

Chapter 4

YEARLY ADOPTION TARGETS

4-1. Purpose. Maintenance Adoption Subsidy is funded through federal and state funds. To ensure that the Department is constructing accurate annual Legislative Budget Requests for Maintenance Adoption Subsidies, a standardized statewide method for establishing annual adoption finalization targets is essential.

4-2. Common Population Adjustments and Barriers. Common population adjustments and barriers are circumstances specific to an individual case that may impact the timeliness of an adoption finalizing, such as the following:

a. "Children over the age of 12" refers to a child described in Rule 65C-16.005(a), Florida Administrative Code, who must consent to the adoption.

b. "Large sibling group" consists of three or more children when recruitment for a single adoptive home is taking place.

c. "Medically complex" is a child with physical, hearing or visual impairments that significantly affect the child's day to day functioning.

d. "Developmental disability" refers to a child who has a developmental disability of autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome, spina bifida, or children age 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability who are being served by Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

e. "Extensive behavioral challenges" refers to a child's behaviors that are of such intensity, frequency or duration that the physical safety of the child or another person is negatively impacted.

f. "Sexually reactive" refers to a child who has been exposed to or has had direct contact with inappropriate sexual activities, sexual behaviors or relationships and has then begun to engage in or initiate sexual or sexualized behaviors, activities, interactions or relationships that include excessive sexual play, inappropriate sexual comments or gestures, mutual sexual activity with others or sexual molestation and abuse of other children.

g. "Judiciary trends" refers to pertinent changes in judicial leadership and practices that directly impact the outcome of cases with the permanency goal of adoption.

h. "Termination of parental rights appeal" is the period of time in which the First District Court of Appeal hears and renders a decision regarding the ruling of the termination of parental rights of the biological parents.

i. "Adoption applicant appeal time" refers to the period of time in which a Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, appeal hearing occurs and a ruling is provided.

j. "Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC) adoption home study time frame" refers to the period of time in which the completion and receipt of an ICPC adoption home study request to a receiving state is returned to the sending Community-Based Care Lead Agency.

k. "Out-of-County Services (OCS) adoption home study time frame" refers to the period of time in which the completion and receipt of an OCS adoption home study request to a receiving county is returned to the sending Primary Community-Based Care Lead Agency.

l. “Children returned to care due to dissolutions” refers to children who were previously adopted who have returned to foster care due to the termination of parental rights of their adoptive parent(s).

m. “Multiple families applying to adopt a child” refers to the review of more than one application to adopt a specific child.

n. “Crossover youth” refers to any youth who has experienced maltreatment and has engaged in or has had involvement with the juvenile justice department. Within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, a crossover youth can have both cases closed, one open and one closed, or both cases open.

4-3. Target Setting.

a. The Office of Child Welfare will review adoption data and trends from the previous fiscal years and establish the initial recommended target number of adoptions to be finalized for the upcoming fiscal year by each Community-Based Care (CBC) Lead Agency.

b. The Office of Child Welfare will pull data from Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) for a 12-month period beginning January 1st through December 31st of the preceding year to be used to calculate the adoption target.

c. The Adoption Target Formula. The adoption target formula is $(\text{Group 1} + \text{Group 2}) \times (1 + \text{Group 3}) = \text{Target Number of Adoptions to be finalized in upcoming fiscal year}$ (see example in Attachment 1 to this chapter). The “groups” are calculated as follows:

(1) Group 1.

(a) Calculate the statewide number of children adopted by December 31st in the previous calendar year who on January 1st of the previous calendar year had achieved Termination of Parental Rights and had a goal of adoption.

(b) Divide by the statewide number of children available on January 1st of the previous calendar year who met the criteria of having achieved Termination of Parental Rights and having a goal of adoption.

(c) Multiply the fraction calculated in steps (a) and (b) above by each CBC Lead Agency’s children available who have achieved Termination of Parental Rights and have a goal of adoption on January 1st of the current calendar year.

(2) Group 2.

