



DFPS Rider 15 Report for Community-Based Care

Performance Measures and Analysis

September 2026

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Introduction

As required by the General Appropriations Act, 89th Texas Legislature, Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) Rider 15, the agency shall, on March 31st and September 30th of each year of the biennium, "report selected performance measures identified by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) that will allow for comparative analysis between the Legacy foster care and the Community-Based Care (CBC) systems." The report "shall contain the most recent data for the selected comparative performance measures, an analysis of the data that identifies trends and related impact occurring in the Community-Based Care system, identification and analysis of factors negatively impacting any outcomes, recommendations to address problems identified from the data, and any other information necessary to determine the status of the Community-Based Care system." The Office of Community-Based Care Transition (OCBCT) collaborates with DFPS to complete this report. This is the September 2026 report with data through the end of the second quarter (Q2) of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26).

Contained in this report is the status of implementation for CBC in Texas, as well as the current performance of the legacy system, and the SSCC providers and other relevant information to inform the status of the CBC system. A more detailed update on the status of implementation can be found in the [Quarterly Report on Implementation Status](#).

Background

CBC changes how DFPS procures, contracts, and pays for foster care services. Under a performance-based contract, a single contractor provides services to children and families within a designated community area. In Stage I, the Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC) provider is responsible for ensuring the full continuum of paid foster care placements and other services for children in the state's legal conservatorship. SSCC providers also support adoption recruitment, matching, and home studies. In Stage II, the SSCC provider expands services to include unverified relative or "kinship" placements and services to parents, and the SSCC provider has sole responsibility for the legal case management function. In Stage III, the SSCC provider continues the provision of all Stage I and II services, and DFPS is statutorily authorized to provide SSCC providers with financial incentives or remedies for outcomes related to performance. The logic model, created when Community-Based Care was first proposed, outlines the goals and expected outcomes for CBC in Texas. The legislatively required metrics analyzed in this report reflect SSCC performance on specific outcomes examined in this report and do not represent a comprehensive assessment of their overall contract performance. While the measures included in this report provide important information about system performance, they are only one part of a broader evaluation. DFPS considers a wide range of information when assessing an SSCCs performance and determining whether additional support or intervention is needed such as:

- Case Management Oversight (CMO) quality case reads
- Fiscal monitoring
- Contract monitoring

Performance Measure Populations

The format identified by the LBB for reporting data supports comparative analysis of performance measure trends for the state, non-CBC communities (also known as legacy), and individual SSCC providers.

DFPS reports the performance measures for each population as follows:

- **Statewide** – Reports the performance measures for the entire state population of children.
- **Statewide Non-CBC** – Reports the aggregated performance measures for the entire state population, excluding active SSCC areas.
- **CBC (SSCC)** – Reports the performance measures for each SSCC provider individually for children in conservatorship under the care of the SSCC provider.

For this submission of the Rider 15, the performance measures for the CBC population includes the SSCC providers below.

Table 1

Names of Community Areas and their Respective SSCC Contractor and Division Names

Catchment	Community	Contractor Legal Name	SSCC Division Name
1	Panhandle	Saint Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc	Saint Francis Community Services in Texas, Inc (Saint Francis)
2	Big Country and Texoma	Texas Family Initiative, LLC	2INgage
3E	Metroplex East	Texas Family Initiative, LLC	EMPOWER ¹
3W	Metroplex West	Our Community Our Kids	Our Community Our Kids (OCOK)
4	Piney Woods	4Kids4Families	4Kids4Families
5	Deep East	Texas Family Care Network ²	Texas Family Care Network

¹ In March 2026, DFPS was granted receivership of Empower and has since terminated its contract effective January 20, 2027.

² On August 1, 2026 Pressley Ridge Texas assigned all its rights, duties and obligations under its SSCC contract to Texas Family Care Network.

6A	Harris County	Texans Together SSCC	Texans Together SSCC
6B	Bay Area / Montgomery	Texans Together SSCC	Texans Together SSCC
8A	Bexar County	SJRC Texas, INC	Belong-Bexar
8B	South Central and Hill Country	SJRC Texas, INC	Belong

Performance measures will be reported by the SSCC Division name.

Considerations for Interpretation of Performance Measures

As CBC progresses through staged implementation, the data can be used to help inform the following questions. The questions below are provided to help guide interpretation of the data in this report, offering a framework for understanding SSCC performance within the broader context of Community-Based Care implementation.

1. **Are there statewide changes which could also affect SSCC performance?** To answer this, examine trends over time in statewide performance. If there are trends upward or downward across the state, this may point to statewide factors influencing performance.
2. **How is the CBC system performing over time?** To answer this, compare SSCC performance to the performance of the “Non-CBC” population over time. If the SSCC designated community areas are improving more than the legacy catchment areas, the changes made to the foster care system under CBC may be more effective.
3. **How is a particular SSCC provider performing over time?** To answer this, compare individual SSCC provider performance across fiscal years. Improvement may take time as services are transitioned to each SSCC provider, and the SSCC provider works to build the network of services in the area.
4. **Are some SSCC providers performing better than others?** To answer this, compare SSCC provider performance to others. While each area has unique strengths and challenges, if a specific SSCC provider is improving outcomes compared to historical performance at a faster rate, the strategies implemented by the SSCC provider may be more effective.

Interpreting the performance of each SSCC provider and of the CBC model requires considering two important factors: the impact of the transition to CBC in each community and system factors outside of the direct control of each SSCC provider. These are detailed below.

Direct Impact of Transition

Time Needed to Make Change

An important factor in assessing the performance of individual SSCC providers is the time each has had to complete the transition. The first full fiscal year post-transition to Stage II, where the

SSCC provider alone provides all services (as opposed to shared DFPS-SSCC service provision in the data) are summarized below.

Table 2

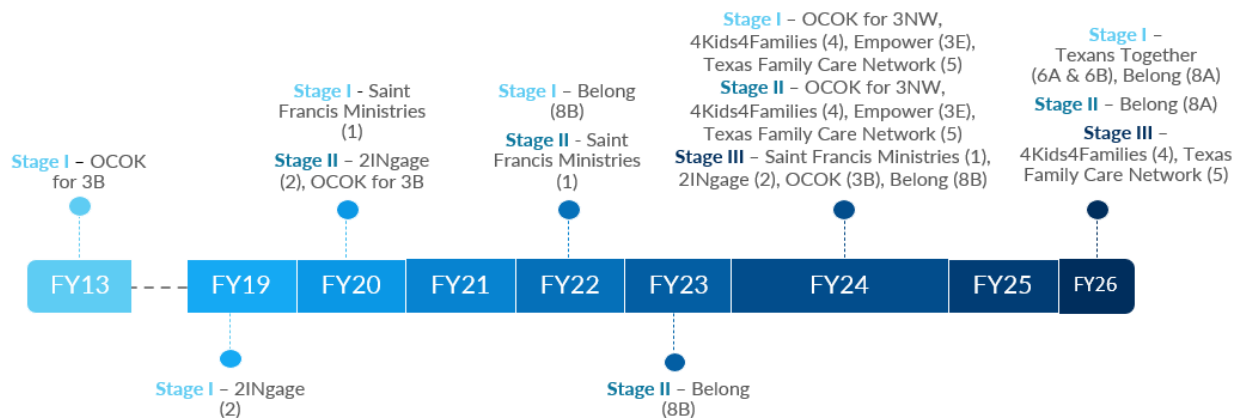
First Fiscal Year of Individual Performance

Catchment	Community	Stage II Start	First Fiscal Year of Non-Shared Performance
1	Panhandle (Saint Francis)	FY22 Q3	FY23
2	Big Country and Texoma (2INgage)	FY20 Q4	FY21
3E	Metroplex East (EMPOWER)	FY24 Q3	FY25
3W	Metroplex West (OCOK)	FY20 Q3	FY21
4	Piney Woods (4Kids4Families)	FY24 Q3	FY25
5	Deep East (TFCN)	FY24 Q3	FY25
6A	Harris County	TBD	TBD
6B	Bay Area / Montgomery	TBD	TBD
8A	Bexar County	FY26 Q3	FY27
8B	South Central and Hill Country (Belong)	FY23 Q1	FY23

For a full timeline of Stage I, Stage II, and Stage III transition for each of the current SSCC providers, see below.

Figure 1

Timeline of Community-Based Care Transition for Current SSCC Providers



Effects of Transition on Casework

In order to produce quality outcomes for children and families, an SSCC provider needs a stable and well-trained workforce. This is one of the core priorities between Stage I and Stage II, as well as in the early period of Stage II. DFPS and OCBCT recognize that if there is difficulty attracting existing DFPS staff and a significant proportion of the workforce is new, this can cause a decrease in the quality of case work or documentation. Early performance on outcomes, such as permanency, may be impacted as new staff get up-to-speed on cases and familiar with court requirements.

Challenges Posed by Systemic Factors

Change in Conservatorship Population

The number of children in DFPS conservatorship started to decline after FY18, as the population dropped from 31,766 children on February 28th, 2019 to 17,435 children on August 11th, 2026³. This represents a 45% decrease in children in conservatorship.

In the context of the performance data, this consideration can be especially informative. The population of children in conservatorship today is nearly half what it was in 2018, which makes comparisons to prior fiscal years complex. Compared to prior fiscal years, small numeric changes to performance have a bigger impact on percent change. This consideration is even more relevant to measures with particularly small denominators, such as the Percent of Youth Age 16 or Older who have a Driver's License or State Identification Card and Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training.

This reduction in the population size is largely attributable to the reduction in removals each fiscal year: removals fell by 37.5% for FY25 when compared to FY21⁴. With fewer children removed, there are fewer children in care at 60 days and fewer children in conservatorship altogether compared to prior fiscal years. Performance metrics that focus on new removals, such as placements in kinship at 60 days and time to permanency, may be influenced by a reduction in new removals.

The reduction in removals was not consistent across populations, both in geography and in child characteristics. Some regions have had a greater change in removals than others. For example, Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 have had an increase in removals from FY24 to FY25.⁵ Therefore, while nearly all regions saw their population sizes decline, performance may not change equally for all parts of the state. For instance, analysis has shown that there was a

³ Data Source: [cps_pp_05](#), Report Data as of 8/7/26, Report Retrieved 8/11/26.

⁴ Data Source: DFPS Databook CPS 2.1 Removals - by Region with Child Demographics FY2016-2025, Report Data as of 2/12/26, Report Retrieved 8/11/26.

⁵ Ibid

greater reduction in removals for older youth than younger children. Children and youth in conservatorship today have different needs and characteristics than the population in conservatorship in previous fiscal years, including more intensive behavioral, developmental, and medical needs.

Geographic and Regional Considerations

Some catchments cover large geographic areas while serving relatively small and dispersed populations, which can affect the availability of local services, specialized providers, and Community-Based supports. Lower population density may make it difficult for communities to support specialized services and programs, particularly those needed to serve children with more complex behavioral health, developmental, or treatment needs. SSCCs also noted that these conditions can affect the availability of foster homes and the ability to build a pool of caregivers equipped to meet the needs of children within their communities. As a result, challenges related to service access and caregiver resources may be greater in these regions than in more densely populated areas and can influence outcomes across multiple measures.

Service Availability for Youth with Complex Needs

When asked for feedback, SSCCs cite the increasing complexity of children's behavioral and mental health treatment needs as a factor affecting outcomes across multiple performance measures. Several SSCCs note that youth entering care often require specialized services, therapeutic interventions, higher levels of care, or intensive family supports. They also identified challenges related to the availability of behavioral health services, specialized resources, and Community-Based supports needed to serve these youth and their families. Research suggests the accessibility of these services can influence case progression, permanency efforts, and other outcomes reflected in performance measures.

Influence of External Stakeholders and Processes

SSCCs reported that performance outcomes are influenced by decisions made throughout the child welfare system. In addition to the work of the SSCCs, court decisions, actions taken by legal parties, licensing and approval processes, and other procedural requirements can affect case timelines and permanency outcomes. While SSCCs remain responsible for coordinating services and advancing case progress, these outcomes can be shaped by the collective actions of multiple stakeholders working toward the same goals for children and families. This can be particularly impactful at the point of transition when SSCC agencies are building relationships with these stakeholders.

