



DCF QUARTERLY REQUESTED FC DATA

October 27, 2025

TESTIMONY OF: Laura Howard, Secretary Department for Children and Families

TESTIMONY ON: Committee Special Data Information Requests

1) HOW THE FOSTER CARE CASE MATTER CAME TO DCF

A child may be removed into the custody of the Secretary into out of home placement in foster care for more than one reason of abuse, neglect or contributing factor of a family in need of assessment and service (FINA). DCF has an ability to designate in a child's record a primary reason for removal. If any contributing factor in a child's reason for removal was for any type of abuse or neglect, (e.g. physical abuse, lack of supervision, etc.) then the overall primary reason for removal is considered to be related to abuse or neglect. If there are no allegations or harm from abuse or neglect among the contributing factors to the need to enter foster care, the overall primary reason for removal is FINA.

DCF may request through an application for petition for a child in need of care to be removed into the custody of the Secretary and out of home placement or the request to enter foster care may come from an entity other than DCF such as a county or district attorney. The table below reflects the overall reason for removal for the number of children whose custody request was initiated by DCF or an entity that was not DCF.

Table 1: Number of Children by Related Reason for Removal and Requestor

Quarter	Abuse Neglect					FINA				
	DCF		Non DCF		Total	DCF		Non DCF		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	#	%	#	%	#
2025 Q3	185	53.8%	159	46.2%	344	133	54.7%	110	45.3%	243
2025 Q2	244	63%	140	36%	386	153	56%	118	43%	272
2025 Q1	210	63%	119	36%	332	137	59%	93	40%	232
2024 Q4	228	64%	125	35%	355	114	48%	122	51%	238

Children and youth who have a need to enter foster care may experience police protective custody (PPC) for a period of up to 72 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. PPC is used if law enforcement believes a child will be harmed if not immediately removed from the place or residence where the child has been found or reasonably believes the child is experiencing a behavioral health crisis and is likely to cause harm to self or others. Further, in 38-2231 (b) effective July 1, 2025, a law enforcement officer shall explore other options to separate the child from the source of harm before removal of a child.

Table 2: Number of Children by Related Reason for Removal with and without Police Protective Custody Experience in That Removal

Quarter	Abuse Neglect					FINA				
	No PPC		PPC		Total	No PPC		PPC		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	#	%	#	%	#
2025 Q3	109	31.69%	235	68.31%	344	128	52.67%	115	47.33%	243
2025 Q2	148	38%	238	62%	386	113	42%	159	58%	272
2025 Q1	121	36%	211	64%	332	109	47%	123	53%	232
2024 Q4	130	37%	225	63%	355	119	50%	119	50%	238

The table below shows what percentage of children who entered the custody of the secretary each quarter had any type of prevention referral, family prevention case plan, or service referral before their entry into care.

Table 3: Children Removed into Foster Care with Prevention Service History Prior to this Foster Care Event

Quarter	Had a prevention plan or referral to FPS or FFPSA any time prior this entry into foster care		Did not have any referral to FPS or FFPSA any time prior this entry into foster care (e.g. have never received a prevention service from DCF)		Total Children Removed (#)
	#	%	#	%	
CY25 Q3 7/1/25 – 9/30/25	455	77.5%	132	22.48%	587
CY25 Q2 4/1/25 – 6/30/25	295	45.25%	357	54.75%	652
CY25 Q1 1/1/25 – 3/31/25	236	41.84%	328	58.16%	564
CY24 Q4 10/1/24 – 12/31/24	255	43.00%	338	57.00%	593

In the most recent quarter, **203 of the 455 children/youth** who had received prevention services prior to removal had a **referral for prevention services within the past two years (7/1/23–7/1/25)**.

The table below breaks down this group of 203 children/youth by **type of prevention service**.

Table 4: CY25 Q2 Children in Custody who had Prevention Referrals within 2 Years of Entering Custody

Type of Prevention Services	CY25 Q2 Statewide Totals	CY25 Q3 Statewide Totals
FPS Tier 1	5	3
FPS Tier 2	13	80
FPS	62	88
Family Centered Treatment	9	24
Fostering Prevention	3	1
Healthy Families	6	5
Kinship Navigator	8	7
Multi-Systemic Therapy	7	23
Parents as Teachers	6	12
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy	3	6
START	3	2
Seeking Safety Total	2	0
Total	127	203

2) AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN FOSTER CARE

Foster care is intended to be a temporary arrangement that is used when children cannot remain safely in their parents' care due to abuse, neglect, parental incapacity, or other unsafe circumstances. Once children are separated from family in foster care, states are responsible for achieving permanency for the child through services, supports, and court hearing processes.

