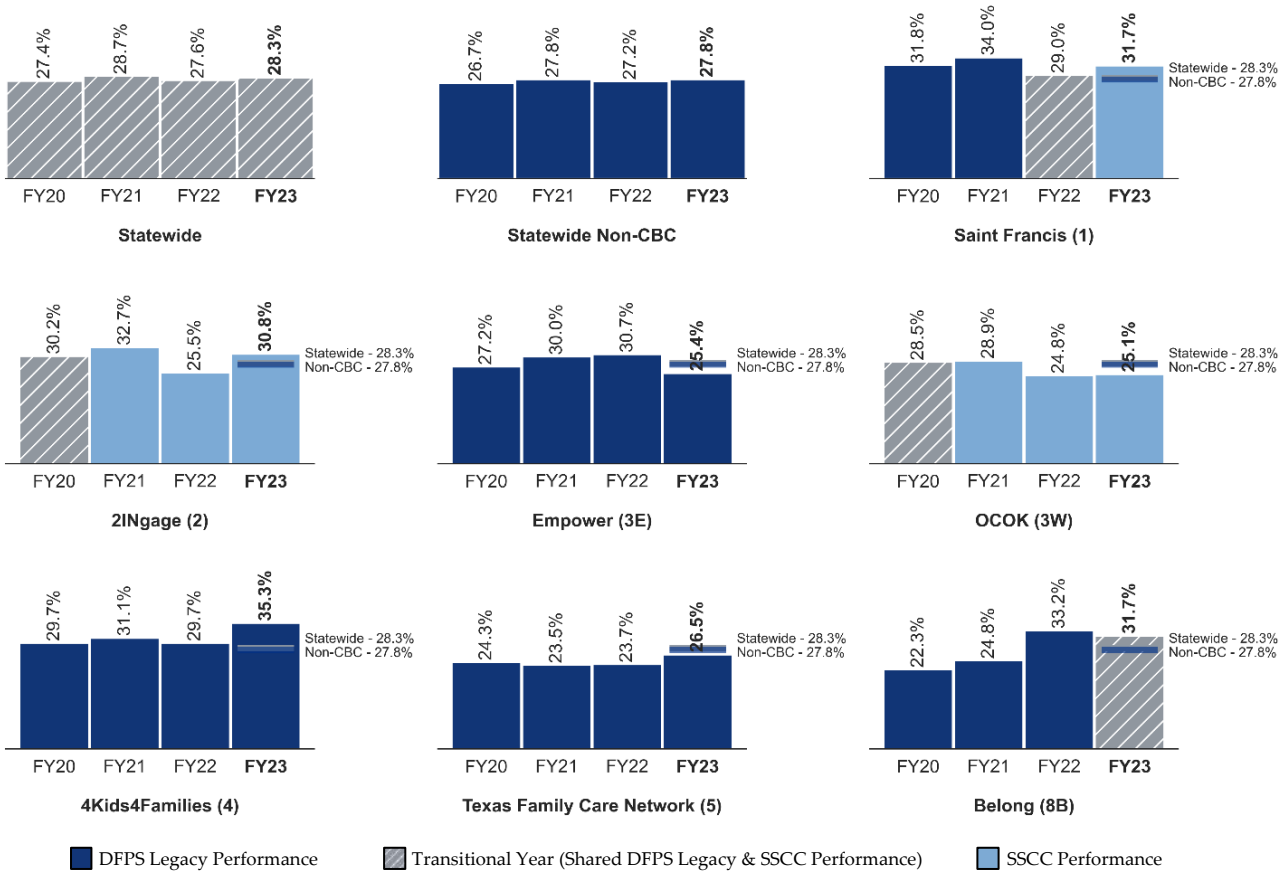
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 18 months of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 18 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 18-month follow-up period is children removed in FY23. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months increased by 0.7% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[38] The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months increased by 0.6% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **CBC:** Five SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months in FY23 compared to FY22.

