BB2G

BORN BETWEEN 2 GENERALS



FOSTER FAMILY RESILIENCE COMMAND · 50 STATES + D.C.

A home for every child. Keep the families who open their doors.

The country has lost one in five licensed foster homes since 2019, leaving about one home for every two children in care. When homes run out, children sleep in offices, hotels and hospital wards. This briefing maps the foster-family shortage in every state and shows how BB2G helps recruit, license, support and keep foster and kinship families.

BORN BETWEEN 2 GENERALS, LLC · FOSTER FAMILY RESILIENCE COMMAND

UPDATED NOV. 12, 2026

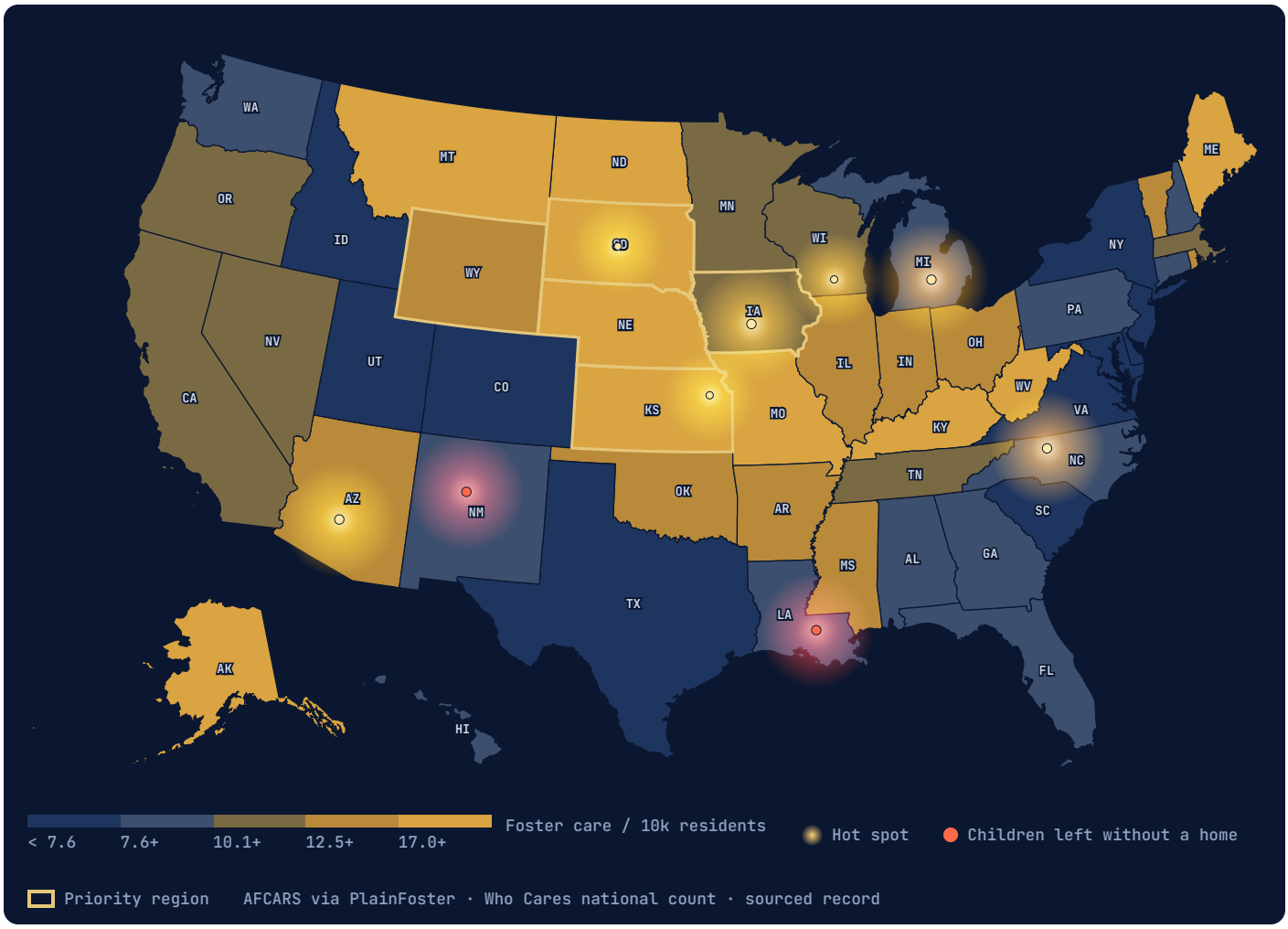
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · FOSTER FAMILY MAP

