

RESOURCE FAMILY
RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL
2024





Statewide

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

Throughout April districts and champions focused on building meaningful supports for resource families and youth experiencing foster care. We continue to see the strides being made in these areas which all contribute to enhanced retention of resource families. These varied supports, informed by the voices of resource families, build and create a ripple effect which enhances connection, longevity and ultimately results in better placement stability and outcomes for youth.

Several districts continued with their Dinner and Discussion events which feature different topics relevant to resource families. Districts provide meals, enrichment and childcare and a safe and open space for dialogue. In D9, 10 and 15 they focused on discussing out of home care assessments, bringing in a panel of child welfare experts to answer questions from families. In D12 they followed a similar theme covering ODHS policy and procedure. We are hearing great feedback from families who appreciate the opportunity to engage in conversation and find connection with fellow resource families.

Through fostering connection and collaboration with community partners, two districts are launching enhanced mental health supports for resource families and children experiencing foster care. D7 secured a Systems of Care grant to fund a grief and loss support group for resource parents. The grant, written in partnership with the Waterfall Clinic, will provide a monthly space where resource families can process the grief and loss associated with fostering while building connections with other families experiencing similar situations. D1 is in the beginning phases of a pilot project to match specific therapists for children, youth and their families impacted by foster care, as well as for resource parents. The project will provide more timely care to youth and add vital resources to support their mental health. We are looking forward to the development of both projects and to seeing the positive outcomes associated to them.

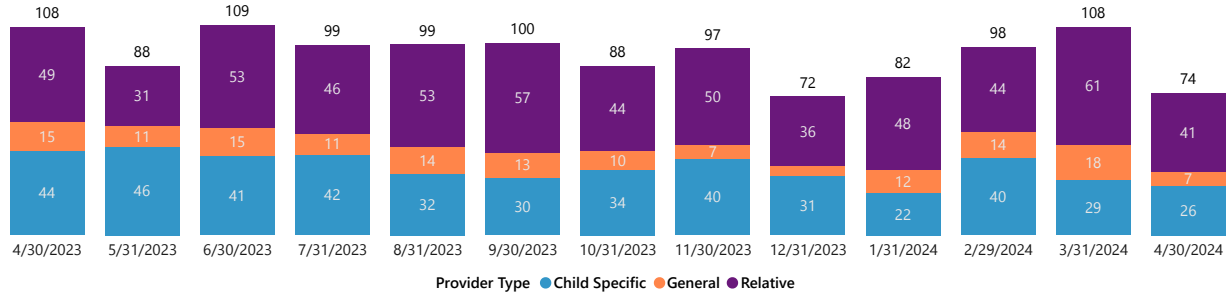
Much occurred behind the scenes this month in preparation for May- National Foster Care Month. While we aim to support and celebrate resource families throughout the year, May is always a bustling month of activity. From family fun events to flower deliveries, there is something happening in every corner of the state. We are so excited to appreciate families and spread awareness about foster care.

Also occurring this month was another Fostering Pride event. The virtual events produced in collaboration with Basic Rights Oregon and Unicorn Solutions provide a tailored experience for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and families and/or those seeking to support LGBTQIA2S+ youth. The events include presentations and a panel from those with lived experience as well as 1:1 connection with local retention and recruitment champions.

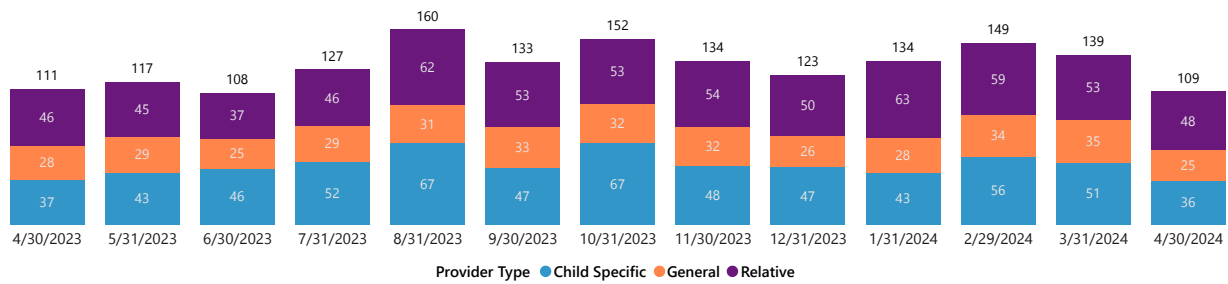
This month, in total, we received 111 inquiries including 73 inquiries for general foster care, 29 for certified respite, and 9 related to general adoption.

STATEWIDE

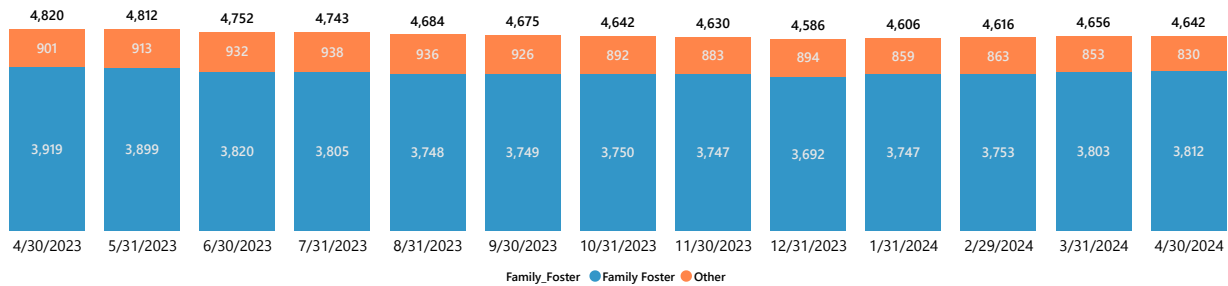
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



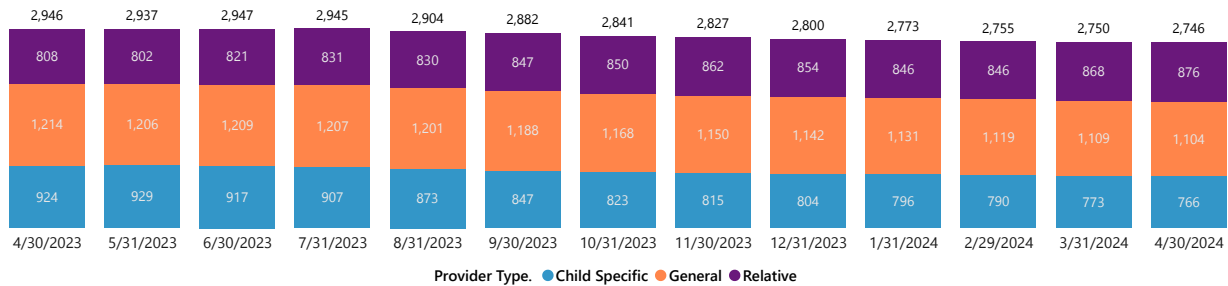
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Tim Cork
District Champion: Scott Rooen

District 1

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

This month there was a focus in D1 on recruitment and preparing for Foster Care month. Partnering with a child welfare employee, recruitment materials will be distributed within the local community to those that have the skills and are equipped to be certified for teens as well as certified respite providers. **These are recruitment goals #1 and #4.** Another connection was made with Astoria Pride and the Lower Columbia Q Center to partner in the recruitment of LGBTQIA2S+ allied families, recruitment **goal #2.**

A community action team meeting was held this month where recruitment flyers were distributed. The juvenile probation team, youth and family support specialists with the local mental health organization, youth wraparound coordinators and workers from the Columbia Pacific CCO all received recruitment flyers. The need for LGBTQIA2S+ homes (recruitment **goal #2**), homes for teens (recruitment **goal #1**) and certified respite (recruitment **goal #4**) was the focus.

The D1 champion met with GOBHI to finalize plans for a community recruitment event. The event is scheduled for May 29th and DD Services, Every Child, ODHS Volunteer Drivers and CASA have been invited. Our goal is to have several programs and organizations available to talk with the community about the many opportunities to help children youth and families impacted by foster care.

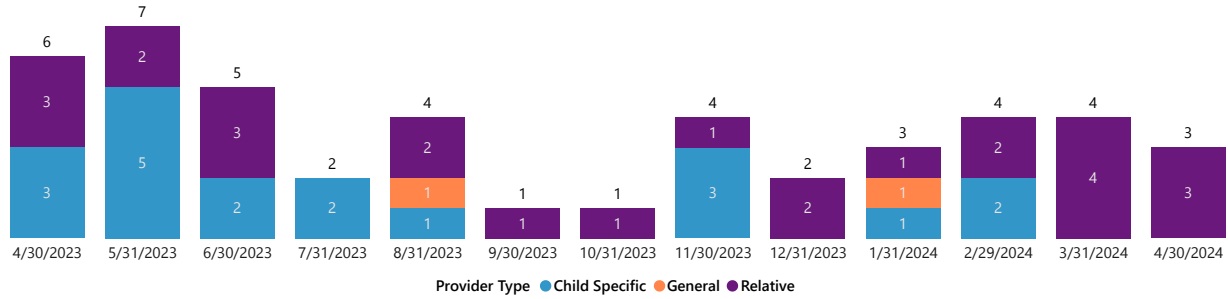
This month the beginning stages of a proposal for a pilot project in Columbia County began. This proposal will look to contract with the local mental health agency to have specific therapists available for children, youth and their families impacted by foster care, as well as for resource parents. This project will align with a new retention goal (**goal #5**), which would improve wait times for children and youth in care as well as give stability to the mental health needs of children and families impacted by foster care.