[37] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[38] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 17
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 18 Months



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years[39]

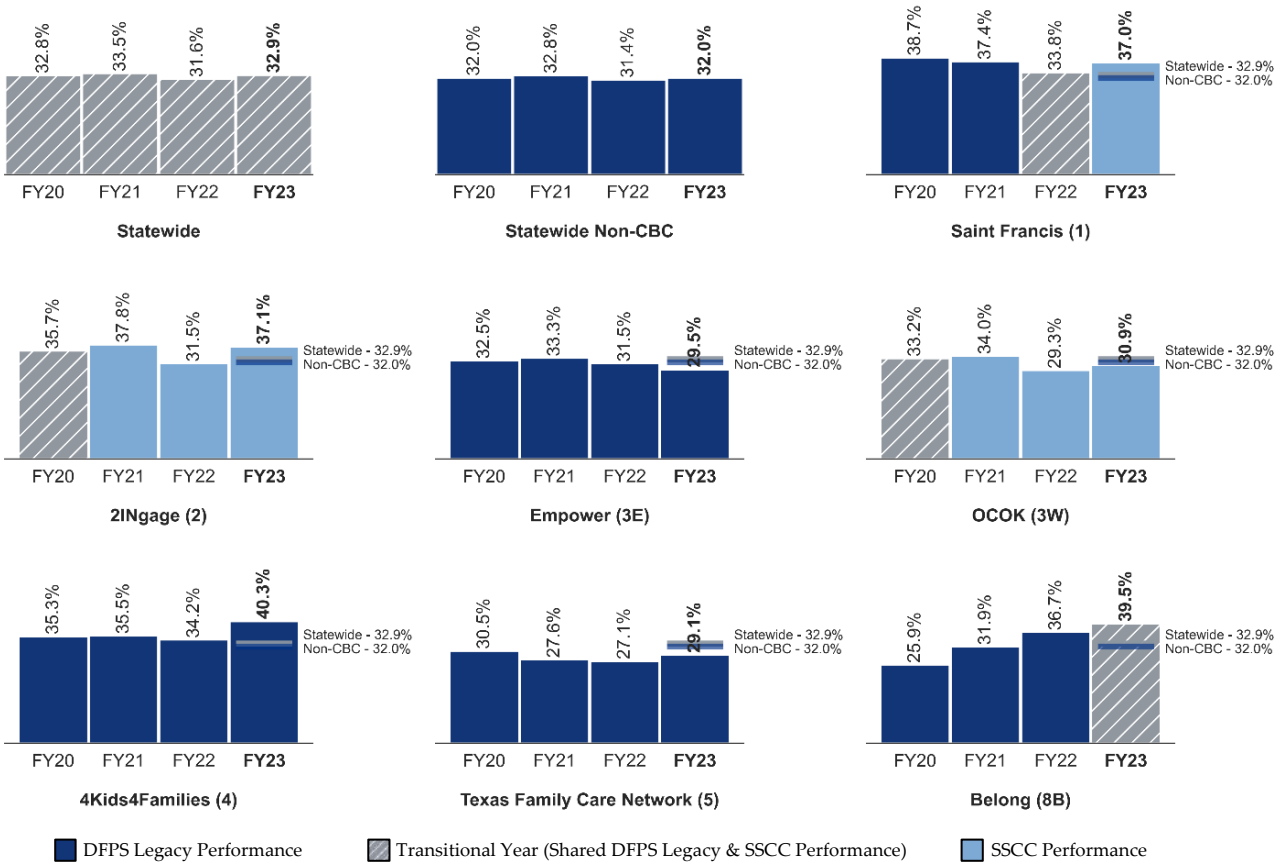
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 2 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 24 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 24-month follow-up period is children removed in FY23. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased by 1.3% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[40] The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased by 0.6% in FY23 compared to FY22.
- **CBC:** Six SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years in FY23 compared to FY22.

