



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

Report on Federal Funds Maximization

Semi-Annual Update

**As Required by House Bill 1, 88th Legislative Session, 2023
(Article II, DFPS, Rider 36)**

September 1, 2024

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Introduction

Rider 36 of House Bill 1, 88th Legislative Session, requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to submit progress reports related to the agency's efforts to maximize federal funds, including identifying the strategies DFPS has implemented and any successes and challenges in maximizing funding, as well as how the agency can maximize federal funds by program and funding source. Progress reports are required to be submitted by September 1 and March 1 of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Relevant federal funding updates since the [September 2021 report](#) are included in this progress report to serve as a companion to the September report.

Section I: Update to Federal Funding to Address COVID-19

DFPS was awarded nine different federal grants related to the COVID response under these federal acts:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), P.L. 116-136;
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), P.L. 116-260; and
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), P.L. 117-2.

Five of the nine awards are closed, the remaining awards detailed in this report are under ARPA authority. Two of the ARPA awards are active until September 30, 2025.

Table 1 shows the specific awards and award periods.

Table 1

Federal COVID Related Funds			
Federal Fund	Award Amount	# months	End Date
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$612,227,598	22	12/31/2021
Promoting Safe Stable Families Assistance	8,319,214	24	9/30/2022
IVE Education & Training Voucher	12,425,000	18	9/30/2022
Title IVE Independent Living	2,907,720	24	9/30/2022
Elder Justice	25,320,989	24	9/30/2022
Visit	22,913,786	38	9/30/2024*
CBCAP	7,891,427	34	9/30/2024
CAPTA	24,681,320	60	9/30/2025
	10,036,113	60	9/30/2025

*includes 12 month extension

Elder Justice Act (EJAP) - Adult Protective Services

DFPS expended most of these grants during the initial project periods between August 2021 and September 2024. In July 2024, DFPS received approval for a 12-month no cost extension to complete outstanding activities. The activities in the federal spend plan include the following:

- Creation of specialized units focused on financial exploitation;
- Increase in APS focused community engagement through “[Partnering to Protect](#)” initiative and increased funding for annual Texas APS conference;
- Redesign of APS training model including Training While Working (TWW);
- Continued staff retention and recruitment including paid intern and work study programs; and
- Increase in APS State Office infrastructure and information technologies software and hardware.

Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

Round one of MIECHV ARPA funding (\$2.6 million) concluded September 30, 2023. DFPS continues to implement a second round of supplemental MIECHV funding (\$5.2 million) that carries forth the activities of the first round of funding through September 30, 2024. In addition to the MIECHV ARPA funds, Texas’ MIECHV formula grant increased approximately \$7.8 million from the 2022-2023 to the 2024-2025 biennium. Activities funded through MIECHV ARPA include:

- Evidence-based training program for prevention of postpartum depression for MIECHV providers;
- IT enhancements to improve online options for completing enrollments, assessments, and surveys virtually;
- Technology and connectivity (for home visitors and families) to support remote home visits;
- Retention/incentive pay for front-line direct service workforce to retain home visitors and other direct service staff;
- Training to support staff in providing remote home visits; and
- Funding to community grantees to provide emergency supplies for families, including diapers, wipes, infant formula, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food, and gift cards for perishable food items.

Note that Senate Bill 24 of the 88th Legislature transfers funding and activities to HHSC on September 1, 2024. Both agencies are coordinating to ensure federal funding is not

interrupted.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Supplemental Funds

CAPTA is a \$10 million 60-month grant that concludes September 1, 2025.

Implementation is ongoing to support the completed spending plan. The spending plan includes the following:

- Services to support community-based child abuse and neglect prevention;
- Services for youth and young adults with lived foster care experience;
- Advancement of work to assess and address disproportionality;
- System improvements to support matching of children and youth to prospective adoptive families; and
- Implementation of a more efficient background check process.

