

Foster Parents Homes Report

(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

March 1, 2019

Sec. 583. By March 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.



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Foster Home Closures

In fiscal year (FY) 2018, 1,864 foster homes closed. Thirty-two percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 68 percent were non-relative foster homes. In FY 2017, 1,897 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. There was a decrease in the number of licensed foster homes that closed between FY 2017 and FY 2018.

Reasons Foster Parents Left the Program: Foster Home Closure Surveys

To assist 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.¹ 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 35 percent response rate to the FY 2018 closed foster care home survey. The following are FY 2018 survey results:

- The top reasons foster parents closed their license:
 - Adopted the child(ren) placed with them
 - Demand/stress of being a foster parent
 - Family needs
- The top three challenges of being a foster parent:
 - Child(ren)'s behavior
 - Visitation
 - The foster care system and time commitment (tied)
- The top three reasons for becoming a foster parent:
 - Wanted to help children
 - Wanted to make a difference
 - Love children

¹ Foster home closures are defined as parents that are no longer licensed 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, 2017, there were 6,216 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2018, 4,490 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 72 percent retention rate and a 2 percent point retention rate increase from FY 2017. On October 1, 2016, there were 6,242 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2017, 4,382 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 70 percent retention rate.

In addition to a 72 percent retention rate for FY 2018, 93 percent of the 1,862 foster homes licensed during FY 2018 remained licensed as of September 30, 2018. This percentage is the same as the percentage reported in FY 2017 when 93 percent of the 1,832 foster homes licensed during FY 2017 remained licensed as of September 30, 2017.