Court hearings are used to review the status and determine the permanent placement and goals of children who have been separated from their families into foster care. Federal law guides states to emphasize timely permanency, and states exercise discretion in implementation. Effective July 1, 2025, a permanency hearing shall be held within nine months of the date the court authorized the child's removal from the home and not less frequently than every six months thereafter (K.S.A 38-2264 (f)).

This table provides length of stay data by days and months for children who exited foster care during the most recent quarters.

Table 5(c): 2025 Q3 (7/1/25 – 9/30/2025)

	Total	Min Age	Max Age	Avg Age	Min Days	Max Days	Avg Mos
Adoption	166	1	17	7.75	210	3,973	42.20
Emancipation	113	18	21	18.35	27	6,271	44.75
Custodianship/Guardianship	23	4	18	12.39	74	2,415	24.87
Other	1	18	18	18.00	1,088	1,088	35.00
SOUL Family	16	16	19	16.81	155	5,941	54.75
Reunification	412	0	18	8.05	3	1,581	11.86
Transfer	10	0	18	7.50	2	1,622	11.10
Total	741	Min:	Max:		Min:	Max:	25.03

Table 5(a): 2025 Q2 (4/1/25 – 6/30/25)

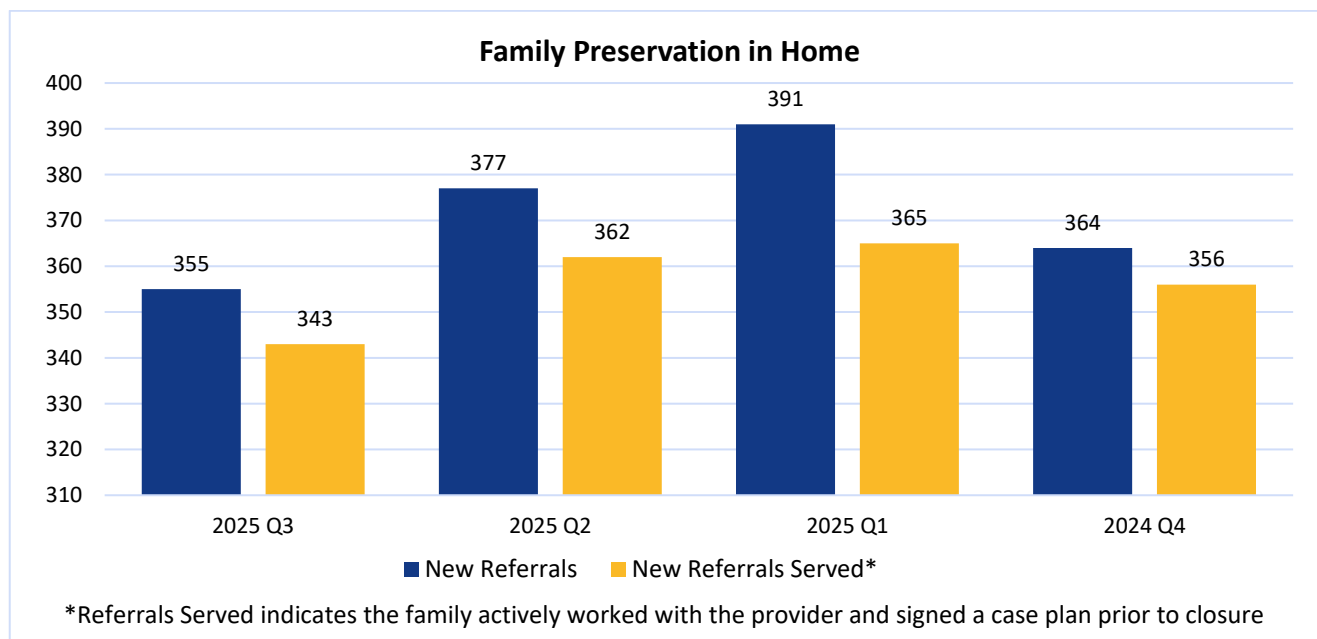
	Total	Min Age	Max Age	Avg Age	Min Days	Max Days	Avg Mos
Adoption	158	1	18	8	427	3,869	41
Emancipation	133	18	21	18	99	5,258	45
Custodianship/Guardianship	15	7	20	13	364	5,597	44
Other	5	5	18	15	601	2,643	42
SOUL Family	7	16	18	17	596	3,695	48
Reunification	282	0	17	9	1	1,765	14
Transfer	11	0	18	9	1	2,300	17
Total	611	0	21	13	1	5,597	36