State of the Community-Based Care System

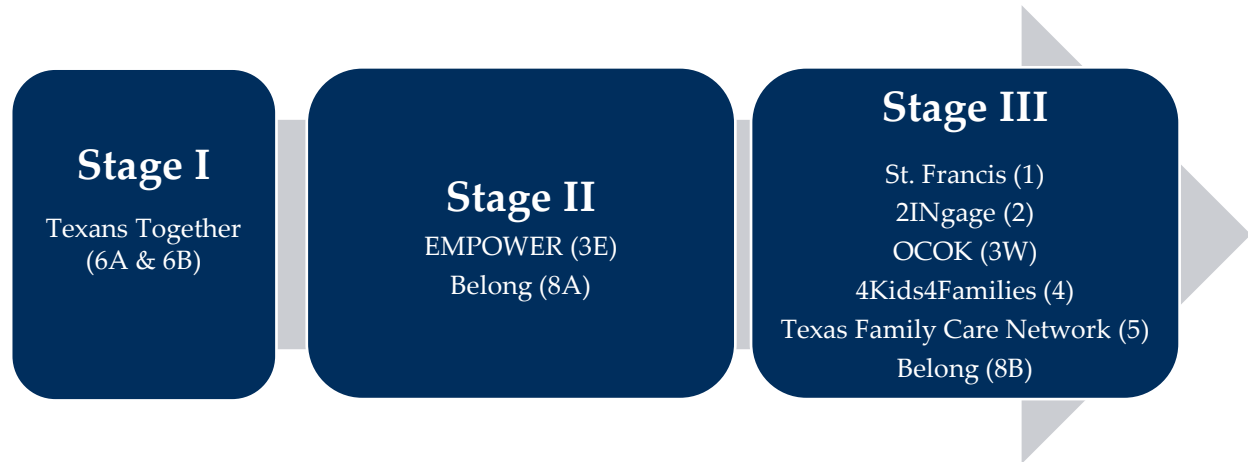
Community-Based Care is expanding to additional communities as they become ready to manage and provide foster care services. In each area, a single organization contracts with DFPS to coordinate a seamless system of services for children under DFPS conservatorship.

Implementation Status

DFPS and OCBCT are working toward full implementation of CBC statewide. See Appendix A for a map of the current status.

Figure 2

Community-Based Care Implementation Summary for Current SSCC Providers



Currently, of the 17,402 children in DFPS conservatorship, 74.9 percent are in SSCC community areas on August 31, 2026.⁶ As illustrated above, as of the date of this report, of the ten active CBC catchments, six SSCC providers are in Stage III, two SSCC providers are in Stage II, and one SSCC provider is in Stage I for two catchment areas. A contract was awarded for region 9 to West Texas Community Network, which is now in the Pilot Development Phase. DFPS has posted a Request for Applications (RFA) in catchments 7A and 7B. The RFA for catchment 11A and 11B will be posted in the next biennium.

As of the date of this report, 8A is in Stage II, while 6A and 6B are in Stage I. 8A transitioned to Stage II on March 1, 2026, while 6A and 6B transitioned to Stage I on May 1, 2026, after the reporting period ended on February 28, 2026. This report includes only performance measure data for catchments that were in SSCC Stage II for the full fiscal year. Therefore, performance measure data for 8A, 6A, and 6B are not included.

During March 2026, DFPS filed for and was granted receivership over Empower in accordance with Senate Bill 2034 from the 89th Legislative session.⁷ Following an extensive assessment conducted during the receivership, DFPS informed EMPOWER that its contract would be terminated, and executed amendments to transition Community-Based Care (CBC) services in Region 3E to Texas Family Care Network and Our Community Our Kids. EMPOWER will continue to serve as the SSCC, with the oversight of the Court-Appointed Receiver during the transition period.

See Appendix A for a map of which parts of the state correspond to each catchment area.

⁶ Data Source: DFPS Data Warehouse, CPS pp_05; Report Data as of 9/07/26, Report Retrieved 9/14/26

⁷ Court granted receivership over the operations of EMPOWER in the Metroplex East community area in March 2026.

Current Trends and Impact to Legacy and Community-Based Care Systems

DFPS and OCBCT assess contract performance measures (referred to as “Section B” and “Section C” of the excel version of the Rider 15 report) quarterly as part of formal contract monitoring and a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process. Through this process, DFPS, OCBCT, and each SSCC provider review performance measure results each quarter, along with other data used to identify potential trends and performance drivers. Performance drivers may include changes to the population of children, trends specific to those populations, placement utilization practices, and other data.

Below are high-level summaries of performance measure results for FY26 Q2. One consideration for interpreting trends over time is that variations in the measures, both positive and negative, are not always meaningful or substantive. Thus, the below summaries highlight changes in performance compared to FY25 that are substantially improved or declined⁶. The summaries also refer to some of the performance measure drivers identified by the SSCCs.

Upward Trends in Performance Measures

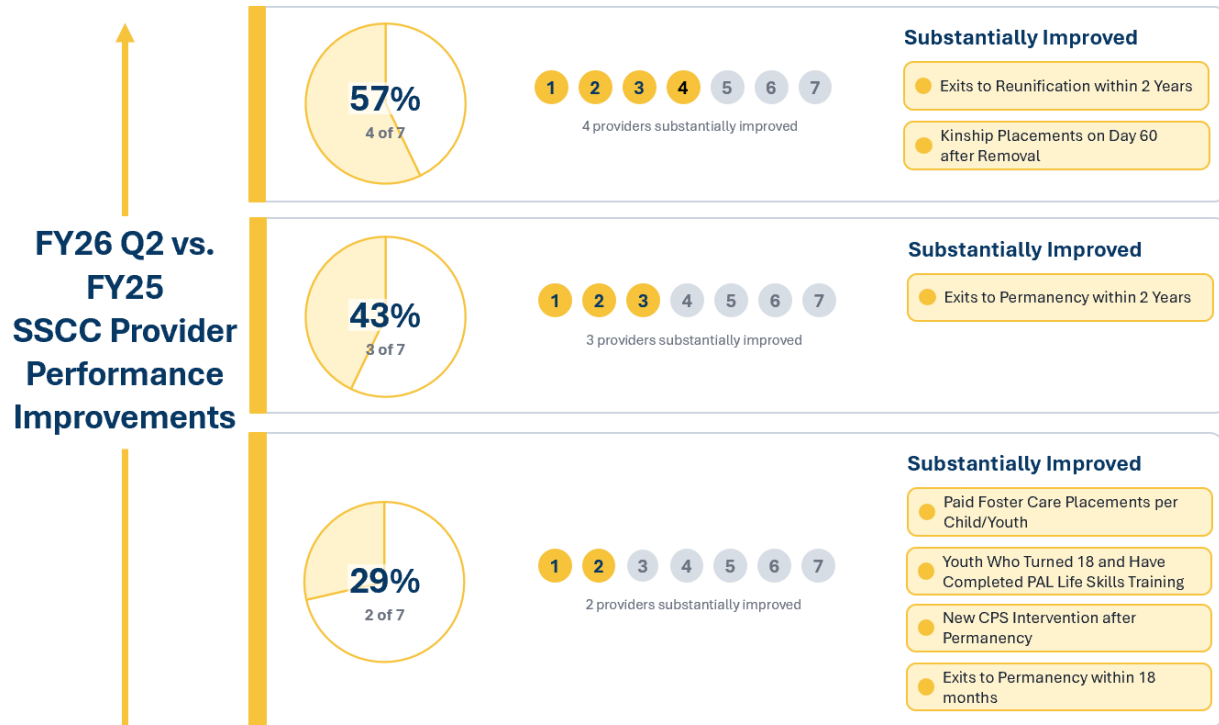
Overall, there continues to be a system-wide improvement in the placement of children in kinship placements on the 60th day after removal across the legacy and CBC system. More than half of the SSCC agencies have improved substantially. Additionally, three SSCC agencies maintained performance levels similar to FY25. Five of the seven SSCC agencies showed substantial performance measure improvement for Exits to Reunification within Two Years. Three of seven SSCC showed significant improvement for Exits to Permanency within Two Years performance measure.

The graphics below summarize the performance measures in which current performance improved over last year’s performance per SSCC agency. It represents the performance of multiple SSCCs, and not all bullets apply to the same SSCC. Detailed performance measure results for each SSCC can be found on pages 15-48.

⁶ Substantial change in performance means any performance measure where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.

Figure 3

Summary of Substantial⁷ Upward Trends in Performance Measures for Current SSCC Providers⁸



Potential drivers of improvement in reunification, kinship at 60 days, and permanency outcomes may be related to SSCC efforts to strengthen family engagement and kinship-focused practice. Several SSCCs reported initiatives aimed at identifying and engaging relatives earlier, expanding family finding efforts, providing dedicated kinship support, and increasing oversight of home studies and kinship assessments.

SSCCs also described increased coordination among permanency, kinship, placement, and legal staff to address barriers and monitor cases approaching key permanency milestones. In addition, several providers reported implementing specialized roles and teams focused on family engagement, kinship development, and permanency planning.

Collectively, these strategies reflect a continued emphasis on strengthening family connections, supporting kinship placements, and maintaining focused attention on permanency goals, which may have contributed to the improvements observed in reunification, kinship, and permanency measures.

⁷ Substantial change in performance means any performance where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.

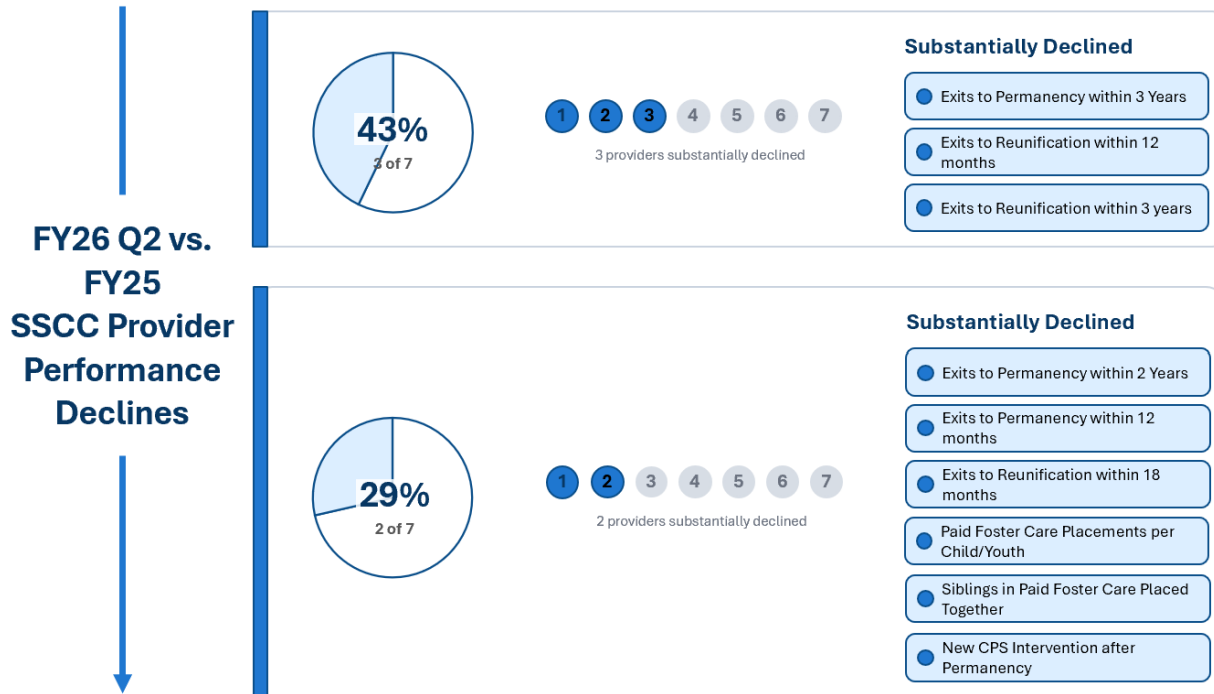
⁸ Of the six providers that improved performance for the Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training, two maintained performances at 100%.

Downward Trends in Performance Measures

The graph summarizes the performance measures in which current performance did not improve upon last year's performance per SSCC provider. The graph represents performance of multiple SSCCs, and not all bullets apply to the same SSCC. Detailed performance measure results for each SSCC can be found on pages 15-48.

Figure 4

Summary of Substantial⁹ Downward Trends in Performance for Current SSCC Providers



Several permanency-related measures demonstrated mixed performance during the reporting period. SSCC feedback also identified ongoing challenges that may affect performance, particularly for longer-term reunification and permanency measures. Commonly reported barriers included delays in kinship verification and home study processes, court and legal factors affecting case timelines, limited availability of services needed to support families, and the increasing complexity of children's and families' needs. Several SSCCs also cited workforce, placement, and resource constraints that can affect case progression. Collectively, these themes suggest that achieving timely reunification and permanency continues to require coordination across multiple stakeholders and service systems.

The CQI process enables DFPS and OCBCT to understand the significance of performance measure trends and assess the strategies each SSCC provider has in place to maintain or

⁹ Substantial change in performance means any performance measure where the improvement or decline exceeds the average standard deviation for the state for a given measure over the past five fiscal years.

improve performance. Whenever DFPS and OCBCT identify performance concerns or compliance issues, DFPS will intervene as indicated in the contract progressive intervention process, which includes a range of required actions the SSCC provider will take to reverse the trend or address the area of non-compliance. The progressive intervention plan for the SSCC providers can be found in the [Annual CBC Implementation Plan](#), which is released at the end of each calendar year.

Performance measure data referenced below reflects performance through FY26 Q2.
Percentages may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Foster Care Performance Measures (Stage I Objective – Section B)¹⁰

The measures listed below are effective in Stage I, and all measures continue into Stage II and Stage III. The goal of Stage I is to create and sustain a network of paid foster care providers within the catchment area to ensure paid care placements provide safety and well-being, such as being placed as a sibling group or close to home.