Where foster families are stretched thinnest

States are shaded by children in foster care per 10,000 residents (FY2022). Each glow is a documented home shortage, licensing change or kinship reform; red marks children left without a home.

178,026	-19%	9	0.53
Licensed foster homes in 2025	Drop in licensed homes since 2019	Foster-family records documented across 9 jurisdictions	Licensed homes per child in foster care, nationally



Homes are disappearing

Michigan lost about 30% of its licensed foster homes in two years, falling to about 2,800 for 10,000 children.

Kin are the fastest fix

South Dakota and Wisconsin opened licensed kinship pathways with equal pay; nearly 4 in 10 Wisconsin children start with relatives.

The priority region

Iowa has about half the homes it needs; South Dakota had 824 homes for 1,710 children; Kansas lost 5.5% of its homes in a year.

LATEST · 2025 – 2026

What's happening to foster families

National counts and recent state changes, newest first.

NATIONAL

NEW Mar 2026 · national

Licensed foster homes down 19% since 2019

The Who Cares national count found 178,026 licensed foster homes in 2025, down 19% from 220,002 in 2019, or about one home for every two children in care. The federal goal is one home per child by 2028.

The Imprint

NEW Aug 2026 · national

9,000+ foster children stayed in hotels, offices or unsafe settings

A federal inspector general audit found more than 9,000 children in about 15,705 temporary placements from January 2022 to June 2023, a direct result of too few homes.

Stateline

CHILDREN LEFT WITHOUT A HOME

NEW Apr 2026 · Albuquerque, NM

Without enough homes, foster children slept in agency offices

Court monitors recorded more than 400 children staying in CYFD offices in 2024; the governor banned overnight office stays in January 2026.

Searchlight New Mexico

NEW Apr 2026 · Baton Rouge, LA

Foster children stuck in psychiatric hospitals with nowhere to go

The state child ombudsman found 16 foster children held in psychiatric hospitals after discharge because no home or step-down placement was ready, some for months.

WDSU

SHORTAGES, LICENSING AND KINSHIP

NEW Nov 2026 · Des Moines, IA

Iowa has about half the foster homes it needs; licensing cut to four months

Iowa has 1,437 licensed homes for more than 3,000 children, and about 70 children are in shelters on any day. A new law replaced 30 hours of required training with competency checks, cutting licensing from about nine months to four.

KCCI

NEW Jun 2026 · Winston-Salem, NC

Forsyth County down to 15 licensed foster homes

The county social services department said only 15 licensed foster homes were available as it recruited new families.

WFDD via WHQR

NEW Mar 2026 · Lansing, MI

Michigan lost 30% of its foster homes in two years

Licensed foster homes fell from about 4,000 in 2023 to about 2,800 by September 2025, with about 10,000 children in care. About 80% of the homes that closed were caring for unrelated children.

Bridge Michigan

NEW Mar 2026 · Phoenix, AZ

Arizona has the fewest foster homes per child in the nation

An analysis of 2025 foster-home counts found Arizona with 0.21 licensed homes per child in care, the lowest ratio of any state; Idaho was highest at 0.93.

Child Welfare Wonk

THE AUDIT · FOSTER AND KINSHIP FAMILIES

Find out why families come, and why they leave

The audit follows each family from first inquiry to license, placement and either long service or closure, and asks what would have kept them.

178,026
Licensed foster homes, 2025

220,002
Licensed foster homes, 2019

0.21 – 0.93
Homes per child, lowest (Arizona) to highest (Idaho)

WHAT GETS AUDITED

THE LICENSING PIPELINE
Days from first call to license, where applicants drop out and why. Iowa cut licensing from nine months to four.

