

# FAMILY FOSTER HOME LICENSE AND SUPPORT

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE AND FOSTER CARE | 3.9.2026

# DEFINITIONS

(KSA 65-503 and KAR 30-47-800)



- **Child Care Facility** – A facility maintained by a person who has control or custody of one or more children under 16 years of age, unattended by a parent or guardian, to provide food, lodging, or both. Excludes children placed by the Secretary with a prospective adoptive family or relative.
- **Relative** – an individual who is related to the child in foster care by blood, marriage, or adoption
  - **Relative Waiver** – exemption of compliance with specific family foster home regulation for the relative of a child without an alternative provision to meet the regulation.
- **Family Foster Home** – Child care facility that is a private residence in which a person, persons, or married couple resides and provides care for 24 hours a day for one or more children in foster care and for which a license is required.
  - **Foster Family** - All individuals living in a family foster home except the child in foster care. An individual who is living in the family foster home for more than 2 weeks is considered a foster family member.

# DEFINITIONS

(KSA 65-503 and KAR 30-47-800)



- **Child in Foster Care** –
  - Any individual under 16 who has been determined to be a child in need of care and is placed in the custody of the secretary and placed in a family foster home or facility
  - Any individual under 16 who has been privately placed for care in a licensed family foster home or facility
  - Any individual over 16 and under 21 who has been determined to be a child in need of care and is placed in the custody of the secretary and placed in a family foster home or facility or who has been privately placed
- **Child Placing Agency** – business or service conducted, maintained, or operated by a person engaged in finding homes for children by placing or arranging for the placement of the children for adoption or foster care
  - **Sponsoring Child Placement Agency** – means the public or private CPA responsible for sponsoring the family foster home including assessment, training, support, inspection, and monitoring of compliance
- **Substitute Caregiver** - someone 14 years of age or older who provides care and supervision in the FFH, in the absence of the licensee, for a child in foster care.

# WHEN IS LICENSING REQUIRED?

## Licensing Required if a person is:

1. Providing **24-hour care** to
2. One or more children **under 16** who are
3. **Unrelated** to the person in the
4. Absence of the parent

## Licensing Not Required:

1. To care for children 16 and over
2. Relative placements
3. Signed adoptive placement agreement
4. Host families under KSA 38-2403

## Relative and Non-Related Kinship Waiver

To expedite licensure for relatives and non-related kin who are required to, or choose to, become licensed, DCF has implemented a waiver process which narrows the list of licensure requirements for these family foster homes. This supports timely placement with relative and non-related kin which positively impacts other outcomes for children in the custody of the Secretary.

## DCF Licensing

- Focuses on regulatory compliance to protect health, safety, and welfare of children placed in foster care
- Conducts
  - Initial Licensing Application Process and Survey
  - Ongoing Compliance Inspections
  - Annual reviews
  - Complaint Investigations
- Licensing rules are contained within statutes and agency regulation.
  - Exceptions can be made to agency regulations.
- Does not make placement decisions for individual children.

## DCF Permanency

- Focuses on providing programmatic support and guidance on best practices to licensed CPAs including CMPs.
- Contracts with CMPs and CPAs to provide services to those in the custody of the Secretary
- Sets reimbursement rates for homes and administrative rates for CPAs
- Provides payment to CPAs for placement rates and administrative costs
- Contracts for foster home support services, training,

## Child Placing Agencies

- Focuses on finding homes for children and placing children in those homes.
- Works directly with children in the custody of the Secretary and foster homes.
- CMP and non-CMP agencies and are licensed as Child Placing Agencies (CPAs).
- Recruit, retain, sponsor foster homes.
- Provide support directly to families in the licensing process and throughout their time as foster homes.
- Subject to regulations for licensing of CPAs.
- Make referrals of specific children and placement matching

# BACKGROUND CHECKS



- Fingerprint based criminal history checks are conducted at the time of licensing on all household members, age 18 and over, not in the custody of the Secretary.
  - These include both Kansas and Interstate checks.
  - Household members are enrolled in RAPBack which provides automatic updates to DCF about changes to Kansas criminal history.
  - This also includes checks of the national sex offender data base
- Name based criminal history checks are conducted at the time of licensing on all household members, age 10 and over, not in the custody of the Secretary.
  - Name based checks are updated yearly through the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Central Repository
- If a child or young adult leaves the custody of the Secretary, and continues to reside in the home, they are subject to the background check requirements for their age.
- Substitute Caregivers are subject to the same background check requirements.