Percentage of Children Safe in Paid Foster Care¹¹

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who do not experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation while in paid foster care. All safety performance below 100% is an area for improvement. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

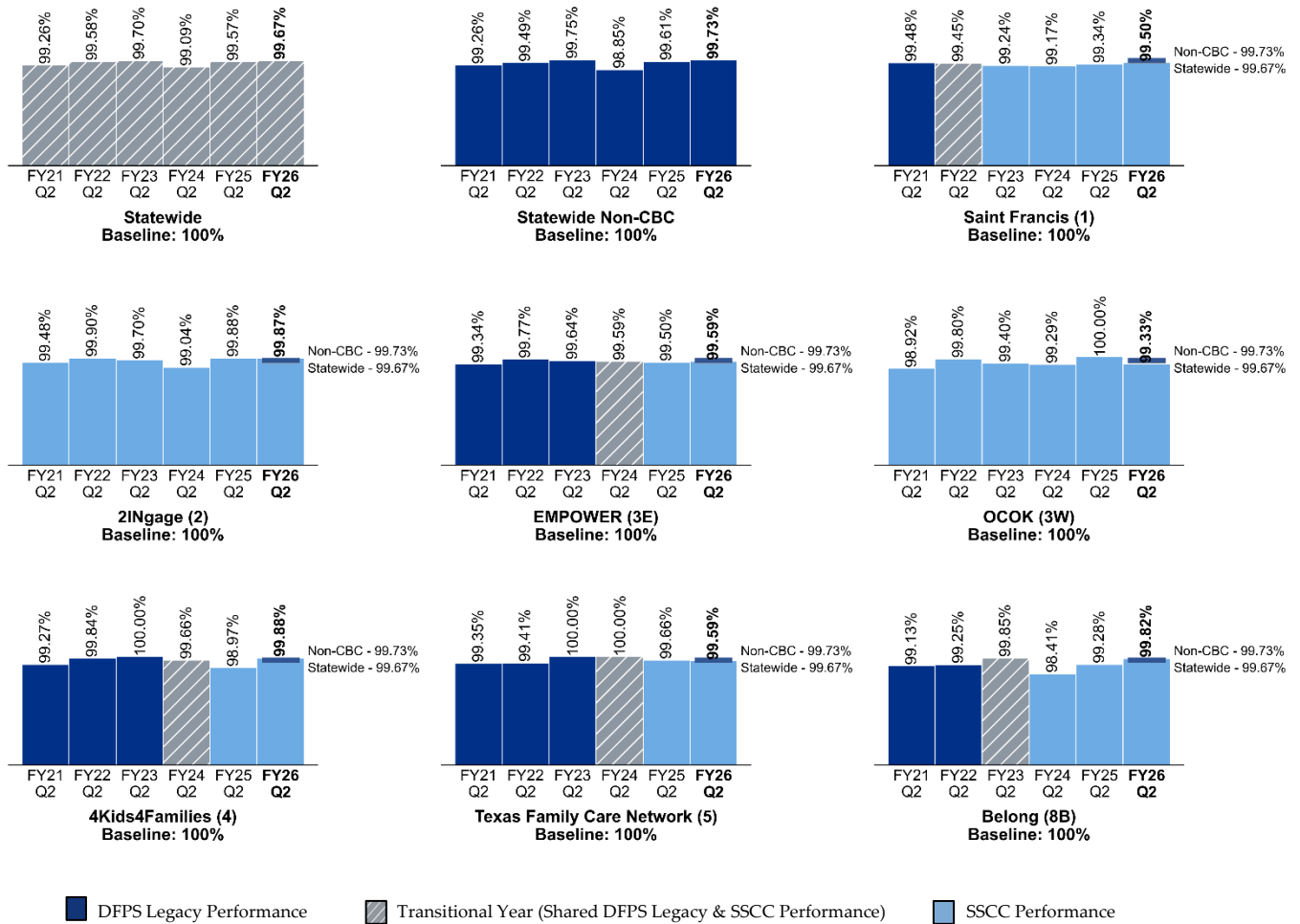
- **Statewide:** The percentage of children safe in paid foster care improved, increasing from 99.57% to 99.67% between FY25 Q2 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**¹² The percentage of children safe in paid foster care improved, increasing from 99.61% to 99.73% between FY25 Q2 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in keeping children safe in paid foster care in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25 Q2.

¹⁰ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

¹¹ SSCC 2.1, 2.3 - FY 2021-2026 Q2 v2.xlsx.

¹² Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 5
Children Safe in Paid Foster Care



Paid Foster Care Placements per Child/Youth¹³

This performance measure is defined as the number of foster care placements per child. This measure is cumulative throughout the fiscal year. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

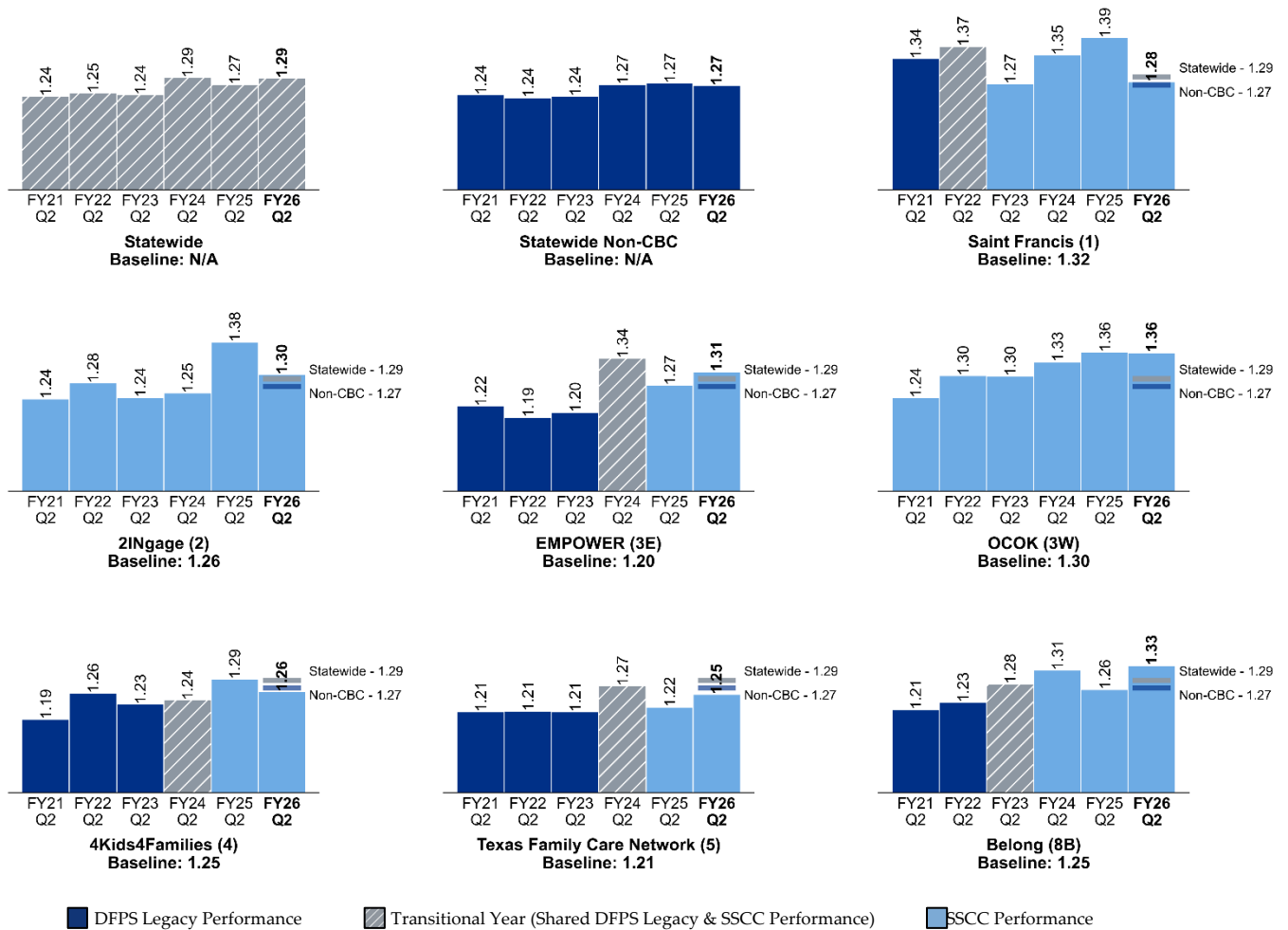
Overall, performance declined statewide while statewide for Non-CBC areas remained stable. CBC results were mixed:

- **Statewide:** Placements in Paid Foster Care for children/youth increased from 1.27 to 1.29 paid foster care placements per child between FY25 Q2 and FY26 Q2, indicating declining stability.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**¹⁴ Placements in Paid Foster Care for children/youth remained stable at 1.27 paid foster care placements per child between FY25 Q2 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show improved performance in Paid Foster Care Placements for children in their care between FY25 Q2 and FY26 Q2.

¹³ SSCC 2.1, 2.3 - FY 2021-2026 Q2 v2.xlsx.

¹⁴ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 6
Paid Foster Care Placements



Percentage of Children Placed in Paid Foster Care Placements within 50 Miles of Removal Location¹⁵

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children/youth in paid foster care placements within 50 miles of their home. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

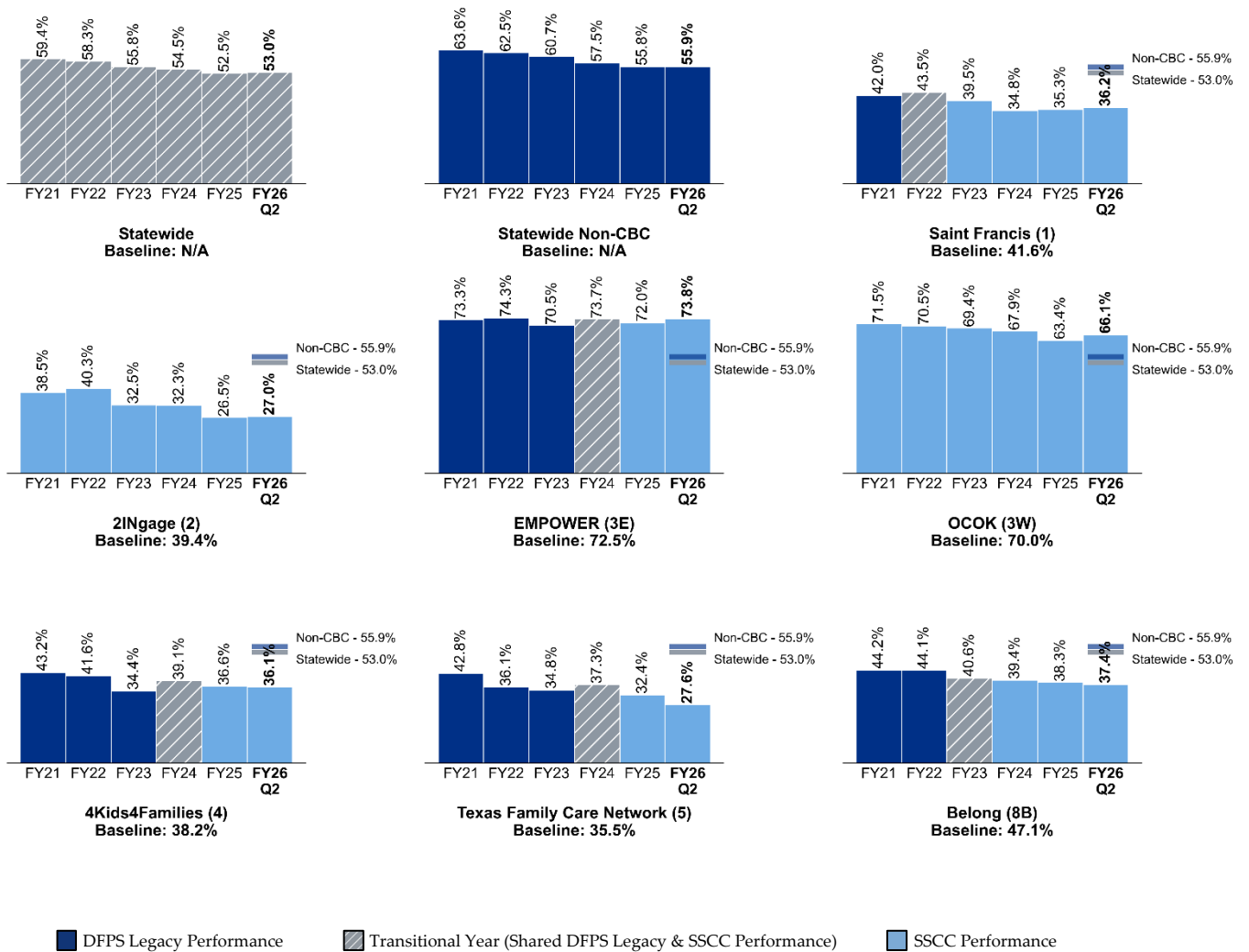
- **Statewide:** The percentage of children placed close to home improved, increasing from 52.5% to 53.0% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**¹⁶ The percentage of children placed close to home improved, increasing from 55.8% to 55.9% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing children close to home in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

¹⁵ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

¹⁶ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 7

Children in Paid Foster Care Placements within 50 Miles of Removal Location



Percentage of Siblings in Paid Foster Care Placed Together¹⁷

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of sibling groups all placed together in paid foster care on the last day of the reporting period. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

