

## **DEFINITION OF “FOSTER CARE”**

Foster care is defined in accordance with state and federal regulations to mean 24-hour supervised care for children who have been removed from their normal place of residence (i.e. the home of their parent, legal guardian, managing conservator, custodian, or relative) by an order of the juvenile court and placed in a foster care setting, and for whom the county has placement and care responsibility. A child is in foster care in accordance with this definition regardless of whether the foster care facility is licensed and payments are made for the child’s care or whether federal matching of any payments is made.

Foster care providers include foster family homes and non-secure residential facilities licensed by DFPS or other state licensing authority, and child care institutions operated by a governmental entity up to 25 beds. Examples of foster care settings may include, but are not limited to:

- Emergency Shelters
- Residential Treatment Centers
- Maternity Homes
- Halfway Houses
- Child Placing Agencies (CPAs)
- Therapeutic Camps
- Basic Child Care Facilities
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities
- Non-Secure County Operated Facilities (25 beds or less)
- Foster Family Homes
- Foster Group Homes
- Therapeutic Foster Family Homes
- Therapeutic Foster Group Homes
- Kinship/Relative Care

Children are not considered to be in foster care if placed in secure facilities, hospitals, or public institutions with more than 25 beds. Examples of facilities that are **NOT** considered foster care may include, but are not limited to:

- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Boot camps
- Pre-adjudication detention centers
- Post adjudication facilities
- County operated residential programs with more than 25 beds