This month many connections across the district were made to help show appreciation to resource parents. Donations from local coffee shops and restaurants were received to add to the appreciation baskets being put together for all resource families by the local Every Child affiliate.

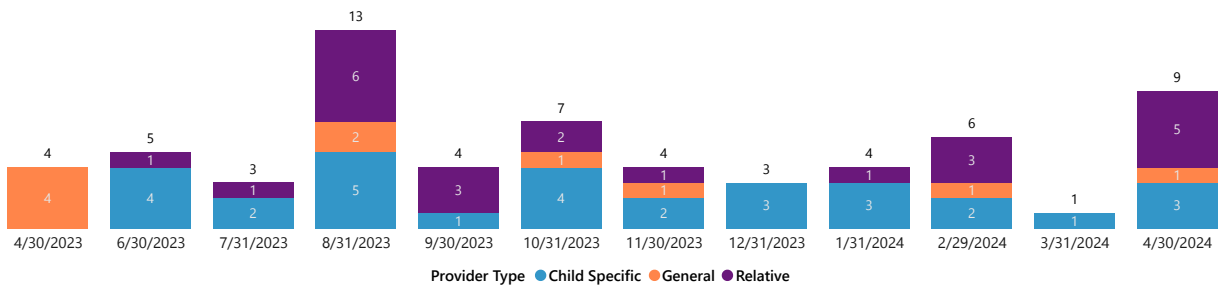
This month two general applicant families received their application packets. They are both nearly done with RAFT and will be working on the application as their next step in the certification process.

District 01

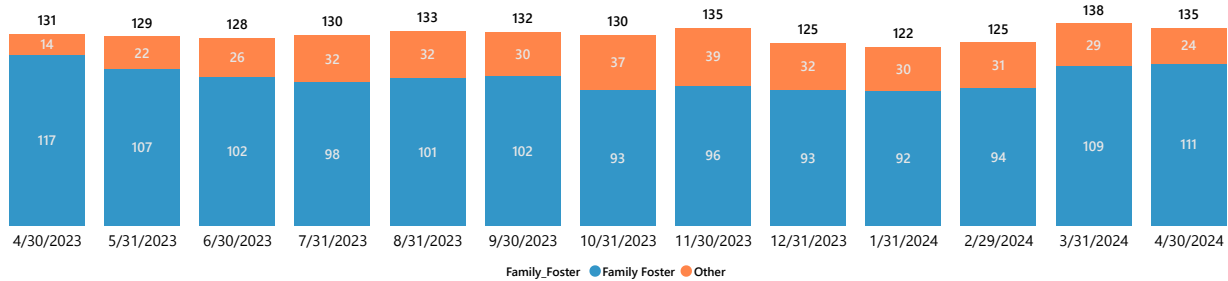
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



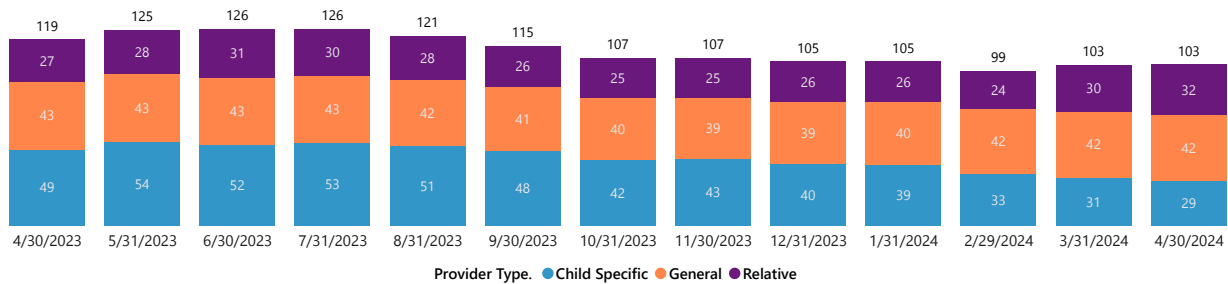
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Sherrelle Jackson
District Champion: Monique Woods

District 2

Multnomah

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

The district has been busy with planning the final details of our upcoming resource parent appreciation event. There has been a team of dedicated staff working to ensure that this event is success. They have reached out to community organizations to secure funding for raffle gift baskets, organized an awards committee, planned the location, secured speakers and much more. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the planning team for all the time and energy you have dedicated to this event. Please be sure to see our May recap report for pictures of the event and our dedicated planning and support team.

The collaboration with D2 Mi Gente continues to be instrumental in our district's recruitment initiatives, particularly in fostering a more diverse pool of resource parents and respite providers. This month, the group spearheaded a tabling event at H.B. Lee Middle School, actively engaging with the community and spreading awareness about the need for Latinx and Spanish-speaking resource parents. Additionally, we are thrilled to report that 10 members of D2 Mi Gente have graciously volunteered to lend their support to our Resource Parent Appreciation Event.

The district had 19 inquiries this month. There were 5 inquiries for respite care, 12 inquiries for foster care and 2 adoption inquiries.



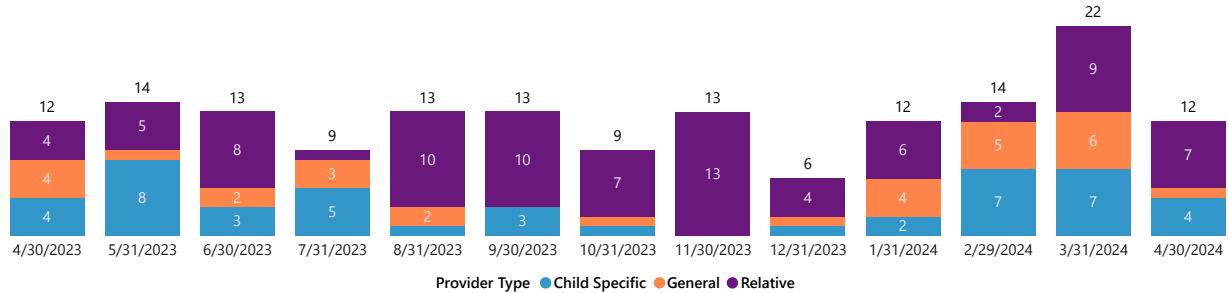
HB Lee Event Photos: Pictured above from left to right: Leilani Boyer, Suzy Ramirez and Lia Becvar. Front: Suzy's adorable son that helped unload items and set up for the event (permission granted by Suzy to share his image).



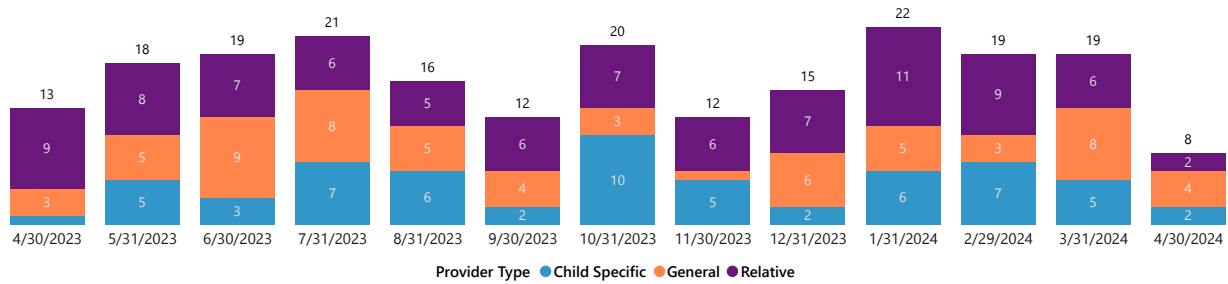
Pictured above from left to right: Carrie Brown, Lia Becvar, Leilani Boyer, Sandra Matute, Paulo Salinas

District 02

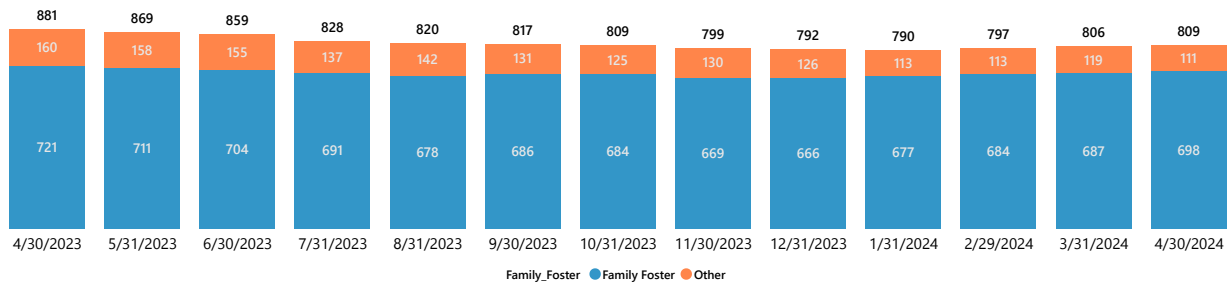
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