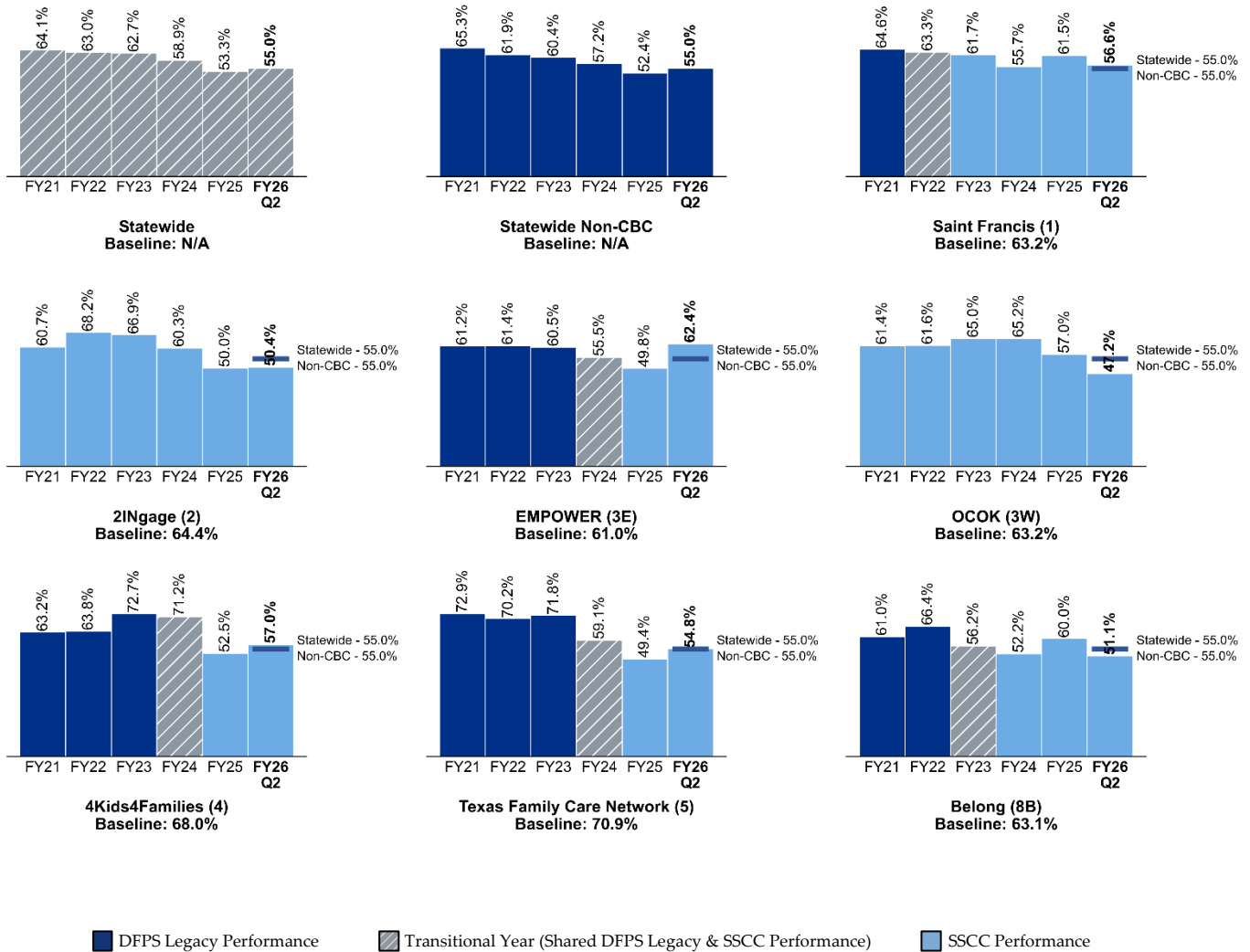
- **Statewide:** The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together improved, increasing from 53.3% to 55.0% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**¹⁸ The percentage of siblings in paid foster care placed together improved, increasing from 52.4% to 55.0% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing siblings together in paid foster care in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

¹⁷ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

¹⁸ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 8

Siblings in Paid Foster Care Placed Together



Conservatorship Performance Measures (Stage II Objective – Section C)¹⁹

The goal of Stage II is to improve exits to permanency for children in DFPS conservatorship, including both the number of children exiting permanency and the speed at which they exit. These measures and objectives continue into Stage III.

Please note for the measures related to exits to Permanency and to Reunification, the cohorts used are entry cohorts, meaning they represent children who are removed in the fiscal year for which performance is reported.

For each removal cohort, each child needs an equal opportunity to reach the desired outcome. For example, for each child removed in FY20, there needs to be at least one full year after removal before data is reported on who exited to Permanency or Reunification within 12 months of removal. Thus, the data cannot be reported until after August 31st, 2021. For a full list of when to expect performance for each time period and fiscal year, see below.

Table 3
Time Parameters for Entry Cohort Reporting

Parameters for Entry Cohort Outcome Reporting	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Last Possible Day of Removal	8/31/2022	8/31/2023	8/31/2024	8/31/2025	8/31/2026
12 Months after Last Possible Day of Removal	8/31/2023	8/31/2024	8/31/2025	8/31/2026	8/31/2027
First Quarter to Report on 1 Year Outcome	FY23 Q4	FY24 Q4	FY25 Q4	FY26 Q4	FY27 Q4
First Quarter to Report on 18 Months Outcome	FY24 Q2	FY25 Q2	FY26 Q2	FY27 Q2	FY28 Q2
First Quarter to Report on 2 Years Outcome	FY24 Q4	FY25 Q4	FY26 Q4	FY27 Q4	FY28 Q4
First Quarter to Report on 3 Years Outcome	FY25 Q4	FY26 Q4	FY27 Q4	FY28 Q4	FY29 Q4

¹⁹ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

Percentage of Placement Days in a Home Setting²⁰

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of placement days in a home setting for children and youth in conservatorship. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved statewide and statewide for Non-CBC areas, while CBC results were mixed:

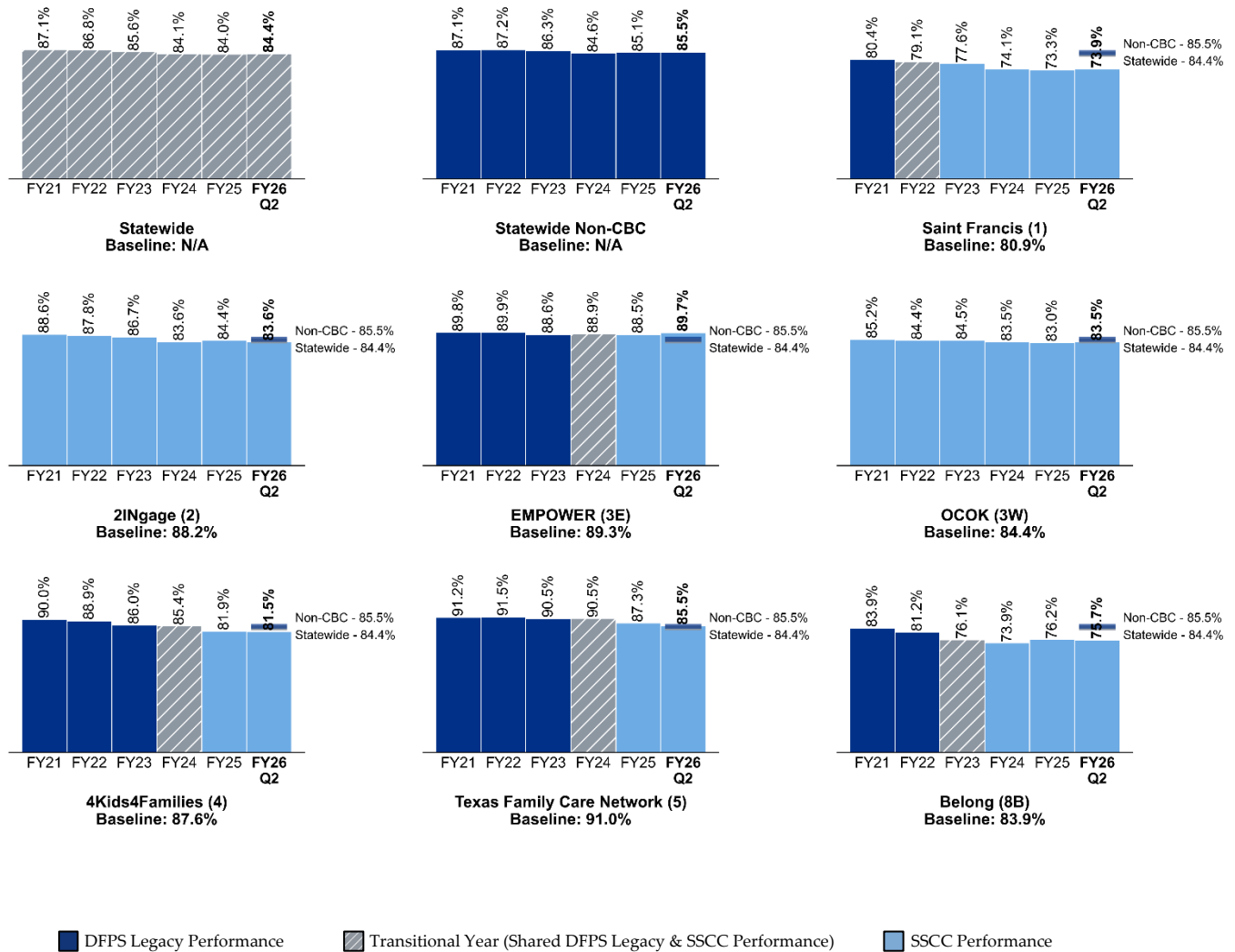
- **Statewide:** The percentage of placement days in a home setting improved, increasing from 84.0% to 84.4% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**²¹ The percentage of placement days in a home setting improved, increasing from 85.1% to 85.5% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements in placing children in home settings in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

²⁰ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

²¹ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 9

Placement Days in a Home Setting



Percent of Youth Age 16 or Older who have a Driver's License or State Identification Card²²

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of youth age 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

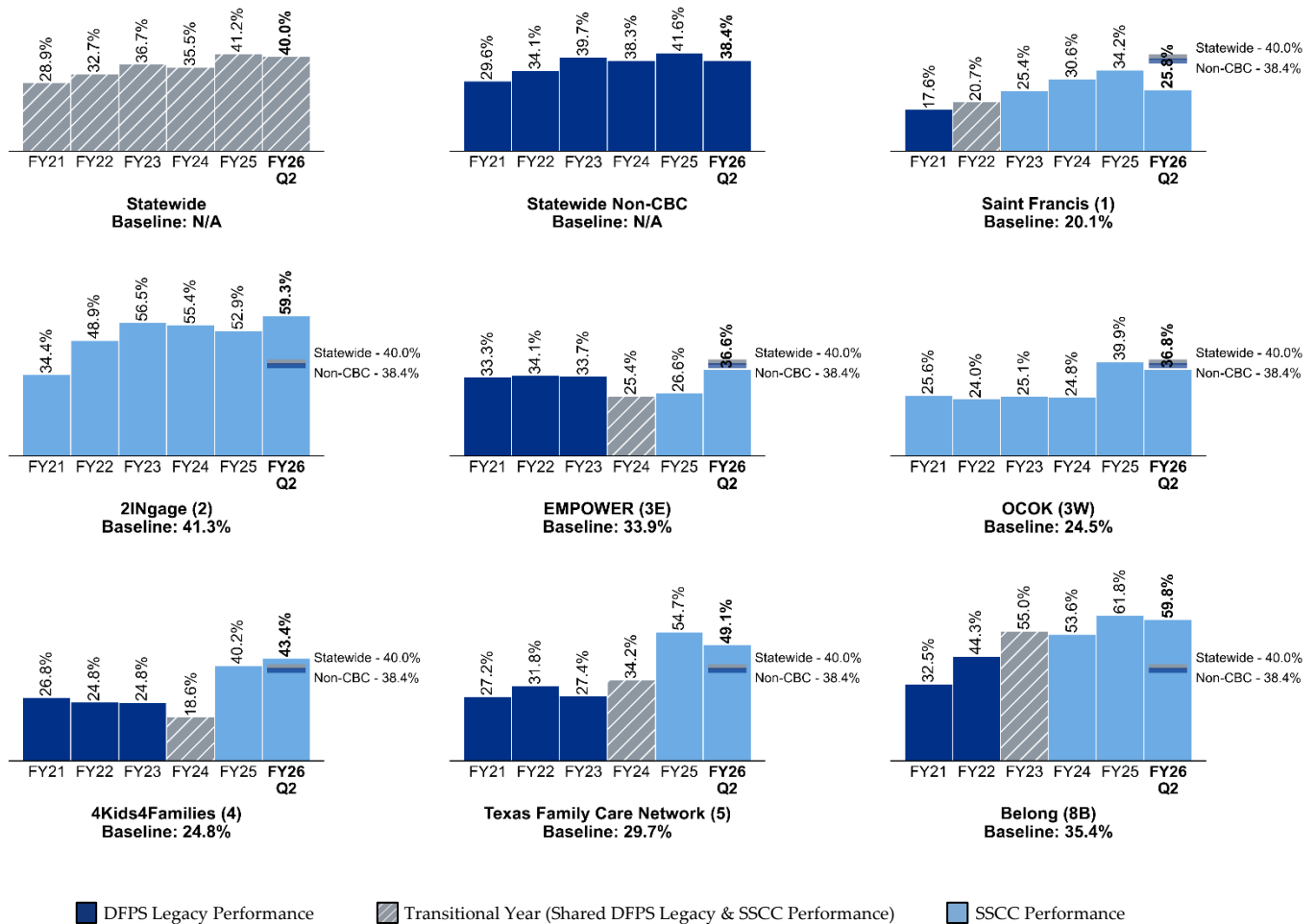
- **Statewide:** The percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card declined, decreasing from 41.2% to 40.0% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**²³ The percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card declined, decreasing from 41.6% to 38.4% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of youth aged 16 or older who have a driver's license or state identification card in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

²² DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

²³ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 10

Youth Age 16 or Older with a Driver's License or State Identification Card



Percent of Youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training²⁴

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined statewide and statewide for Non-CBC areas, while CBC results improved or remained stable:

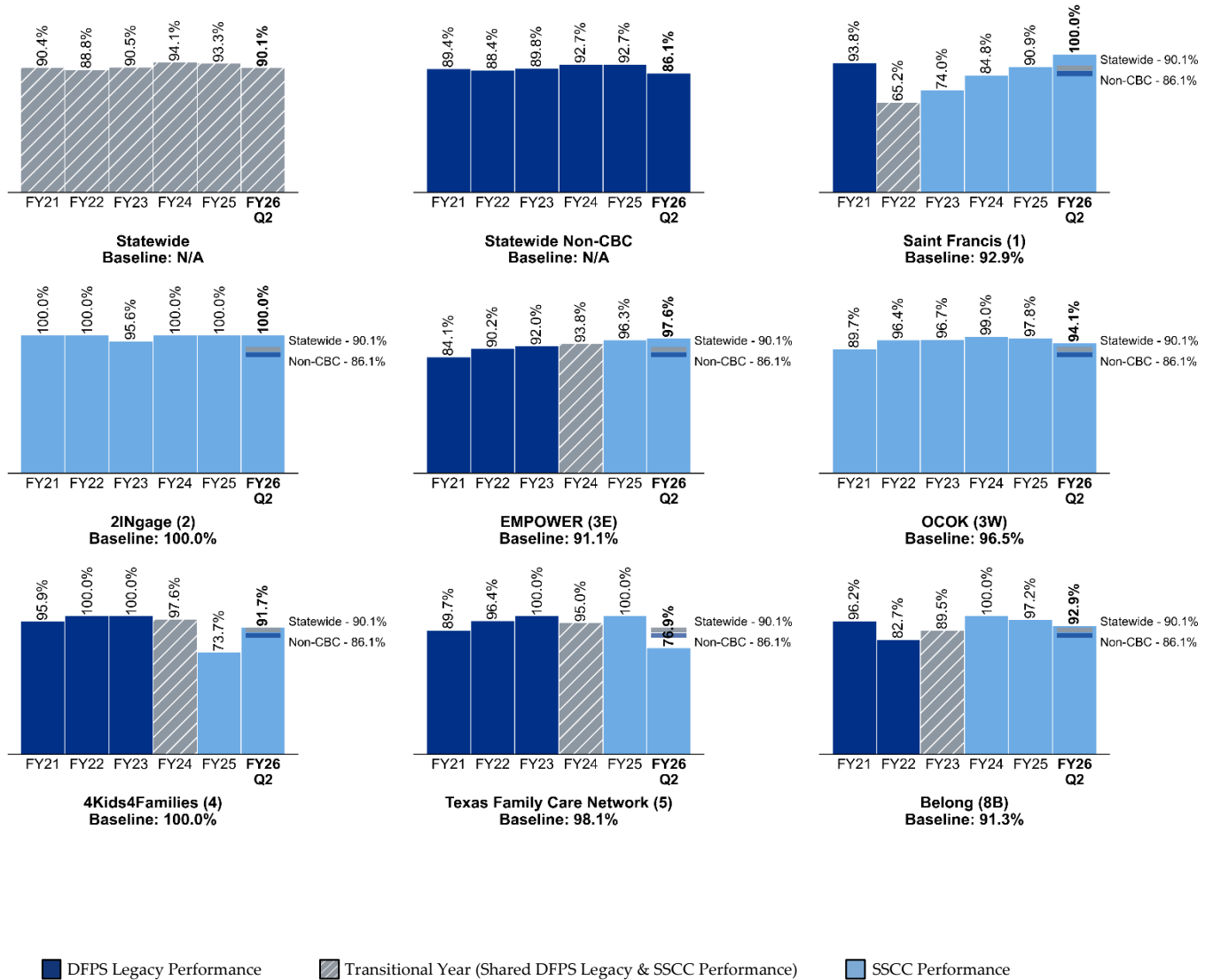
- **Statewide:** The percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training declined, decreasing from 93.3% to 90.1% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**²⁵ The percentage of youth who turned 18 and have completed required PAL Life Skills Training declined, decreasing from 92.7% to 86.1% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements while one provider remained stable at 100%, for the percentage of youth who turned 18 and completed required PAL Life Skills Training in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

²⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

²⁵ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 11

Youth Who Turned 18 and Have Completed Required PAL Life Skills Training



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year²⁶

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 12 months of entering care. As described previously, a full year must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 12-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

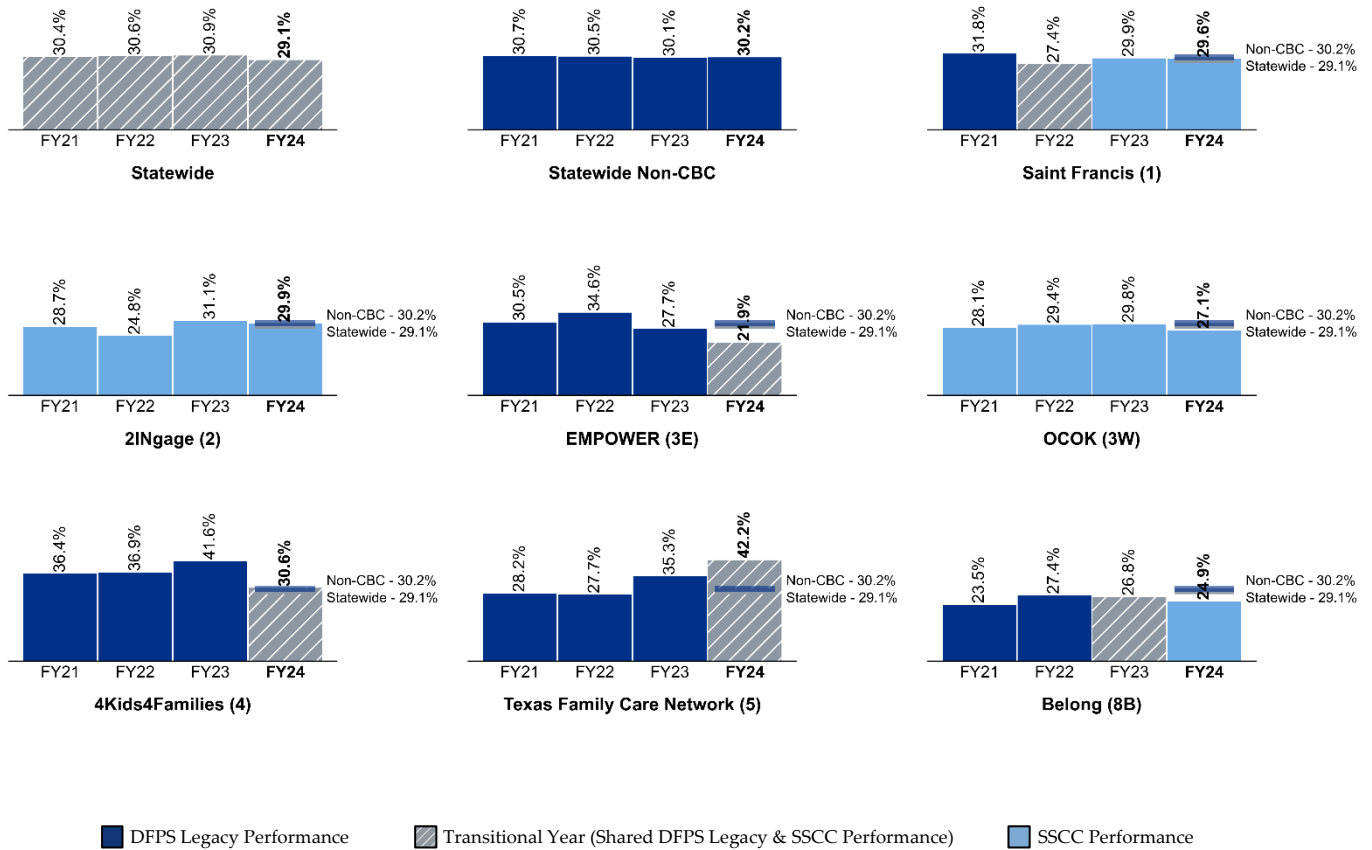
Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year decreased from 30.9% to 29.1% between FY23 and FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**²⁷ The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year increased from 30.1% to 30.2% between FY23 and FY24.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 1 year in FY24 compared to FY23.

²⁶ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

²⁷ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 12
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 1 Year



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months²⁸

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 18 months of entering substitute care. As described previously, a full 18 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 18-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24.

Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

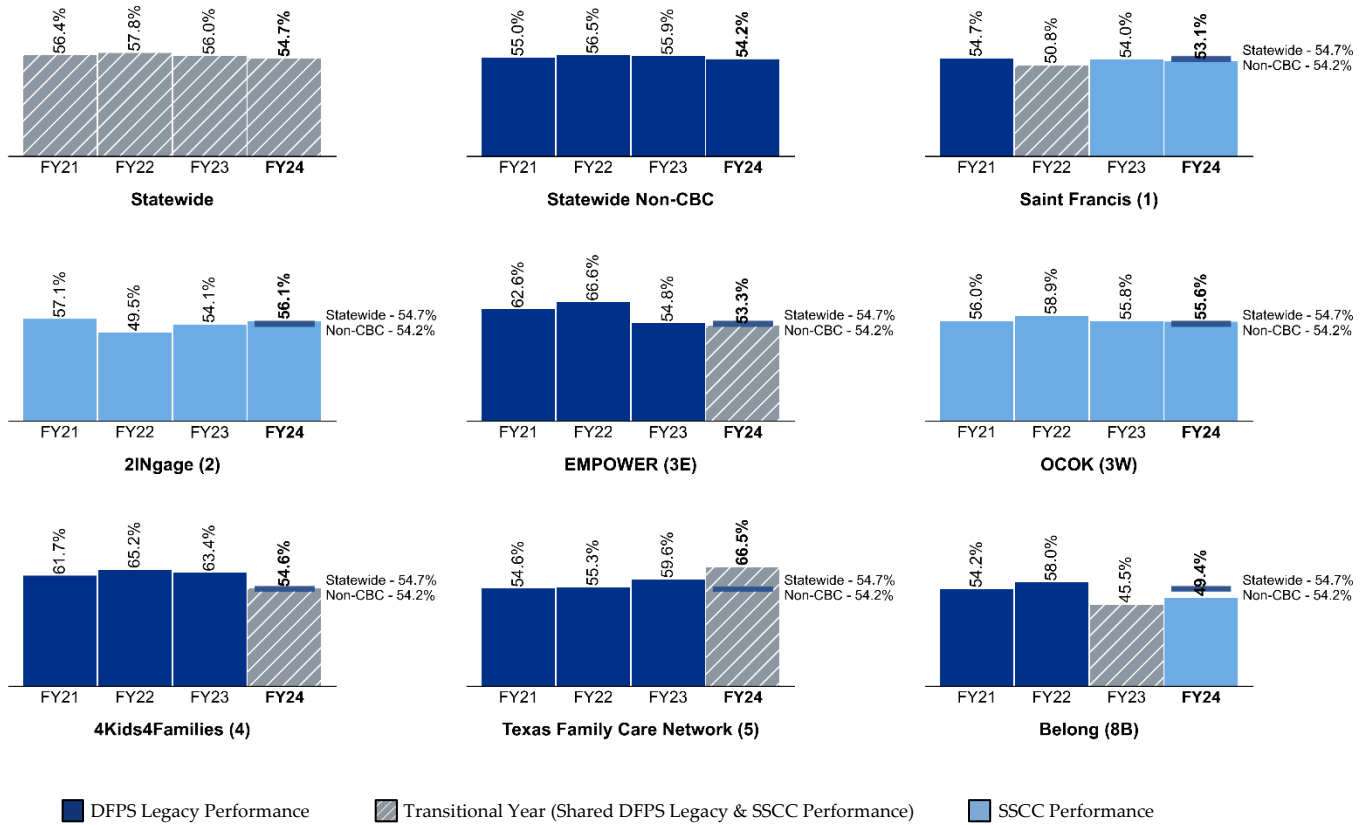
Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months decreased from 56.0% to 54.7% between FY23 and FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**²⁹ The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months decreased from 55.9% to 54.2% between FY23 and FY24.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 18 months in FY24 compared to FY23.

