



## Nebraska Administrative Office of Probation

# Professional Foster Care Implementation

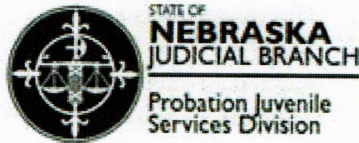
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### Foster Care Agency Partners

- ✓ Cedars Youth Services
- ✓ KVC– Lincoln
- ✓ KVC– Omaha
- ✓ Omni Behavioral Health



**CEDARS**



## Professional Foster Care Service Description

Professional Foster Care (PFC) is designed to provide community-based placements in a home-like setting when other traditional foster care, family or kinship placements are not an option.

This service provides an elevated intensity of intervention beyond what is provided through traditional foster care in order to meet the needs of a specialized population.

Professional Foster Care is designed to effectively work with youth who are in need of a highly structured environment and matches them with highly skilled caregivers in order to:

- manage their behavioral and emotional needs
- enhance the development of social support
- effectively engage

community-based services

- prevent placement in congregate or out-of-state care

Professional foster parents are supported by an agency who is highly engaged with the foster home, youth and the youth's family to enable the youth to successfully achieve their goals and return home.

## PFC Target Population

### 1. On the Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) youth score high risk in:

- ◆ Family Circumstances/Parenting
- ◆ Personality/Behavior and/or
- ◆ Attitudes/Orientation
- ◆ Or has an overall high risk score

### 2. And meet one of the following criteria:

- ◆ Aggressive and non-compliant behavior impacts access to other alternatives
- ◆ Youth is being considered for placement in an out-of-state facility
- ◆ Youth has a pattern of previously failed placements
- ◆ Youth displays sexually harming behaviors
- ◆ Developmental disability or other special needs
- ◆ Youth with extensive system involvement and long-term institutional placements in need of transition supports

## Program Components

Focuses on improving youth and/or family functioning to include:

- Intensive focus on coping skills
- Youth develop to support ability to change behaviors
- Consistent access to needed treatment
- Structured living environment
- Parental skill development
- Positive family interactions
- Development of Prosocial supports
- Facilitate building relationships with supportive adults
- Reduction of risk and need in assessed areas



# Professional Foster Care Performance Measures

<b>Placement After Referral</b>	
<b>Total Referrals</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Foster Placement</i>	16
<i>Congregate Treatment</i>	3
<i>Congregate Non-Treatment</i>	3
<i>Out-of-State Treatment</i>	1
YRTC	1
Shelter	2
Home	2
Pending	1

<b>Foster Placement</b>	
<b>Foster Placement</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Professional Foster Care</i>	4
<i>Traditional Foster Care</i>	3
<i>Other Foster Care</i>	2
<i>Extended Family Homes</i>	7

<b>Professional Foster Care</b>	
<b>Professional Foster Care</b>	<b>4</b>
KVC	3
Cedars	1
Omni	0

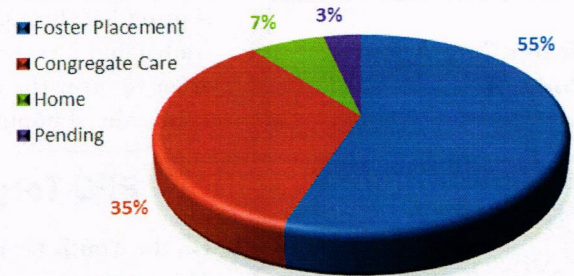
## Placement After Referral to Professional Foster Care

Professional Foster Care agencies began accepting referrals in November 2017. To date, there have been a total of 29 referrals coming from 11 districts.

The referral process is managed through the Administrative Office of Probation during the implementation phase to ensure the service is meeting the needs of the identified population, to problem solve any systems barriers and to assist in gathering all they key information necessary to complete a quality matching process.

Upon receiving a referral, the three agencies are provided the written referral from the probation officer and all collateral to begin seeking a potential match. A follow up call occurs weekly to answer any questions and assist in the matching. The call includes the three agencies, the supervising probation officer and probation administration.

Breakdowns of the placement for the 29 youth following referral can be found in the left column. 55% of the youth referred were placed into home-based settings with 4 being placed into professional foster care homes. Ongoing efforts are being made to increase capacity to serve more youth in or near their home communities.



### PFC Objectives

- Increase capacity of skilled foster homes for justice involved youth
- Youth are diverted from non-medically necessary treatment
- Reduction in out-of-state placements

#### Long Term:

- Reduction in unsuccessful discharges (runaway, kicked out, removed)
- Youth discharge home successfully
- Youth are not committing violent crimes or felonies after the program

## Recruitment of Professional Foster Homes

The youth referred for Professional Foster Care come with a variety of complicating factors that have impacted their success in the community and limited placement options. Resilient and skilled homes are needed to support the future success of these youth. Referrals during the initial phase of implementation have identified a need for homes that are interested in providing support to youth with the following needs:

- Developmental disabilities or other special needs (functional limitations without low IQ, gender identity, trauma survivor)
- Crossover youth (youth involved with DHHS and Probation)
- Youth with multiple placement disruptions
- Youth with difficult behaviors (aggression, runaway)
- Youth with a history of sexually harming behaviors
- Youth with mental health needs requiring extra support

Cedars, KVC and Omni are providing additional support and training for homes identified to serve this population along with additional support from Probation.

<b>Reason for Referral</b>	
<i>Stepdown from PRTF</i>	4
<i>Youth who Sexually Harm</i>	7
<i>No Placement Options</i>	5
<i>Alternative to PRTF</i>	2
<i>Crossover Youth</i>	4
<i>DD/Other Special Needs</i>	4
<i>Systemic Family Needs</i>	3