



State of Rhode Island  
Department of Children, Youth & Families



# P.A.C.E. SCORECARD

QUARTER 3: July 1, 2025–Sept. 30, 2025

*The development of this scorecard serves to evaluate outcomes to identify trends, facilitate timely interventions and maintain transparency with the community and families we serve.*

To uphold our commitment to excellence in service delivery, we assert that **PREVENTION**, **ACCOUNTABILITY**, **COLLABORATION** and **ENGAGEMENT** are fundamental pillars necessary for achieving positive outcomes for children and families.

By integrating these principles into our short-term and long-term goals, we can effectively address immediate needs while ensuring sustainable improvements through the Child Family Service Plan process and ongoing evaluation of our strategic plan.

# PREVENTION

Enhance the well-being of children and families by safely decreasing out-of-home removals and reducing the number of children and youth in foster care through investments in **prevention** services and the development of a strong continuum of care designed to meet the unique needs of families, allowing them to thrive.

## Objectives

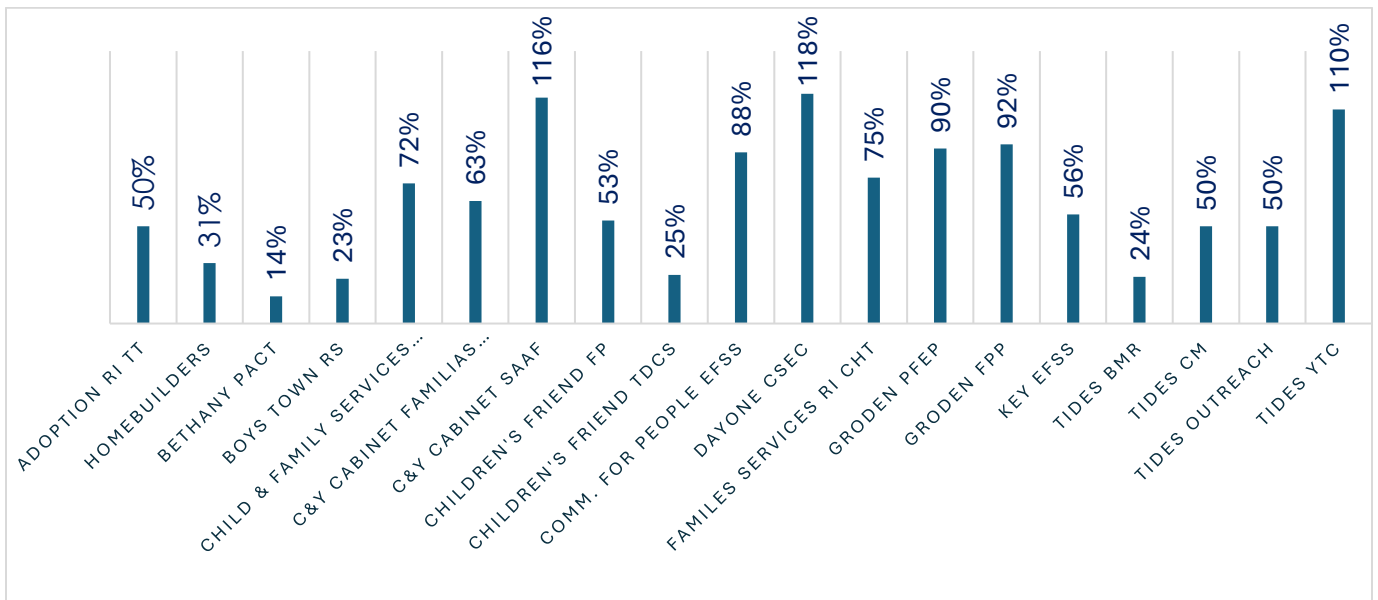
- Safely reduce out-of-home removals.
- Safely reduce the number of children in foster care.

## Prevention Efforts

In the third quarter of 2025, DCYF has seen an increase in the number of children in out-of-home foster care placements. In October 2025 there were 1,270 children placed out of home, a **1.7%** increase from the previous quarter, which ended in June 2025 with 1,248 children placed out of home.

## Family Stabilization and Prevention Services Utilization

Our average Family Stabilization and Prevention Services utilization has remained below 60%, indicating inconsistent engagement with the available service array for children and families. This compares to our overall service array utilization of 73%. As of Oct. 1, 2025, the number of families receiving Family Stabilization and Prevention services was 462, with 73 pending referrals, up from 347 families served in October 2024. Discussions with providers suggest that low utilization may be linked to staffing challenges and their ability to reach capacity. These figures underscore the need to work more closely with providers to understand barriers to accepting referrals, enhance staff education about available services and address obstacles providers face in accepting referrals. Our goal is to increase utilization rates and improve engagement across all services.



