



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Plan 2024-2025

August 1, 2025

This report summarizes the 2024-2025 Foster/Adoptive Parent Recruitment and Retention Plan. It is required pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 424.087, which specifies that child welfare agencies project the number of foster homes each community will need each year to meet the safety, permanency, and well-being of youth in foster care. This plan identifies foster parent needs for the Rural Region (RR), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Nevada's Department of Human Services (DHS) and identifies goals for how the child welfare agency plans to meet those needs. Furthermore, this report identifies the youth who have been placed outside of Nevada for more than 15 days and goals to improve placement options to maintain foster care youth in Nevada.

The DCFS – RR will develop and update this plan annually, on or before August 1. The updates will include an evaluation of the plan implementation, procedure for placing children in foster homes that meet the needs of the children, ensure resources are being used efficiently, and address any gaps in services or barriers to placing children in foster care.

This plan for recruitment and retention of foster homes outlines the requirements pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes [424.087](#):

NRS 424.087 Plan for the recruitment and retention of foster homes.

1. An agency which provides child welfare services shall adopt, publish on an Internet website maintained by the agency and update annually a plan for the recruitment and retention of foster homes which must include, without limitation:

(a) A determination of the number of foster homes needed in the area served by the agency. When making that determination, the agency must consider the needs of children in foster care in the area served by the agency with respect to:

- (1) The ages of the children;
- (2) Accommodating siblings to remain together;
- (3) Serving children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and who have other special needs; and
- (4) Addressing the needs of children in foster care to receive care provided in a racially and culturally competent manner.

(b) Specific goals for the number of foster homes needed in the geographic area served by the agency.

(c) If the agency failed to meet the goals established pursuant to paragraph (b) for the immediately preceding year, a description of the measures that the agency plans to take to ensure that the agency meets those targets during the immediately following year.

(d) A plan to ensure that, to the extent possible, a foster home in which a child is placed pursuant to [NRS 432B.550](#) is located in:

(1) The same community as the home from which the child was removed; and

(2) The zone of attendance of the public school that the child was attending when he or she was removed from that home, if applicable.

(e) Strategies for recruiting foster homes in geographic areas with a high rate of placement of children in protective custody.

(f) An identification of resources available to support foster parents.

2. An agency which provides child welfare services shall appoint one or more employees to:

(a) Develop and carry out the plan adopted pursuant to subsection 1.

(b) Evaluate the implementation of the plan, the degree to which existing procedures for placing children in foster homes meet the needs of those children and use resources efficiently, any gaps in services for children placed in protective custody or foster care and any barriers to placing children in accordance with paragraph (d) of subsection 1.

3. On or before August 1 of each year, an agency which provides child welfare services shall publish on an Internet website maintained by the agency a report which includes, without limitation:

(a) Information relating to whether the agency achieved the goals established pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 for each quarter of the immediately preceding year;

(b) The number of children placed outside this State for more than 15 days during the immediately preceding year, including, without limitation, the number of children placed in residential treatment facilities outside this State for more than 15 days during the immediately preceding year;

(c) The reasons for the placements described in paragraph (b);

(d) A summary of changes that could prevent the placements described in paragraph (b); and

(e) A summary of changes or actions necessary to allow children who are currently placed outside this State to return to this State.

(Added to NRS by [2019, 2183](#))

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(a)

The following information responds to the requirements of NRS 424.087(1)(a), which requires a determination of the number of foster homes needed in the area served by the agency to include the following requirements:

(1) The ages of the children;

(2) Accommodating siblings to remain together;

(3) Serving children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and who have other special needs; and

(4) Addressing the needs of children in foster care to receive care provided in a racially and culturally competent manner.

The DCFS Rural Region is separated into five districts, each providing services to multiple counties:

- District 1 covers the northern part of the state with its main office based in Elko and provides services to Elko, Eureka, Lander, and White Pine counties.
- District 2 covers the western and central part of the state with its main office based in Carson City, and provides services to Carson City, Douglas, and Storey counties.
- District 3 covers the eastern and central part of the state with its main office based in Fallon, and provides services to Churchill, Pershing, and Humboldt counties.
- District 4 covers the southern rural part of the state with its main office based in Pahrump, and provides services to Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties.
- District 5 covers the central part of the state with its main office based in Fernley and provides services to the Lyon and Mineral counties.