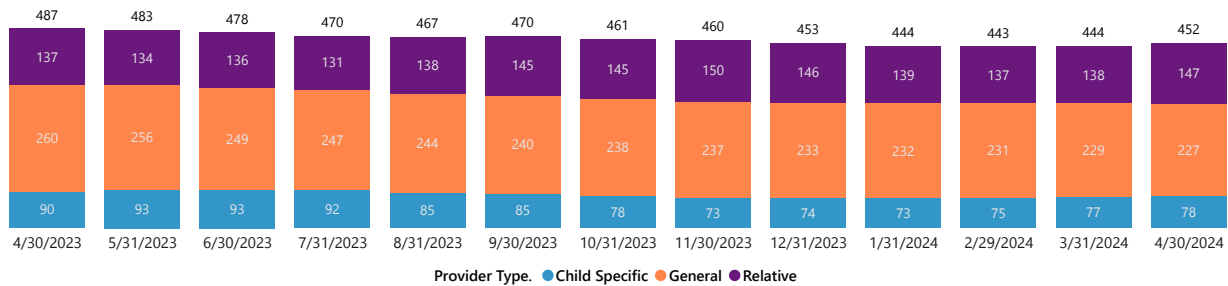
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Cydney Nestor
District Champion: Vacant

District 3

Polk, Yamhill, Marion

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

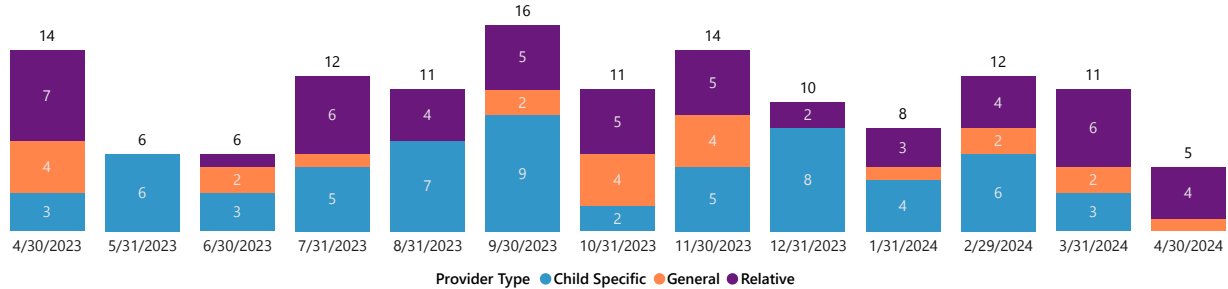
Retention and recruitment efforts continue in District 3. Collaboration with community partners, ODHS staff, and Every Child continue to impact our resource families in positive ways.

In March District 3 received 7 inquiries including 1 for adoption, 5 for general foster care, and 2 for certified respite. 6 were from Marion and 2 from Yamhill County.

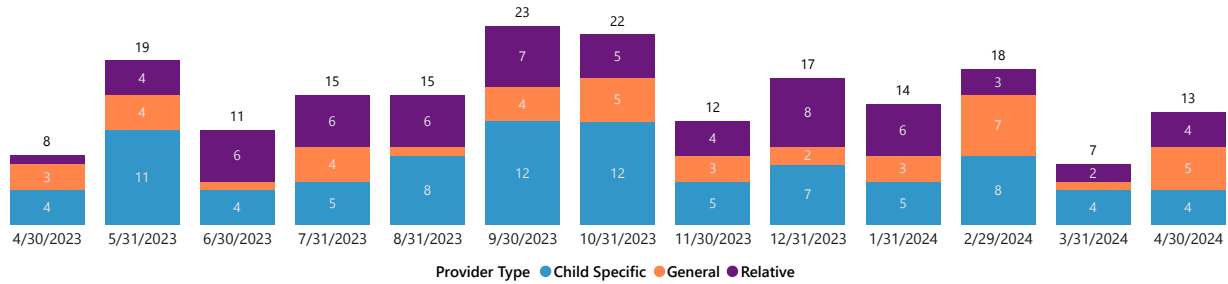
If you have any questions regarding this work, please reach out to Retention and Recruitment Champion Program Manager, Billy Cordero billy.cordero@odhs.oregon.gov

District 03

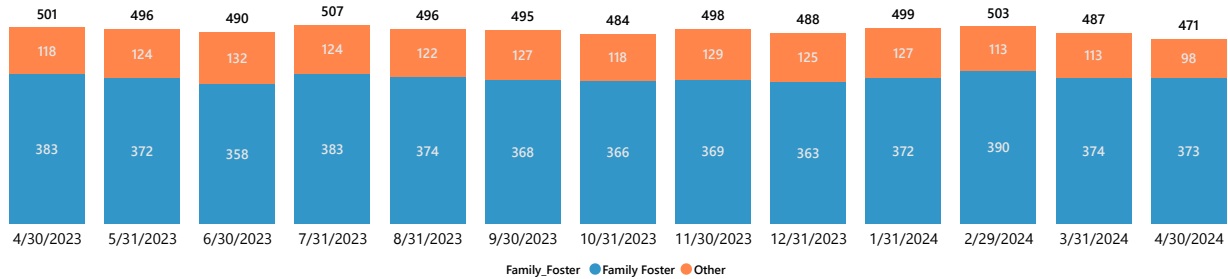
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



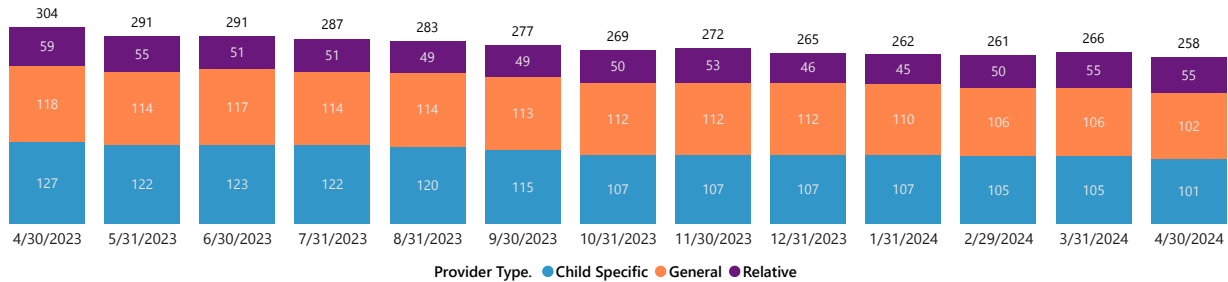
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Belit Burke
District Champion: Benjamin Potter

District 4

Linn, Benton, Lincoln

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

Our district participated in a statewide virtual Fostering Pride event on April 16th, drawing interest from families across the state and resulting in three new inquiries specifically for our district. Overall, April saw 15 new inquiries for District 4, including nine for general foster care, five for respite care, and one for adoption. Notably, several inquiries aligned with our targeted recruitment demographics, including 4 homes for **recruitment goal 1 (expanding resource homes with experience and/or training to support LGBTQIA2S+ children and youth)** and 1 home for **recruitment goal 6 (culturally specific homes)**.

Our Facebook page, *Linn/Benton Foster or Adopt*, which boasts 631 followers, is undergoing a makeover. The champion team met with Lindsey Kort, the ODHS Digital Media Manager, to discuss strategies and recommendations. Lindsey unified our foster care and resource family Facebook pages statewide, simplifying information access, increasing relevant content, and improving post monitoring.

Much of April was dedicated to planning May's resource parent appreciation activities. We've raised \$2000 towards our \$5000 goal for the *Flowers for Fosters* program, which aims to deliver hanging flower baskets to every resource home in our district. We aim to bridge the funding gap before our May 15th deadline.

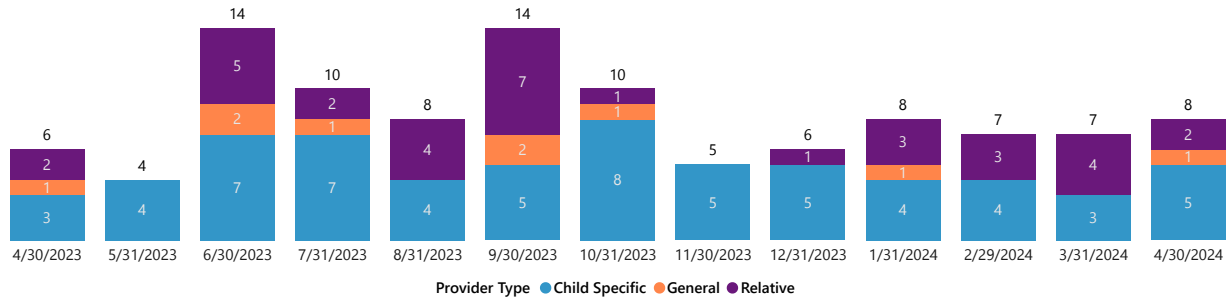
Additional May appreciation activities include a foster care awareness carwash in Lincoln County, an "unboxing" fun day providing high-end shoes to kids in foster care through the *Heart to Soles* program, Papa Murphy's pizza distribution, and a family fun day in the park for Linn/Benton resource families.