²⁸ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

²⁹ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 13
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 18 Months



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years³⁰

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 2 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 24 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 24-month follow-up period is children removed in FY23. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

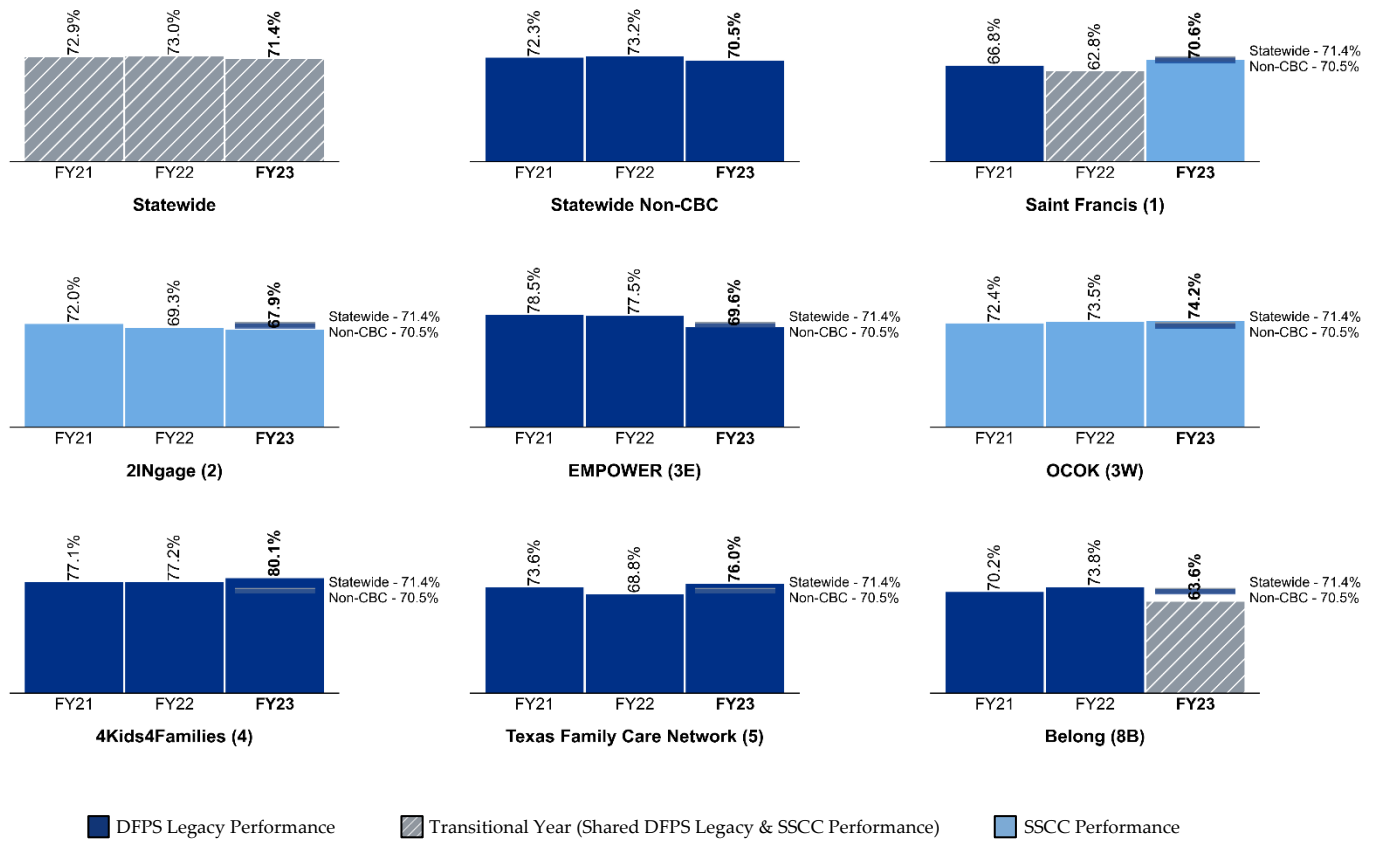
Overall, performance declined statewide and statewide for Non-CBC areas, while CBC results improved:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years decreased from 73.0% to 71.4% between FY22 and FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**³¹ The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years decreased from 73.2% to 70.5% between FY22 and FY23.
- **CBC:** Four SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 2 years in FY23 compared to FY22.

³⁰ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

³¹ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 14
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 2 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency within 3 Years³²

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency within 3 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 36 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 36-month follow-up period is children removed in FY22. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

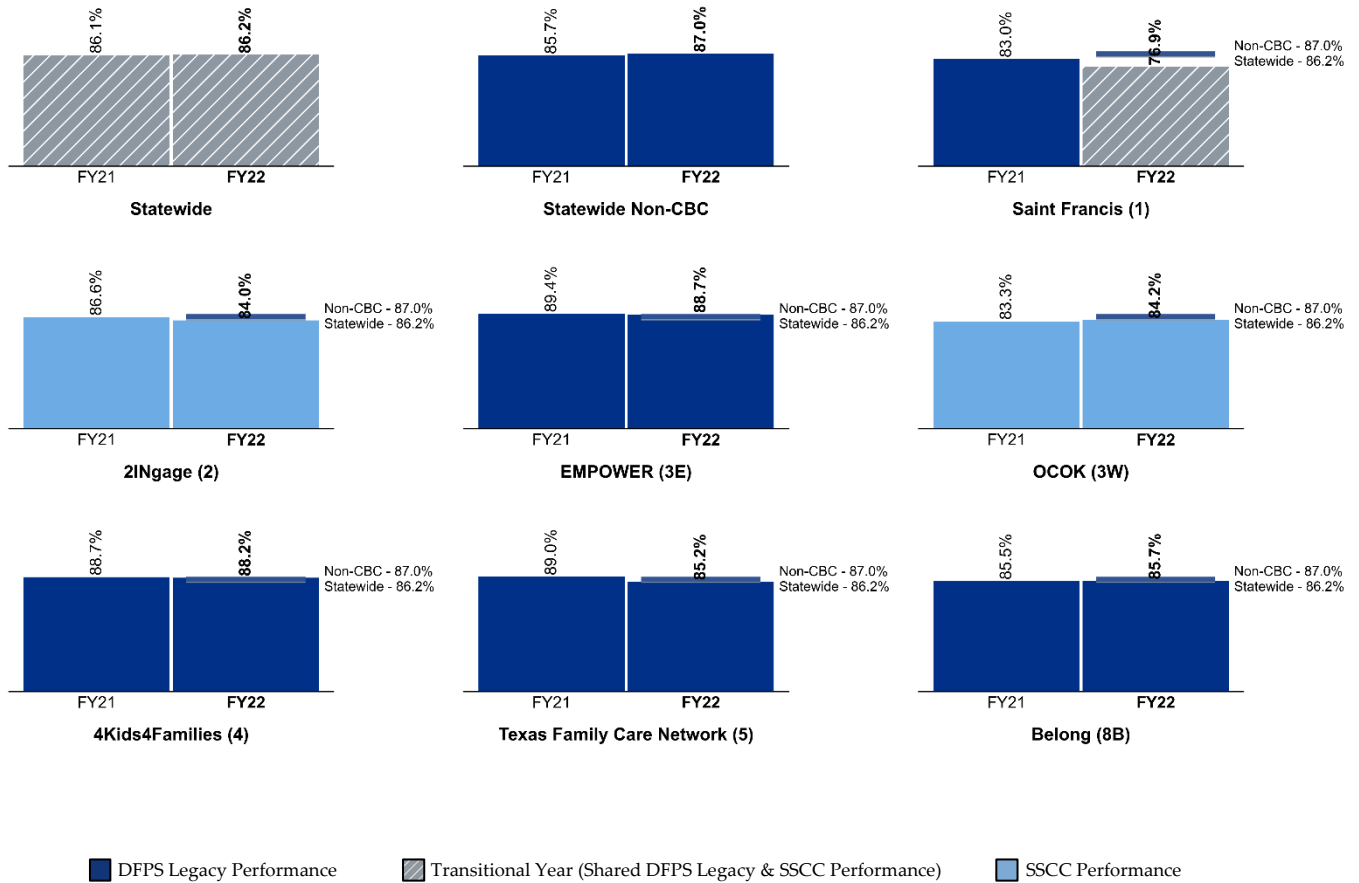
Overall, performance improved statewide and statewide for Non-CBC areas, while CBC results declined:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years increased from 86.1% to 86.2% between FY21 and FY22
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**³³ The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years increased from 85.7% to 87.0% between FY21 and FY22.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency within 3 years in FY22 compared to FY21.

³² DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

³³ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 15
Children Who Exit to Permanency Within 3 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year³⁴

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 12 months of entering care. As described on page 18, a full year must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 12-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

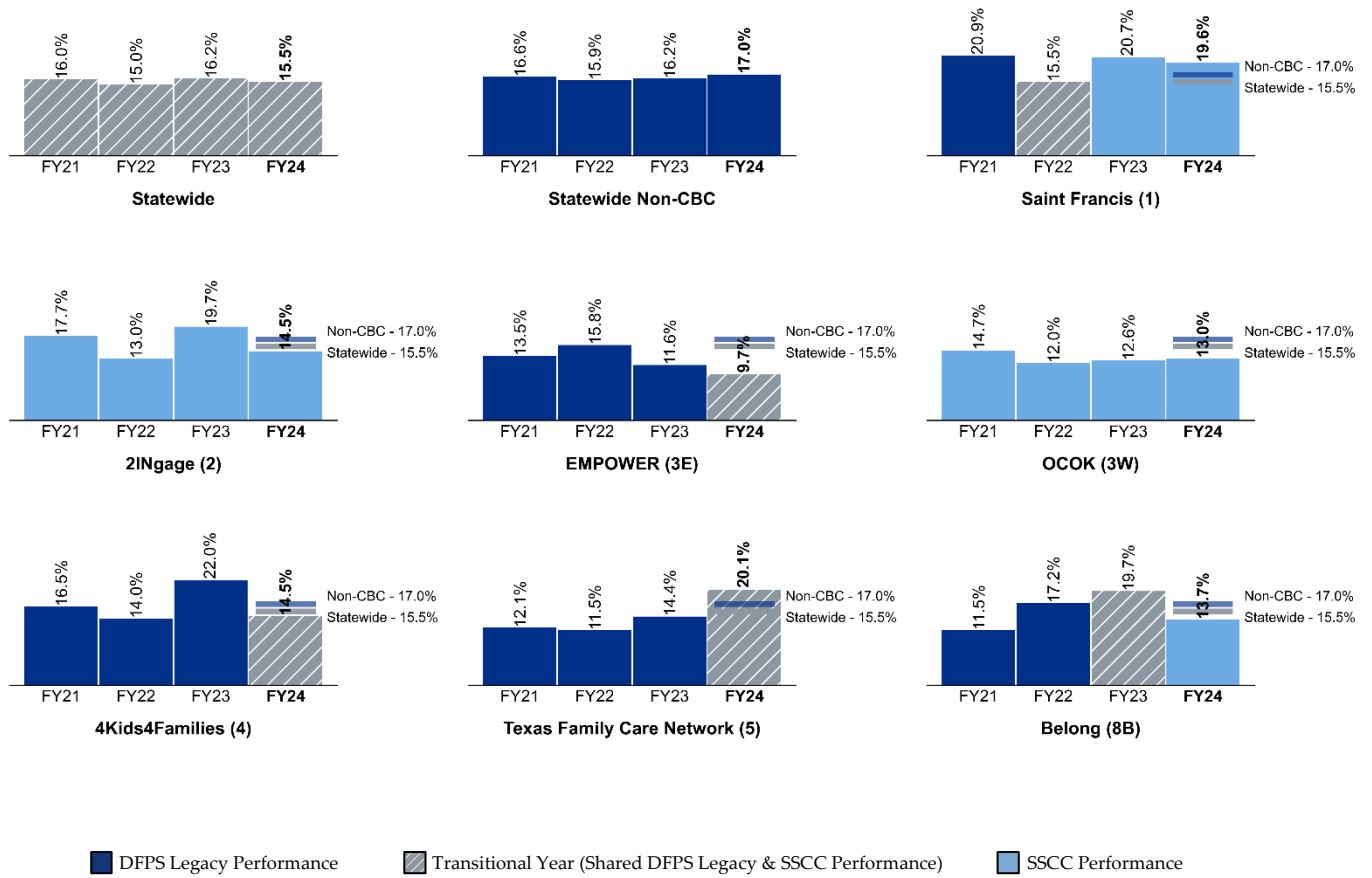
Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year decreased from 16.2% to 15.5% between FY23 and FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**³⁵ The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year increased from 16.2% to 17.0% between FY23 and FY24.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 1 year in FY24 compared to FY23.

³⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

³⁵ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 16
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 1 Year



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months³⁶

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 18 months of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 18 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 18-month follow-up period is children removed in FY24. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance declined for this measure:

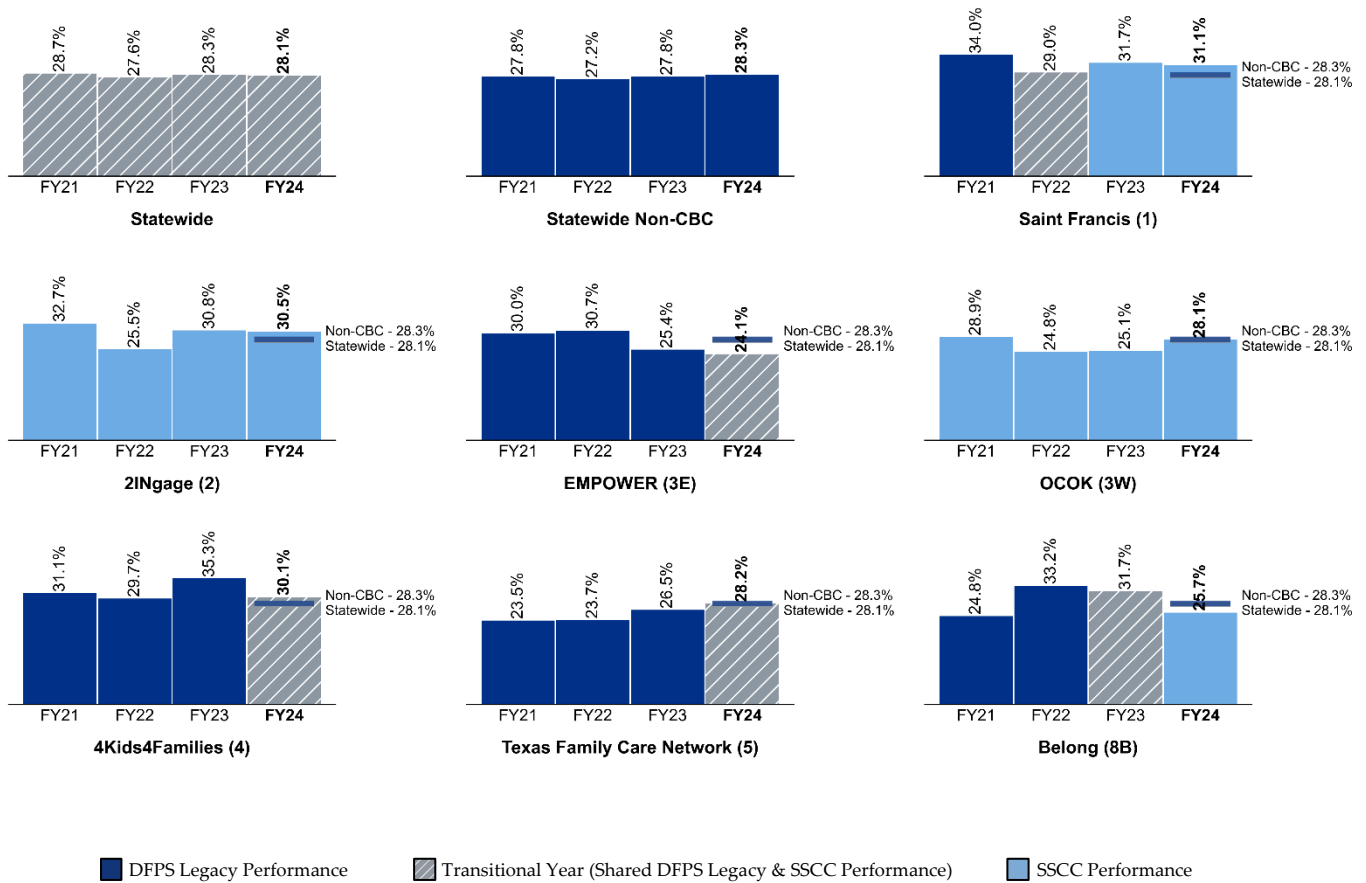
- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months decreased from 28.3% to 28.1% between FY23 and FY24.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**³⁷ The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months increased from 27.8% to 28.3% between FY23 and FY24.
- **CBC:** Two SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 18 months in FY24 compared to FY23.

³⁶ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

³⁷ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 17

Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 18 Months



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years³⁸

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 2 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 24 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 24-month follow-up period is children removed in FY23. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

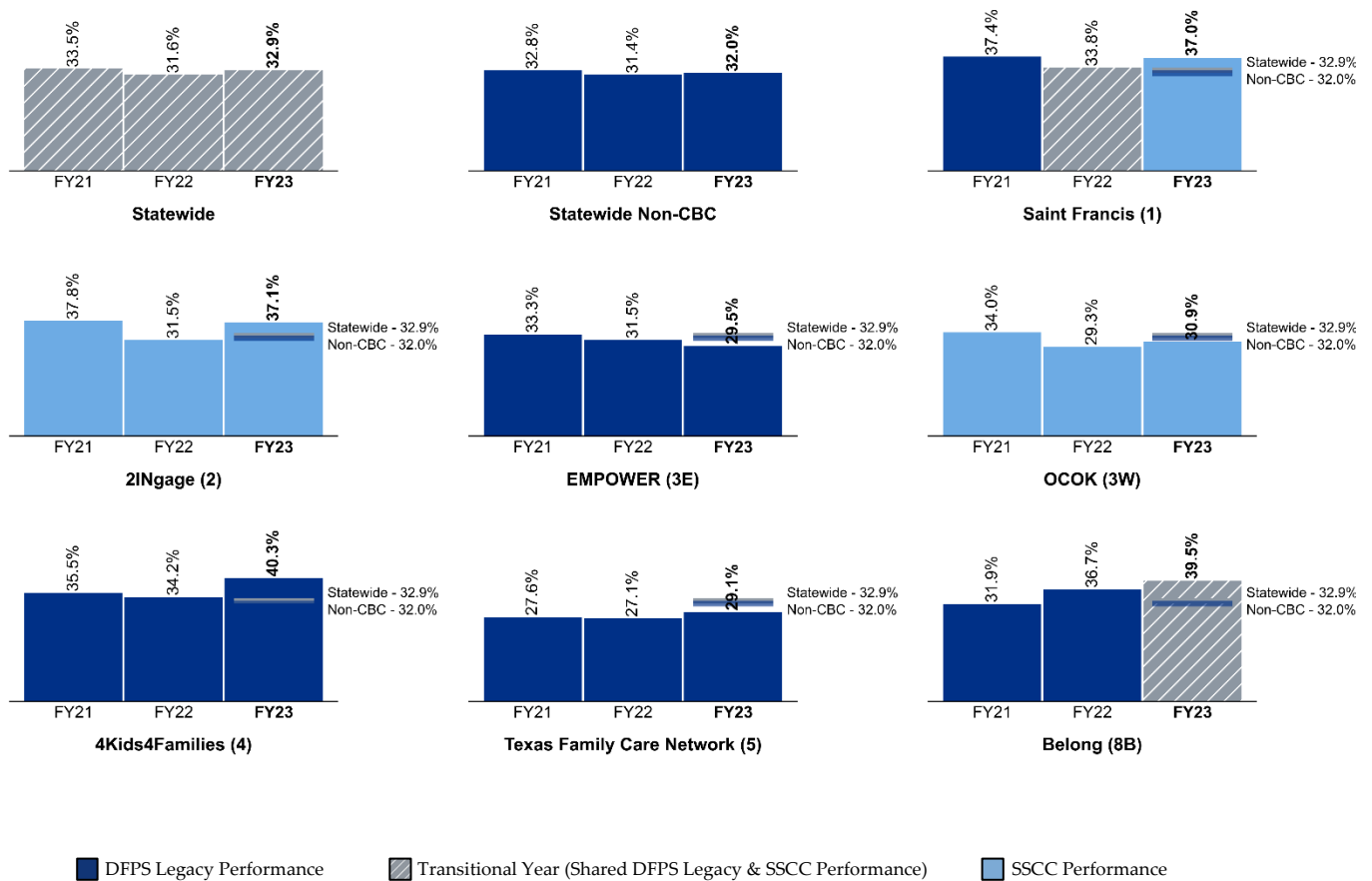
Overall, performance improved for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased from 31.6% to 32.9% between FY22 and FY23.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**³⁹ The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years increased from 31.4% to 32.0% between FY22 and FY23.
- **CBC:** Six SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 2 years in FY23 compared to FY22.

³⁸ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

³⁹ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 18
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 2 Years



Percent of Children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years⁴⁰

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to reunification within 3 years of entering substitute care. As described on page 18, a full 36 months must pass after the last removal day before performance can be reported; thus, the most recent removal cohort with a full 36-month follow-up period is children removed in FY22. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

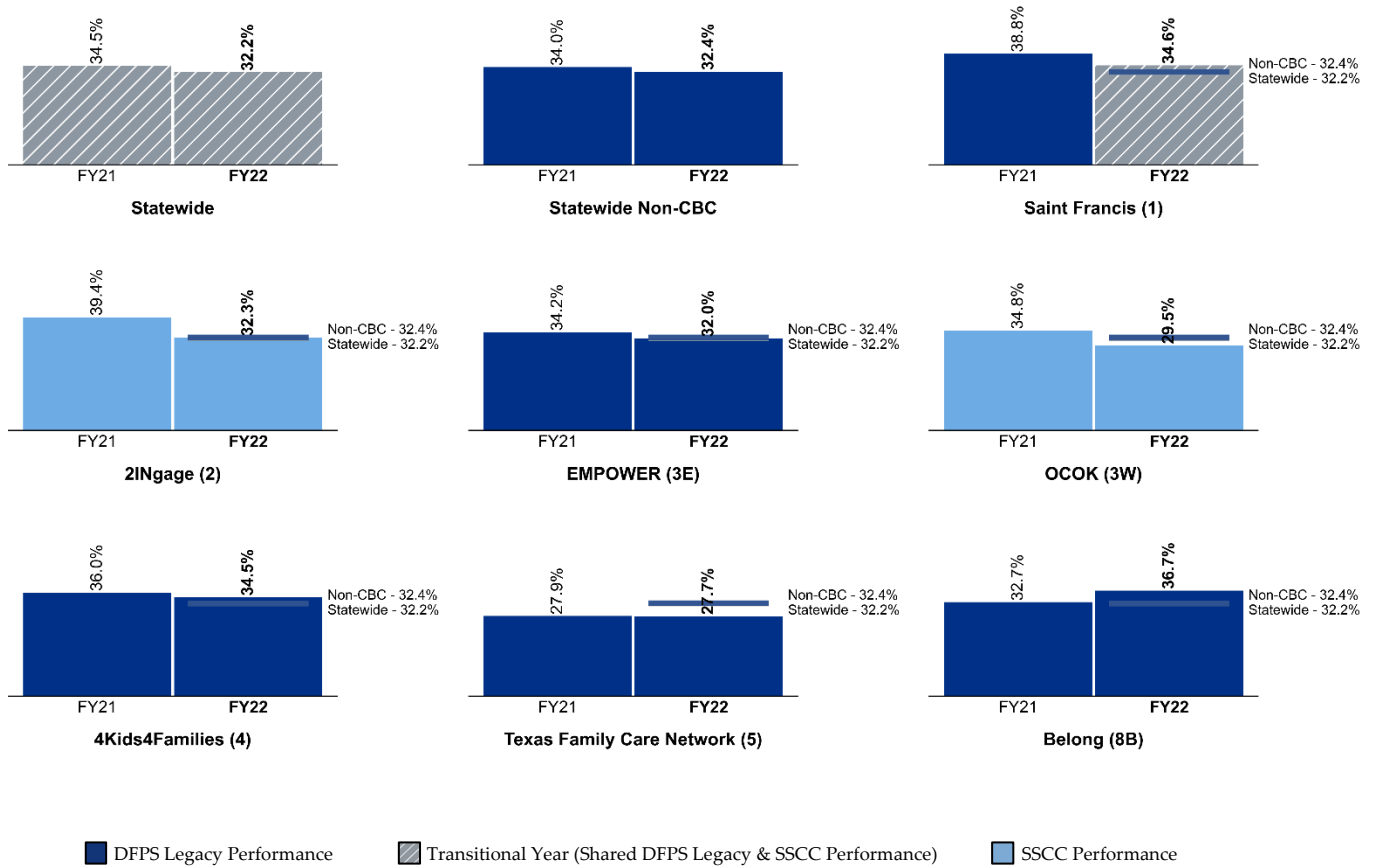
Overall, performance declined for this measure:

- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years decreased from 34.5% to 32.2% between FY21 and FY22.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**⁴¹ The percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years decreased from 34.0% to 32.4% between FY21 and FY22.
- **CBC:** One SSCC provider shows performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Reunification within 3 years in FY22 compared to FY21.