Table 5(b): 2025 Q1 (1/1/25 – 3/31/25)

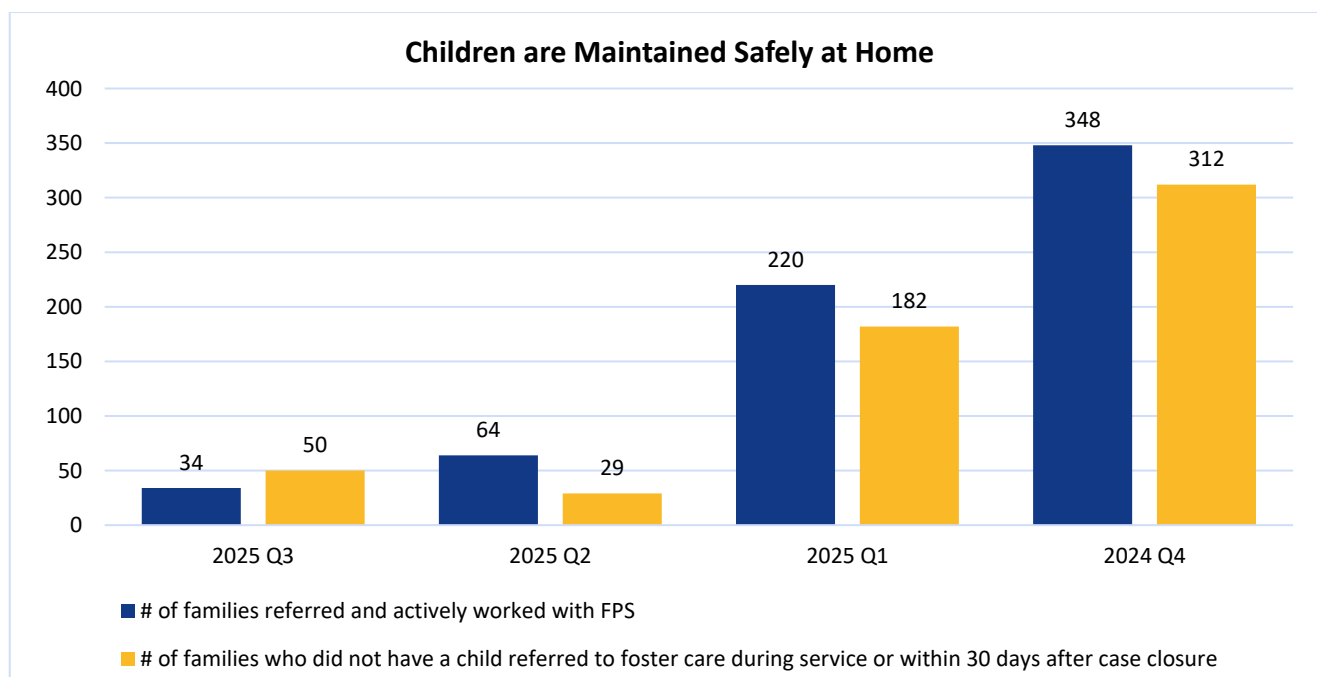
	Total	Min Age	Max Age	Avg Age	Min Days	Max Days	Avg Mos
Adoption	101	1	16	8	442	3,409	47
Emancipation	96	18	21	18	23	5,011	41
Custodianship/Guardianship	29	0	17	10	20	1,757	18
Other	6	0	19	10	43	700	15
SOUL Family	7	16	19	17	238	1,889	28
Reunification	271	0	18	8	2	2,619	10
Transfer	12	1	18	11	8	1,527	15
Total	522	Min: 0	Max: 21	82	Min: 776	Max: 5,011	174

3) PREVENTATIVE SERVICES PROVIDED

Family Preservation provides voluntary services alongside families to build on family strengths and reduce the risk of children being placed in foster care. Family Preservation providers will determine with family the intensity of service provided. Data provided below reflects the number of families referred in a quarter.