CLOSURES AND RETENTION
Every closed home and the reason, from exit interviews and caseworker notes.

PAYMENTS
Foster and kinship rates, how fast they're paid, and whether kin get equal pay.

SUPPORT
Respite care, 24-hour help lines, training, peer mentors and caseworker turnover.

MATCHING
Whether children are placed in the right home, close to school and family.

FAMILY DATA
Where foster families' own records are stored and who can see them.

THE FIX · FOSTER FAMILY RESILIENCE COMMAND

Recruit fast, support well, keep every good family

Every family that leaves takes beds with it. BB2G treats keeping families as seriously as finding new ones.

1 Fast, safe licensing

Every applicant's days-to-license tracked, with background checks kept and paperwork cut.

2 Kin first, paid equally

A licensed kinship pathway with the same pay as foster families.

3 Support that keeps families

Respite, a 24-hour line and lived-expert peer advocates (OPP-42) for every home.

4 The right match

Therapeutic homes for complex needs and placements near school and family.

5 Co-housing and reintegration

Family co-housing (OPP-41) that keeps parents and children together while they rebuild.

6 Retention scorecard

Every closure has an exit interview, and the reasons are published so the system can fix them.

CONNECTED COMMANDS

CHILD WELFARE HUB (OPP-07)
Multi-jurisdiction coordination for children who cross county and state lines.

FAMILY FIRST
Prevention services that keep children safely at home in the first place.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Placements, missing-child reporting and provider payments.

THE SHIELD PROJECT
Prevention books and training for foster parents, educators and churches.

VETTED FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS
Foster-family agencies and parent advocates screened and supported.

CHURCHES AND COMMUNITIES
Local partners that wrap support around foster families.

KEEP THE FAMILIES WE HAVE A family that quits in year one is a home lost and a child moved again. Retention gets the same attention and budget as recruitment.

WHY FAMILIES QUIT

From first call to a stable home, twenty steps

A family has to inquire, train, pass checks, get licensed, take a placement and get support for years. At 95% per step, most families drop out somewhere.

CHAIN LENGTH	95% PER STEP, NO CHECKS	99% PER STEP, NO CHECKS	95% PER STEP, BB2G CHECKS	99% PER STEP, BB2G CHECKS
10 steps	59.9%	90.4%	99.5%	99.90%
20 steps	35.8%	81.8%	99.0%	99.80%
50 steps	7.7%	60.5%	97.5%	99.50%
100 steps	0.6%	36.6%	95.1%	99.00%
200 steps	0.0%	13.4%	90.5%	98.02%

Chance the chain finishes with no undetected error. With BB2G, every step has a check that catches 99% of stalls and drop-offs and brings in a named person before the family walks away.

