

PART II: Final Report for Fiscal Years 2000-2004

(3) Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

**Children's Administration
Department of Social and Health Services**

Final Report for FY 00-04: Foster/Adoptive Home Recruitment

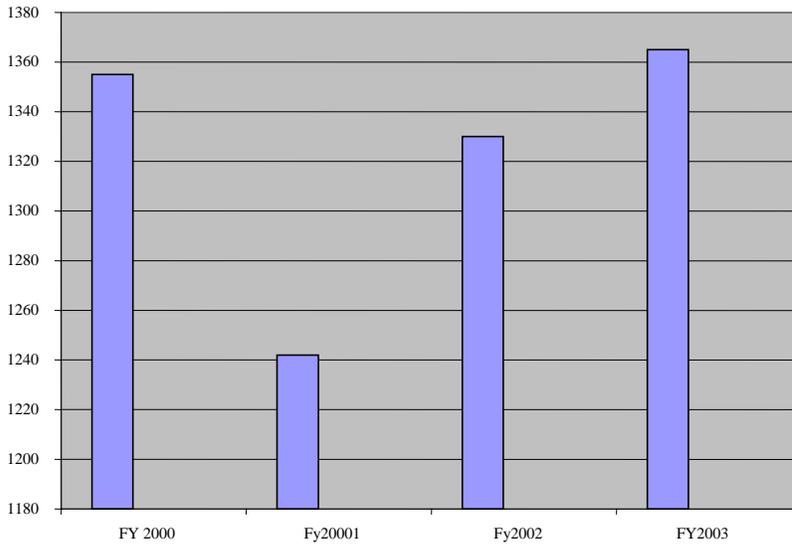
The major component of Children's Administration's (CA) foster home recruitment system is our contract with Families for Kids Recruitment Resources (FFK-RR), a division of Lutheran Community Services. This partnership began in 1998 and has capitalized on the acknowledgement that foster parents make the best recruiters.

Initially, one region used foster parents as recruiters, paying them a monthly stipend. In 2002, CA expanded this concept statewide via an amendment to our FFK-RR contract. Foster parent recruiters work within their own geographic areas, so they can more readily identify and recruit culturally appropriate homes for the local children.

FFK-RR is connected to CA through the regional teams of the Foster Care Improvement Plan (FCIP). The FCIP, unveiled May 2001, is a collaborative effort between CA and Casey Family Programs to recruit and retain more foster and foster/adopt families. As part of the plan, local CA staff and stakeholders meet regularly in each of the six regions to work on recruitment and retention issues.

We measure the success of "diligent recruitment" of foster homes via the number of newly licensed homes. This number dropped in 2001 from 2000 and then grew in both 2002 and 2003, as shown in the following table:

Newly Licensed Homes



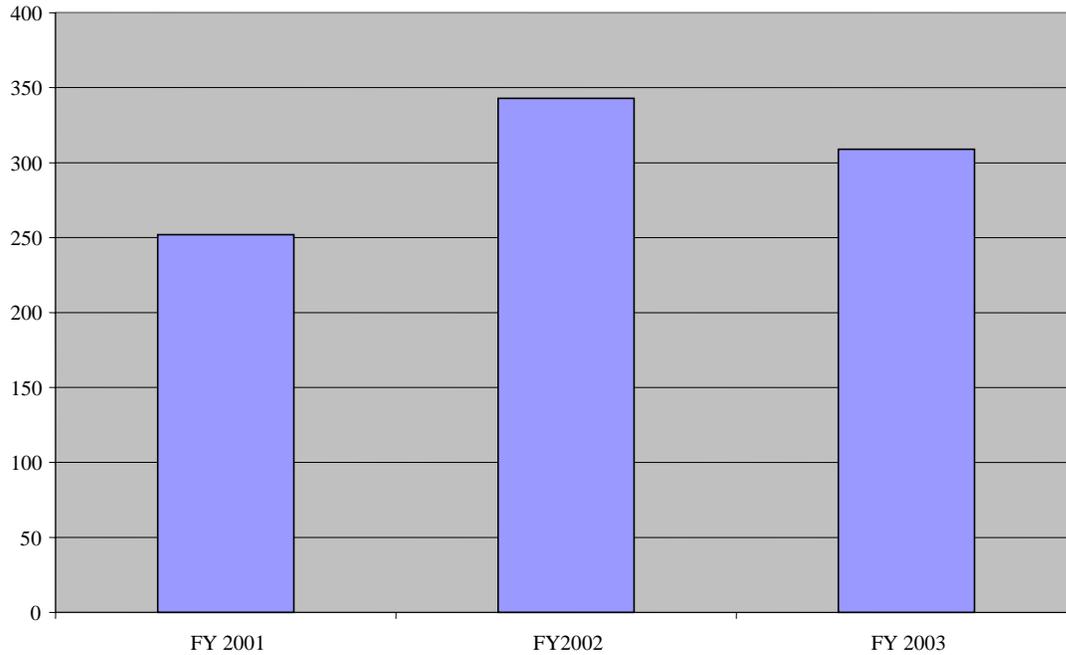
Recruitment of minority homes has been facilitated by two targeted contracts: Native American homes have been recruited through 2003 contracts with Tribes and Urban Indian Organizations and a 2004 contract with FFF-RR funded via the Weidel Trust Fund.