A Lincoln County church congregation, *Atonement Lutheran*, has taken it upon themselves to support resource parents. They have taken a specific interest in promoting reading. Beginning in June, they will assemble a book club gift box each month for two Lincoln resource families over the next year, containing age-appropriate books and a \$50 Papa Murphy's Pizza gift card.

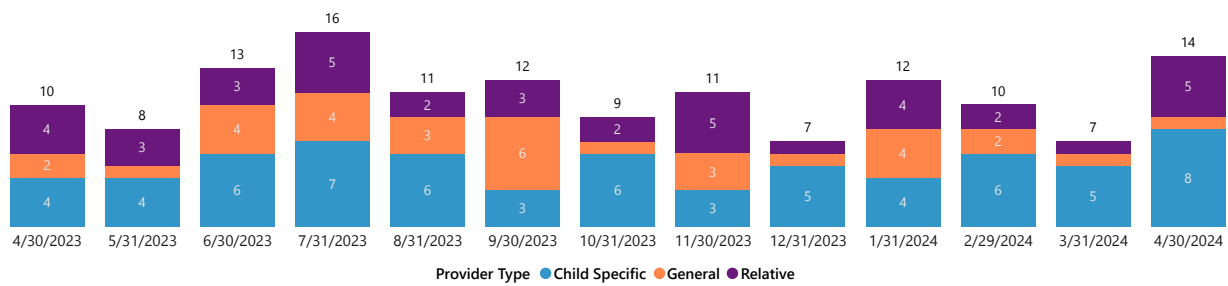
This month, we launched our new resource parent exit survey with Power Bi integration, enabling us to better visualize and report data to district leadership. We've already received four exit surveys, which will guide the development of **retention goal 3: a guiding document**.

District 04

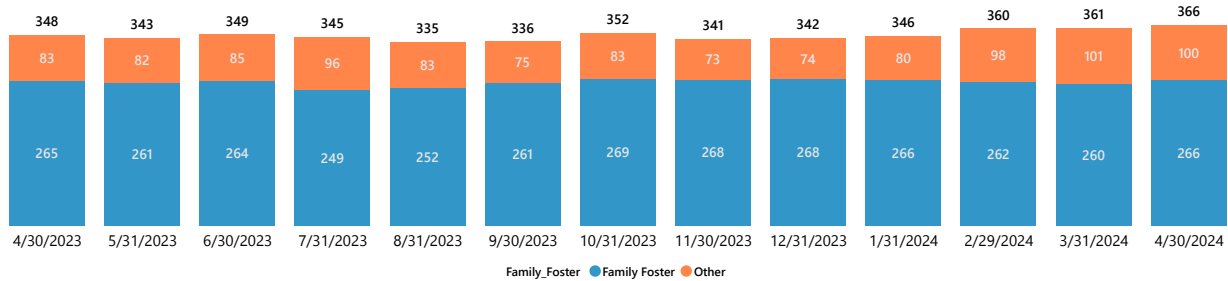
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



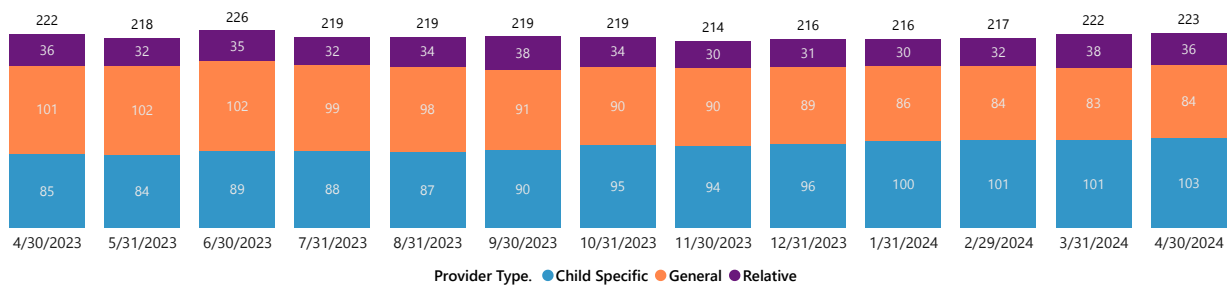
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Sheila Wegener
District Champion: Brandyn Rice

District 5

Lane

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

During the month of April there was a variety of work focusing on action items as a part of the Lane County retention and recruitment goals.

In April the D5 champion participated in the Youth and Children Behavioral Summit Event. While tabling at this event several new connections were made with professionals in the community who are wanting to help support local resource parents. **(Recruitment Goal #1: Increase the diversity of resource homes)**

New yard signs were distributed throughout the community during this month. The D5 champion placed 25 yard signs in various neighborhoods in the Lane County area. **(Recruitment Goal #3: Increase general recruitment advertising efforts)**

D5 certification staff attended a community event at the Eugene Roller Derby as a recruitment effort. **(Recruitment Goal #1: Increase the diversity of resource homes)**

On April 22 Lane County Every Child held an evening support gathering for resource parents. This was well attended with 20 resource parents and 2 respite providers attending. A meal was provided and there was time for resource parents to connect socially. **(Retention Goal #1: Build 3 new direct support networks for resource families)**

In April, we held a productive D5 quarterly retention and recruitment meeting, attended by the D5 champion, D5 district manager, program managers, and certification supervisors. We discussed two key focus areas: improving inquiry responses and certification assignment processes, and brainstorming district practice goals to enhance retention efforts for resource parents. **(Recruitment Goal #6: Increase communication about recruitment effort and data to D5 staff and management)**

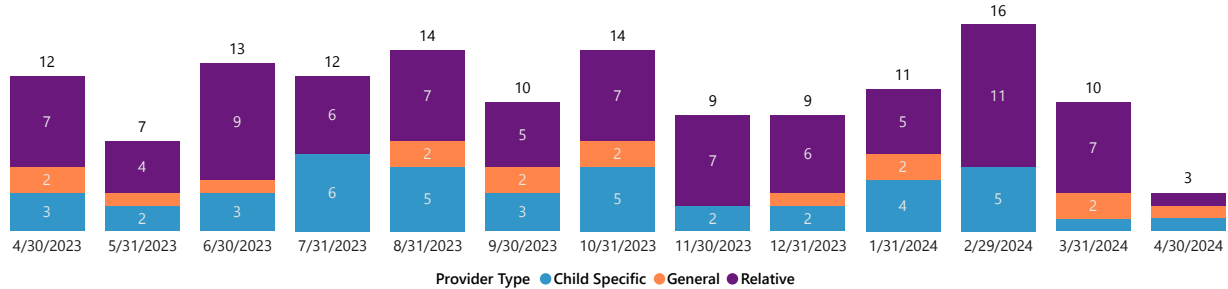
The D5 champion worked with the statewide champion workgroup on the development of customer service training. Specific work was done on a module focusing on engaging and communicating with resource parents. The D5 champion conducted interviews with resource parents to assist in the development of this training. **(Retention goal #2: 85% of staff will complete and apply customer service training)**

Ongoing planning was developed for May's resource parent appreciation events. This included planning for the Building Bridges Conference. New community donations were received as a part of the preparation. These donations will be given out as thank you's at the conference for resource parents. Two workgroup meetings were held with ODHS staff and the D5 Champion continuing ongoing work for this event. **(Retention goal #3: Increase resource parent participation by 40% at regular training events)**

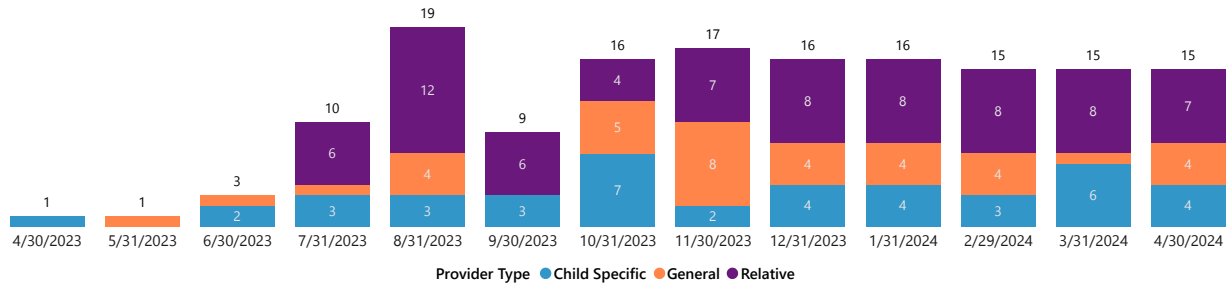
D5 received 8 new inquiries in the month of April. These consisted of 5 respite care inquiries and 2 general resource home inquiries and 1 adoption inquiry. **(Recruitment goal #5: Increase number of inquiries to new opened homes from 35% to 50%).**

