



**TEXAS**  
Department of Family  
and Protective Services

**Capacity Strategic Plan**

**Region 9**

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October 1, 2018

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## **Introduction**

As outlined in Chapter 264.1261, of the Texas Family Code, “appropriate management personnel from a child protective services region in which community-based care has not been implemented, in collaboration with foster care providers, faith-based entities, and child advocates in that region, shall use data collected by the department on foster care capacity needs and availability of each type of foster care and kinship placement in the region to create a plan to address the substitute care capacity needs in the region.”

The statewide foster care needs assessment was completed in August 2018 and helped to inform the goals and objectives outlined in this plan, which specifically addresses the needs of each Catchment/Region.

Each region, led by regional DFPS leadership, has met with their regional stakeholders to develop a strategic plan. In addition, each region has partnered with a local provider contracted by CPS, to continue oversight and recommend changes as needed based on progress of goals established.

## **Foster Care Placement Forecast and Assessment of Capacity Need**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#).

A stakeholder/provider meeting for Region 9 occurred on 9/5/18 and 9/6/18 where the Foster Care Needs Assessment was reviewed and a Power Point of regional/catchment data was presented focusing on historical analysis and forecasted capacity needs for Fiscal Year 2019.

While DFPS is honored to submit this plan on behalf of the community, the goals and strategies contained herein belong to us all. DFPS would like to thank the following organizations for participating in the development of the Region 9 Capacity Strategic Plan:

Placement Providers: The Attic, High Sky, New Horizon, Depelchin, A World for Children, Children’s Hope and Concho Valley Home for Girls

Educational Systems: Midland ISD, Stanton ISD, Greenwood ISD, Ector County ISD, Big Spring ISD, Crane ISD, Pecos-Barslow-Toyah ISD,

Baltimore ISD, Water Valley ISD, San Angelo ISD, Grape Greek ISD, RockSprings ISD, Eden ISD, San Felipe Del Rio ISD, Coleman ISD, Miles ISD, Sonora ISD, Balinger ISD, Schleicher ISD, Bangs ISD, Mason ISD, Sterling City ISD, Veribest ISD, Midland College, San Angelo University, Education Service Center Region 15

Community Partners: Honorable Judge Banks, CAC of Tom Green County and CASA of the Permian Basin.

The following strategies were identified by the stakeholders and the DFPS regional leadership team:

## **Regional Plan to Increase Capacity**

### **Goal 1: Timely Connection with Potential Foster Parents**

There is a concern that the process to verify foster homes is lengthy and lacks ongoing support for interested individuals and families. To address this, the region plans to embed a practice during recruitment which provides on-going support and timely follow-ups with interested individuals who are wanting to become foster parents.

#### **Objective 1.1: Focused Informational Meetings and Follow-Up**

- Structure informational meetings to ensure packets from each CPA are available to participants
- Allow ample time during informational meetings to provide technical assistance for participants in filling out applications
- Structure a universal process for each Child Placing Agency (CPA) which outlines timeframes and methods of following up with applicants
- Gather information from local Foster Care Forums on recommendations for improvement in customer care
- CPAs will share strategies to improve customer service
- Identify tenured foster parents from each CPA who can provide support and assistance to interested applicants

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at different events.

### **Goal 2: Increase Emergency Placements**

Identify and prepare families who are willing to accept emergency placement of basic preschool age children and moderate level teenagers.

### **Objective 2.1: Providers Will Seek Increased Capacity**

- Each CPA has agreed to increase capacity in this area
- High Sky will develop a plan to utilize campus homes to meet the challenges of teens with higher level of care

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at different events.

### **Goal 3: Create a Marketing Plan**

The Foster Care Needs Assessment identifies a forecasted capacity need for and moderate placements for pre-school, school aged, and teens in Region 9 for FY 19. In order to increase capacity, we must ensure the community is aware of this need.

### **Objective 3.1: Increase Awareness**

- Utilize the various social media outlets currently available
- Conduct outreach to specific organizations to allow information sharing and informational meetings
- Develop video announcements in social media outlets
- Expand informational meetings to other counties
- The Attic will provide assistance and guidance in this outreach

Review of this goal will occur routinely between DFPS leadership and community stakeholders at different events.