The 2003 Tribal contracts led to an increase of 10 percent in tribal homes; the total number of licensed Native American foster homes increased from 300 to 339 during the fiscal year 2003. Given this success, funds have been similarly allocated for fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

CA allocated \$75,000 from the Weidel Trust Fund, a unique fund available within CA to recruit adoptive and foster homes that reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of children in state care, to a 2004 contract with FFK-RR for eight minority recruiters. Results of this work are not yet available.

The number of newly licensed minority homes has varied significantly between years, as noted in the chart below.

Newly Licensed Minority Foster Homes



Many foster homes are licensed for more than one child, so actual capacity differs from the number of licensed homes. Capacity, however, does not equate to availability. Foster parents are not required to accept the number of children for which they are licensed. They often chose to temporarily decline placements because of such issues as family medical problems or the need to “recharge” between placements. Many families never intend to accept the maximum number of children they are licensed for, but are willing to have children on a respite basis for other families. It is the gap between capacity and availability along with the need for optimum “matching” between child and foster home that drives our recruitment efforts.

While understanding that capacity does not equate to availability, another measure of our recruitment efforts is the comparison of licensed capacity by race of foster parent to number of children in care by race. The chart on the following page presents that information.

Children in Care by Race Compared to Foster Home Capacity

HISPANIC	RACE	Data	Children	Capacity
No	African American	Number	677	1556
		Percent	10.17%	10.80%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	49	350
		Percent	0.74%	2.43%
	Caucasian	Number	3029	10374
		Percent	45.48%	71.98%
	multi	Number	392	29
Percent		5.89%	0.20%	
Native American	Number	617	871	
	Percent	9.26%	6.04%	
Other	Number	21	134	
	Percent	0.32%	0.93%	
Unreported	Number	3	36	
	Percent	0.05%	0.25%	
Non Hispanic by Race Count			4788	13350
Percent			71.89%	92.63%
Yes	African American	Number	35	26
		Percent	0.53%	0.18%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	4	3
		Percent	0.06%	0.02%
	Caucasian	Number	459	315
		Percent	6.89%	2.19%
	multi	Number	61	6
Percent		0.92%	0.04%	
Native American	Number	129	17	
	Percent	1.94%	0.12%	
Other	Number	238	543	
	Percent	3.57%	3.77%	
Unreported	Number	13	83	
	Percent	0.20%	0.58%	
Hispanic by Race Count			939	993
Percent			14.10%	6.89%
Unreported	African American	Number	87	0
		Percent	1.31%	0.00%
	Asian/Pacific Islander	Number	10	0
		Percent	0.15%	0.00%
	Caucasian	Number	495	0
		Percent	7.43%	0.00%
	multi	Number	62	0
Percent		0.93%	0.00%	
Native American	Number	199	0	
	Percent	2.99%	0.00%	
Other	Number	10	0	
	Percent	0.15%	0.00%	
Unreported	Number	70	69	
	Percent	1.05%	0.48%	
Unreported Count			933	69
Percent			14.01%	0.48%
Total Number			6660	14412
Total Percent			100.00%	100.00%

Active Foster Homes in February 2004 **Source: licensing files May04 download**
Children count reflects those that received a February 2004 foster care or receiving care payment
Source: Payment_May04 download

While foster placements sometime evolve to adoptive placements, specialized recruitment for adoptive homes also occurs. These targeted recruitment efforts include:

- Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE): photolisting books and inclusion on NWAE website, reaching Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska,
- AdoptUSKids: national website for waiting children,
- child specific recruitment contracts for 40 special needs children per fiscal year,
- Purchase of Service Contracts: private agency fees for placement of children registered with WARE over 90 days,
- regional adoption consortiums: regularly scheduled collaborative staffings between DSHS and private child placing agencies for waiting children, and
- regional adoption allotments: for supplemental localized recruitment and finalization services.