District 05

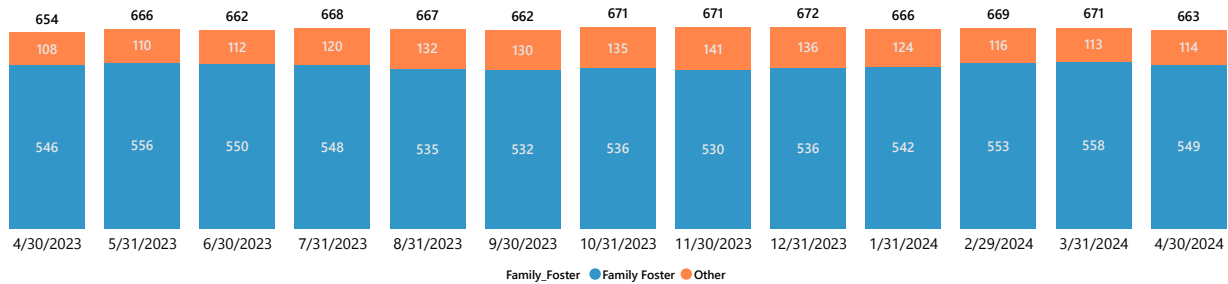
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



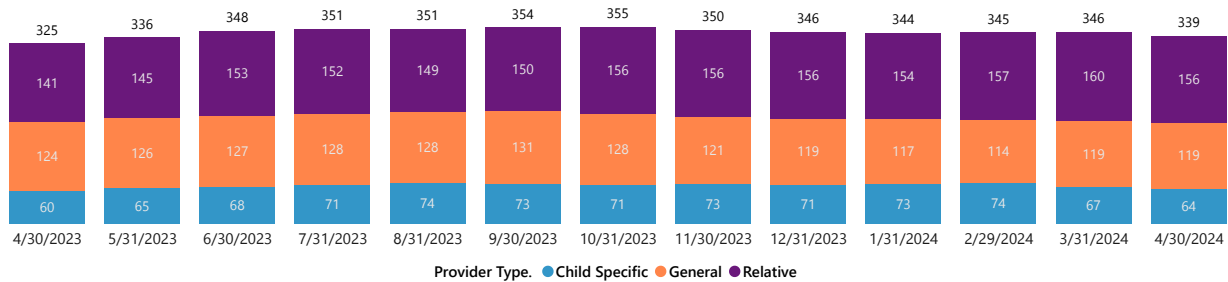
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Desta Walsh
District Champion: Myressa Starnes

District 6

Douglas

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

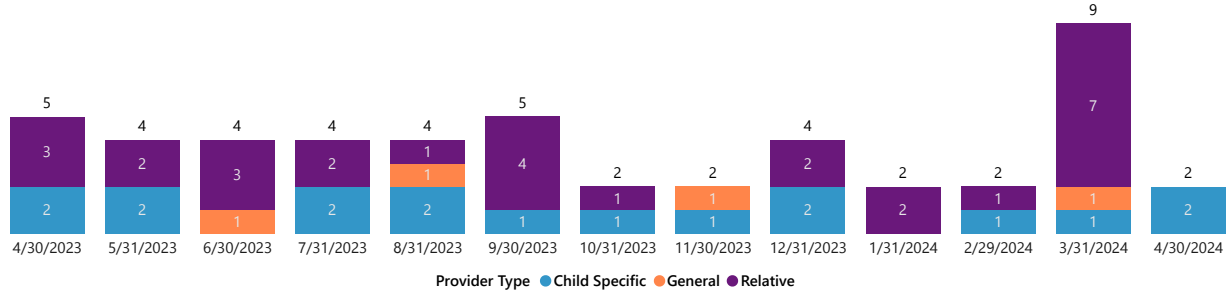
April was a busy month filled with resource parent appreciation event planning, supporting new inquiries, and planning for future resource parent support groups. The D6 certification team spent the month finalizing plans for our resource parent appreciation event in May. We are doing a western-themed BBQ at the Wildlife Safari, and we will have gift baskets for each resource parent in attendance. We have received generous donations from our community and have partnered with other organizations in Douglas County to show an even greater appreciation for our resource parents this year. This month we also created certificates of appreciation for every certified family that includes their certification date and how long they have been certified. These certificates are signed by our program manager and district manager and will be given to our families in May.

This month we met with the Independent Living Program (ILP) to discuss bringing an ILP support group for teenagers aged 14 and older to occur on the same night as our resource parent support group. We aim to increase the attendance of resource parents at our monthly support group, allowing them to take a break while also ensuring that the teens in their care benefit from participating in the group sessions (**ongoing retention goal #1 increase monthly attendance to support group**). This teen group will focus on teaching youth necessary skills to prepare them for living independently. The first group is anticipated to start in June. In the meantime, D6 Champion, Myressa Starnes, will be contacting every family who currently has teenagers placed in their care to personally invite them to these groups.

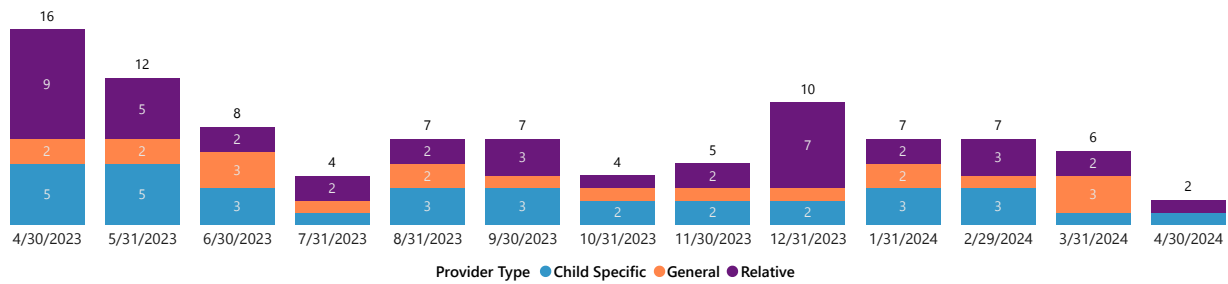
In April, we received 1 new respite inquiry and received 1 new application for respite care. We received 1 new inquiry for general foster care of teenagers and 2 applications for general foster care. One of these applications we received is bilingual and is interested in providing care for youth identifying as LGBTQIA2S+. This month we received 1 adoption inquiry.

District 06

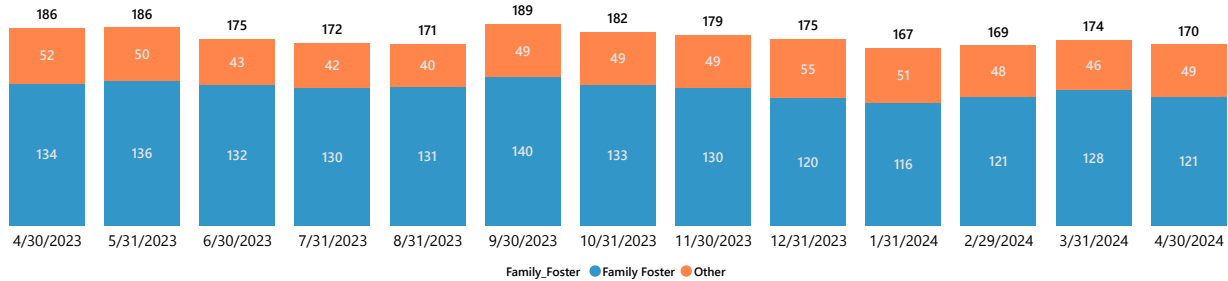
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



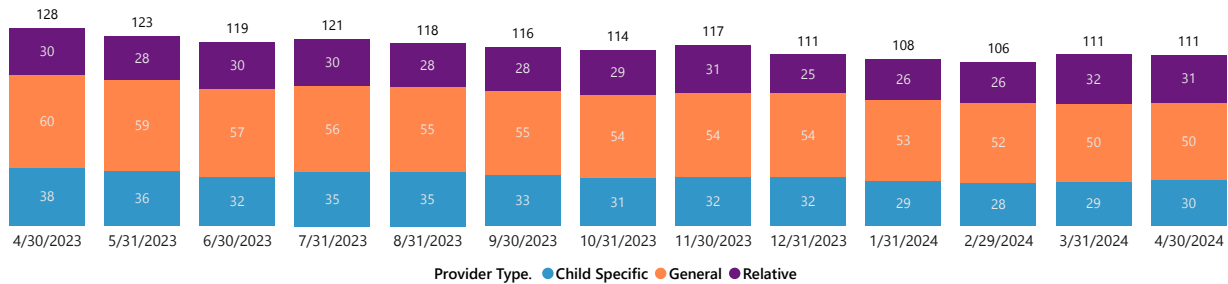
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Mike Merchant
District Champion: Bonnie Ell

District 7

Coos, Curry

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

This month the champion team came together in Salem for an academy where we were able to learn more about the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline team, the Every Child Oregon customer experience team and hear presentations from an ODHS data analyst and social media manager, which will help inform our work as we track trends and launch our new ODHS social media pages. Staff took part in the Coos County Child Abuse Prevention conference. Guest speakers from multidisciplinary teams shared about the great work they are doing, including our own ODHS Interim Program Manager, Ashley Brainard. We also received confirmation of our Systems of Care grant being approved by the state, which was written in partnership with Waterfall Clinic. They will provide a monthly grief and loss support group for our resource parents. Stay tuned for more details!

