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Department of Family
and Protective Services
Child Protective Services

Children's Commission: CPS Updates

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Child & Family Service Review Update



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CFSR Program Improvement Plan Update (1 of 2)

Key Elements

- **Texas Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Round 4:** Collaborative process, not limited to DFPS and SSCCs.
- **Administration for Children and Families (Children's Bureau):** Reviews key state child welfare program areas to ensure substantial conformity with Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act.
 - o No state has passed all elements in any round.
- **Program Improvement Plan (PIP):** Addresses specific areas with prescribed protocols, required components, and a specified timeline.
 - o **June 2027:** Activities must be completed.
 - o **December 2028:** Data must show required improvement.
 - o Timely successful completion results in the federal fine being set aside.



CFSR Program Improvement Plan Update (2 of 2)

Themes

- Improve Child Safety
- Strengthen Permanency
- Improve Placement Capacity
- Improve Well-Being and Engagement

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Dec. 31, 2028:** Deadline for DFPS to achieve federally set improvement targets in the data indicators not passed during the onsite review.
- **February 2026:** Anticipated date the Children's Bureau will send Texas' next data profile.



PIP Data Indicators and Status

Statewide Aggregate Measure and Data Indicators	Status
Timeliness of Initiating Investigations	PIP Required
Recurrence of Maltreatment	No PIP
Maltreatment in Foster Care	PIP Required
Permanency in 12 Months (Entries)	No PIP
Permanency in 12 Months (12-23 Months)	No PIP
Permanency in 12 Months (24+ Months)	PIP Required
Re-entry into Foster Care in 12 Months	No PIP
Placement Stability	PIP Required



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PIP Activity Example (1 of 2)

Permanency Goal 1, Strategy 2.1: DFPS will partner with the Children's Commission to improve engagement with caregivers by enhancing legal notification for hearings.

- 2.1.1 Consolidate all relevant state and federal law and policy** related to the right and importance of caregivers appearing in court during a child welfare case.
- 2.1.2 Identify and invite legal and child welfare key stakeholders to a Round Table on Caregiver Engagement** (i.e., judges, attorneys, caregivers and parents with lived experience, CASA advocates, DFPS/SSCC caseworkers).
- 2.1.3 Hold Caregiver Engagement Round Table Meeting.** Address law/policy considerations and barriers to consistent implementation. Develop a uniform solution for notice to caregivers.
- 2.1.4 Create a template for caregiver notification,** including who will provide notice, the notice timeframe, and what information the notice will contain.



PIP Activity Example (2 of 2)

Permanency Goal 1, Strategy 2.1: DFPS will partner with the Children's Commission to improve engagement with caregivers by enhancing legal notification for hearings.

- 2.1.5 Create and distribute a bench card** for caregiver engagement at hearings.
- 2.1.6 Finalize pilot site selection (participating counties) and conduct training** with impacted professionals on the importance of caregiver engagement, notice template, and bench card.
- 2.1.7 Begin notification protocol and implement pilots.**
- 2.1.8 Track caregiver presence and engagement at hearings.**



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Case Review Items for PIP Measurement

- Item 02:** Services to Family to Protect Child(ren) in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-entry into Foster Care
- Item 03:** Risk and Safety Assessment and Management
- Item 12:** Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents
- Item 13:** Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning
- Item 14:** Worker Visits with Child(ren)
- Item 15:** Worker Visits with Parents



PIP Data Review

PIP Outcome / Item	CFSR Standard	Q3-FY24 Federal Review	Q3-FY25 PIP Baseline	PIP Sustained Improvement Goal *	PIP High-Performance Value **	Q4-FY25
Item 2: Services to Family Protect Child(ren) and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care	90%	72.41%	76.47%	80%	84%	80.56%
Item 3: Risk and Safety Assessment and Management	90%	76.0%	73.85%	78%	82%	81.54%
Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children	90%	80.0%	87.69%	N/A	N/A	85.38%
Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents	90%	52.4%	48.51%	N/A	N/A	58.49%
Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents	90%	88.89%	94.29%	N/A	N/A	94.44%
Item 12: Needs and Services of Child, Parents, Foster Parents	90%	49.0%	56.15%	65%	74%	58.46%
Item 13: Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning	90%	63.16%	57.76%	66%	74%	67.50%
Item 14: Worker Visits with Child	90%	86.0%	86.15%	88%	89%	89.23%
Item 15: Worker Visits with Parents	90%	51.22%	43.43%	56%	74%	51.46%

*Goal must be met in three non-consecutive quarters to be achieved.