Section II: Update to Other Federal Grants

Kinship Navigator Grants

DFPS along with our providers has used the federal grant funds to develop and implement the four Kinship Navigator Program approaches. Since the development of this program, grant awards have averaged about \$1.3 million. However, for FY2025 the funding was significantly reduced. The estimated award is \$172,129.00 per state, which can increase if not all states apply for the grant. The significant decrease in the grant award, has impacted program sustainability. Prevention and Early Intervention, PEI, is currently working to continue funding the four program sites and evaluation.

Note that Senate Bill 24 of the 88th Legislature transfers funding and activities to HHSC on September 1, 2024. Both agencies are coordinating to ensure federal funding is not interrupted.

Elder Justice Act (EJAP) - Adult Protective Services Formula Grants

(EJAP) Adult Protective Services Formula Grants to States Award Authority: Title XX of the Social Security Act, with \$1,927,831 being formulaically allocated to DFPS in FY2023-FY2024. Awarded funds will be utilized by the agency to further support efforts commenced under DFPS's utilization of EJAP ARPA funding (see section I for

activities). Additionally, a one-time competitive award of \$680,732.00 was utilized and closed August 31,2023.

Section III: Update to FY 2024-2025 Active Projects

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot

The QRTP Open Enrollment Procurement documents and all required supplemental documents were published on Friday April 1, 2022. The information is posted on the Electronic State Business Daily site where potential providers can view necessary information to apply to become a contracted QRTP provider.

After readiness review was completed, the first contracts for QRTP were awarded in June of 2023. Currently, there are three providers contracted for QRTP services and one additional provider pending contract finalization and Youth for Tomorrow readiness review. There are currently 35 children receiving QRTP level of service and 38 children have been successfully discharged to less restrictive settings. DFPS is working with several providers to add QRTP to their operations.

The 88th Legislature appropriated \$5 million of Family First Transition Act (FFTA) federal funding (Rider 43 (b)) to continue the QRTPs to allow providers to meet QRTP standards under the FFTA.

Prevention Pilots- Texas Family First (House Bill 3041)

The 88th Legislature appropriated \$15 million of Family First Transition Act (FFTA) federal funding (Rider 43(a)) to continue pilot programs to serve children in the home pursuant to House Bill (HB) 3041, 87th Legislature, Regular Session. DFPS shall develop additional criteria to ensure children that could enter conservatorship, or children of families struggling with significant issues that impact family stability and child safety, can be referred to the pilot program.

DFPS released the grant funding opportunity for the HB 3041 pilot to all current SSCCs on March 18, 2022. The four SSCCs that that were already in Stage II CBC model during the release, have an active contract for and are implementing the Texas Family First Pilot in their areas. In April 2023, a change in population criteria permitted FBSS to refer qualified families into the Pilot. As of July 2024, a total of 444 referrals to the Pilot have been made. One hundred forty-nine families have completed the pilot to date, and there

are now five additional families pending entry. Table 2 outlines the distribution of families served.

Table 2

HB3041 Pilot		
Region/SSCC	Completed	Current
Region 1 St. Francis	30	21
Region 2 2INgage	23	39
Region 3W OCOK	52	39
Region 8B Belong	44	32
Total	149	131

Update the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS)

DFPS plans to launch a new RMTS process for the Community-Based Care (CBC) catchment areas. Originally planned to launch in Summer 2024, now intended to launch in Fall 2024 due to delays in finalizing both technology implementation and determining cost allocation methods for the agency. DFPS selected Public Consulting Group (PCG) as the contractor to develop the new RMTS for the CBC catchment areas. The new RMTS process will ensure DFPS receives necessary reimbursement of federal funds for the work conducted in the catchment areas.

Additionally, DFPS will continue to operate the legacy DFPS RMTS (which samples Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Investigations, Child Protective Services, and Statewide Intake Services). DFPS staff are currently recoding the current internal RMTS system as the current system is no longer supported by Oracle. The newly coded system and the CBC RMTS will ensure the agency can claim the maximum reimbursement possible.

Section IV: Update to Foster Care Rate Methodology Examination and Modernization

In September 2021, DFPS published the [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Preliminary Service Descriptions](#), which included:

- Background information on the Texas Service Level System/rate methodology and the legislative charge;
- The goals, objectives, and parameters of the current Rate Modernization Project;

- Information detailing the approach DFPS utilized to arrive at the preliminary service descriptions contained in the report;
- DFPS’s preliminary new service descriptions; and
- An overview of project next steps for the Fall of 2021.

