



Resource Family Approval RFA

Elizabeth Guerrero, Division Chief



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The Resource Family Approval (RFA) Program was implemented to establish a unified, family friendly, and child-centered Resource Family Approval process to replace previous multiple processes for licensing foster family homes and approving relatives and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers, and approving families for legal guardianship or adoption.

Benefit of becoming a Resource Family Home will enable a relative or non-relative person/family to become an important part of a child's life. In some instances, provide temporary care and stability for children until they reunify with their birth families while for others make them a permanent part of their family. The goal of a Resource Family home is to provide a child in need with a feeling of safety, permanence, and well-being.

In January of 2023 the launch of the RFA Refinement Workgroup began and it consisted of a multi-prong approach.

Fresno County Resource Family Approval

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Big Success from RFA

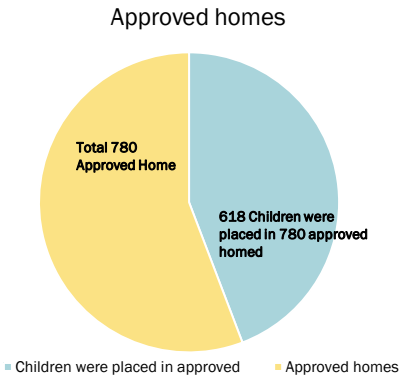


Reduction of the RFA Backlog from 01/2023 - 2/2024

As of 01/11/2023	
<u>193</u> homes with children placed that is pending approval	<u>220</u> homes with no children placed what were pending approval

As of 02/21/2024	
<u>73</u> homes with 128 children placed that were pending approval	<u>82</u> homes with no children placed that are pending approval.

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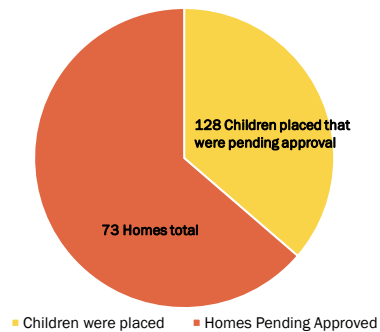
As of 2/21/2024

There are 780 approved Resource Homes with 618 children placed.

As of 2/21/2024

There are 73 homes pending approval with 128 children placed.

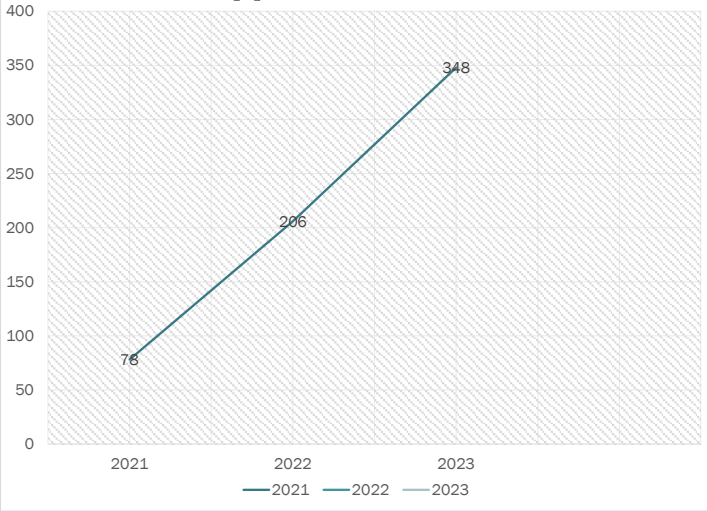
Pending Approved homes



As of 2/28/2024, total children placed in approved and unapproved resource homes is 746.

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Homes Approved from 2021-2023



Increase in Home Approvals

In 2021, 78 homes were approved
 In 2022, 206 homes were approved
 In 2023, home approvals increased to 348

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Successes for RFA 2023-2024

- Collaboration with IT Analysts to create an RFA Dashboard w/ Realtime data of caseloads to provide RFA staff with easy access on the DSS Child Welfare Portal of the most updated status of assigned Resource Homes
- Retrained all RFA staff on systems California Automated Responded Engagement System, CARES for RFA and CWS/CMS Resource Management
- Developed 17 RFA Workflows/Processes to assist in training and ensure consistency in practice
- Developed Assignment processes and Expectations
- Creation of RFA Case management and RFA SWS expectations that includes timeframes to achieve timely approval
- Expansion of Live Scan operators and flexible hours to meet the needs of the Resources Families. Opening hours after hours and Saturdays

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Successes of RFA- Continued

- Purchases of I-Pads to assist Resource Families in completion of Pre-Approval Trainings, especially those that needed assistance in non-English speaking language and technical assistance. Accommodated Resource Families by helping during office hours and on Saturdays.
- The re-involvement of RFA with Coffee Connections which are support groups for our Resource Families.
- The inclusion of RFA into the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Workgroup that centers practice around strengthening the relationships between biological parents, Resource Parents and the Department for better parenting and the maintenance of strong relationships between the aforementioned.
- The contracts with FFA vendors to complete the Written Reports/Family Evaluations decreased the backlog of unapproved homes with placement.
- Data Management Tracking for RFA Supervisors to track Resource homes in process of approval and maintenance of post approval of Resource homes. Intelegy, Inc. and RFA Supervisors and Division Chief teamed to create the RFA Supervisor Workbook that provides an expanded view of all the assigned Resource Homes and where they are in the preapproval process and post approval.

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Successes of RFA- Continued

- Creation of the first edition of RFA Let's Keep Talking Newsletter that was mailed out to Resource Families in January 2024 as part of engagement efforts. Resource Families were informed about RFA updates and QPI information **(Handout)**
- Creation of Road Map to RFA Approval to assist relative/mentors through the process of Home Approval. **(Handout)**
- RFA brought back the "Let's Talk Conference" in person to our department building in the Hope Center in May 2023 which welcomed our current Resource Parents, RFA Staff, Community Partners and other Department staff to receive training and resources to support our Resource Families with care of our dependent youth.

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- Upcoming Let's Talk Conference will be **Thursday May 23, 2024** at the Hope Center. (Handout) of Save the Date.
- RFA will start the RFA Recruitment Workgroup as we prepare for opening for recruiting community resource homes. A combination of Community Partners and DSS staff will be included in the work group. In this workgroup, we will discuss specific recruitment strategies that will target the needs of the children we serve.



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Thank you

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