

Family Foster Home Licensing & Certification



North Dakota has three Levels of Licensure administered by Children and Family Services for family foster care providers:

License - Full

- o Care to up to six children in need of out of home placement, which may include long term placements, respite or shelter care.
- o Care to children in need of treatment by specialized providers thru Nexus PATH.

License – Relative

- o Care to up to six relative children only.
- o No placement maximums unless in treatment foster care.

Certified

- o Care to up to three children in need of an out of home safety plan, short-term only; 30 days or less.
- o Emergency shelter care is offered during a crisis for 14 days or less.
- o Respite care is planned and offered for 4 days or less.

The CFS Licensing Unit works with Tribal Nations and Nexus PATH to approve family foster homes based on NDCC 50-11, NDAC 75-03-36 and licensing policy 622-05.

Eligibility

- o Individuals must be age 21.
- o Approved fingerprint based criminal background check, including passed child abuse and neglect index check.
- o Approved home study assessment.
- o Financially stable with reasonable resources to meet the needs of your home.
- o Demonstrate the ability to interpret and understand the laws, rules and policies, child case plans, medication labels, etc.

Services

- o Family foster care
- o Respite care
- o Emergency/ Shelter care on-call
- o Treatment foster care
- o Specialized care to children with complex behavioral health needs, medically fragile and adolescents under the custody of Division of Juvenile Services.

Roles and Responsibilities

- o Provide safe care and basic needs.
- o Provide daily cares and supervision.
- o Provide transportation to school, visitation, activities and medical appointments.
- o Communicate with professionals to ensure services are met for the child.
- o Participate in case planning meetings.
- o Participate in cultural activities for the child.
- o Acknowledge foster care is intended to be temporary and offering foster care is a safety service to the community.

Interested in More Information?

- o Inquiry Line: 1-833-378-4663
- o CFS Licensing Unit: 701-328-2322 or email cfslicensing@nd.gov

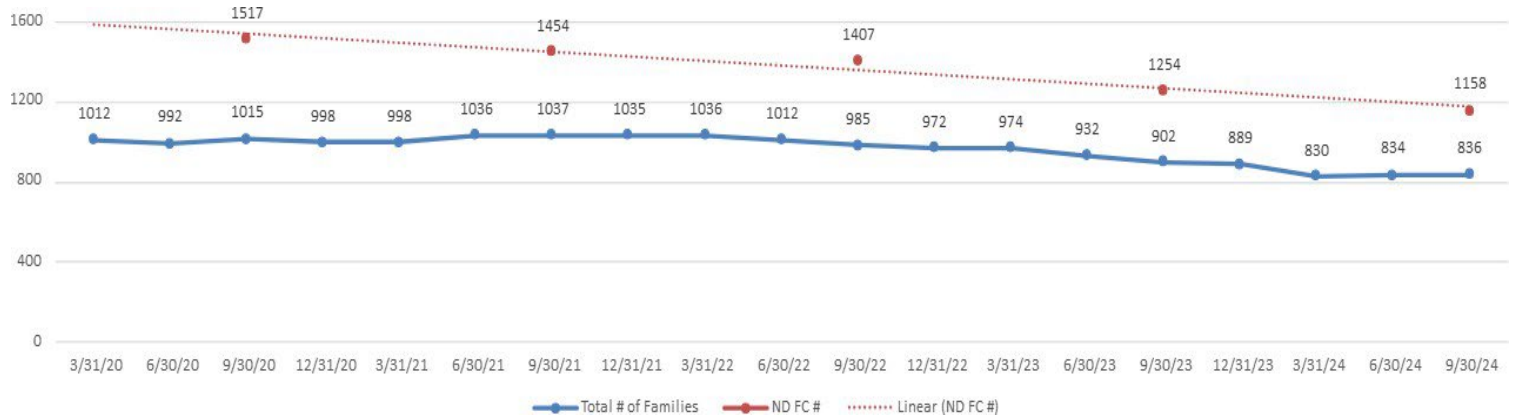
That's a Fact

On any given day in North Dakota, we have roughly:

- o 1,150 children in foster care
- o 150 licensed relatives
- o 600 licensed providers

The data below indicates the volume children in North Dakota foster care is trending downward. This consistent trend is helpful, but there is constant effort made to ensure provider homes are available and willing to meet the needs of the children in care based on age, gender and complexity of needs.

Children In North Dakota Foster Care vs. Provider Trendline



On average, North Dakota data representing children in foster care includes:

Ages of Children

- 39% ages 5 and under
- 35% ages 6 - 12
- 20% ages 13 - 17
- 6% ages 18+

Custodian of Children

- 81% Human Service Zone and 18+
- 18% Tribal IV-E
- 1% Division of Juvenile Services

Length of Stay for the children in care

- 43% in care less than one year, with 33% of those cases in care 90 days or less
- 23% in care over 1 year, less than 2 years
- 14% in care over 2 years, less than 3 years
- 19% in care greater than 3 years; longest time for a child is 4682 (12.8 years). These cases present with a variety of complex needs, one contributing factor is their length of stay without permanency.

Majority (95%) of the children are placed in a family setting; 16% unlicensed caregivers, 75% with a licensed foster home (relative or unrelated), and 3% in supervised independent living apartments. Case managers work diligently to place children in the least restrictive level of care to meet the child's needs. Since 2019, HHS has seen a reduction in the number of children placed in long term residential settings and an increase in the number of relatives or known caregivers!



Children and Family Services Section

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