A FOSTER FAMILY'S PATH · GOLD STEPS ARE BB2G CHECKS

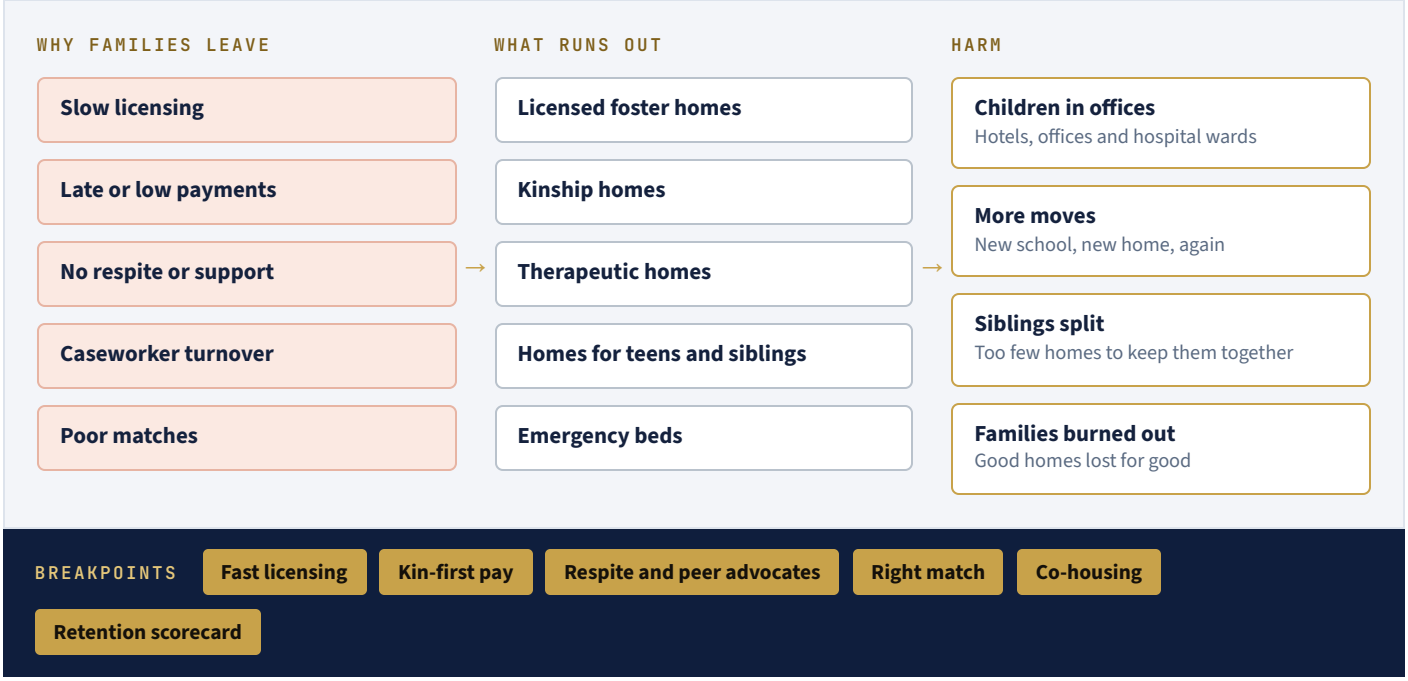
First inquiry · Orientation · **Follow-up within 48 hours** · Application · Background checks · Home study · Training · **Days-to-license tracked** · License · First placement · Payment · **First-30-days support** · School and medical · Respite · Peer mentor · Court and family visits · **Check-in each quarter** · Reunification or adoption · Next placement · Renewal

Catch the family before they quit When a family stalls or signals trouble, a named person calls them. A family that is supported stays.

SHORTAGE PATHWAY

Why homes run out, and how to keep them

How a foster-home shortage forms, and the steps that reverse it.



NATIONAL RANKINGS

How every state compares

Rank 1 has the most children in foster care per 10,000 residents (FY2022). Priority region shaded.

RANK	JURISDICTION	REGION	PER 10K	FOSTER CARE	HOMES	MALTREATMENT	RECORDS
1	**West Virginia**	South	39.4	6,952	—	14.7	0
2	**Alaska**	West	36.5	2,690	—	13.0	0
3	**Montana**	West	23.3	2,672	—	10.7	0
4	**Kansas**	Midwest	22.9	6,808	—	2.9	1
5	**Missouri**	Midwest	20.0	12,514	—	3.3	0
6	**North Dakota**	Midwest	19.4	1,547	—	3.7	0
7	**Nebraska**	Midwest	19.2	3,873	—	5.5	0
8	**South Dakota**	Midwest	17.3	1,615	824	7.6	1
9	**Maine**	Northeast	17.2	2,429	—	15.4	0
10	**Kentucky**	South	17.2	7,905	—	14.1	0
11	**Oklahoma**	South	17.0	7,013	—	13.7	0
12	**Vermont**	Northeast	17.0	1,096	—	5.4	0
13	**Indiana**	Midwest	16.4	11,457	—	13.4	0
14	**Illinois**	Midwest	16.3	20,743	—	11.7	0
15	**Arizona**	West	16.2	12,358	—	6.2	1
16	**Rhode Island**	Northeast	15.5	1,723	—	11.1	0
17	**Mississippi**	South	12.9	3,825	—	14.9	0
18	**Wyoming**	West	12.8	756	—	5.6	0
19	**Arkansas**	South	12.7	3,952	—	9.5	0
20	**Ohio**	Midwest	12.6	14,946	—	7.5	0
21	**Iowa**	Midwest	12.5	4,048	1,437	12.9	1
22	**Tennessee**	South	12.4	9,053	—	5.9	0
23	**Massachusetts**	Northeast	12.3	8,824	—	14.9	0
24	**Nevada**	West	12.3	4,047	—	8.4	0
25	**California**	West	11.7	45,924	—	5.3	0
26	**Oregon**	West	11.3	4,826	—	13.6	0
27	**Wisconsin**	Midwest	11.1	6,622	—	2.7	1
28	**Minnesota**	Midwest	10.5	6,133	—	3.6	0
29	**Alabama**	South	10.1	5,260	—	9.9	0
30	**North Carolina**	South	10.1	11,258	—	10.8	1