The DCFS – Rural Region currently has 126 licensed beds, and the agency estimates a total need of 389 beds to accommodate youth in need of placement. DCFS estimates a deficit of 263 beds to meet the needs of youth based on the following data elements.

1. As of 02/28/2025, there were 319 foster youth within the DCFS – RR population.

Foster Youth Population Age Group

	0-5		6-10		11-13		14+	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<i>Rural Counties</i>	112	35%	90	28%	47	15%	70	22%

2. As of 02/28/2025, there were 202 sibling groups within the DCFS – RR population.
3. As of 06/30/2025, there were 27 youth with significant mental or physical health needs, 7 of them placed in out of state facilities, 5 of whom are eligible for adoption and part of a sibling group. Additional considerations are made for youth who have intellectual or developmental disabilities, physical impairments, or other special needs; such youth are in placements of Advanced Foster Care (AFC), Specialized Foster Care (SFC), and Medically Fragile youth.

**Foster Youth in Paid Placements of
AFC, SFC and Medically Fragile as of 02/28/2025**

	AFC	SFC	Medically Fragile
<i>Rural Counties</i>	4	6	0

4. When considering race/ethnicity within the DCFS – RR population, as of 02/28/2025 the populations consisted of 319 youth and 409 foster parents. To avoid duplication, each youth is assigned a single race/ethnicity category, even if they are multiracial or multiethnic. This methodology comes from the DHS State Biostatistician, following guidance from the National Center for Health Statistics. Additionally, all race/ethnicities in the table below other than Hispanic are non-Hispanic. The foster parent population reflects caregivers for Family Foster Homes (identified via AFCARS data element #41 – value 2) and/or Relative Family Foster Homes (identified via AFCARS data element #41 – value 3). These foster placements may be licensed or unlicensed. Some homes may have only one caregiver while others may have two caregivers.

Foster Youth Population Race/Ethnicity by Jurisdiction

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	American Indian	Asian	Black	NHPI*	White	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
<i>Rural Counties</i>	5.6% 18	0.0% 0	5.3% 17	0.6% 2	69.6% 222	18.5% 59	0.3% 1

First Foster Parent Population Race/Ethnicity by Jurisdiction

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	American Indian	Asian	Black	NHPI*	White	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
<i>Rural Counties</i>	1.5% 6	1.2% 5	19.0% 8	0.7% 3	47.9% 196	8.6% 35	1.2% 5

Second Foster Parent Population Race/Ethnicity by Jurisdiction

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	American Indian	Asian	Black	NHPI*	White	Hispanic	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
<i>Rural Counties</i>	0.0% 0	0.5% 2	19.0% 2	0.2% 1	31.1% 127	4.2% 17	0.5% 2

*NHPI - Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

5. The agency identified the current count of family foster, relative, kinship homes in each district via a hand count as of 7/7/25:

Office Locations	Homes	#Beds	#Vacant Beds
District 1 (Elko, Ely)	24	41	3
District 2 (Carson)	21	53	6
District 3 (Fallon, Winnemucca)	13	23	2
District 4 (Pahrump)	21	60	7
District 5 (Fernley, Yerington)	18	38	2
Total	97	194	20

Vacant beds may be due to family request, respite, adoption only, Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) holds or restrictions on ages of children who can be placed in a home due to licensure, sex of children who can be placed per request of family and Nevada Administrative Code.

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(b)

This section identifies the specific goals for the number of foster homes needed in the geographic area served by the agency as required by NRS 424.087(1)(b).

These specific foster home attainment goals for each district are based on current placements, out of county placements, Interstate Compact for Placement of Children (ICPC), adoption and removal trends.

District Office	Goal for new homes
District 1 (Elko, White Pine, Lander, Eureka counties)	66 total homes, of which at least: 5 homes for large sibling groups 3 homes for medically fragile children 2 homes for sexually reactive children 3 homes for males with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance 2 homes for females with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance

District Office	Goal for new homes
District 2 (Carson, Douglas, Storey counties)	70 total homes, of which at least: 3 homes for large sibling groups 3 homes for sexually reactive children 2 homes for medically fragile children 3 homes for males with mental health/ Severe Emotional Disturbance 2 homes for females with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance
District 3 (Pershing, Churchill, and Humboldt counties)	40 total homes, of which at least: 5 homes for large sibling groups 3 homes for medically fragile children 2 homes for sexually reactive children 3 homes for males with mental health/ Severe Emotional Disturbance 2 homes for females with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance
District 4 (Nye, Lincoln, and Esmeralda counties)	30 total homes, of which at least: 6 homes for large sibling groups 5 homes for sexually reactive children 4 homes for males with mental health/ Severe Emotional Disturbance 3 homes for females with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance
District 5 (Lyon and Mineral counties)	40 total homes, of which at least: 5 homes for large sibling groups 3 homes for medically fragile children 2 homes for sexually reactive children 3 homes for males with mental health/ Severe Emotional Disturbance 2 homes for females with mental health/Severe Emotional Disturbance

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(c)

If the agency failed to meet the goals established pursuant to paragraph (b) of NRS 424.087(1) for the immediately preceding year, the agency is required to provide a description of the measures that the agency plans to take to ensure that the agency meets those targets during the immediately following year. This section responds to NRS 424.087(1)(c), noting that the agency did not meet the described goals for the immediately preceding year. The following list includes some of the measures the agency has undertaken to meet the identified targets:

- The Division has a current contract with FM Marketing to develop an overall marketing strategy for recruitment. The Division has billboards placed strategically on main thoroughfares in rural communities and has partnered with local radio stations to play public service announcements to stress the need for foster homes in their community. DCFS began using social media to reach a younger demographic through Facebook and X (Twitter). DCFS has held in-person multidisciplinary panel discussions in individual counties to educate counties on the needs for foster homes in their counties. The DCFS partnership with FM Marketing has resulted in a targeted marketing strategy that has reached across the Rural Region. Families from 13 of 15 rural counties and 26 communities have applied for training in the last two years. In addition, unprecedented numbers of families have been reached with over 275 families asking to engage in the licensing process.
- The Division has held several foster care “campaigns” to raise awareness on the need for foster homes. One example is Walk Us Home 5K in April 2025. Campaigns also promote the importance of keeping siblings together, educating communities on the criteria for foster parenting and advertising foster care training dates.
- The Division has made over 40 media contacts between July 2024 and July 2025 on the need for foster homes with Nevada Public Radio, KOLO 8 News, Channel 2 News Reno, KPVM Pahrump, Elko Daily News, Nomadic Broadcasting, Fox 5 News, Channel 8 Las Vegas, Pahrump Valley Times, Carson NOW, Lotus Broadcasting, Elko Community Hub, What in The Mucc, KRNA Winnemucca, Mix 96.7 Elko, and Everything Elko.
- The Division has made in person contacts between July 2024 and 2025 in 13 of the 15 rural counties to provide information on foster parenting at 36 different community events.
- The Division hosted its second annual awareness 5K run and walk in Carson City to make wide outreach on the awareness of foster homes. Over 200 people participated in the event and residents on the running course were encouraged to display free signage on the need for foster homes for the entire month of April 2025.
- The Division regularly attends community outreach and/or coalition meetings in each rural county to educate stakeholders on the local need for foster homes and to encourage partnerships with a diverse range of communities.
- The overall licensing process has been streamlined with technology and process changes to simplify and improve the process for prospective foster parents, while improving efficiency for licensing staff.
- The licensing website was redesigned to provide interested parties information on upcoming training, access to materials about fostering and access to inquiry with recruiters.
- New training materials were developed to help with in-home clinical support for caregivers who are struggling with behaviors and maintaining placement.

- An orientation to fostering is held monthly for prospective foster parents.
- A handbook on placement was developed for foster/relative caregivers and caseworkers to help support families with easily accessible information when they do receive a placement.
- The Division uses the University of South Florida Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) website to develop, film and post additional training topics.
- The Division was successful with budget initiatives to enhance services provided to foster/relative placements, and DCFS is working with its Human Resources Unit to assist with staffing to allow for these services.
- A newly revised virtual Pre-Service training was developed and delivered by a contract with Raise the Future that has hosted trainings focused on trauma informed caregiver techniques for prospective family foster parents beginning in January 2025. More prospective foster parents are being reached and trained than before 2021 when training was delivered in person.
- A contract was developed with Foster Kinship Navigators to train and provide consultative support for fictive and relative homes.
- The licensing procedures for fictive kin and relatives was revised to expedite payments to promote stability, effective April 2024.

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(d)

NRS 424.087(1)(d) requires a plan to ensure that, to the extent possible, a foster home in which a child is placed pursuant to [NRS 432B.550](#) is located in:

- (1) The same community as the home from which the child was removed; and
- (2) The zone of attendance of the public school that the child was attending when he or she was removed from that home, if applicable.