One outcome in the contracts for family preservation is that families referred for these services will not have a child placed outside the home into the foster care program during the service period or within 30 days of case closure. Data below reflects performance by quarter with that outcome.



Note: Data for this outcome is dynamic and will change as referral periods end. Data is incomplete due to open referrals.

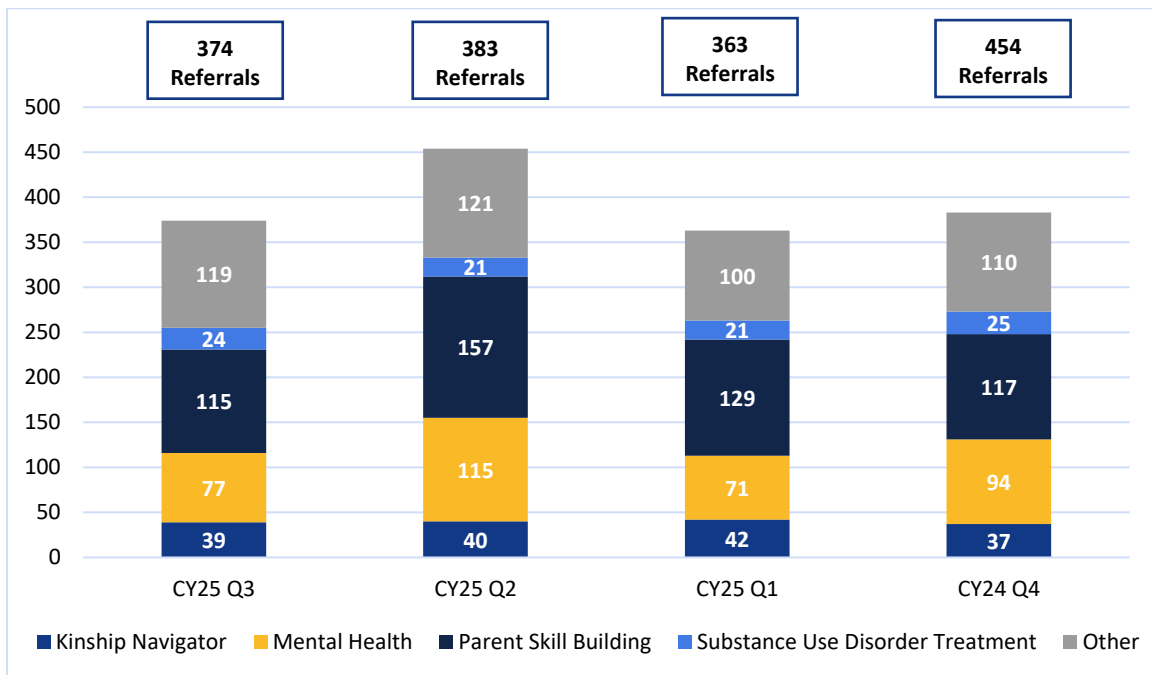
Note: Data for '# Families not referred to foster care' recognizes both current and prior quarter cases due to '30 day post-case time period'

Family First Prevention Service referrals may be made by a DCF protection specialist for any family with a child at risk of entering foster care for any presenting reason. Family first prevention services are also available to any pregnant or parenting youth in foster care. A family may be referred to one or more of four types of services through family first: parent skill building, mental health, substance use, or kinship navigation. Like family preservation, family first has the intended outcome to maintain children at home, preventing the need for foster care.

FY25 Referral Total (July 2024 – June 2025)

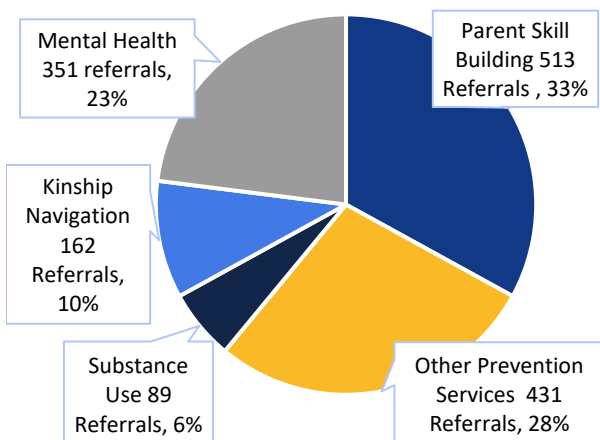
Total Family First Referrals	1,546
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Family First Referrals by Quarter