# SUPPORTS FOR FAMILY FOSTER HOMES



13 Child Placing Agencies sponsor and directly support family foster homes accepting placement of children in DCF custody.

Children's Alliance of Kansas – Foster Parent Pre Service Training (MAPP) and In-Service training at no cost to foster homes.

Foster Adopt Connect – Caregiver Support Network

KCART/OASIS Training through KU –teaches caregivers to use Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Foster Care Child Care Assistance (FCCC) and Child Care Exception Payment Program (CCEPP)

Family Foster Home Maintenance Payments

# THERAPEUTIC FAMILY FOSTER HOMES

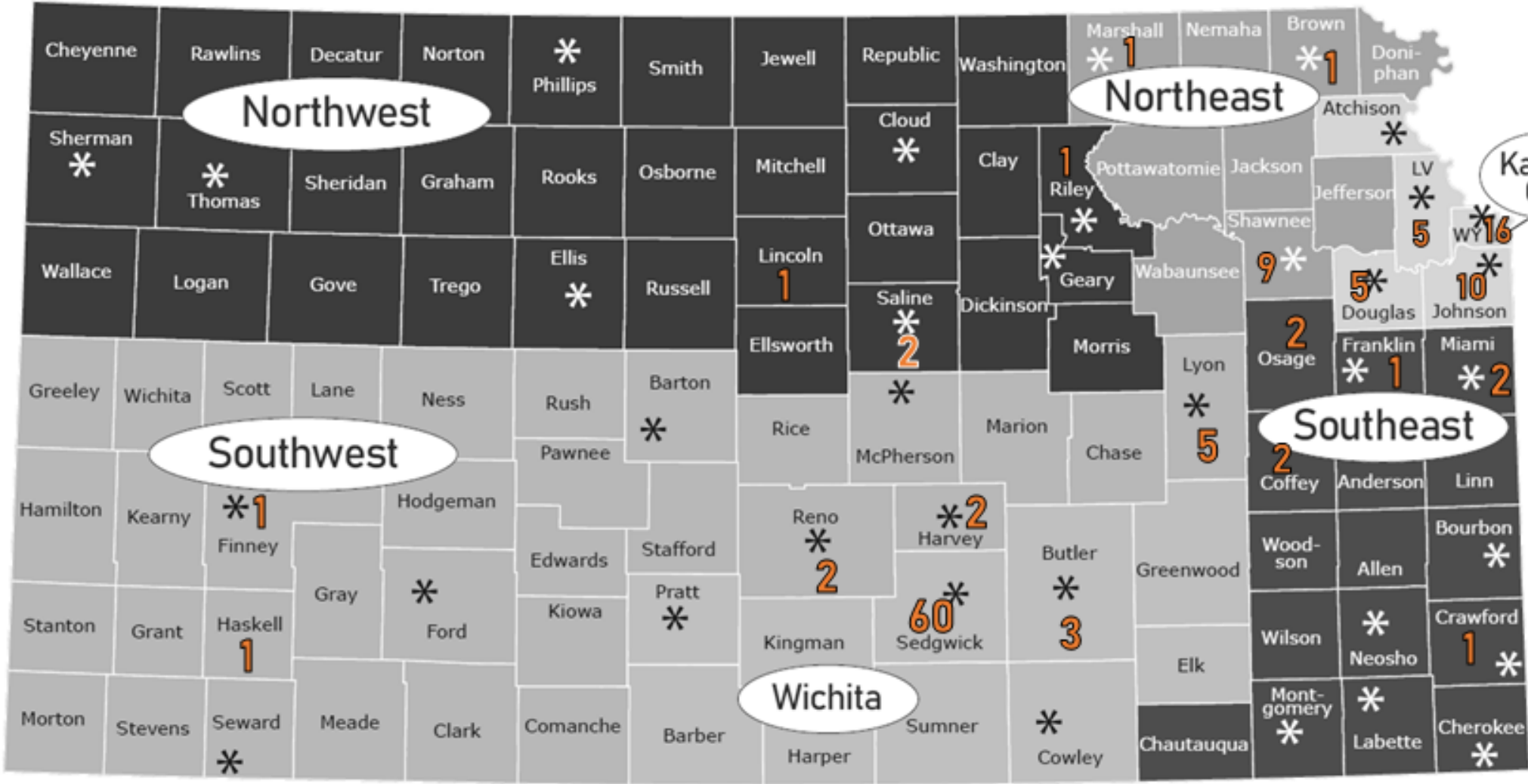


Therapeutic Family Foster Homes provide treatment level service in family type placement setting.

- The State of Kansas TFFH program is guided by the national program standards of the Family Focused Treatment Association.
- More detailed matching and intake process before placement, which may include pre-placement visits and a decision amongst the Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) case team if placement is in the best interest of the child prior to placement.
  - During the first 6 weeks of placement there is daily phone contact and weekly in person visits with the placement.