RANK	JURISDICTION	REGION	PER 10K	FOSTER CARE	HOMES	MALTREATMENT	RECORDS
31	**Washington**	West	10.1	8,049	—	2.1	0
32	**Florida**	South	9.6	22,493	—	4.1	0
33	**Georgia**	South	9.6	10,838	—	5.0	0
34	**Pennsylvania**	Northeast	9.5	12,465	—	1.7	0
35	**Hawaii**	West	9.4	1,340	—	2.6	0
36	**Connecticut**	Northeast	8.9	3,295	—	7.7	0
37	**Michigan**	Midwest	8.8	8,940	2,800	10.7	1
38	**New Mexico**	West	8.5	1,800	—	14.0	1
39	**New Hampshire**	Northeast	8.3	1,181	—	5.3	0
40	**Louisiana**	South	8.0	3,682	—	7.7	1
41	**Idaho**	West	7.6	1,548	—	3.8	0
42	**New York**	Northeast	7.1	14,134	—	11.5	0
43	**Colorado**	West	6.9	4,133	—	6.7	0
44	**South Carolina**	South	6.8	3,793	—	10.8	0
45	**Texas**	South	6.7	21,358	—	6.5	0
46	**District of Columbia**	South	6.2	427	—	7.8	0
47	**Maryland**	South	5.8	3,609	—	4.6	0
48	**Utah**	West	5.8	2,067	—	9.4	0
49	**Virginia**	South	5.7	5,039	—	2.4	0
50	**Delaware**	South	5.2	548	—	3.7	0
51	**New Jersey**	Northeast	2.9	2,786	—	1.2	0

RECORD · 2025 – NOV. 2026

Shortages, licensing and kinship reforms

Documented foster-home shortages, children left without homes, and licensing and kinship reforms, newest first, each linked to its source.

DATE	JURISDICTION	WHAT HAPPENED	SCALE · SOURCE
2026			
Nov 2026	NEW **Des Moines, IA** PRIORITY	**Iowa has about half the foster homes it needs; licensing cut to four months** Iowa has 1,437 licensed homes for more than 3,000 children, and about 70 children are in shelters on any day. A new law replaced 30 hours of required training with competency checks, cutting licensing from about nine months to four.	1,437 homes KCCI
Jun 2026	NEW **Winston-Salem, NC**	**Forsyth County down to 15 licensed foster homes** The county social services department said only 15 licensed foster homes were available as it recruited new families.	15 homes WFDD via WHQR
Apr 2026	NEW **Albuquerque, NM** NO HOME	**Without enough homes, foster children slept in agency offices** Court monitors recorded more than 400 children staying in CYFD offices in 2024; the governor banned overnight office stays in January 2026.	400+ children Searchlight New Mexico
Apr 2026	NEW **Baton Rouge, LA** NO HOME	**Foster children stuck in psychiatric hospitals with nowhere to go** The state child ombudsman found 16 foster children held in psychiatric hospitals after discharge because no home or step-down placement was ready, some for months.	16 children WDSU
Mar 2026	NEW **Lansing, MI**	**Michigan lost 30% of its foster homes in two years** Licensed foster homes fell from about 4,000 in 2023 to about 2,800 by September 2025, with about 10,000 children in care. About 80% of the homes that closed were caring for unrelated children.	-1,200 homes Bridge Michigan
Mar 2026	NEW **Phoenix, AZ**	**Arizona has the fewest foster homes per child in the nation** An analysis of 2025 foster-home counts found Arizona with 0.21 licensed homes per child in care, the lowest ratio of any state; Idaho was highest at 0.93.	0.21 homes per child Child Welfare Wonk
2025			
Dec 2025	**Madison, WI**	**Wisconsin adopts a streamlined license for relatives and like-kin** A new rule creates a separate licensing pathway and fair financial support for relative and like-kin caregivers; 39% of Wisconsin children entering care in 2024 were first placed with relatives.	39% start with kin Office of Gov. Tony Evers
May 2025	**Pierre, SD** PRIORITY	**South Dakota opens a licensed kinship pathway with equal pay** Relatives and close family friends can now be licensed with lighter training and paid the same as foster families. The state had 824 licensed homes for 1,710 children, and just under 30% were placed with kin.	824 homes, 1,710 children South Dakota Searchlight via Yahoo
Mar 2025	**Topeka, KS** PRIORITY	**Kansas providers report 5.5% drop in foster homes and thin staffing** Providers told lawmakers licensed foster homes fell 5.5% in a year, with about 2,185 foster families statewide; one Sedgwick County provider had only 19 case-carrying social workers.	-5.5% in a year Citizen Portal