In Coos and Curry Counties, resource families, ODHS staff and foster coalition partners began registering for our 1st annual tri-county (Douglas, Coos and Curry) resource family summer camp that will be held at Kellogg Springs in August, which is in correlation with retention goal #5 (***to help ensure resource parents are appreciated and invited to connection events.***) We already have nearly 100 registrations! In partnership with Every Child Coos, My Neighbor needs and blessing items continued to be fulfilled by the community (***retention goal #8, to provide families with extra layers of support***) and resource parents were invited to take part in the 3rd monthly Coffee Connect event (this month it was held in Bandon), which was held to ***provide resource parents with opportunities to connect as well as provide feedback/input (retention goal #6.)***

Every Child Curry continued their weekly tutoring program and their My Neighbor program continued to thrive and fulfill needs and blessing items for Curry resource families and bio families. These events and supports are hosted and provided in correlation with retention goal #8 (***to provide families with extra layers of support.***)

D7 received 2 inquiries this month, one from Coos and the other from Curry, both for general foster care, which aim to achieve recruitment goal #5 (***Certify new families to care for infants through school aged children.***)

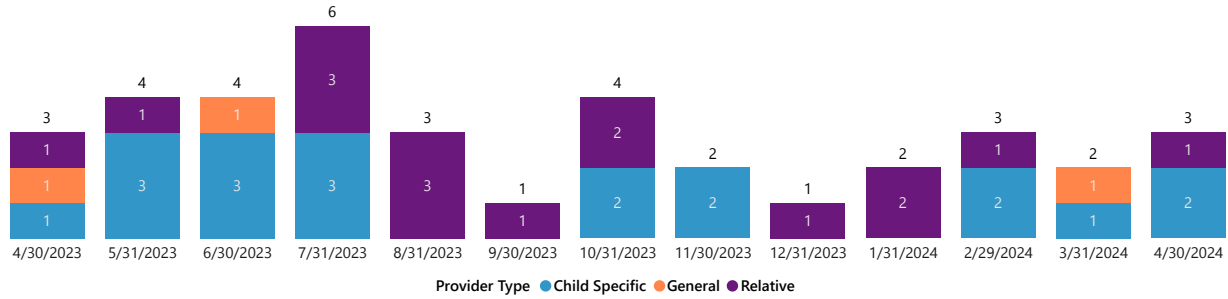
RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION & RECRUITMENT
MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2024



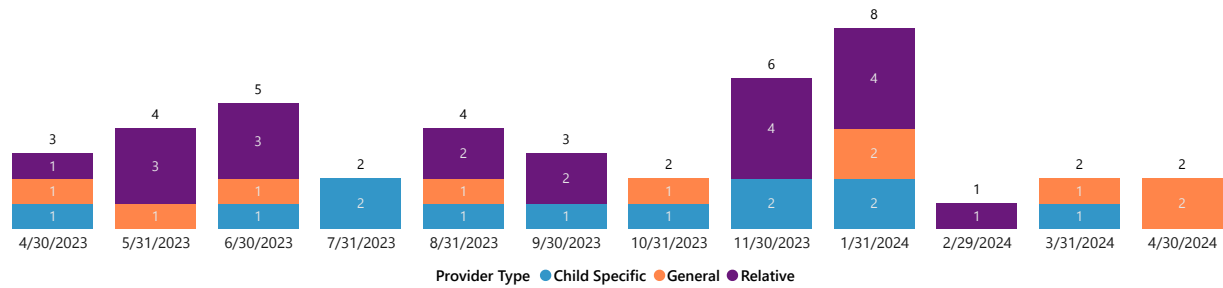
Pictured above: Coos Certifiers James Nix and Patti Stefanelli, tabling at the 2024 Coos County Child Abuse Prevention conference. And at the same conference, group photo below- center: D7 Interim Program Manager, Ashley Brainard, standing alongside Coos County MDT steering Committee members from Kairos, Coastal Center, Coos Bay PD, North Bend PD, and Kids Hope Center. Also, photo of Champion, Bonnie Ell, Every Child Coos Coordinator, Tesia Dalton, Resource Parent and FPA member, Lewann Rice and Coos Certifier, James Nix at the monthly Coos coffee connect at the Bandon Public Library

District 07

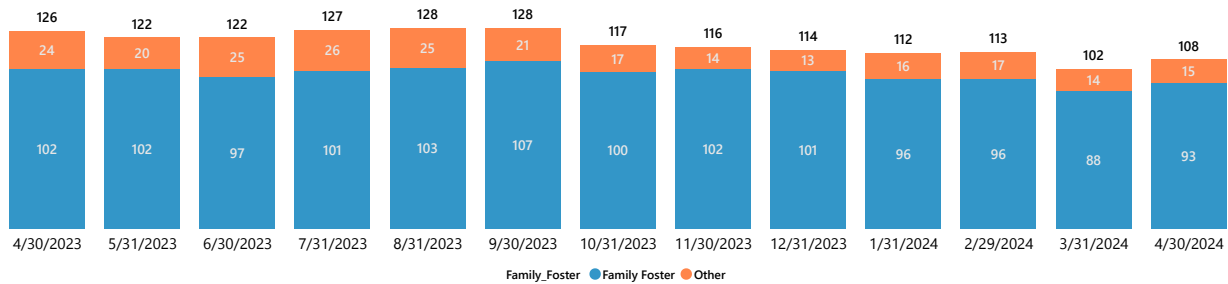
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



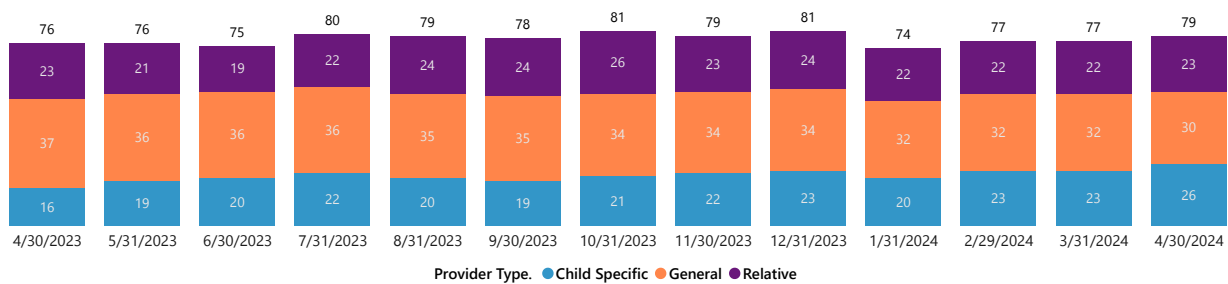
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Kimberlee Whitney
District Champion: Duncan Machen

District 8

Jackson, Josephine

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

As we gear up for event season, our district is stepping back into the community. Thanks to the combined efforts of everyone involved, we managed to run not one but two booths at Medford's Pear Blossom festival. One booth was set up at the street fair on both Friday and Saturday, while the other was at the pancake feed at the YMCA. It turned out to be quite a successful event. Additionally, we're keeping up with our monthly Grower's Market booth in Grants Pass while planning for upcoming PRIDE events in both Medford and Grants Pass, Juneteenth, Porchfest, and more. The success of these events hinges on the enthusiastic involvement of our staff at the monthly recruitment planning meetings. Any staff wanting to be part of their local team are welcomed to join! We encourage new ideas and fostering community connections!

In celebration of National Foster Care Month in May, the district is preparing for events to give back to our resource parents! Jackson County will hold its annual dinner to honor resource parents and children in care, while Josephine County will have their annual appreciation carnival. Each branch is collaborating with their units to assemble gift baskets, which will be raffled off to our resource families during the events. We've received an overwhelming amount of community donations this year, showing tremendous support for our families.

District 8 continues its partnership with Every Child to coordinate Foster Parent Night Out, and enrollment continued to expand. **(Retention Goal #4: increasing local supports for resource families by 25%)**. The Champion continues the coordination with resource families who are interested in both counties. After launching the program in September, we have reached full capacity for every night each month. Jackson's FPNO is scheduled to have its last night in June, but the champion is coordinating with other members of the community to try to continue the program through the year.

In March, the district received 15 general applicant inquiries, 1 inquiry related to respite, and 0 related to adoption. In an effort to enhance recruitment efforts, the champion is actively working with other members of the champion team from other districts across the state in a collaborative workgroup. The objective is to streamline the inquiry through the application process for prospective respite and resource parents, ultimately aiming to establish consistency throughout the entire state.

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION & RECRUITMENT
MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2024



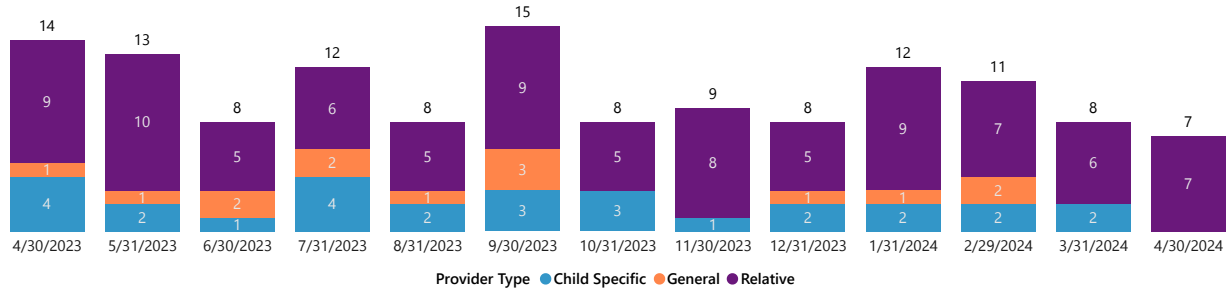
Pancake Feed at the YMCA for the Pear Blossom Festival in Medford. Employees pictured are Caitlin Cox and Mollie Robertson.