- TFC case team includes the child, foster parent, biological parents, adoptive parents, CPA home worker, CWCMP case team, mental health professionals, tribal representative, and individualized supports for the child.
  - A stability plan and therapeutic treatment plan is developed with the entire TFC case team, which is regularly reviewed and updated throughout treatment. These plans work together to create healing and long-term stability for the child and their permanency resource.
- Families meet the general training requirements as well as additional training specific to the child who is placed in the home and according to their training plan.
- Therapeutic placements have a 30-day minimum placement length, with a required 14-day notice for disruptions alongside a PS-TDM.

# Therapeutic Family Foster Homes

## DCF Therapeutic Family Foster Homes by County



\* DCF Service Center

3-6-2026

# Family Foster Home Reimbursement



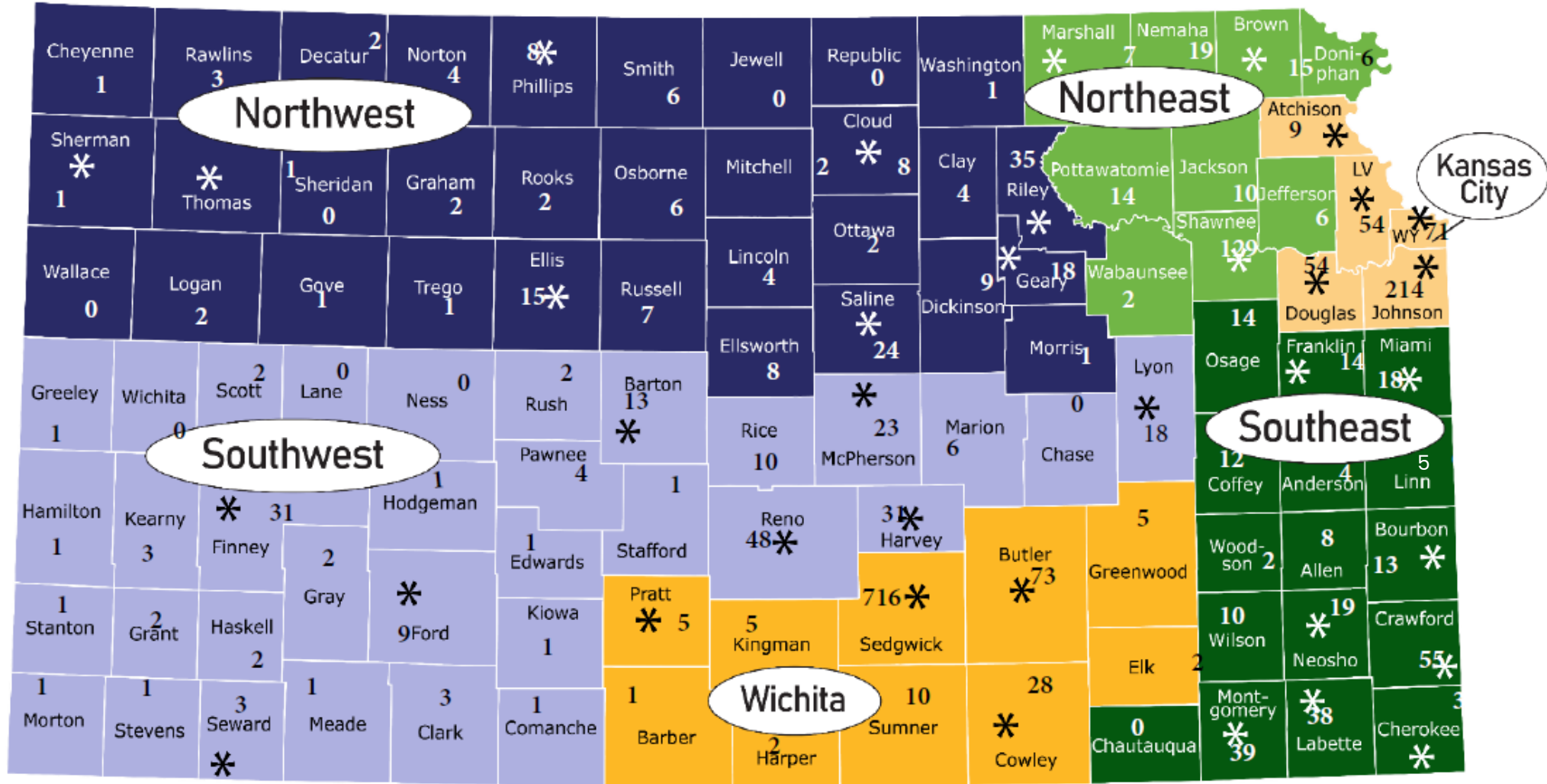
Reimbursement to family foster homes is based on the placed child’s assessed level of care, this is frequently referred to as the foster care daily rate. Levels of care are assessed by the child’s CMP.

