



CONNECTICUT
Children & Families

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Technical Bullet 14 A Home for Every Child

What is the purpose of Technical Bulletin (TB) #14, and how does it relate to prior guidance?

TB #14 marks the initial phase of a broader Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) modernization effort and introduces flexibility authorized under Executive Order 14359, Fostering the Future for American Children and Families. It offers states the option to participate in a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) pilot. TB #14 establishes an alternative approach to the current PIP process.*

*Authored by Children's Bureau

CT PIP Goals

1) Safely Reduce the Number of Children in Care

Connecticut will reduce the number of children in care by focusing on strategies that improve the safety of children in their own homes, and for those that must enter care, to reduce the time in care from entry to a safe permanency exit.

2) Increase the Number of Licensed Foster Homes

Connecticut will increase the number of licensed foster homes by streamlining the recruitment, retention and licensing process, modernizing our foster and kinship training curricula to better prepare foster parents to meet children's needs and increase stability and retention.

Strategies

- Improve Safety to Prevent Entry or Re-Entry to Care
- Reduce Time In Care from Entry to Safe Permanency Exit
- Increase Recruitment of Foster Homes
- Streamline Foster Home Licensing Process
- Modernize Foster Home Training Curricula

There are multiple key activities under each strategy as well as metrics to report out.

Highlights/Updates on CT PIP

CT PIP was approved by the Children's Bureau on 6/5/26 with two years for implementation.

Supervisor Observation Tool: The tool is based on the CT Safety Practice Model. Piloting has begun in New Haven, it will roll out next in the implementation sites of Willimantic

Permanency Intervention: Flow of work to increase communication with internal and external partners. Begins at the Initial ACR identifying if there are challenges with service provision or assessment of need, notification to Systems PD and RRG. Additional court hearing facilitated by the Judges in Hartford/Waterbury between the adjudication and permanency plan to increase communication and decrease barriers, second ACR six months later some consideration of appropriateness of permanency plan and filing supporting documents at the time of the perm plan.

Foster care: Analysis of need, efforts around recruitment/retention and flow of work changes, foster parent training changes. Training changes have in part occurred and analysis is under way.

**TRENDS IN AGE AT ENTRY FOR CHILDREN ENTERING DCF CARE
FROM STATE FISCAL YEARS (SFY) 2016 - 2026
BY FIRST ENTRY OR RE-ENTRY**

Trend in Volume and Average Age at Entry for Children Entering DCF Care During SFY16 - SFY26 by First Entry or Re-Entry

Prior FC Episodes	State Fiscal Year of Entry										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
#											
First Entry	1964	1914	1853	1922	1429	1033	1052	1213	1371	1364	1332
Re-Entry	401	398	381	347	273	221	194	219	228	214	224
%											
First Entry	83.0%	82.8%	82.9%	84.7%	84.0%	82.4%	84.4%	84.7%	85.7%	86.4%	85.6%
Re-Entry	17.0%	17.2%	17.1%	15.3%	16.0%	17.6%	15.6%	15.3%	14.3%	13.6%	14.4%
Average of Age Episode Start											
First Entry	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.4	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.5
Re-Entry	11.9	11.6	10.6	10.0	9.5	10.1	10.1	10.8	10.2	10.3	10.3
Total #	2365	2312	2234	2269	1702	1254	1246	1432	1599	1578	1556
Total %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Total Average of Age	7.5	7.4	7.4	6.7	6.5	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1

**Data from CT DCF Results-Oriented Management (ROM) Child Episode Counts Report on 7/6/2026; note that the data source for ROM is the child welfare information system CT-KIND.*

Trend for Children Entering DCF Care for the First Time During SFY16 - SFY26 by Age Group at Entry

Prior FC Episodes First Entry		State Fiscal Year of Entry										
Age of Entry		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
#												
0-3		778	739	711	761	647	494	446	490	491	514	493
3-6		303	317	271	338	199	123	139	157	215	223	227
6-9		241	209	219	237	154	113	111	122	177	173	162
9-12		157	182	195	201	132	85	87	132	163	125	149
12-15		202	199	194	182	140	109	123	155	161	161	151
15-18		280	264	259	203	154	109	145	156	164	167	150
>18		3	4	4		3		1	1		1	
%												
0-3		39.6%	38.6%	38.4%	39.6%	45.3%	47.8%	42.4%	40.4%	35.8%	37.7%	37.0%
3-6		15.4%	16.6%	14.6%	17.6%	13.9%	11.9%	13.2%	12.9%	15.7%	16.3%	17.0%
6-9		12.3%	10.9%	11.8%	12.3%	10.8%	10.9%	10.6%	10.1%	12.9%	12.7%	12.2%
9-12		8.0%	9.5%	10.5%	10.5%	9.2%	8.2%	8.3%	10.9%	11.9%	9.2%	11.2%
12-15		10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	9.5%	9.8%	10.6%	11.7%	12.8%	11.7%	11.8%	11.3%
15-18		14.3%	13.8%	14.0%	10.6%	10.8%	10.6%	13.8%	12.9%	12.0%	12.2%	11.3%
>18		0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Total #		1964	1914	1853	1922	1429	1033	1052	1213	1371	1364	1332
Total %		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Data from CT DCF Results-Oriented Management (ROM) Child Episode Counts Report on 7/6/2026; note that the data source for ROM is the child welfare information system CT-KIND.*

Trend for Children Re-Entering DCF Care During SFY16 - SFY26 by Age Group at Entry

Prior FC Episodes (Multiple Items) Re-Entry

Age at Entry	State Fiscal Year of Entry										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
#											
0-3	37	47	65	51	42	32	22	22	29	12	33
3-6	41	39	30	38	41	26	36	24	33	36	33
6-9	46	47	45	61	48	26	24	32	32	47	24
9-12	47	37	50	48	40	41	25	35	32	33	34
12-15	62	72	62	66	41	46	41	49	49	34	36
15-18	144	140	120	83	60	50	44	56	52	52	62
>18	24	16	9		1		2	1	1		2
%											
0-3	9.2%	11.8%	17.1%	14.7%	15.4%	14.5%	11.3%	10.0%	12.7%	5.6%	14.7%
3-6	10.2%	9.8%	7.9%	11.0%	15.0%	11.8%	18.6%	11.0%	14.5%	16.8%	14.7%
6-9	11.5%	11.8%	11.8%	17.6%	17.6%	11.8%	12.4%	14.6%	14.0%	22.0%	10.7%
9-12	11.7%	9.3%	13.1%	13.8%	14.7%	18.6%	12.9%	16.0%	14.0%	15.4%	15.2%
12-15	15.5%	18.1%	16.3%	19.0%	15.0%	20.8%	21.1%	22.4%	21.5%	15.9%	16.1%
15-18	35.9%	35.2%	31.5%	23.9%	22.0%	22.6%	22.7%	25.6%	22.8%	24.3%	27.7%
>18	6.0%	4.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.9%
Total #	401	398	381	347	273	221	194	219	228	214	224
Total %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

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