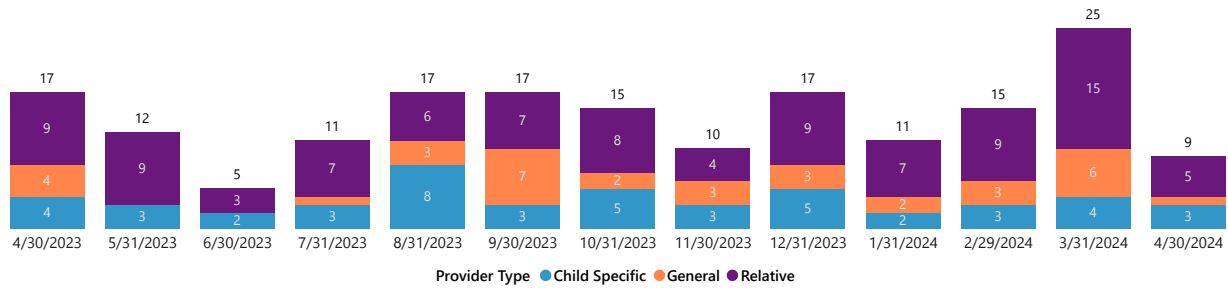
Pear Blossom street fair in Medford.

District 08

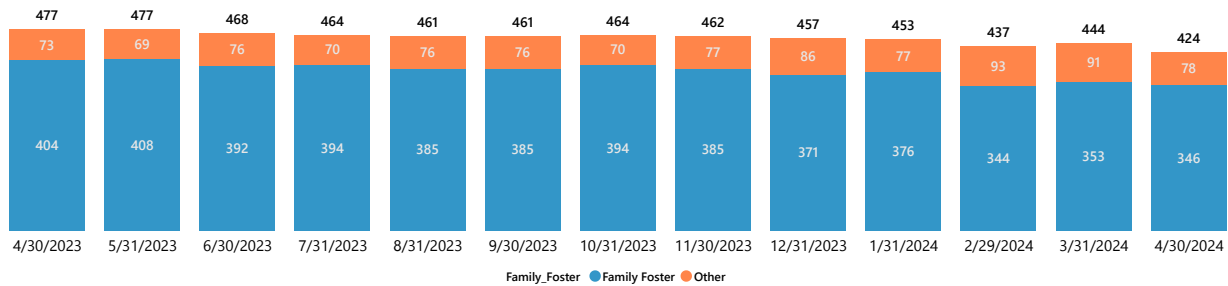
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



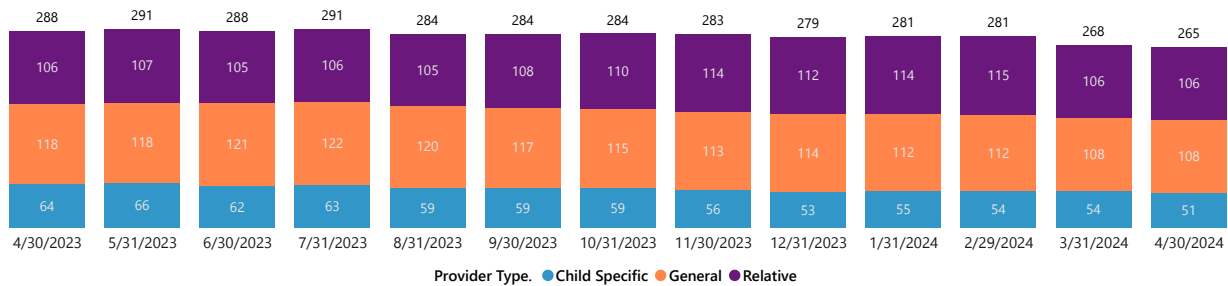
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Stacey Ayers
District Champion: Karlee Wallace

District 9

Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

During the month of April, District 9 had several great opportunities to be out in the community. At the beginning of the month, we continued with our outreach to our local Native American communities with our pet food distribution. We had a lot of engagement with the community and connection with those who were in attendance.

We were present at several events throughout the month which included walking in our local Cherry Festival Parade in The Dalles on April 20th and then tabling after the parade to interact with our community. We participated in the Columbia Gorge Community College Resource Fair on April 22nd, Dia De La Tierra in Hood River on April 21st and Dia Del Nino Festival on April 27th in Hood River. Through our regional demonstration project where we are working to show up in spaces as one, we have been working collaboratively between Self Sufficiency, Aging and People with Disabilities and Child Welfare on being present in our community together. This includes staff from all programs sharing information from all the other programs as well.

This month on April 25th, we hosted our first Dinner and Discuss for our resource families at Spooky's Pizza in The Dalles. We are hoping to grow these in attendance and offer them quarterly for our families as a way to support them and for them to provide valuable feedback on their experience as a provider in District 9.

We also continued to work on our upcoming Resource Family Appreciation event in May. We have had many generous donations from our community and have had staff come together on a committee to help with the planning of this event.

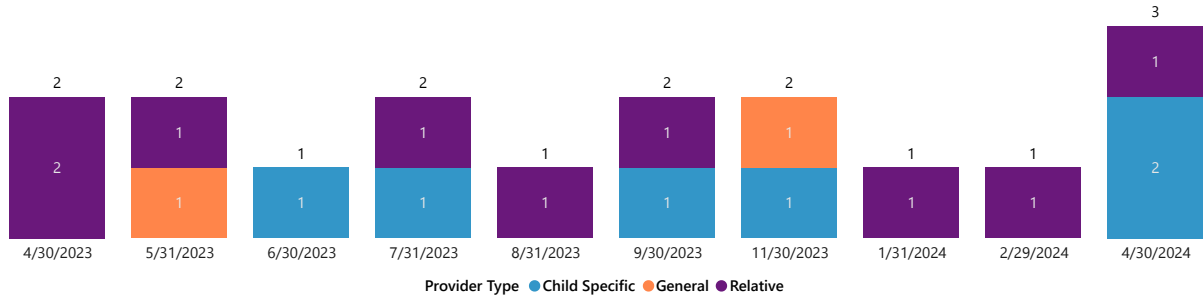
During the month of April, we had two inquiries for general foster care that came from contacting our local office.

Tammy Munsen at Dia
Del Nino on April 27th

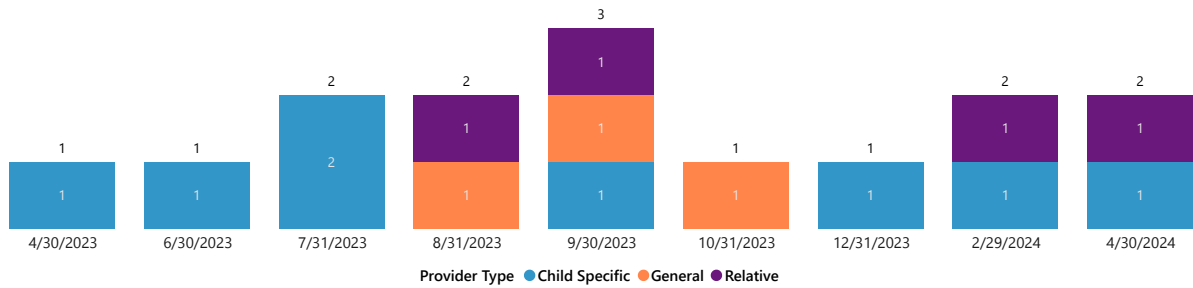


District 09

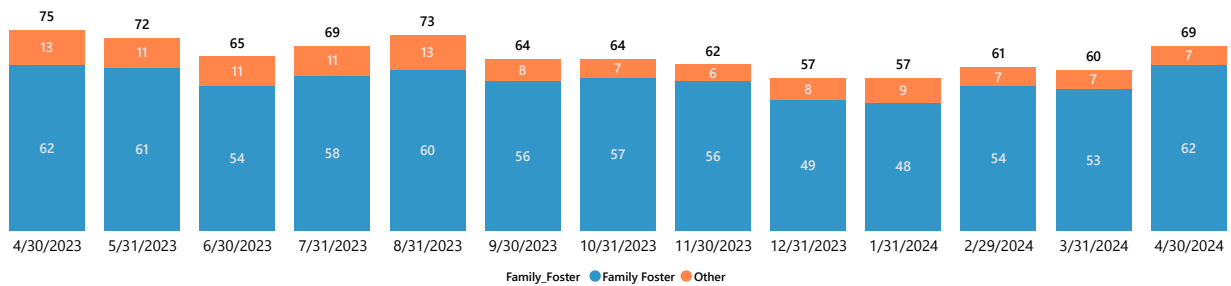
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