[39] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[40] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 18
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 2 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years[41]

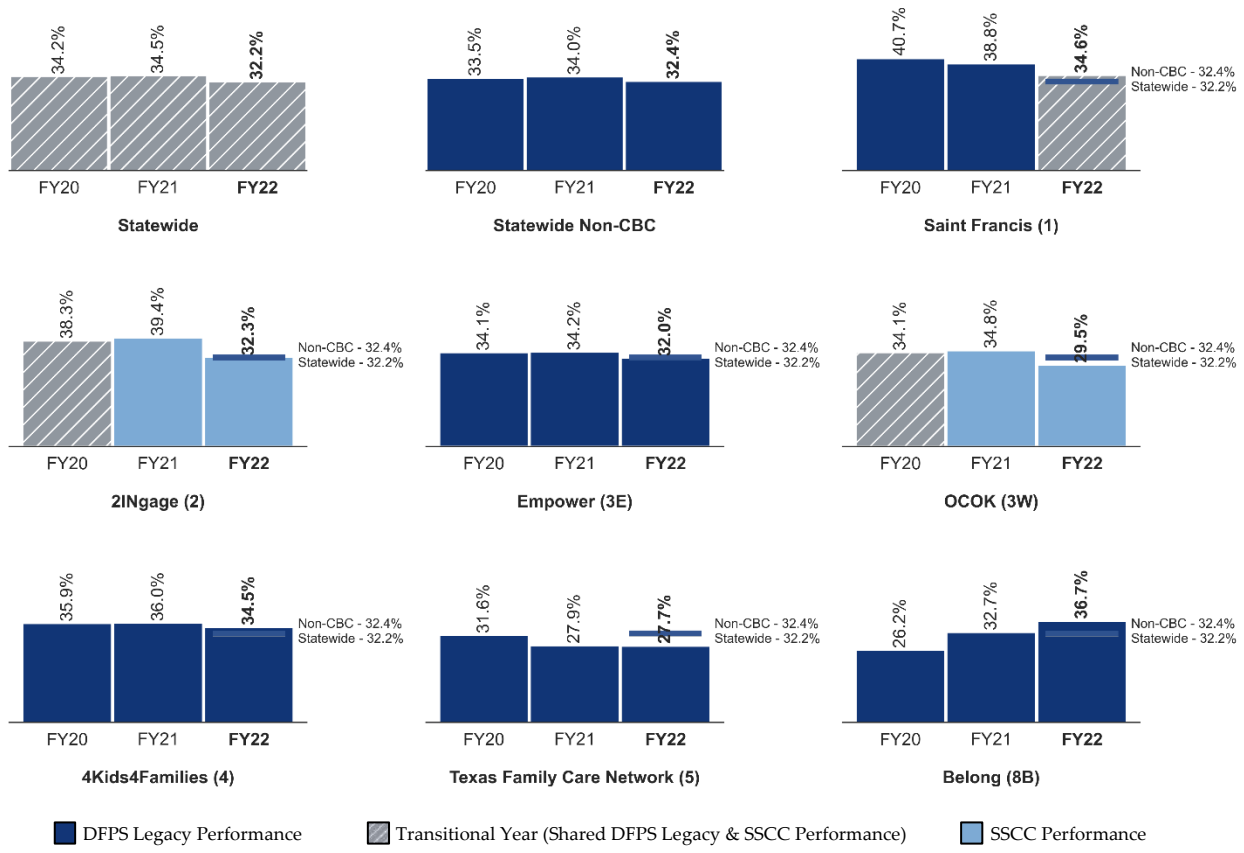
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 3 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 36 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 36-month follow-up period is children removed in FY22. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years decreased by 2.3% in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[42] The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years decreased by 1.6% in FY22 compared to FY21.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years in FY22 compared to FY21.

[41] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[42] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 19
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 3 Years



Percentage of Children Placed with Kin at 60 Days after Removal[43]