# ACCOUNTABILITY

Provide excellence in service delivery by establishing **accountability** across all levels of our system, with a focus on ensuring the safety of children, using a racial justice lens to advance race equity and improve permanency outcomes in our child and family well-being system.

## Objectives

- Improve permanency for all children with emphasis on the entry cohort.
- Deliver excellent services by investing in the children, youth and families of Rhode Island.

## Mile Markers

	Total ACMs			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Maintain quarterly Active Contract Management (ACM) reviews to effectively monitor contracts through qualitative and quantitative analysis.	4	4	4	n/a
Achieve Human and Social Services accreditation through the Council on Accreditation (COA) by 2025.	<b>Accreditation achieved on February 14, 2025</b>			

Division of Performance Improvement ACM Tracking

## Rhode Island Children's Behavioral Health Consent Decree

In July 2025, the Department published the results of its Baseline Data Report, an in-depth analysis of the Consent Decree's focus population, and presented the results to the Department's Consent Decree Advisory Committee during its September 2025 meeting. The Department also embarked on the establishment of a Quality Assurance Committee, which will review data and identify responsive actions as required by the Consent Decree.

Additional DCYF actions included establishing and holding the first meeting of the Steering Committee, comprising DCYF staff and senior State officials, to assist and guide activities as related to the Consent Decree. The Department continues to collaborate with Innovations Institute for their upcoming site visit scheduled for the end of October and their independent review of the focus population and processes in place with DCYF providers.

DCYF posted openings for five Social Service Analysts and hired a Supervisor to form a new unit responsible for transition coordination and related support when a child is placed in a psychiatric hospital. Several DCYF staff attended an Innovations Institute-led, evidence-informed, care coordination/planning practice FOCUS training, as the Department develops these transition specialists' roles, responsibilities and training. The Department anticipates the Social Service Analysts will be hired and in place no later than January 2026.

The State continues to meet all requirements of the Consent Decree.

# COLLABORATION

**Collaborate** with community partners to address the needs of children and families in Rhode Island. Through **collaboration** and a supportive workforce culture that is both well-resourced and well-trained, we can proactively expand family-based placements and decrease reliance on congregate care.

## Objectives

- Engage workforce by building a well-resourced, well-trained and supportive organization culture.
- Reduce the use of residential intervention and out-of-state placements.
- Expand family-based placements, including kinship care, non-relative foster care and therapeutic foster care.

## Mile Markers

	<u>Q1</u>	<u>Q2</u>	<u>Q3</u>	<u>Q4</u>
Achieve 39% diversity in the DCYF workforce reviews to effectively monitor contracts through qualitative and quantitative analysis.	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>36%</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>n/a</b>
Increase staff retention to 92%	<b>96%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>91%</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>n/a</b>
Incrementally reduce the number of children in out-of-state placements, from 77 to 60 (by March 2025)	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>73</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>n/a</b>

1) Division of Central Management Human Resources (point in time)  
2) October 2025 Strategic Metric Dashboard (point in time)

## Residential Intervention and Out-of-State Placements

DCYF recognizes the ongoing challenges to reducing the number of children and young people receiving out-of-state residential intervention. We continue to prioritize efforts to address the individual needs of children and young people in our care. We are actively working with our partner agencies to assess capacity and explore innovative, child-specific interventions to meet the needs of children ready for discharge. These include collaborative efforts to identify and implement creative placement options, particularly for youth with acute needs, to ensure they remain in family-based environments when possible.

We are working closely with our Legal and Residential Intervention Unit teams to advocate for children’s stability within the state system, emphasizing the importance of keeping children in state programs, unless out-of-state placements are absolutely necessary. This coordinated approach aims to promote stability and support successful community-based transitions.

Leadership facilitates weekly meetings focused on youth receiving residential interventions. We remain committed to proactive treatment planning and collaboration with all stakeholders to support successful, sustainable transitions.

## 2025 Resource Families Recruitment & Retention Plan Reflection

The Rhode Island 2025 Statewide Recruitment and Retention Plan set a goal to license **85** new non-relative foster homes (DCYF traditional and private agency therapeutic foster homes) by June 30, 2025. Of these, DCYF aimed to license **30** families, with private foster care agencies responsible for licensing the remaining **55**.

As of the target date, **71** families were licensed: DCYF licensed **56** new homes, while our six private foster care agencies licensed **15**. This falls short of the collective goal.