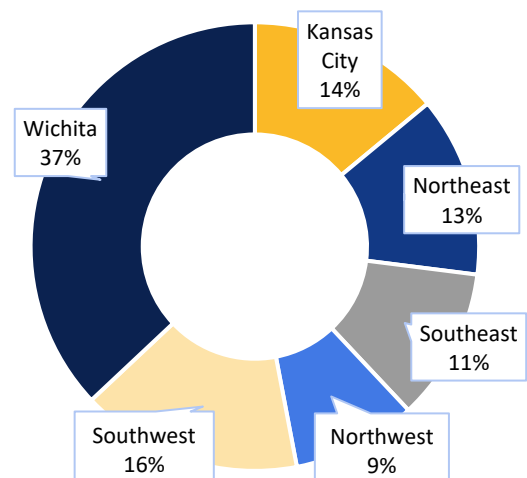
Referral by Service Type

FY25



Referrals by Region

FY25



4) COST OF PREVENTION AND FAMILY SERVICES

Family Preservation Services

SFY26 Budget	\$11,593,386
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In SFY24, DCF spent \$9.8M for Family Preservation of the \$13M budget

- 1,515 families served (3,323 children) | \$6,482 spent per referral (\$2,955 per child)

Family First Services

SFY26 Budget	\$20.8M All Funds
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Mental Health (Multi-Systemic Therapy, Parent-Child Interaction Therapy)

SFY26 Budget	\$7,329,472
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SFY25	
Expenditures	\$7,129,472.00
Programs	2
Referrals	353
Children Served	755

Substance Use (START, PCAP, Seeking Safety, Strengthening Families)

SFY26 Budget	\$2,170,063
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SFY25	
Expenditures	\$1,906,950.98
Programs	4
Referrals	89
Children Served	183

Kinship Navigation (Kids2Kin)

SFY26 Budget	\$350,911
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SFY25	
Expenditures	\$324,158.00
Programs	1
Referrals	173
Children Served	304

Parenting Skills (HFA, FCT, PAT/Bright Futures, Family Mentoring, Family Check-Up, Fostering Prevention)

SFY26 Budget	\$9,855,586
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SFY25	
Expenditures	\$9,397,962.92
Programs	8
Referrals	553
Children Served	1,209

Other Services (Parent Advocate, Community Support Specialist)

SFY26 Budget	\$1,078,183
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SFY25	
Expenditures	\$879,936.00
Programs	2
Referrals	Community-based
Children Served	-

5) COST OF A CHILD IN FOSTER CARE

The Division of the Budget, Department for Children and Families (DCF), Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), and the Legislative Research Department (Consensus Group) meet once each fall and spring to revise the estimates for human services consensus caseload expenditures for the current fiscal year and to develop estimates for the next fiscal year.

The requested caseload estimates regarding Foster Care are below:

Table 6: Consensus Caseload Estimates by Fiscal Year

	FY26	FY25
Monthly Cost Per Child	\$5,017	\$5,033
Case Management Cost Per Month	\$12,351,435	\$13,549,683
Placement Costs Per Month	\$14,080,364	\$13,996,424
Other Foster Care Monthly Costs	\$1,084,869	\$787,227

**FY26 Consensus caseload estimates will be revised in Fall of 2025. At the same meeting, FY27 Consensus caseload estimates will be developed. The agency will update this section once those totals have been finalized.*

6) NUMBER OF FAMILIES/YOUTH WHO RECEIVED CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SERVICES

Children's Behavior Intervention (CBI) Services are a Kansas Medicaid eligible service available for children and youth who meet the eligibility criteria through a qualified provider. Anyone can complete a referral for CBI services on behalf of the child/family. Families engaged in services might be referred by DCF or a prevention provider or foster care case manager.