JURISDICTION PROFILES · 50 STATES + D.C.

Every state, on one page

Children in foster care (FY2022), maltreatment rate, licensed homes where published, and every documented shortage or reform in each jurisdiction.

Alabama AL · South — #29 of 51

5,260	10.1	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Alaska AK · West — #2 of 51

2,690	36.5	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Arizona AZ · West — #15 of 51

12,358	16.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Mar 2026 NEW Arizona has the fewest foster homes per child in the nation. Child Welfare Wonk

Arkansas AR · South — #19 of 51

3,952	12.7	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

California CA · West — #25 of 51

45,924	11.7	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Colorado CO · West — #43 of 51

4,133	6.9	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Connecticut CT · Northeast — #36 of 51

3,295	8.9	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Delaware DE · South — #50 of 51

548	5.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

District of Columbia DC · South — #46 of 51

427	6.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Florida FL · South — #32 of 51

22,493	9.6	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Georgia GA · South — #33 of 51

10,838	9.6	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Hawaii HI · West — #35 of 51

1,340	9.4	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Idaho ID · West — #41 of 51

1,548	7.6	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Illinois IL · Midwest

#14 of 51

20,743	16.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Indiana IN · Midwest

#13 of 51

11,457	16.4	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Iowa IA · Midwest · Priority

#21 of 51

4,048	12.5	1,437
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Nov 2026 NEW Iowa has about half the foster homes it needs; licensing cut to four months. KCCI

Kansas KS · Midwest · Priority

#4 of 51

6,808	22.9	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Mar 2025 Kansas providers report 5.5% drop in foster homes and thin staffing. Citizen Portal

Kentucky KY · South

#10 of 51

7,905	17.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Louisiana LA · South

#40 of 51

3,682	8.0	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Apr 2026 NEW Foster children stuck in psychiatric hospitals with nowhere to go. WDSU

Maine ME · Northeast

#9 of 51

2,429	17.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Maryland MD · South

#47 of 51

3,609	5.8	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Massachusetts MA · Northeast

#23 of 51

8,824	12.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Michigan MI · Midwest

#37 of 51

8,940	8.8	2,800
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Mar 2026 NEW Michigan lost 30% of its foster homes in two years. Bridge Michigan

Minnesota MN · Midwest

#28 of 51

6,133	10.5	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Mississippi MS · South

#17 of 51

3,825	12.9	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Missouri MO · Midwest

#5 of 51

12,514	20.0	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Montana MT · West

#3 of 51

2,672	23.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Nebraska NE · Midwest · Priority

#7 of 51

3,873	19.2	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Nevada NV · West

#24 of 51

4,047	12.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

New Hampshire NH · Northeast

#39 of 51

1,181	8.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

New Jersey NJ · Northeast

#51 of 51

2,786	2.9	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

New Mexico NM · West

#38 of 51

1,800	8.5	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Apr 2026 NEW Without enough homes, foster children slept in agency offices. Searchlight New Mexico

