

# Foster Care Homes Report

(FY 2016 Appropriation Act - Public Act 84 of 2015)

**February 1, 2016**

**Sec. 583.** *By February 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house standing committees on families and human services, the senate and house fiscal agencies and policy offices, and the state budget office a report that includes:*

- (a) *The number and percentage of foster parents that dropped out of the program in the previous fiscal year and the reasons the foster parents left the program and how those figures compare to prior fiscal years.*
- (b) *The number and percentage of foster parents successfully retained in the previous fiscal year and how those figures compare to prior fiscal years.*



Michigan Department of  
Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR  
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# Foster Care Homes Report

## **Foster Home Closures:**

In FY 2015, 2,260 foster homes closed. Twenty-eight percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 72 percent were non-relative foster homes. The number of licensed foster homes that closed remained consistent between FY 2014 and FY 2015. During FY 2014, 2,262 foster homes closed. Thirty-one percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 69 percent were non-relative foster homes. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) remains committed to ensuring a sufficient and adequate array of foster homes for children entering foster care.

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

To assist the MDHHS in recruiting and retaining foster homes, each month the Office of Child Welfare Policy and Programs sends surveys to MDHHS and Private Agency Foster Care (PAFC) foster parents whose foster care home closed during the previous month.<sup>1</sup> 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 39 percent response rate to the FY 2015 closed foster care home survey. The following are FY 2015 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
- The top three reasons for becoming a foster parent:
  - Wanted to help children
  - Wanted to make a difference
  - Love children

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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**Foster Home Retention:**

On October 1, 2014, there were 6,811 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2015, 4,689 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 69 percent retention rate and a 2 percent decrease from FY 2014.

In addition to a 69 percent retention rate for FY 2015, 92 percent of the 1,763 foster homes licensed during FY 2015 remained licensed as of September 30, 2015. This percentage remains unchanged from FY 2014.