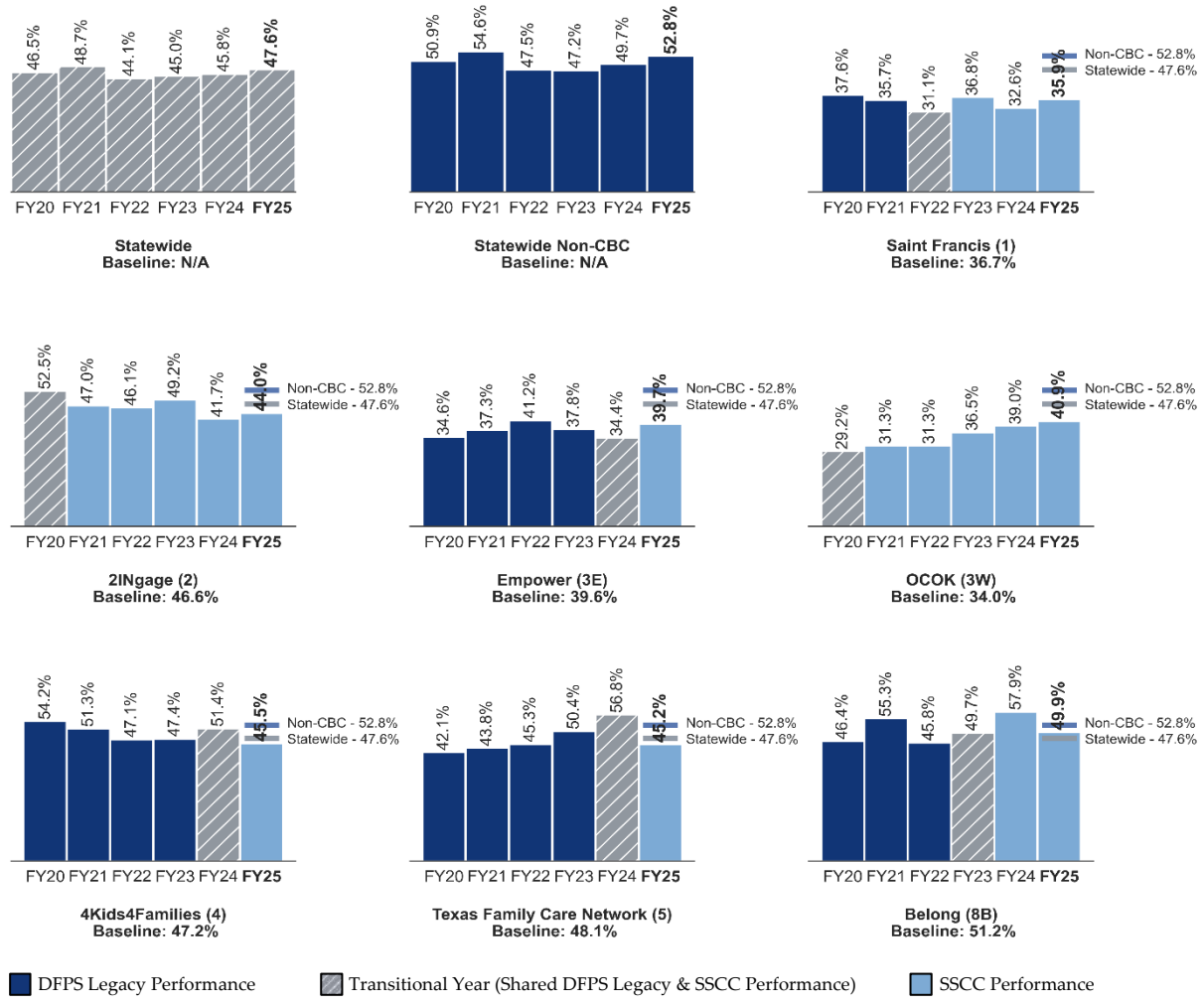
This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children placed with kin on the 60th day after removal. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal increased by 1.8% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[44] The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal increased by 3.1% in FY25 compared to FY24.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal in FY25 compared to FY24.