(a) Calculate the statewide number of children adopted by December 31st in the previous calendar year who are not in Group 1, but were in out-of-home care 12 months or longer on January 1st of the previous calendar year.

(b) Divide by the statewide number of children who are not in Group 1, who were in out-of-home care 12 months or longer on January 1st of the previous calendar year.

(c) Multiply the fraction calculated in steps (a) and (b) above by each CBC Lead Agency’s children not in Group 1 who were in out of home care 12 months or longer on January 1st of the current calendar year.

(3) Group 3.

(a) Calculate the statewide number of children not in Group 1 or 2 who were adopted between January 1st and December 31st of the previous calendar year.

(b) Divide by the statewide total number of adoptions between January 1st and December 31st of the previous calendar year.

d. Adoption targets also will be calculated based on the 75th percentile of the statewide mean of children available for adoption in the fiscal year.

4-4. Review and Analysis of Cases.

a. The recommended adoption target for each CBC Lead Agency with the associated client list report will be forwarded to the respective Department Regional Leadership for dissemination between January 1st and March 15th.

b. The Department Regional Staff will review the recommended adoption target and discuss historical trends for their region.

c. The CBC Lead Agencies will conduct an initial review of the client list associated with the adoption target and identify common population adjustments and barriers to the recommended adoption target.

d. Department Regional Staff and CBCs will review the data and conduct case analysis between March 16th and April 30th of the state fiscal year for adoption target data from the preceding state fiscal year. The review will serve as a validation of the recommended target number of adoptions.

4-5. Negotiations.

a. The CBC Lead Agency must submit the agency's projected target of adoptions to be finalized and supporting documentation to the Department Regional Leadership team.

b. Formal and/or informal negotiations between the Department Regional Team and CBC Lead Agency shall occur between May 1st and May 31st.

c. If an agreement cannot be reached, additional consultation regarding adjustments to the recommended adoption target numbers will be held between the Department Regional Leadership team, the CBC Lead Agency, the Office of Assistant Secretary of Operations, the Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare and the Office of Child Welfare.

d. A detailed client list review is required with all recommended targets from the CBC Lead Agency.

e. Upon agreement of the adoption target, the CBC Lead Agency will provide written notice to the Department Regional Staff as to the acceptance of the adoption target.

f. The Department Regional Contract Manager will forward the proposed adoption target number to the Assistant Secretary of Operations, the Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare and the Adoption Policy and Program Specialist within the Office of Child Welfare.

4-6. Approval of Adoption Target Number.

a. Upon agreement, the Assistant Secretary for Operations will provide notice to the Department Regional Office of the approved final adoption target number.

b. The Department Regional CBC Contract Manager will forward the final approved adoption target number to the CBC Lead Agency.

c. The Department Regional Contract Manager will update the CBC Lead Agency's contract to reflect the final approved adoption target number and notify the Adoption Policy and Program Specialist of the final adoption finalization target.

d. CBC Lead Agencies are responsible for notifying all contracted case management organizations regarding the final approved adoption target.

e. All adoption target numbers must be approved and finalized no later than the last business day in June with an effective date of July 1st of the new state fiscal year.

f. See Attachment 2 to this chapter for an overview of the Adoption Target Setting/Negotiation Process.

Adoption Target Formula Example

$$\frac{\text{Total}}{(\text{Group 1} + \text{Group 2}) \times (1 + \text{Group 3})}$$

Group 1		Group 2		Group 3
Statewide children adopted by 12/31/2015 who met both criteria below on 1/1/2015	X	Statewide children adopted by 12/31/2015, not in Group 1, who were in out-of-home care 12 months or longer on 1/1/2015	X	Statewide children not in group 1 or 2 who were adopted between 1/1/2015 and 12/31/2015
<u>Statewide children available who met both criteria on 1/1/2015</u>		Each CBC's children available who meet both criteria below on 1/1/2016		Each CBC's children not in Group 1 who were in out-of-home care 12 months or longer on 1/1/2016

1. TPR finalized; and
2. Goal of adoption

*Dates can be adjusted with regards to the date of data pull

Adoption Targets Setting/Negotiation Process