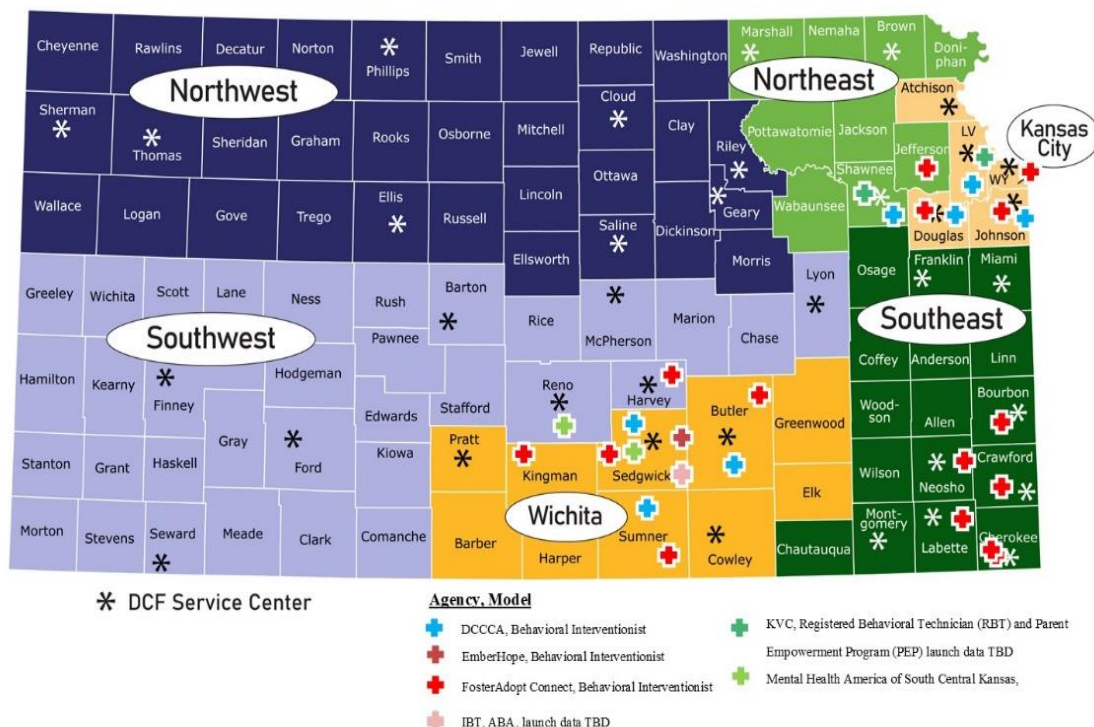
DCF is the entity that "certifies" or approves the model request for the Kansas Department for Health and Environment Medicaid state plan from a prospective provider. The goal of the intervention is to improve the family dynamic and youth's emotional or behavioral stability.

CBI – Child Eligibility

- Youth is between the ages of 3 and 18 (or still in high school)
- Youth regularly displays frequent disruptive behaviors that cause crisis in the family unit
- Severity of behaviors qualify youth for admittance into a mental health facility
- Lack of success or accessibility to other community resources
- Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS) score is at least 70

Children Served by Quarter

2025 Q3	71
2025 Q2	28
2025 Q1	25
2024 Q4	23



7) LICENSED FAMILY FOSTER HOME INFORMATION

Data is requested by the committee to know how many licensed foster homes will accept youth up to age 18; how many homes can accept youth with high medical/behavioral health needs; what is the overall capacity of licensed foster homes; and how many beds are available by age and needs of the child – such as high, moderate, or mild. Data regarding licensed homes is sourced from the Childcare Licensing and Regulation Information System (CLARIS.) On July 29th, there were 2,159 total licensed family foster homes with a capacity of 5,636 children.

Capacity	Age Groups Served
• Avg capacity: 2.57 • 36% of homes have a capacity for 2 children, • 29% have a capacity for 4 children • 17% have capacity for either 1 or 3.	• 47% of homes serve children infancy and older • 10% 3 and older • 12% 6 and older • 4% 10 and older • 3% 13 and older