[43] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[44] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 20
Children Placed with Kin at 60 Days After Removal



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention Within 12 Months from Exit[45]

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency and have a new CPS intervention with 12 months from exit. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

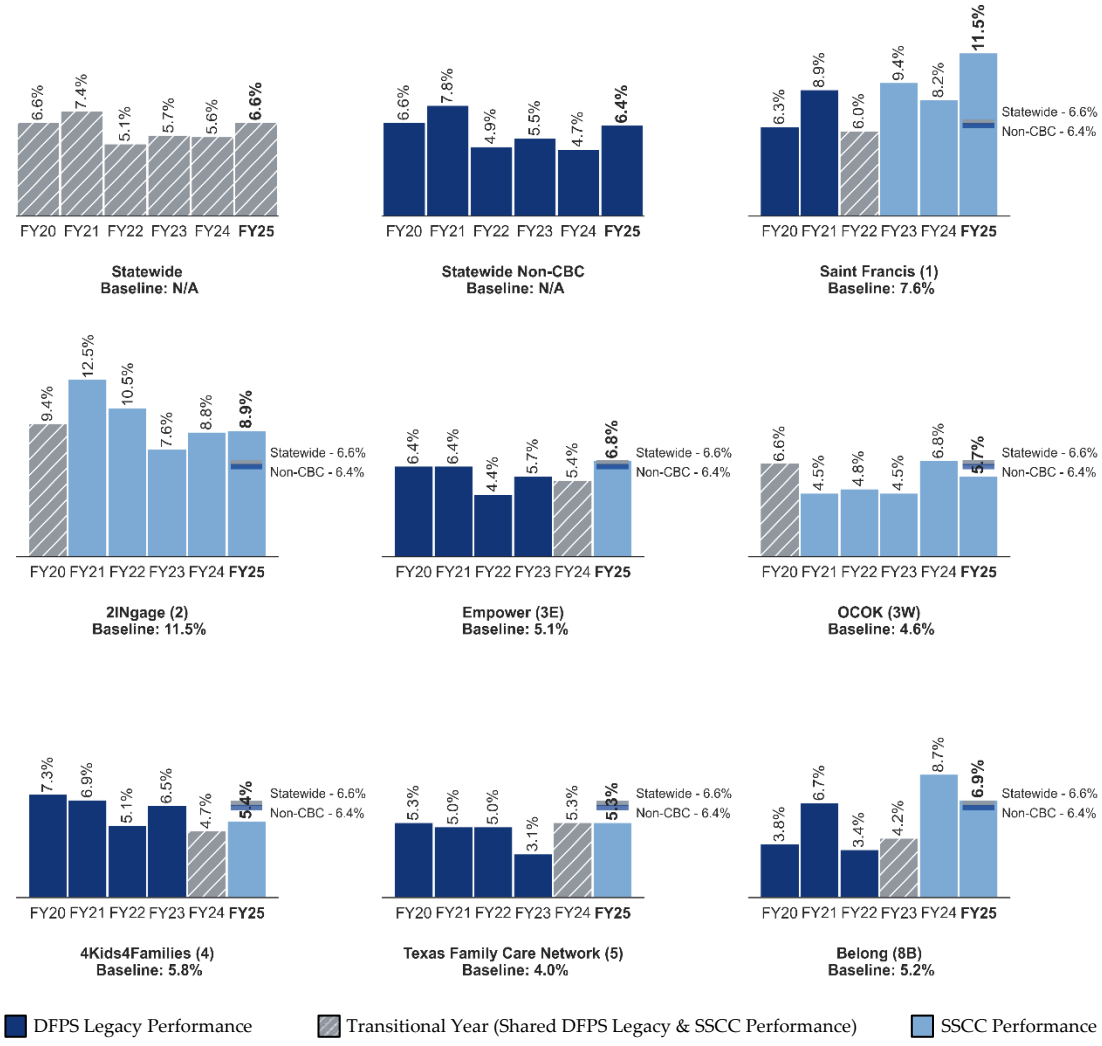
Overall, the rate of new CPS interventions increased, indicating worsening performance:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit increased by 1.0% in FY25 compared to FY24, indicating worsening performance.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**[46] The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit increased by 1.7% in FY25 compared to FY24, indicating worsening performance.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements while one provider remained stable in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit in FY25 compared to FY24.

[45] DFPS Rider Report March 2026 Data Attachment.
[46] Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 21

Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention Within 12 Months from Exit



Recommendations

Many of the issues listed in the "Factors Impacting Performance" section of this report are also highlighted as challenges to address through the goals in the 2026 DFPS Annual Plan, such as placement and service capacity shortages, workforce challenges, and the CBC implementation process. We have learned valuable lessons as regions have transitioned, and we are continually and collaboratively refining the processes with the SSCC providers based on this understanding.

