

Foster Parents Homes Report

(FY 2018 Appropriation Act – Public Act 107 of 2017)

February 1, 2018

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

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Foster Parents Homes Report

Foster Home Closures:

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. In FY 2016, 2,177 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 2016 and FY 2017.

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 license 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 29 percent response rate to the FY 2017 closed foster care home survey. The following are fiscal year 2017 survey results:

- The top reasons foster parents closed their license:
 - Adopted the child(ren) placed with them
 - Demand/stress of being a foster parent
 - Frustration

- The top three challenges of being a foster parent:
 - Child(ren)'s behavior
 - Visitation
 - The foster care system

- The top three reasons for becoming a foster parent:
 - Wanted to make a difference
 - Wanted to help children
 - Love children

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.

Foster Care Homes Report

Foster Home Retention:

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 and a 2 percentage point retention rate increase from FY 2016. On October 1, 2015, there were 6,427 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2016, 4,367 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 68 percent retention rate.

In addition to a 70 percent retention rate for fiscal year 2017, 93 percent of the 1,832 foster homes licensed during FY 2017 remained licensed as of September 30, 2017. This percentage remained consistent as reported in FY 2016 with 93 percent of the 1,725 foster homes licensed during FY 2016 remaining licensed as of September 30, 2016.