



Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families



Rhode Island TB14 Pilot Program Improvement Plan

Picture Source: Family Service of Rhode Island www.familyserviceri.org

Introduction

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) is committed to ensuring that every child grows up in a safe and loving family environment that supports strong, resilient families. Grounded in a commitment to prevention, accountability, collaboration, and engagement, DCYF works to strengthen the statewide continuum of services and supports that help families thrive. Through this work, the Department strives to deliver high-quality, family-centered services that are responsive to the needs of children and families across Rhode Island.

In alignment with this mission, Rhode Island has elected to participate in the TB14 *A Home for Every Child* pilot program. This initiative advances the state's vision to reduce the number of children in foster care through prevention efforts and strengthen family-based placement options by prioritizing kinship caregivers whenever possible and expanding foster homes equipped to meet the individualized needs of children who require out-of-home care. Through this pilot, Rhode Island will enhance its capacity to strategically direct resources, implement targeted interventions, and improve transparency and accountability in outcomes. Central to this work is ongoing partnership with stakeholders to promote a coordinated, data-driven approach that improves the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families.

By participating in this pilot, Rhode Island agrees to provide data on the required core measure of the 1:1 foster home-to-child ratio and chaser measures outlined below on a monthly basis in accordance with TB14 to monitor progress towards achieving *A Home for Every Child*.

Required Chaser Measures	Measure Definition
Maintaining Family Connections	Of all children in care on the last day of the month, the percentage of those children who are living with a relative or kin.
Use of Congregate Care	Of all days children spent in foster care during the reporting month, the percentage of those days that were spent in congregate care.

Required Chaser Measures	Measure Definition
Recent Maltreatment History	Of all children with a substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition during the month, the percent who had a prior substantiated or indicated maltreatment report that reached disposition within the prior 182 days.
Home Disruptions	Of all homes with a child placed in the home during the month, the percent of those homes with a disruption during the month.

Focus Areas and Strategies

Consistent with Rhode Island’s strategic plan and its commitment to improving outcomes for the children and families we serve, DCYF has identified four focus areas aimed at safely reducing entries into foster care while ensuring access to safe, stable, and appropriate placements for children who require out-of-home care. Achieving a 1:1 foster home-to-child ratio requires a dual focus on strengthening prevention efforts that help families remain safely together and implementing targeted recruitment and retention strategies to expand and sustain the availability of family-based placements, including kinship foster homes. The table below outlines the focus areas, strategies, and lead measures Rhode Island will implement to advance these priorities during the pilot period.

Focus Area	Implementation Strategies	Lead Measures
1. Safely reduce entries into foster care.	a. Strengthen prevention pathways to support families by improving visibility of and access to community-based services and supports that help families safely remain together and reduce unnecessary involvement with the state child welfare system.	1. Percent of families that close to Support and Response Unit (SRU) during each month that result in a referral to a community- based service.
	b. Improve fidelity to the SAFE practice model, with an emphasis on in-home safety planning and the effective utilization of safety-related services to	2. Number of children entering foster care each month.

Focus Area	Implementation Strategies	Lead Measures
	prevent entry and re-entry into foster care. c. Promote family preservation by strengthening family resilience, protective factors, and social connections that reduce reliance on foster care.	3. Percent of substantiated investigations during each month.
2. Improve permanency timeframes for all children, with an emphasis on children newly entering foster care.	a. Strengthen supervision and oversight of ongoing permanency planning for children in out-of-home placement, ensuring timely case review and appropriate permanency goals. b. Build upon existing collaboration with the Court Improvement Program (CIP) to strengthen cross-system communication and coordination with the courts, with an emphasis on timely permanency decisions.	4. Percent of Administrative Reviews completed during each month that were conducted timely. 5. Number of children who entered a supportive reunification plan (SRP)/Trial Home Visit (THV) during each month.
3. Children are placed in settings that are safe, stable, and able to meet their individualized needs.	a. Establish a Residential Monitoring Unit (RMU) responsible for comprehensive and continuous oversight of residential intervention programs to ensure safety, quality, and alignment with children's treatment needs. b. Strengthen cross-divisional collaboration to analyze maltreatment-in-care data and build upon existing system interventions to prevent and respond to safety concerns.	6. Number of children who were victims of a substantiated report of child maltreatment in a residential intervention setting during each month. 7. Number of children who transition from residential intervention to a foster home during each month.
	c. Utilize and refine structured assessment processes to guide placement and service decisions, ensuring alignment with each child's unique treatment, behavioral health, and support needs.	

Focus Area	Implementation Strategies	Lead Measures
	d. Enhance placement matching practices to prioritize relative and kin placements and ensure that caregivers receive the supports necessary to maintain stable placements.	
4. Foster homes are recruited and retained to meet the needs of children entering foster care.	a. Implement targeted foster home recruitment aligned with the demographic, behavioral health, and placement needs of children entering foster care. b. Strengthen recruitment and retention strategies by incorporating foster parent feedback and using data to inform continuous improvement in foster parent support and engagement.	8. Number of newly licensed non-relative traditional (DCYF) foster homes during each month. 9. Number of newly licensed non-relative private agency foster homes during each month. 10. Number of new child-specific (relative/non-relative) foster homes during each month.

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