Placement and Service Capacity Shortages

DFPS will continue to focus on enhancing capacity statewide, both for placements and services, to meet the unique needs of children and youth in care and their families. In partnership with DFPS, HHSC continues to review and revise the minimum standards for Child Placing Agencies and General Residential Operations. This effort aims to improve, strengthen, and expand statewide capacity by simplifying standards, which could attract and retain more providers. . Additionally, DFPS' commitment to prioritizing support for kinship caregivers is expected to create greater engagement and involvement from these caregivers, and DFPS is working closely with HHSC to ensure that the changes to the kinship requirements for licensing are reflected and upheld in SSCC contracts so that provider contract support increasing the number of licensed kinship caregivers. The agency's ongoing work to strengthen behavioral health supports statewide will ensure a more navigable system, spanning both legacy and SSCC programs, to better meet the diverse needs of children and families within their own communities. DFPS received $6.1 million in biennial funds to meet the needs of high acuity youth, which includes $444,444 to strengthen behavioral health services, $3 million to support kinship families caring for children with high acuity behavioral health needs, and $2.7 million for intensive peer support services for high acuity youth.

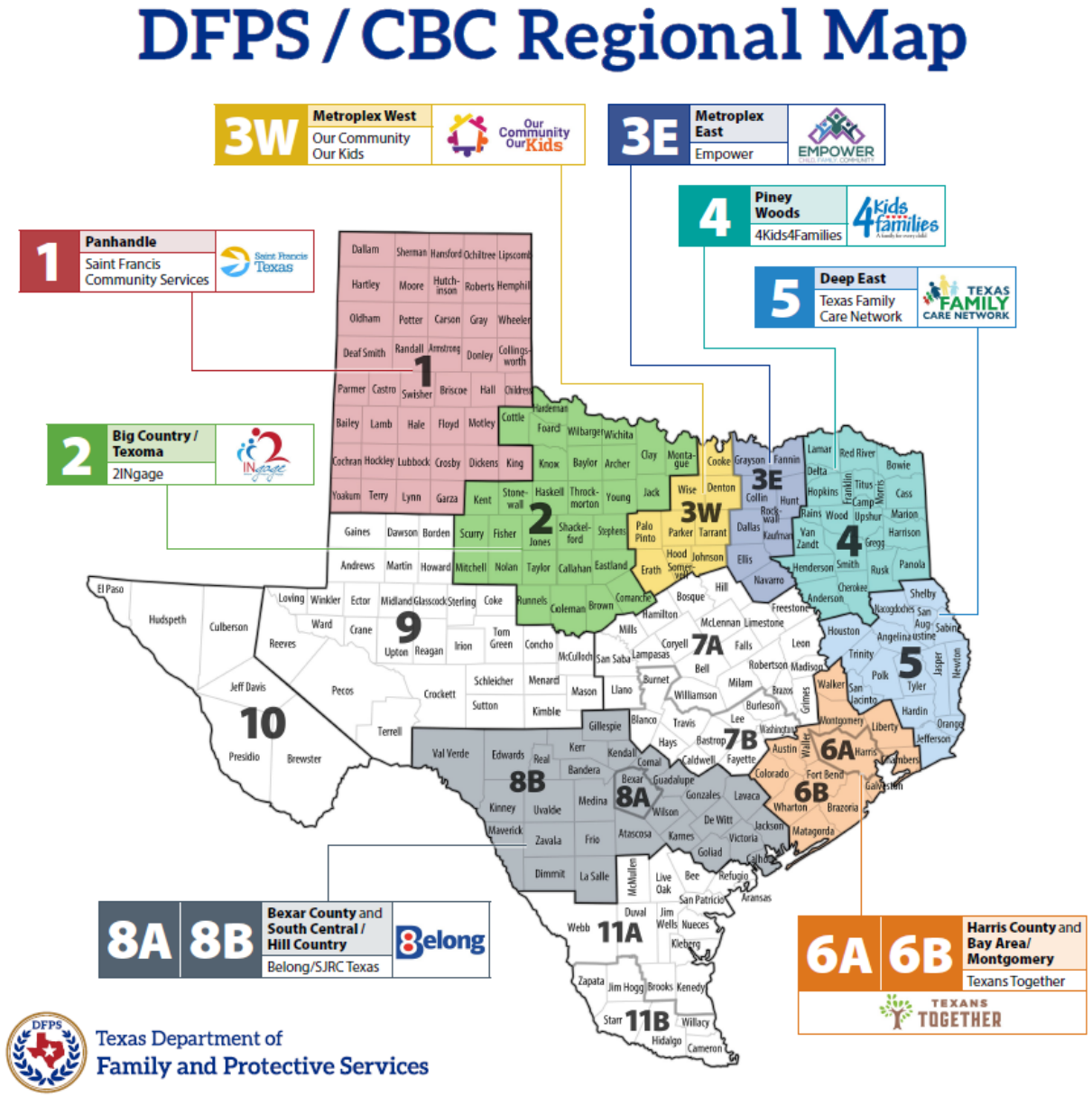
Additionally, as reflected in DFPS' Sunset Review Self Evaluation Report, further statute changes would continue to allow model flexibility, including adjusted procurement approaches and subcontract structures for case management services, to address challenges in service areas, such as non-profit financial viability, geographic locations for facilities, and capacity building in sparsely populated areas.

