



Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

A Home for Every Child Pilot – Texas Proposal

Introduction

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has indicated a willingness to renegotiate the current Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan and replace it with a Home for Every Child Pilot Program Improvement Plan. On April 20, 2026, DFPS notified the Administration for Children and Families of its intent to opt into the Technical Bulletin 14 Pilot (“Pilot”).

The DFPS pilot proposal provides a strategic framework to guide and prioritize agency work focused on increasing safe placement options for children who cannot remain in their own homes and are in DFPS conservatorship. DFPS seeks to enhance the capacity of both kinship and foster homes to better meet the needs of children. The pilot is designed to improve the home to child ratio in alignment with the federal Home for Every Child initiative, with a preference for safe kinship placements whenever possible.

Mission and Vision Alignment

Mission: We build on the strengths of families and communities to keep children and vulnerable adults safe, so they thrive.

Vision: Safe children and adults. Strong families and communities. Stronger Texas.

This pilot aligns with Empowering Strengthening and Supporting Families DFPS Annual Plan 2026 and the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan initiated in July 2025. Together these documents reflected the DFPS commitment to strengthening families and communities through engagement support and data driven service delivery. The TB14 Pilot PIP furthers the DFPS commitment.

Pilot Framework

The TB14 Pilot is organized around four key strategies that incorporate federal chaser measures and Texas lead measures. Each strategy includes key activities designed to increase safe placement capacity to improve permanency outcomes and strengthen placement stability.

Strategies Activities and Measures

Strategy	Key Activities	Federal Chaser Measure	Texas Lead Measure
Strengthen Child Safety	- Improve data accuracy through IMPACT enhancements to better distinguish maltreatment in care from delayed outcries. - Enhance effectiveness of the RTB Case Review process to ensure established protocols and standards consistently.	Recent Maltreatment History	% of closed family investigations with RTB disposition for investigations closed during the month % of RTB's opened to FBSS for investigations closed during the month # of new RCI investigations during the month
Strengthen Permanency Through Kinship and Family Engagement	- Encourage families to become verified kinship homes using new kinship foster home standards issued November 2025. - Roll out Monthly Kinship Corner communication and statewide kinship campaign. - Refine use or expand the use of FINDRS and Family Group Decision Making prior to or shortly after removal.	Maintaining Family Connections	% of children in Substitute Care placed in a verified kinship setting at the end of the month # of children exiting to Kin with Permanency Care Assistance or to Kinship Adoption during the month
Improve Placement Capacity and Transform Foster Care	- Advance Texas Child Centered Care (T3C) through IMPACT enhancements, oversight monitoring, and re-credentialing. - Refine and simplify foster home verification standards and provide stakeholder training.	Congregate Care	% of children in paid foster care in a T3C setting at the end of the month # new verified homes during the month

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Develop and Refine Case Management Services Through Community Partnerships	• Use data to inform use of family-like placements and enhance oversight of providers. • Develop a model to determine foster care network adequacy for SSCC areas. • Strengthen Community Based Care collaboration accountability through contract enhancements that improve oversight tools.	Home Disruptions	% of children in Conservatorship in one or more of the following optimal placement settings at the end of the month: • Kinship Home • Home setting with a sibling • Family-like setting within removal or contiguous county • Own Home/Parental Setting