Louisiana Post-Permanency Profile

Updated: December 2025

State Population (2023 Census estimate)
☒ 4 – 6,999,999 million

Adoption/Guardianship Assistance Caseload (2022)
☒ 6,000 – 9,999

- Adoption assistance caseload — 8,047
- Guardianship assistance caseload — 1,172
- Total — 9,219

State Administration Type
☒ State administered

Pre-Service Training

All prospective families must be certified as foster parents and foster a minimum of six months to adopt a child in care, as well as complete an online 24-hour preservice training called Equipped to Care. In addition, prospective families will complete an in-person 3.5 hour training called Regional Connections. Relative, kinship families and those families seeking a guardianship subsidy must also complete the 3.5 hour in-person training.

Services Offered Through the State's Post-Permanency Support Program
Post-permanency services are administered by the Department for Children and Family Services, Child Welfare Division (DCFS). Services include:

- **Assessment —** The Department is in the process of issuing a Request for Information (RFI) for providers willing to provide an array of services including post-permanency services to families who have adopted or entered guardianship from foster care.
- **Counseling services** — The Department is in the process of issuing a Request for Information (RFI) for providers willing to provide an array of services including post-permanency services to families who have adopted or entered guardianship from foster care.
- **Information and referral** — State subsidy workers respond to questions from families and help them find needed resources in their community, including adoption-competent mental health providers who accept Medicaid. The state also emails a quarterly newsletter with information and resources.
- **Financial support for counseling** — If Medicaid clinicians are unavailable, families can access a list of adoption-competent clinicians approved under a continuous vendor services agreement. These clinicians offer up to 12 sessions per year, available both pre- and post-permanency, for adoptive and guardianship families.

This project is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling $4,000,000 with 100 percent funded by ACF/HHS. The contents are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website.

For more information, visit https://www.dcfs.louisiana.gov/page/adoption

Geographic Area Covered

Subsidy workers are available to provide support statewide. Tulane's pre- and post-permanency support is available virtually when needed to ensure statewide access. For counseling referrals, there are areas with fewer adoption-competent therapists. The more rural areas of the state may not have the same access, so telehealth is used when possible. There are currently about 24 clinicians who have received Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) training, and that list continues to expand.

Eligible Population for the Overall Post-Permanency Program

☒ All families who adopted from the state's foster care system
☒ All families who adopted from foster care in other states, territories, or tribes
☒ All families who have guardianship of a child from foster care

Variations in Eligibility for the Post-Permanency Program

None

Outreach and Engagement

DCFS sends adoptive and guardianship families quarterly emails containing adoption subsidy brochures, a newsletter with resources and directories, and contact information for regional subsidy workers. This information is also distributed to regional offices for sharing with families. Adoption workers review these resources with families when they are completing subsidy paperwork and finalization.

How the Post-Permanency Program Is Operated
☒ Through a contract or grant with one private agency
☒ By other state staff

Notes About Who Provides Which Service(s)

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Adoption/Guardianship Assistance/Subsidy Review and Changes
Title IV-E subsidy agreements must be renewed every five years, while non-IV-E subsidy agreements require annual renewal with documentation of income and family size. Special board rates must be renewed yearly or as needed based on changes in circumstances. Starting July 1, 2024, all new subsidy agreements will no longer be income-based.

Adoptive and guardianship families can request changes to their adoption or guardianship assistance agreement anytime the child's needs or family's circumstances change.

Tracking Adoption/Guardianship Discontinuity

Upon finalization of adoption or guardianship, the child or youth retains the same case number while the adoptive name and adoptive parents' information are updated. After finalization, the family is assigned a subsidy worker who follows them through the child's 18th birthday and beyond, if applicable. DCFS tracks adoption and guardianship discontinuity, including characteristics like age, race, geographic area, and the child's diagnoses or challenges. DCFS also produces annual reports on non-DCFS adoptions, which are tracked in a different system.

Post-Permanency Program Spending (FY 2023)
☒ under $500,000

Funding Sources for the Post-Permanency Program (FY 2023)
1. Adoption/Guardianship Incentive Program Payments (AIPP)
2. State General Funds
3. Title IV-E -Adoption Savings

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