



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
INTERIM DIRECTOR

January 20, 2015

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Earl Poleski, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator MacGregor and Representative Poleski:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act, PA 252 of 2014, Article X, Section 583. This section requires that DHS submit a report on the number and percentage of foster parents that dropped out of the program in the previous fiscal year, the reasons the foster parents left the program and how those figures compared to prior fiscal years. This section also requires that DHS submit a report on the number and percentage of foster parents successfully retained in the previous fiscal year and how those figures compare to prior fiscal years.

The attached report addresses the aforementioned reporting requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Campau, executive assistant to Children's Services Director Steve Yager, at (517) 241-3294.

Sincerely,

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment: FY 15 Boilerplate Report Section 583: Foster Care Homes Report
cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services

FY 15 Boilerplate Report Section 583: Foster Care Homes Report

Foster Home Closures:

In FY 2014, 2,262 foster homes closed with a 32% attrition rate.¹ Thirty-one percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 69% were non-relative foster homes. In FY 2013, 2,327 foster homes closed with a 33% attrition rate. Twenty-six percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 74% were non-relative foster homes.

Since FY 2010, the number of children exiting foster care has exceeded the number of children entering foster care. There was a 3% decrease in the number of licensed foster homes that closed between FY 2013 and FY 2014. The Department of Human Services (DHS) remains committed to ensuring a sufficient and adequate array of foster homes for children entering foster care.

Foster Home Retention:

On October 1, 2013, there were 6,970 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2014, 4,951 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 71% retention rate and a 1% increase from FY 2013.

In addition to a 71% retention rate for FY 2014, 92% of the 1,960 foster homes licensed during FY 2014 remained licensed as of September 30, 2014. This percentage remained the same from FY 2013.

Reasons Foster Parents Left the Program: Foster Home Closure Surveys:

To assist DHS in recruiting and retaining foster homes, each month the Office of Child Welfare Policy and Programs sends surveys to DHS and Private Agency Foster Care (PAFC) foster parents whose foster care home closed during the previous month. The survey inquiry includes the length of time as a foster parent, reasons for becoming a foster parent, issues and concerns associated with being a foster parent, and the reasons for not continuing as a foster parent. There was a 43% response rate to the FY 2014 closed foster care home survey. The following are FY 2014 survey results:

- The top three reasons foster parents closed their license:
 - Adopted the child(ren) placed with them
 - Need to focus on family needs
 - Demand/stress of being a foster parent

- The top three challenges of being a foster parent:
 - Child(ren)'s behavior
 - Parenting time
 - Court process

¹ Foster home closures are defined as parents that dropped out of the program due to the following reasons: adoption; death; lack of response to license renewal; voluntary withdrawal and administrative closure.