



Family First Prevention Services Act FAQs

FOSTER BOARDING HOME PLACEMENTS

GENERAL

1. Does the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) have a statewide plan to recruit more foster boarding homes? Can OCFS provide data to assist voluntary agencies (VAs) and local departments of social services (LDSSs) with estimating how many additional foster homes will be needed and provide technical assistance for utilizing the data?

OCFS publishes quarterly reports to monitor the number of homes and beds for both foster homes and congregate care facilities. OCFS also provides information about the number of relative approved homes and non-relative certified homes that have been active in the last six months by county (geographic location of the home). Please find these reports at this link: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/sppd/family-first-data.php>. OCFS encourages LDSSs and VAs to develop a process for deeper analysis using focus groups and shared best practices from other LDSSs and VAs to determine specific needs of the populations they serve.

Additionally, resources have been developed and made available on recruit4fostercare.com. These resources include the recruitment and retention guide, [Revitalizing Recruitment](#). This guide was developed to help LDSSs and VAs meet the challenge of providing qualified, well-prepared foster/adoptive families that can meet the needs of children and youth coming into care. It is important to note that the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) seeks to keep children safely at home, and when that is not possible, it attempts to place children with relatives. Therefore, identifying and engaging kin as placement resources should be the primary focus of child-centered foster boarding home recruitment efforts. Please refer to these policies: the [Blind Removal Process](#) and [Kin-First Firewall](#), which align with the FFPSA.

2. Where can I find information on the FFPSA model licensing standards and updated forms for the certification or approval of foster homes?

On August 6, 2019, OCFS released Administrative Directive [19-OCFS-ADM-07](#) to advise LDSSs and VAs of the release of the FFPSA model licensing standards and the alignment of New York State's process and standards for certifying or approving foster homes with the model standards.