Reimbursement is intended to cover day to day costs for the child, such as groceries, hygiene items, increased utility usage in the home due to the child’s placement. As reimbursement these payments are not income and are not taxed.

Licensed Family Foster Homes	Daily Total	Maintenance to FFH	Admin to CPA
FFH Basic 1	38.56	25.20	13.36
FFH Basic 2	64.47	42.00	22.47
FFH Basic 3	96.13	63.00	33.13
FFH Intensive 1	120.42	78.75	41.67
FFH Intensive 2	144.16	94.50	49.66
FFH Specialized	243.58	159.60	83.98
FFH Treatment Transition	172.67	113.40	59.27
FFH Therapeutic	243.58	159.60	83.98

Unlicensed Rel/NRKin Homes	
REL NRK 1	17.64
REL NRK 2	29.40
REL NRK 3	44.10
REL NRK 4	55.13
REL NRK 5	66.15
REL NRK Specialized	111.72
REL NRK Treatment Transition	113.40

# Family Foster Home Distribution



\* DCF Service Center

Foster Homes Per County as of  
03/01/2026 Total: **2,141**

# DILIGENT RECRUITMENT PLAN



Contracted with FAC to update Kansas' Diligent Recruitment plan.

- Statewide Diligent Recruitment Plan guides strategies for recruiting and retaining foster and adoptive families who can meet the needs of children in care. Individual CPAs also have recruitment plans and strategies.
  - Plan update scheduled to be completed in May 2026, to be supported by annual updates. DCF contracts with Foster Adopt Connect to support creation and maintenance of the plan and facilitation of the Diligent Recruitment Advisory Council.
  - Focus areas of the plan will include:
    - Understanding Diligent Recruitment
    - Micro, Mezzo, and Macro level approaches and strategies
    - Shared Vision Statement
    - Universal Talking Points
    - Commitment to Diligent Recruitment
- The Diligent Recruitment Advisory Council brings together DCF, child placing agencies, providers, and community partners to collaborate on statewide recruitment efforts. The Council reviews data, evaluates recruitment strategies, and works to reduce barriers between agencies to strengthen coordination across the system. This collaboration strengthens placement stability and expands permanency options for children and youth in foster care.

# QUESTIONS?

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