



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

# **Report on Federal Funds Maximization**

Semi-Annual Update

**As Required by House Bill 1, 89th Legislative Session, 2025  
(Article II, DFPS, Rider 32)**

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September 1, 2025

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Section I: Update to Federal Funding to Address COVID-19.....	1
Elder Justice Act (EJAP).....	2
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Supplemental Funds.....	2
Section II: Update to Other Federal Grants .....	3
Kinship Navigator Grants.....	3
Elder Justice Act (EJAP) - Adult Protective Services Formula Grants.....	3
Section III: Update to Major Projects.....	3
Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTS) Pilot .....	3
Texas Family First .....	4
Update the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS).....	4
Section IV: Update to Foster Care Rate Methodology Examination and Modernization.....	5
Section V: Update to Title IV-E Funds for County Legal Services.....	6
Conclusion .....	6

# Introduction

Rider 32 of House Bill 1, 89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to submit progress reports related to the agency's efforts to maximize federal funds, including identifying the strategies DFPS has implemented and any successes and challenges in maximizing funding, as well as how the agency can maximize federal funds by program and funding source. Progress reports are required to be submitted by September 1 and March 1 of each year to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor.

Relevant federal funding updates since the [September 2021 report](#) are included in this progress report to serve as a companion to the September report.

## Section I: Update to Federal Funding to Address COVID-19

DFPS was awarded nine different federal grants related to the COVID response under these federal acts:

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES), P.L. 116-136.
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA), P.L. 116-260; and
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), P.L. 117-2.

Six of the nine awards are closed, the remaining awards detailed in this report are under ARPA authority. Three of the ARPA awards are active until September 30, 2025.

Table 1 shows the specific awards and award periods.

Table 1

Federal Fund	Federal COVID Related Funds		
	Award Amount	# months	End Date
Coronavirus Relief Fund	\$ 612,220,119	22	12/31/21
Promoting Safe Stable Families	\$ 8,319,214	24	09/30/22
TANF Pandemic Emergency Assistance	\$ 10,804,880	18	09/30/22
IVE Education & Training Voucher	\$ 2,907,720	24	09/30/22
Title IVE Independent Living	\$ 20,429,868	24	09/30/22
Elder Abuse	\$ 22,913,786	38	09/30/25
Maternal Infant/Early Child Home Visit	\$ 7,891,427	34	09/30/24
CBCAP	\$ 24,681,320	60	09/30/25
CAPTA	\$ 10,036,113	60	09/30/25

## ***Elder Justice Act (EJAP) - Adult Protective Services***

DFPS expended most of these grants during the initial project periods between August 2021 and September 2024. In July 2024, DFPS received approval for a 12-month no cost extension to complete outstanding activities. The activities in the federal spend plan include the following:

- Creation of specialized units focused on financial exploitation;
- Increase in APS focused community engagement through “[Partnering to Protect](#)” initiative and increased funding for annual Texas APS conference;
- Redesign of APS training model including Training While Working (TWW);
- Continued staff retention and recruitment including paid intern and work study programs; and
- Increase in APS State Office infrastructure and information technologies software and hardware.

## ***Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Supplemental Funds***

CAPTA is a \$10 million 60-month grant that concludes September 30, 2025.

Implementation is ongoing to support the completed spending plan. The spending plan includes the following:

- Services to support community-based child abuse and neglect prevention;
- Services for youth and young adults with lived foster care experience;
- Advancement of work to address populations more likely impacted by child abuse;
- System improvements to support matching children and youth to prospective adoptive families; and
- Implementation of a more efficient background check process.

The CAPTA supported services listed above remain with DFPS.

## Section II: Update to Other Federal Grants

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### **Kinship Navigator Grants**

Senate Bill 24 of the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature transferred the division implementing services to support Kinship Navigation services to HHSC on September 1, 2024. DFPS and HHSC worked collaboratively to ensure federal funding and activities were not interrupted during the transition.

HHSC through Family Support Services continues to use the federal grant funds to support the four Kinship Navigator Program approaches. Since the development of this program, ACF grant awards have averaged about \$1.3 million. However, the federal funding was significantly reduced to \$177,212 for Fiscal Year 2025.

### **Elder Justice Act (EJAP) - Adult Protective Services Formula Grants**

(EJAP) Adult Protective Services Formula Grants to States Award Authority: Title XX of the Social Security Act, with \$2,848,24 being formulaically allocated to DFPS in FY2023-FY2025. Awarded funds are utilized by the agency to further support efforts commenced under DFPS's utilization of EJAP ARPA funding (see Section I for activities).

## Section III: Update to Major Projects

### **Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) Pilot**

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In April 2022, DFPS released a procurement to solicit services under a QRTP Pilot model, and in June 2023, the first child was placed under the contract. Three QRTP contracts were executed as of August 2023. To date, 172 children have been placed into QRTP placements. Thirty-four remain in placement and more than 92 have discharged successfully. DFPS has one contracted provider remaining providing QRTP placement services.

To coincide with the implementation of Texas Child Center Care (T3C), there were ongoing efforts to merge many of the QRTP best practice applications into T3C service packages to support youth with the most complex needs. Since T3C went live on January 1, 2025, DFPS is working with the existing QRTP Pilot providers to transition to the T3C System.