The following list includes some of the measures the agency has undertaken to maintain a child in their community:

- Targeted recruitment through marketing to the individual counties on radio and through discussion panels for the need to keep children and youth together and in their home school.
- Working with individual school districts to discuss any connections that a child may have to keep them within the community.

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(e)

NRS 424.087(1)(e) requires an agency to identify strategies for recruiting foster homes in geographic areas with a high rate of placement of children in protective custody. The agency targeted recruitment in specific counties by social media, radio and in-person panels, which includes targeting Carson, Elko, and Fallon geographic areas to meet with community providers such as local government, schools, courts, and District Attorneys to hold panel discussions on fostering children from their counties.

Response to NRS 424.087(1)(f)

In response to NRS 424.087(1)(f), which requires an identification of resources available to support foster parents, the agency has identified the following list as available support to foster parents:

- Use of Quality Parenting Initiative to help support pending and/or new foster homes through 1-1 assignments with Advanced Foster Care Mental Health Counselors.
- Referrals to specific training and services, if needed to address behaviors.
- Referral to Kinship Navigator for additional resources and specific training and consultation for relative and fictive kin homes.
- Developed and refined initial and post-licensing training in the topics of trauma, attachment, managing emotional dysregulation, sexuality, conflict management, and more.
- Developed the Respite Co-op; a voluntary directory of licensed foster parents to share and swap respite responsibilities.
- Host monthly virtual caregiver support and connection meetings with a licensed mental health counselor.
- Created foster home and relative home handbooks with easily accessible information on providing care and support to children.
- Contracted with Raise the Future to provide monthly foster home required trainings.

Response to NRS 424.087(3)(a)

This section responds to NRS 424.087(3)(a), identifying whether the agency achieved the goals established pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NRS 424.087 for each quarter of the immediately preceding year. The agency has not achieved the goals identified in this section for any of the last four quarters.

Response to NRS 424.087(3)(b)

Pursuant to NRS 424.087(3)(b), this section identifies the number of children placed outside this state for more than 15 days during the immediately preceding year. As of 06/30/2025, 15 youth were placed through DCFS – RR Child Welfare Agency in an out-of-state residential treatment facility for more than 15 days during the immediately preceding year.

Response to NRS 424.087(3)(c)

Pursuant to NRS 424.087(3)(c), this section discusses the reasons for the placements described in paragraph (b) of NRS 424.087(3). The reasons for out of state placements have been due to lack of therapeutic interventions or providers at the community level to provide adequate treatment facilities to address self-injurious and suicide behaviors, aggressive/assaultive and violent behaviors, severe developmental disabilities, juvenile sexual offenders, and those youth with dual diagnosis and mood disorders.

Response to NRS 424.087(3)(d)

As required by NRS 424.087(3)(d), this section provides a summary of changes that could prevent the placements described in paragraph (b) of NRS 424.087(3). The DCFS – RR Child Welfare Agency identified the following needs/changes that could prevent the out of state placements.

- Intensive Outpatient Programs (IOP);
- Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and/or access to short-term intermediate care facilities that could be utilized to provide stabilization for children/youth's behavior through assessment, medication management and intensive behavioral interventions;
- High Fidelity Wraparound (intensive care coordination) that would allow the child/youth supports necessary to remain in the state and in their communities;
- Specialized placements for neurodivergent youth;
- Planned respite; and
- Temporary emergency placement opportunities in the Rural Region.

Response to NRS 424.087(3)(e)

Pursuant to NRS 424.087(3)(e), this section includes a summary of changes or actions necessary to allow children who are currently placed outside this State to return to this State.

- Development of sufficient intensive outpatient, partial hospitalization program, and crisis services to address the initial instability and provide time for a more in-depth

understanding of the child/youth and family needs to provide the most appropriate support.

- Contracting or developing more specialized placement homes for severely disabled children or those with self-injurious and suicide behaviors, aggressive/assaultive and violent behaviors, severe developmental disabilities, and those youth with dual diagnosis and mood disorders. These homes could also function as a step down for children/youth who are returning from out of state placements to help provide a period of transition.

The Children & Youth at Out-of-State Residential Treatment Center Facilities dashboard updated for June 2025 is available at: <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/Data/DCFSDataPage/>, under the Dashboards header.