DFPS has launched a cross-agency initiative to examine foster care capacity from a system-wide perspective. Through this project, DFPS and SSCC leadership will collaborate to address challenges that contribute to the uneven geographic distribution of services and providers. The goal of the project is to improve outcomes for children and families by creating sustainable foster care service capacity in communities that will meet the needs of children and youth in foster care, in the least restrictive setting, prioritizing kinship and sibling placements.

Workforce Challenges

Workforce challenges in child welfare are a prevalent and longstanding issue, and DFPS, in collaboration with the SSCC providers, are working to address these issues by sharing ideas and best practices. SSCCs experience a more pronounced impact from workforce shortages due to the smaller size of their organizations, as they have less flexibility to reassign or redistribute staff compared to the legacy system. Recognizing the importance of retaining experienced staff, the SSCC providers have been proactive in collaborating to find solutions that can enhance workforce retention. To support these efforts, DFPS developed a comprehensive communication plan to keep DFPS staff informed sooner on transition planning. The plan equips Regional Directors with essential information, enabling them to provide timely feedback and updates to staff; this plan will continue to be assessed for effectiveness. Prior to Stage II, additional processes have been put in place, including townhall meetings and a more prominent role of Human Resources to highlight comparable benefits and support staff retention. These combined efforts aim to create a more supportive and informed environment for staff interested in transitioning to the SSCC providers. DFPS received $12.4 million to provide early payments to SSCCs during readiness prior to Stage II, which will help to address the early hiring practices needed prior to go-live, to help stabilize and support the SSCC workforce at a critical time in implementation readiness. DFPS will monitor the impact of these early payments on the success of CBC implementation.

Transition Process

The transition process has been adapted over time through lessons learned from the SSCC providers and stakeholders. OCBCT conducts surveys to gather feedback from staff who go through the implementation process, and DFPS entered into an Interagency Contract with the University of Texas at Austin to complete a CBC process evaluation. This evaluation focuses on the implementation of CBC in Regions 1, 2, 3b (all counties in Region 3W with the exception of Cooke, Denton, and Wise), and 8B to develop process improvement recommendations and enhancements to guide future implementation and OCBCT continues to develop additional supports post-transition to stabilize the SSCC providers and their workforce by closely monitoring key activities and measures that could signal the need for assistance and intervention before an area experiences significant challenges, such as high staff turnover. Continued engagement with the SSCC providers should also occur to ensure that the factors and drivers that contribute to performance are identified, as the SSCC providers bring their unique approaches and perspectives to providing these services and supports statewide.

Appendix A: Current Community-Based Care Community Areas