



State of Rhode Island
Department of Children, Youth & Families



P.A.C.E. SCORECARD

QUARTER 1: January 1, 2026 – March 30, 2026

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 first quarter of 2026, DCYF observed a decrease in the number of children in out-of-home placements. In December 2025, there were 1,248 children placed out of home. By March, this number had decreased by 2.5% to **1,217** children in out-of-home care.

Home for Every Child

In March, Rhode Island joined 14 states and the District of Columbia to join “A Home for Every Child,” a bipartisan effort to increase the number of licensed foster care homes relative to the number of children in care spearheaded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Nationwide, there are 57 licensed foster homes per 100 children in care, and this initiative seeks to close the gap.

In Rhode Island, there are 1,217 children in out-of-home care and 656 licensed foster homes, including relative, non-relative, traditional and therapeutic foster care homes, according to the March 2026 DCYF Strategic Metrics Dashboard. This does not include children who are placed in approved kinship homes pending licensure.

A Home for Every Child changes how federal oversight operates by shifting the way states set and meet goals. As ACF’s latest Program Improvement Plan (PIP) guidance outlines, rather than negotiating a PIP that often exceeds 60 pages, each state works directly with ACF to develop a simplified plan with metrics tailored to the state in hopes of producing real outcomes.

DCYF looks forward to collaboratively working with ACF to close the gap on this important national effort.

Note: Going forward, the P.A.C.E. Scorecard will include federally reported PIP metrics, rather than Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) outcomes. Data will be reported in the Appendix of future scorecards.

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

Maintain quarterly Active Contract Management (ACM) reviews to effectively monitor contracts through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

	Total ACMs			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4

4¹

1. Division of Performance Improvement ACM Tracking

Rhode Island Children's Behavioral Health Consent Decree

On April 8, 2026, DCYF submitted a draft Consent Decree Implementation Plan to the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island and the Court-appointed monitor for review. The plan reflects a shared commitment to better serving children with significant behavioral health needs by outlining how the State will meet Consent Decree requirements and strengthen the children's behavioral health system. This accountability measure focuses on building needed infrastructure, supporting provider capacity, improving data systems, clarifying roles across agencies and ensuring the voices of youth and families are meaningfully included in decision-making.

DCYF anticipates a final implementation plan submission in June 2026.

Residential Monitoring Unit

To address DCYF's maltreatment in out-of-home setting outcomes, especially within residential intervention environments, it is essential to implement ongoing quality improvement activities. DCYF and providers are collaborating to identify and adopt best practices for residential care that are flexible and tailored to the individual needs and strengths of youth.

DCYF is actively working to fully reestablish a Residential Monitoring Unit. Successful efforts will require partnership in data collection and utilization to enhance care planning and support seamless transitions for youth. It is crucial to systematically report and track the types and frequency of clinical and behavioral support provided. By prioritizing these measures, we aim to ensure safer, more effective residential environments that prevent maltreatment and promote positive youth development.

Progress on Residential Monitoring will be posted to our scorecard quarterly.

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 residential intervention.

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	37% ²			
Increase staff retention to 92%	92% ²			

2. Division of Central Management Human Resources (point in time)

Private Agency Therapeutic Foster Care

The Department has convened three meetings (November 14, 2026, February 18, 2026, March 18, 2026) with Private Agency Therapeutic Foster Care providers to discuss the current landscape of therapeutic foster care in Rhode Island. Data indicates that collectively, providers are operating at under 40% of their contracted capacity. The team acknowledged the need for adjustments to better support the therapeutic needs of children entering care in high-quality, family-based therapeutic settings. Meetings have focused on strategies to enhance therapeutic resource family availability for children and to align efforts to meet the goal of licensing 55 new therapeutic foster families by June 30, 2026. Meetings will continue throughout summer to support this statewide effort to license and retain therapeutic foster home families who will accept placement of children with a higher level of need.

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			
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.

1³

Increase frequency of face-to-face visitation between caseworkers and mothers from 68% to 75%.

67%⁴

Increase frequency of face-to-face visitation between caseworkers and fathers from 42% to 50%

48%⁴

- 3. Director's Office, Quarterly CWAC meetings.
- 4. March 2026 Strategic Metric Dashboard (point in time)

2026 Priorities

Through collaboration with DCYF staff, community partners, families and young people, in 2024 we developed a series of priorities to advance our system. DCYF's strategic plan, "[Setting P.A.C.E. for Rhode Island Children, Youth and Families](#)," highlights these priorities and keep us focused on our mission.

In 2026, our Priorities remain the same with an immediate focus on strengthening our continuum of care and the uplifting voices of those we serve. We will leverage the [Children's Behavioral Health Consent Decree](#) to strengthen our statewide service array for children and young people so that they receive timely access to services and supports in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting to meet their needs.

WELL-BEING: Our objective is to establish a proactive child and family well-being system that prioritizes the voices of youth and families, enhances preventative support and improves overall outcomes.

RACIAL JUSTICE: We are dedicated to promoting racial equity by identifying and eliminating systemic

racism within our child and family well-being system.

TRANSITION: We focus on supporting foster youth in their successful transition to adulthood, paying particular attention to LGBTQIA+ youth, those aging out of care and other marginalized groups.

WORKFORCE: We aspire to engage our workforce by fostering a well-resourced, well-trained and supportive organizational culture.

CONTINUUM OF CARE: We are committed to building a robust continuum of care that ensures improved access to a diverse range of therapeutic supports and services.