New York NY · Northeast

#42 of 51

14,134	7.1	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

North Carolina NC · South

#30 of 51

11,258	10.1	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Jun 2026 NEW Forsyth County down to 15 licensed foster homes. WFDD via WHQR

North Dakota ND · Midwest

#6 of 51

1,547	19.4	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Ohio OH · Midwest

#20 of 51

14,946	12.6	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Oklahoma OK · South

#11 of 51

7,013	17.0	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Oregon OR · West

#26 of 51

4,826	11.3	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Pennsylvania PA · Northeast

#34 of 51

12,465	9.5	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Rhode Island RI · Northeast

#16 of 51

1,723	15.5	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

South Carolina SC · South

#44 of 51

3,793	6.8	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

South Dakota SD · Midwest · Priority

#8 of 51

1,615	17.3	824
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> May 2025 South Dakota opens a licensed kinship pathway with equal pay. South Dakota Searchlight via Yahoo

Tennessee TN · South

#22 of 51

9,053	12.4	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Texas TX · South

#45 of 51

21,358	6.7	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Utah UT · West

#48 of 51

2,067	5.8	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Vermont VT · Northeast

#12 of 51

1,096	17.0	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Virginia VA · South

#49 of 51

5,039	5.7	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Washington WA · West

#31 of 51

8,049	10.1	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

West Virginia WV · South

#1 of 51

6,952	39.4	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

Wisconsin WI · Midwest

#27 of 51

6,622	11.1	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

> Dec 2025 Wisconsin adopts a streamlined license for relatives and like-kin. Office of Gov. Tony Evers

Wyoming WY · West · Priority

#18 of 51

756	12.8	—
FOSTER CARE	PER 10K	HOMES

ENGAGEMENT PLAN

From a shortage to a home for every child

Start by finding out why families leave, then fix it county by county.

PHASE 1 · 90 DAYS

Audit

- Licensing pipeline and closure records for one state.
- Exit interviews with families who left in the past two years.
- Payment timing and kinship pay review.

PHASE 2 · 2027

Pilot

- Fast licensing and 48-hour follow-up in one region.
- Peer advocates and respite for every pilot home.
- Kinship pathway with equal pay where the state allows.

PHASE 3 · 2027 – 2028

Scale

- Retention scorecard statewide.
- Co-housing and reintegration sites.
- Same standards in every state.

BB2G
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Decision requested

Authorize an audit of the foster-family licensing pipeline and home closures in one region.

SOURCES

Trace every figure

1. Who Cares: A National Count of Foster Homes and Families (The Imprint)
2. PlainFoster, children in foster care by state, FY2022 (federal AFCARS data)
3. America's Health Rankings, child maltreatment per 1,000 children
4. U.S. Census Bureau, Vintage 2025 state population estimates
5. **US** The Imprint, “Licensed foster homes down 19% since 2019” (Mar 2026)
6. **US** Stateline, “9,000+ foster children stayed in hotels, offices or unsafe settings” (Aug 2026)
7. **AZ** Child Welfare Wonk, “Arizona has the fewest foster homes per child in the nation” (Mar 2026)
8. **IA** KCCI, “Iowa has about half the foster homes it needs; licensing cut to four months” (Nov 2026)
9. **KS** Citizen Portal, “Kansas providers report 5.5% drop in foster homes and thin staffing” (Mar 2025)
10. **LA** WDSU, “Foster children stuck in psychiatric hospitals with nowhere to go” (Apr 2026)
11. **MI** Bridge Michigan, “Michigan lost 30% of its foster homes in two years” (Mar 2026)
12. **NM** Searchlight New Mexico, “Without enough homes, foster children slept in agency offices” (Apr 2026)
13. **NC** WFDD via WHQR, “Forsyth County down to 15 licensed foster homes” (Jun 2026)
14. **SD** South Dakota Searchlight via Yahoo, “South Dakota opens a licensed kinship pathway with equal pay” (May 2025)
15. **WI** Office of Gov. Tony Evers, “Wisconsin adopts a streamlined license for relatives and like-kin” (Dec 2025)