**Goal must be met in one quarter to be achieved.



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New Kinship Standards



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New Kinship Licensing Standards

- Federal Administration for Children and Families changed their rules to allow Title-IVE agencies to have separate standards for kinship.
- DFPS and HHSC collaborated to update kinship standards.
- Proposed changes to minimum standards for child-placing agencies published Nov. 6, 2025.

Standard Comparison (1 of 4)

New Kinship vs. Current Nonrelative Foster Home Standards

Criteria	Kinship Foster Home	Nonrelative Foster Home
Caregiver Minimum Age	18	21
Caregiver to Child Ratios	Allowed to care for up to six children regardless of the children's ages or number of caregivers in the home.	Criteria limits the ages of the children and number of caregivers.
Caregiver Residency History	Past two years required.	Past 10 years required.
Caregiver Relationships	Current relationship stability assessments only. • No divorce decrees or spouse death certificate required. • Child-placing agencies must determine separate residences maintained for separated but not divorced couples.	Prior relationship assessments. • Require divorce decrees or spouse death certificate.



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Standard Comparison (2 of 4)

New Kinship vs. Current Nonrelative Foster Home Standards

Criteria	Kinship Foster Home	Nonrelative Foster Home
Caregiver Training	• Foster Parents: Certain trainings require one to complete first then the other within 60 or 90 days after verification. • Pre-Verification Training: Not specified but can be specific to the child-placing agency. • Renewals: Not required for certain trainings.	• Foster Parents: Both must complete trainings prior to verification. • Pre-Verification Training: Required. • Renewals: Required for all trainings.
Caregiver Education	High school diploma or GED or equivalency test not required.	High school diploma or GED or equivalency test required.
Caregiver TB Testing	Not required for relative foster parents and household members.	Required.
Foster Home Study	May use a completed kinship home assessment if it meets the requirements of this division.	Required.



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Standard Comparison (3 of 4)

New Kinship vs. Current Nonrelative Foster Home Standards

Criteria	Kinship Foster Home	Nonrelative Foster Home
Respite Services	Restricted to only a kinship foster child.	Allowed for any foster child in a verified home.
Babysitting	• References: None required for adult and minor relative or fictive kin. • Certifications: No CPR/first aid certification required for minors. • Experience: None required.	• References: Two required for minors. • Certifications: CPR/first aid certification required for minors. • Experience: Six months required.
Water Safety	• Training: Not required but highly encouraged. • Access Restrictions: - o Pools, hot tubs, and bodies of water on or near property do not require a fence or locked gate. - o Only a door alarm or top lock required. - o One life saving device required.	• Training: - o Caregivers must complete during pre-service training. - o Annual renewal required if property has a pool or body of water. • Access Restrictions: - o Pool fencing and gate lock required. - o Two life saving devices required.



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Standard Comparison (4 of 4)

New Kinship vs. Current Nonrelative Foster Home Standards

Criteria	Kinship Foster Home	Nonrelative Foster Home
Medication Logs	• Required for controlled substances and psychotropic medications only. • Missed doses must be logged.	Required for all medications, including vitamins and over-the counter-medications.
Sleeping Arrangements	• Shared Beds: Allowed to share a sleeping space or surface (which can include a couch, air mattress, or futon) with another person under certain criteria and assessments. • Bedrooms: No restrictions • Approval: Child placement management staff approval required for shared beds.	• Shared Beds: All children must have their own bed. • Bedrooms: Same sex children over 6 years old cannot share a bedroom, unless certain criteria is met. • Approval: Case management team approval required for exceptions.
Pets	Any animal on the property must not pose a health or safety threat to the kinship foster children.	Pets must be Rabies vaccinated.



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Thank you

For more information, contact:

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