⁴⁰ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

⁴¹ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 19
Children Who Exit to Reunification Within 3 Years



Percentage of Children Placed with Kin at 60 Days after Removal⁴²

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children placed with kin on the 60th day after removal. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, performance improved for this measure:

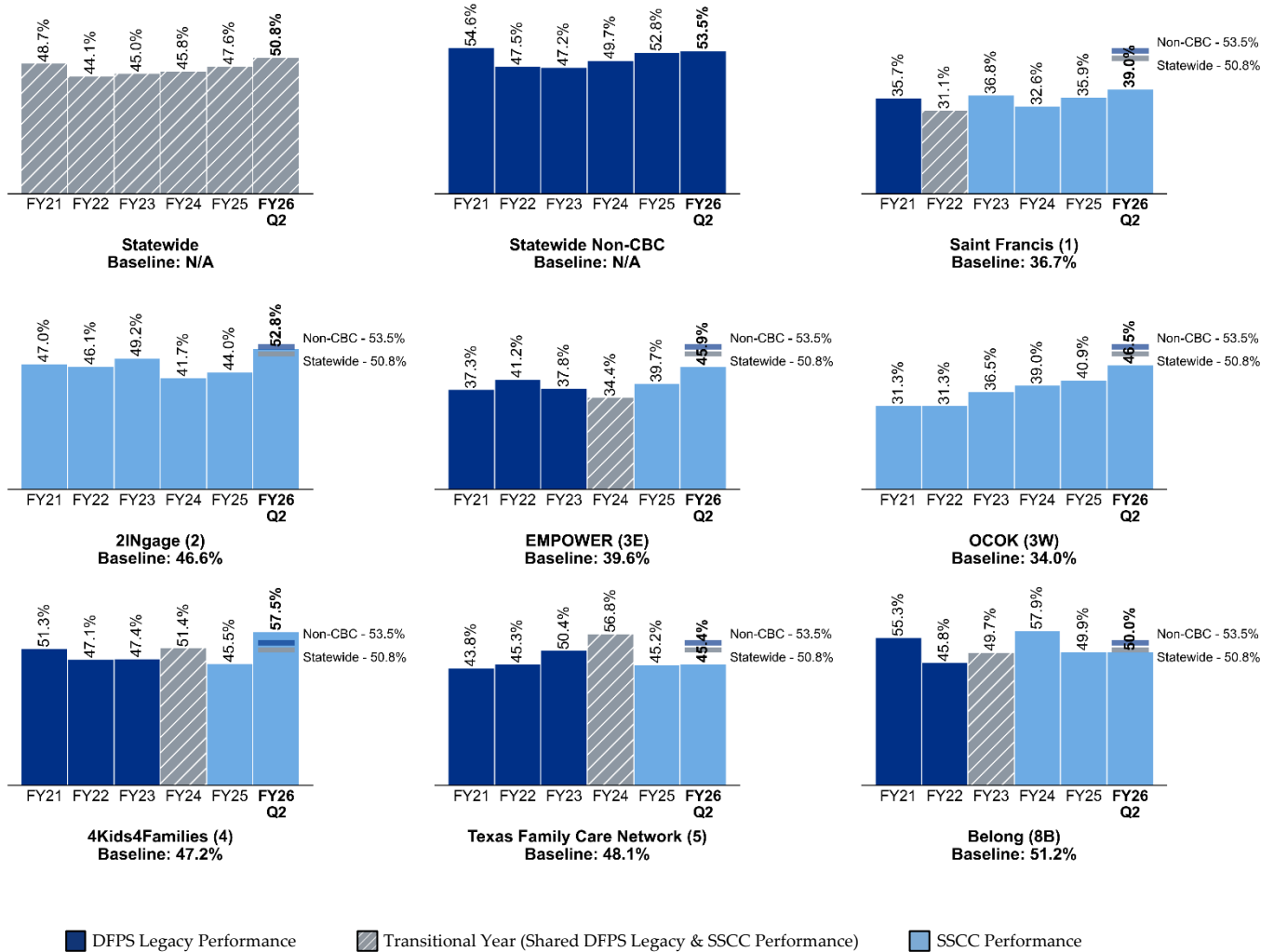
- **Statewide:** The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal increased from 47.6% to 50.8% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**⁴³ The percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal increased from 52.8% to 53.5% between FY25 and FY26 Q2.
- **CBC:** All seven SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of new removals placed with kin on the 60th day after removal in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

⁴² DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

⁴³ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 20

Children Placed with Kin at 60 Days After Removal



Percent of Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention Within 12 Months from Exit⁴⁴

This performance measure is defined as the percentage of children who exit to permanency and have a new CPS intervention with 12 months from exit. Performance for each individual SSCC is shown in the chart below.

Overall, the rate of new CPS interventions decreased statewide and statewide for Non-CBC areas, indicating improving performance, but CBC results were mixed:

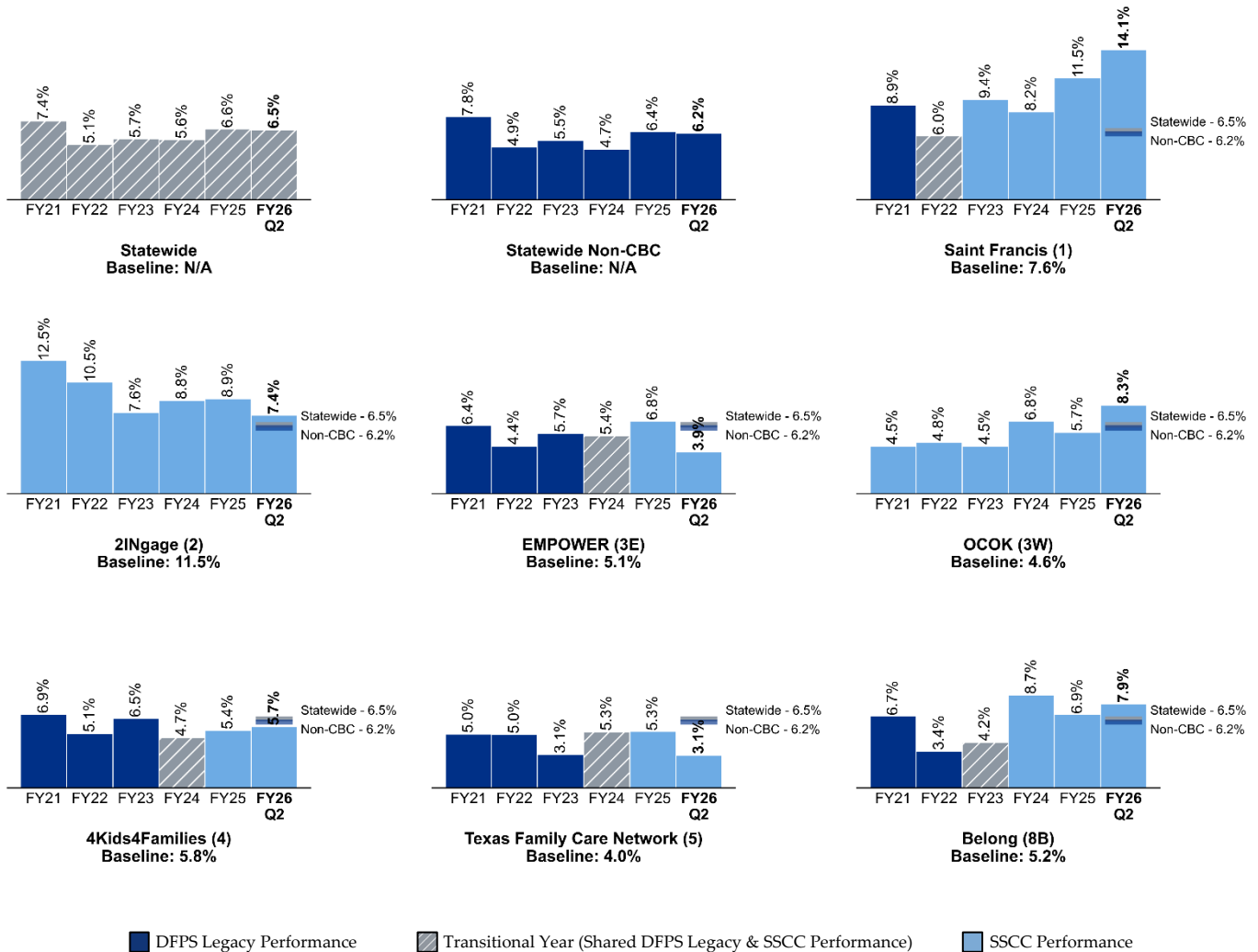
- **Statewide:** The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit decreased from 6.6% to 6.5% between FY25 and FY26 Q2, indicating improving performance.
- **Statewide Non-CBC:**⁴⁵ The percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit decreased from 6.4% to 6.2% between FY25 and FY26 Q2, indicating improving performance.
- **CBC:** Three SSCC providers show performance improvements in the percentage of children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention with 12 months from exit in FY26 Q2 compared to FY25.

⁴⁴ DFPS Rider Report September 2026 Data Attachment.

⁴⁵ Statewide Non-CBC excludes the active CBC Community Areas of 1, 2, 3E, 3W, 4, 5, and 8B.

Figure 21

Children who Exit to Permanency and have a new CPS Intervention Within 12 Months from Exit



Recommendations

Many of the issues listed in this report are also highlighted as challenges to address through the goals in the [2026 DFPS Annual Plan](#), such as placement and service capacity shortages, workforce challenges, and the CBC implementation process. We have learned valuable lessons as regions have transitioned, and we are continually and collaboratively refining the processes with the SSCC providers based on this understanding.

Placement and Service Capacity Shortages

DFPS and the SSCC contractors will continue to focus on enhancing capacity statewide, both for placements and services, to meet the unique needs of children and youth in care and their families. In partnership with DFPS, HHSC continues to review and revise the minimum standards for Child Placing Agencies and General Residential Operations. This effort aims to improve, strengthen, and expand statewide capacity by simplifying standards, which could attract and retain more providers. Additionally, DFPS and the SSCC contractors remain committed to prioritizing support for kinship caregivers is expected to create greater engagement and involvement from these caregivers, and DFPS is working closely with HHSC to ensure that the changes to the kinship requirements for verification are reflected and upheld in SSCC contracts so that provider contract support increasing the number of licensed kinship caregivers. The agency's ongoing work to strengthen behavioral health supports statewide will ensure a more navigable system, spanning both legacy and SSCC programs, to better meet the diverse needs of children and families within their own communities. DFPS received \$6.1 million in biennial funds to meet the needs of high acuity youth, which includes \$444,444 to strengthen behavioral health services, \$3 million to support kinship families caring for children with high acuity behavioral health needs, and \$2.7 million for intensive peer support services for high acuity youth.

Additionally, as reflected in [DFPS' Sunset Review Self Evaluation Report](#), further statute changes would continue to allow model flexibility, including adjusted procurement approaches and subcontract structures for case management services, to address challenges in service areas, such as non-profit financial viability, geographic locations for facilities, and capacity building in sparsely populated areas.

DFPS has launched a cross-agency initiative to examine foster care capacity from a system-wide perspective. Through this project, DFPS and SSCC leadership are collaborating to address challenges that contribute to the uneven geographic distribution of services and providers. The goal of the project is to improve outcomes for children and families by creating sustainable foster care service capacity in communities that will meet the needs of children and youth in foster care, in the least restrictive setting, prioritizing kinship and sibling placements. DFPS and SSCC leaders are engaging with providers to promote integration into the T3C continuum with

the goal to expand access to more services for children and youth with behavioral and mental health needs that are difficult to meet in the current rate structure.

Workforce Challenges

Workforce challenges in child welfare are a prevalent and longstanding issue, and DFPS, in collaboration with the SSCC providers, are working to address these issues by sharing ideas and best practices. SSCCs experience a more pronounced impact from workforce shortages due to the smaller size of their organizations, as they have less flexibility to reassign or redistribute staff compared to the legacy system. Recognizing the importance of retaining experienced staff, the SSCC providers have been proactive in collaborating to find solutions that can enhance workforce retention. To support these efforts, DFPS developed a comprehensive communication plan to keep DFPS staff informed sooner on transition planning. The plan equips Regional Directors with essential information, enabling them to provide timely feedback and updates to staff; this plan will continue to be assessed for effectiveness. Prior to Stage II, additional processes have been put in place, including townhall meetings and a more prominent role of Human Resources to highlight comparable benefits and support staff retention. These combined efforts aim to create a more supportive and informed environment for staff interested in transitioning to the SSCC providers. DFPS received \$12.4 million to provide early payments to SSCCs during readiness prior to Stage II, which will help to address the early hiring practices needed prior to go-live, to help stabilize and support the SSCC workforce at a critical time in implementation readiness. DFPS will monitor the impact of these early payments on the success of CBC implementation.

Transition Process

The transition process has been adapted over time through lessons learned from the SSCC providers and stakeholders. OCBCT continues to gather feedback from staff throughout the implementation process and recently entered into an Interagency Contract with the University of Texas at Austin to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of CBC implementation efforts to date. The evaluation will examine implementation across Regions 1, 2, 3E, 4, 5, 6A, 6B, 8A, and 8B and will identify opportunities to strengthen future implementation activities. In parallel, OCBCT is reviewing the status of previously issued process evaluation recommendations to assess implementation progress and identify any remaining opportunities for improvement. OCBCT also continues to develop and enhance post-transition supports by closely monitoring key indicators that may signal the need for technical assistance or intervention, helping promote stability for Single Source Continuum Contractors and their workforce.

Appendix A: Current Community-Based Care Community Areas

DFPS / CBC Regional Map