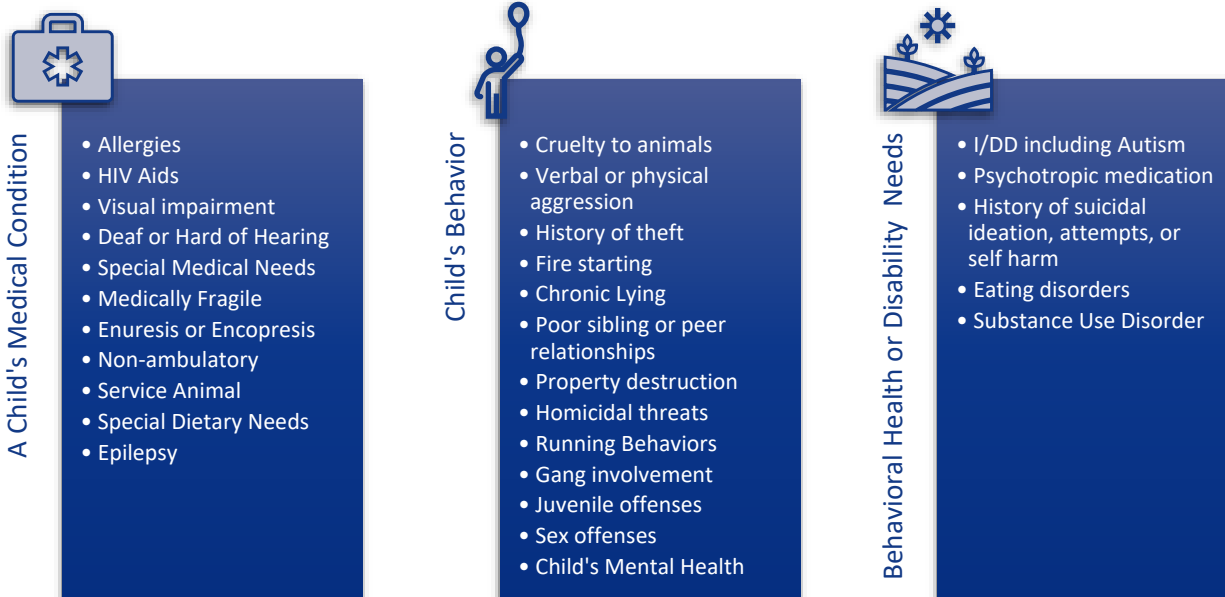
+ Capacity and Age Group Percentages for relatives and NR Kin & military homes not included, thus does not sum to 100%.

Table 7: Type of DCF Licensed Home

	2025 Q3	2025 Q2	2025 Q1	2024 Q4
FFH approved exception for dual license	2	2	3	4
Family Foster Home	1851	1894	1,895	1,944
Family Foster Home NRKIN	225	234	227	233
FFH Approval – Military Base	1	1	1	1
FFH Approval – Relative Care	67	61	58	56
Total	2,146	2,192	2,185	2,238

During the licensing and sponsorship process, families are asked to provide preferences regarding children or youth who they believe will be a good fit for their home. Families can accept or decline placement of any child or youth regardless of their expressed preferences during the licensing process. General and detailed information gathered from families includes:

Preferred capacity	Age preferences (male and female)	Level of Care •Standard •Therapeutic	Pregnant or parenting youth
	Prior human trafficking or sexual exploitation or sexual abuse victimization	Sexual activity or reactivity of the child or youth	



Of all children placed in out of home placements, 92% are placed in a family-based setting. Regarding levels of care that children need to meet their needs while in a family-based home (relative, kin, or licensed), DCF has data in levels of care in a family-based placement on the last day of the month (or quarter).

The data does not reflect children with high acuity in Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF), group homes (QRTP/ YRC II), emergency shelters, Community Integration Placements or Transitional living (independent living), or on the run. Data for the last day in a quarter is below.

Table 8: Family Based Placements – Child's Care Need

Level of Care	2025 Q3 9/30/2025		2025 Q2 6/30/25		2025 Q1 3/31/25		2024 Q4 12/31/24	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Basic 1	1984	41%	2095	44.1%	2105	43.6%	2061	42.6%
Basic 2	532	11%	529	11.1%	534	11.1%	545	11.3%
Basic 3	530	11%	534	11.2%	526	10.9%	536	11.1%
Intensive 1	423	9%	421	8.9%	418	8.7%	436	9.0%
Intensive 2	620	13%	638	13.4%	626	13.0%	611	12.6%
Therapeutic	90	2%	21	0.4%	54	1.1%	68	1.4%
Treatment Transition	206	4%	190	4.0%	196	4.1%	208	4.3%
IDD Waiver	166	3%	15	0.3%	18	0.4%	19	0.4%
ICPC	190	4%	212	4.5%	194	4.0%	198	4.1%
Pre-Finalized Adoption	126	3%	99	2.1%	152	3.2%	160	3.3%
Total	4867	100%	4754	100%	4823	100%	4842	100%