At the start of SFY 2025, there were **389** active non-relative foster homes; by year's end, this number decreased to **358**, a net decline that highlights ongoing recruitment and retention challenges.

While recruitment efforts have met short-term targets, retention remains a critical issue. Despite initial success in recruiting and retaining new families, the overall number of active foster homes has declined. This underscores the urgent need to enhance retention strategies, including increased in-home therapeutic foster care support, staff training on supporting resource families, ongoing peer mentoring and recognition initiatives.

It is crucial all partners recognize the vital role of our foster families, respect their contributions and work collaboratively to support and value them, because their stability is fundamental to the well-being of the children we serve.

Moving forward, active contract management with private foster care agencies on recruitment and retention is essential. Sustaining outreach and community engagement, combined with better support for existing families, will be key. Strengthening recruitment and retention efforts is vital to ensuring Rhode Island provides stable, nurturing homes for children who cannot live at home and maintains a responsive foster care system.

A 2026 Recruitment and Retention Plan will be shared next quarter.

[Read the 2024-2025 Recruitment and Retention Plan](#)

# ENGAGEMENT

**Engage** with youth, families and caregivers to authentically center their voices throughout the continuum of care and help youth successfully transition from our system, with special attention to marginalized youth.

## Objective

- Increase youth, family and caregiver voice through authentic family engagement.

## Mile Markers

	Number of Meetings <sup>1</sup>			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Implement the Child Well-Being Advisory Committee, comprising youth, families, foster families, staff and community providers who will provide regular feedback on their experience with DCYF, with accountability measures in place to ensure their insights are considered in decision-making processes.	1	0	4	n/a
Increase frequency of face-to-face visitation between caseworkers and mothers from 68% to 75%.	68%	68%	68% <sup>2</sup>	n/a
Increase frequency of face-to-face visitation between caseworkers and fathers from 42% to 50%	44%	44%	43% <sup>2</sup>	n/a

1) Director's Office, Quarterly CWAC meetings.  
 2) October 2025 Strategic Metric Dashboard (point in time)

## Authentic Family Engagement

The Child Well-Being Advisory Committee recommended DCYF enhance its authentic family engagement efforts through additional staff training. DCYF agrees prioritizing family engagement is essential. Initiatives to improve engagement outcomes include investment in our SAFE practice model, SAFE training for new hires, facilitation of Caring Connection calls and partnerships with the Caring Dads Program and Parent Support Network. Additionally, DCYF will incorporate strategies to improve outcomes through our statewide assessment process, which is submitted to our federal partners.

However, as highlighted in last quarter's scorecard, DCYF must do more to ensure fidelity to our SAFE Practice Model and to elevate family voices, especially those of fathers. To reinforce this commitment, all staff will participate in SAFE Practice Model retraining to strengthen these core principles.

Authentic family engagement will continue to be a central focus and a key pillar of DCYF's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and it will be consistently emphasized as an agency priority.

View the DCYF [Caring Connections Calls Policy](#) on the DCYF Policies & Operating Procedures webpage under the Division of Family Services, in the Family Services Unit-Caring Connection Calls folder.

# APPENDIX

Mile Markers with yearly metrics. Yearly metrics will be reported on January 30, 2026.

## Mile Markers | Annual Metrics | Jan. 1, 2025-Dec. 31, 2025

### Prevention

- Reduce percent of children who, while active with Family Community Care Partnerships, are removed from their home within 12 months from 8% to 6%.
- Reduce entry rate of removals from 3.5 per 1,000 children to 3.0 per 1,000 children.
- Reduce percent of children/families assigned to Family Services Unit receiving in-home supports or services and subsequently removed within 12-month follow-up from 14% to 10%.

Child & Family Services Review objective

- Increase cases rated a Strength on CFSR Well-Being Outcome, Education, from 87% to 92%.
- increase cases rated a Strength on CFSR Well-Being Outcome, Medical, from 78% to 83%.
- Increase cases rated a Strength on CFSR Well-Being Outcome, Mental/Behavioral Health, from 68% to 73%.

### Accountability

- Increase the percent of children who achieve permanency within 12 months of entry.
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the percent of children removed from home year over year compared to Rhode Island Census.

### Collaboration

- No annual metrics. All metrics are reported quarterly.

### Engagement

- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities in monthly visits with mothers, year over year.
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities in monthly visits with fathers, year over year.

Child & Family Services Review objective

- Increase cases rated a Strength for CFSR Well-Being Outcome, Caseworker Visits with Child, from 78% to 83%.