On December 31, 2021, DFPS published the [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Final Service Descriptions](#), which provides information on several significant changes made to the preliminary service descriptions released in September 2021. The report includes details on:

- New service add-ons;
- Use of evidence-informed (as opposed to evidence-based) treatment models;
- Potential for gradation of foster care rates within each service add-on; and
- Implementation of a developmentally appropriate universal human trafficking training and prevention model for children, youth, and young adults in foster care.

DFPS worked with the Institute for Child and Family Well-being at the University of Texas at Austin on a provider survey and met with numerous providers and advocacy groups to inform the assumptions for the final service descriptions.

Pursuant to the 2022-2023 General Appropriations Act, Senate Bill 1, 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021 (Article II, Special Provisions Relating to All Health and Human Services Agencies, Section 26) DFPS published three required reports, including:

[Opportunities to Increase Claiming IV-E Funds through Foster Care Rate Modernization](#) report, published in February 2023. Through this work, DFPS:

- Reviewed opportunities to increase the Title IV-E eligibility rate;
- Established a plan to increase kinship licensing;
- Included enhanced Title IV-E administrative claiming strategies for General Residential Operations (GRO) and Residential Treatment Center (RTC) placements as a part of Foster Care Rate Modernization; and
- Identified methods to claim costs associated with (the) child (as a part of child specific contracts and exceptional care).

[Foster Care Rate Modernization: DFPS Companion to HHSC Pro Forma Modeled Rate and Fiscal Impact Report](#), published in February 2023, which proposed an alternative reimbursement methodology for foster care and CBC rates. The effort that was originally called “Foster Care Rate Modernization” is now known as the “Texas Child-

Centered Care System” or T3C, and transforms the foster care system to better align and support the success of CBC by establishing:

- Clearly defined foster care models/services packages;
- New foster care rate methodology;
- A universal screening assessment and placement process to match children to the appropriate services; and
- Opportunities to enhance Title IV-E claiming of federal funds.

[Foster Care Rate Modernization Semi Annual Progress Report](#), published in August 2023. DFPS was required to submit a semi-annual progress report detailing all related activities undertaken by DFPS every six months.

The 88th Legislature made a significant investment in improving the foster care system and by increasing the biennial appropriation in SFY 2024-25 by an estimated \$159.5 million.

As of July 2024, DFPS, in collaboration with HHSC and multiple stakeholders, has developed 24 clearly defined service packages, three add-on services, and a new fully funded rate methodology that provides new opportunities for federal funds to be utilized to support foster care. The T3C implementation team is working with stakeholders to modify to the IT infrastructure, create a universal child assessment tool and placement process that better aligns with the child’s needs, and develop a new T3C residential provider credentialing and contract monitoring process. Details on the ongoing development of these aspects of T3C were released in a T3C [blueprint document](#) to residential providers and the public in July 2024. The transition to the T3C System will occur in four phases, with children starting to be served in January 2025, with the full transition occurring at the end of fiscal year 2027.

Section V: Update to Title IV-E Funds for County Legal Services

As of July 2024, there are 22 counties participating in this opportunity. In addition, DFPS continues to work with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and the Children’s Commission on expanding awareness, access, and utilization of this funding stream. Pursuant to newly passed legislation, SB 2120 (88th Legislature), TIDC now has statutory responsibility to work to improve the court-appointed legal representation system for families involved in cases brought by the DFPS. The new legislation allows TIDC to distribute funds and monitor grant recipients to improve this legal

representation. Currently, DFPS and TIDC are drafting a memorandum of understanding to streamline claiming, and to provide more awareness to the funding opportunity.

Conclusion

DFPS is making all efforts to maximize the drawdown and use of federal funds. With significant systemic changes in the child welfare system including CBC, FFTA, and one-time COVID-19 funds for specific initiatives, federal funding remains critical to assisting DFPS with helping the agency implement its mission to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. DFPS will continue to focus on efficient and effective management of multiple federal funding streams.