## Texas Family First

The 88th Legislature appropriated \$15 million of Family First Transition Act (FFTA) federal funding (Rider 43(a)) to continue pilot programs to serve children in the home pursuant to House Bill (HB) 3041, 87th Legislature, Regular Session. The 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature continued the TFF pilot with appropriation of \$30.5 million in which \$22.4 million is general revenue. After August 30, 2025, the TFF pilot will no longer be funded with the federal funds FFTA grant. Additionally, the 89<sup>th</sup> Legislature allows for a pilot expansion and to begin serving families in conservatorship under SB 1 DFPS Rider 41. DFPS released the grant funding opportunity for the HB 3041 pilot to all current SSCCs on March 18, 2022. The four SSCCs that were already in Stage II CBC model during the release have an active contract to implement the Texas Family First (TFF) Pilot in their areas. In April 2023, a change in population criteria permitted Family Based Safety Services (FBSS) to refer qualified families into the TFF Pilot. In October 2024, Harris County became part of the TFF pilot sites and DFPS contracted with the county's Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA), The Harris Center. In March 2025, Bexar County also became part of the TFF pilot sites and DFPS contracted with the county's Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA), The Center for Health Care Services.

As of July 2025, a total of 799 referrals to the TFF Pilot have been made. To date, 347 families have completed the TFF pilot, and 28 additional families are pending entry. Table 2 outlines the distribution of families served.

Texas Family First Pilot		
Region/Provider	Completed	Current
Region 1- St. Francis	62	34
Region 2- 2Ingage	67	39
Region 3W- OCOK	119	35
Region 6- Harris LMHA	1	8
Region 8A- Bexar LMHA	1	10
Region 8B- Belong	97	31
<b>Total</b>	347	157

## Update the Random Moment Time Study (RMTS)

DFPS is currently rolling out a new RMTS process for the Community-Based Care (CBC) areas. In Spring 2025, DFPS began testing with live participants across four

catchment areas. The agency plans to begin claiming federal reimbursement in fiscal year 2026 after approval from federal partners for the new process.

Additionally, DFPS will continue to operate the legacy DFPS RMTS (which samples Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Investigations, Child Protective Services, and Statewide Intake Services). DFPS is scheduled to release a new system for these operations in July 2025 to ensure the agency can continue to claim the maximum federal reimbursement possible.

## Section IV: Update to Foster Care Rate Methodology Examination and Modernization

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Beginning in September 2021 – August 2023, DFPS published several reports that provided the basis for Foster Care Rate Modernization, now known as Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C):

- [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Preliminary Service Descriptions](#), published in September 2021;
- [Foster Care Rate Modernization Report: Final Service Descriptions](#), published in January 2022;
- [Opportunities to Increase Claiming IV-E Funds through Foster Care Rate Modernization](#), published in February 2023;
- [Foster Care Rate Modernization: DFPS Companion to HHSC Pro Forma Modeled Rate and Fiscal Impact Report](#), published in March 2023;
- [Foster Care Rate Modernization Semi Annual Progress Report](#), published in August 2023.

The 88th Texas Legislature made a significant investment in improving the foster care system by increasing the biennial appropriation in SFY 2024-25 by an estimated \$159.5 million.

In July 2024, DFPS, in collaboration with HHSC and multiple stakeholders, developed 24 clearly defined service packages, three add-on services, and a new fully funded rate methodology that provides new opportunities for federal funds to be utilized to support foster care.

As of January 1, 2025, all necessary policies, procedures, IT infrastructure, universal assessment tool and placement processes, staff training, and residential provider credentialing processes have been established and are fully operational to support the

T3C System. While fully operational, some minor edits to policies, procedures, and systems have been identified and will be amended soon. The T3C implementation team continues to work with stakeholders to refine residential provider credentialing processes and develop a new T3C contract monitoring process. Details on the ongoing development of these aspects of T3C were released in a T3C [blueprint document](#) to residential providers and the public in April 2025.

DFPS began awarding active T3C credentials in February 2025. DFPS currently has awarded approximately 50 residential providers. Children began receiving T3C services in March of 2025, and as of July 2025, approximately 19% of all children in paid foster<sup>1</sup> care have transitioned to a T3C placement.

## Section V: Update to Title IV-E Funds for County Legal Services

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As of June 2025, there are 22 counties participating in this opportunity. In addition, DFPS continues to work with the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) and the Children’s Commission on expanding awareness, access, and utilization of this funding stream. Pursuant to SB 2120 (88th Legislature), TIDC now has statutory responsibility to work to improve the court-appointed legal representation system for families involved in cases brought by the DFPS. The legislation allows TIDC to distribute funds and monitor grant recipients to improve this legal representation. DFPS and TIDC entered a memorandum of understanding to streamline claiming, and to provide more awareness to the funding opportunity. TIDC and DFPS continue to work collaboratively on this agreement.

## Conclusion

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DFPS is making all efforts to maximize the drawdown and use of federal funds. With significant systemic changes in the child welfare system including CBC and FFTA, federal funding remains critical to assisting DFPS with helping the agency implement its mission to promote safe and healthy families and protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. DFPS will continue to focus on efficient and effective management of multiple federal funding streams.

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<sup>1</sup> Excludes children and youth placed under Child Specific Contracts, DFPS Foster and Adopt homes, and young adults placed in Supervised Independent Living settings.