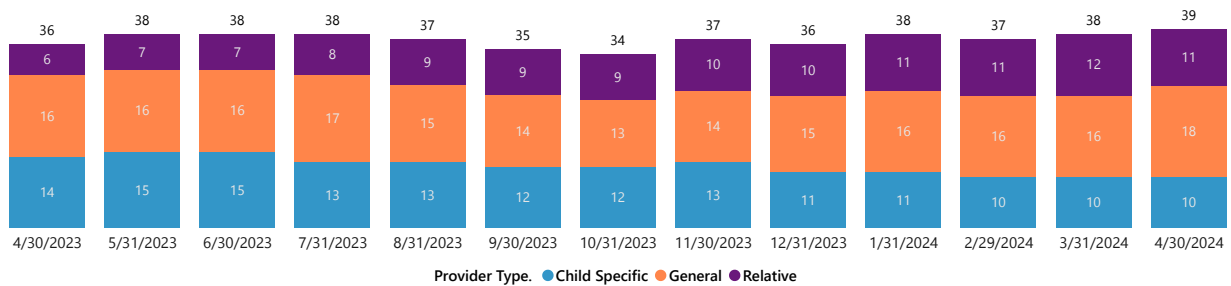
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: April Munks
District Champion: Stacie Navarro-Ladig

District 10

Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

During the month of April, D10 received 6 inquiries. These consisted of 4 general foster care and 2 certified respite inquiries. All were received by phone call or walk in directly to ODHS. This month, the certification team opened 1 new general applicant provider (**Recruitment Goal #3: Certify 2 families for youth ages 13-18+yrs, Recruitment Goal #4: Certify 1 resource home for sibling groups.**)

D10 held the first in person respite orientation this month. Four families attended and three applications were received. Two of these families identify as Hispanic/Latino, one of which would also like to pursue general resource certification. Currently, D10 has a total of 5 certified respite providers. (**Recruitment Measurable Goal #2: Identify and certify 2 Hispanic/Latino identifying general resource families by December 2024**)

This month D10 held two events for resource families, a dinner and discuss and a meet up at Lil Bug Play Hub. (**Retention Measurable Goal #3: Coordination of quarterly events for resource families and ODHS staff to attend together with at least 4 events planned by December 2024.**)

The dinner and discuss offered an opportunity for families to earn training credits while coming together in a collaborative way. Our topic for April was out of home care assessments. Presenters included the local retention and recruitment champion, a local child protective services worker, a D10 program manager, a certification supervisor, and the D10 foster care consultant. Families received support and answers to their questions around policy and procedure.

The D10 champion continues to ensure **ongoing activity #2, creation of quarterly newsletters for resource families to update them on ODHS policy changes, upcoming events and trainings, staffing changes and offer encouragement** is completed to support resource families. So far, a monthly newsletter has been sent out regularly since August 2023. This newsletter includes an announcement regarding the winner of the gift card to support **ongoing activity #3, supporting SSAs through transportation support tracking and appreciation for resource families assisting with this. Sending a thank you card and coffee card to one family per month.** So far, we have offered gift cards to 4 families.

Ongoing planning was developed for May's resource parent appreciation events. Community donations were received that will be put into baskets, along with donated items from staff, and given to resource families. The D10 certification team came together to create handmade cards, which will include a photo of the team, to be mailed out to all families.



DISTRICT 10 CERTIFICATION

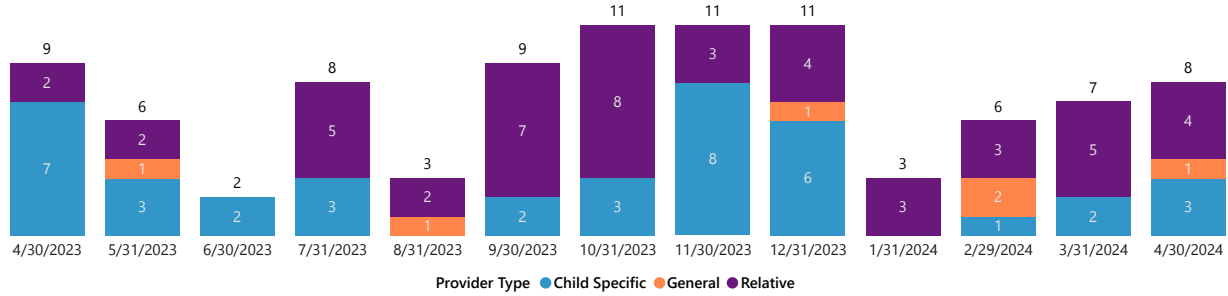
Above: D10 certification team

Below: After the play ended – Lil' Bug Playhub

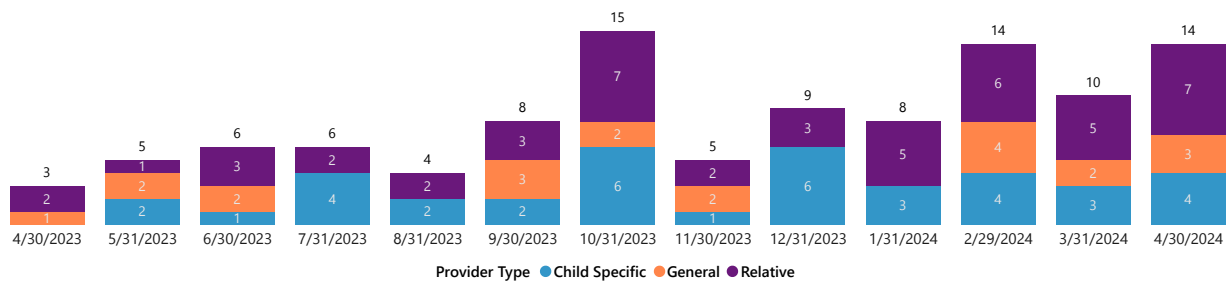


District 10

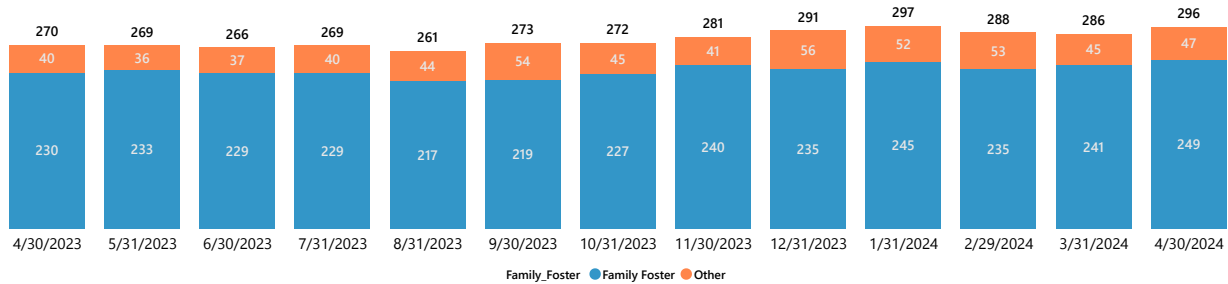
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



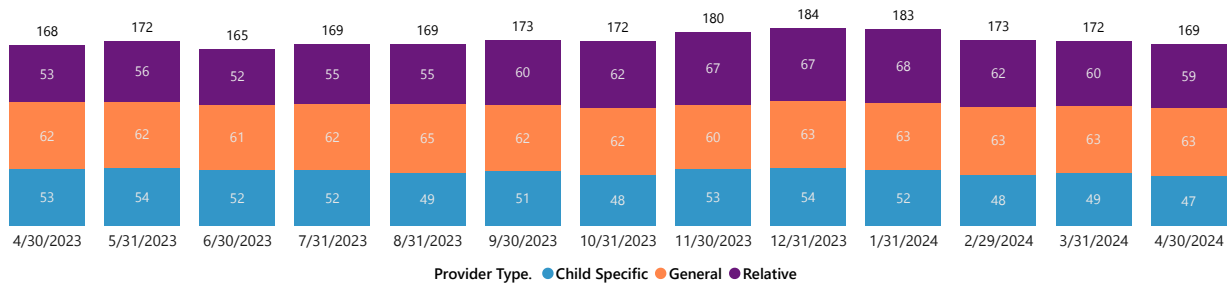
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Maurita Johnson

District Champion: Bridget King

District 11

Lake, Klamath

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

This month we began looking forward to recruitment season. This year we will be working with local churches, mental health organizations and schools to schedule targeted recruitment presentations. The hope is that through this more targeted approach we will connect with individuals who may already have a connection to helping children in our community. **(Recruitment goals #1&4, Homes for Children Ages 0-18 and Homes for High Behaviors)**

District 11 has begun work on a volunteer driver program to help resource families with the needs to get children in care to various appointments like family time, sports practices and other transportation needs. The champion, family time coordinator supervisor and the community outreach coordinator are leading these efforts. The champion has begun recruiting for this need in addition to the other needs for the district. **(Retention Goal #1: Increasing supports to resource families)**

Recruitment efforts in April included putting up yard signs at participating businesses and drive thrus in Klamath Falls. The champion will be live on the air every Friday in May on 92.5fm KLAD to do announcements about National Foster Care month efforts, recruitment of resource parents and to promote the volunteer driver program. **(Recruitment goals #1&4, Homes for Children Ages 0-18 and Homes for High Behaviors)**

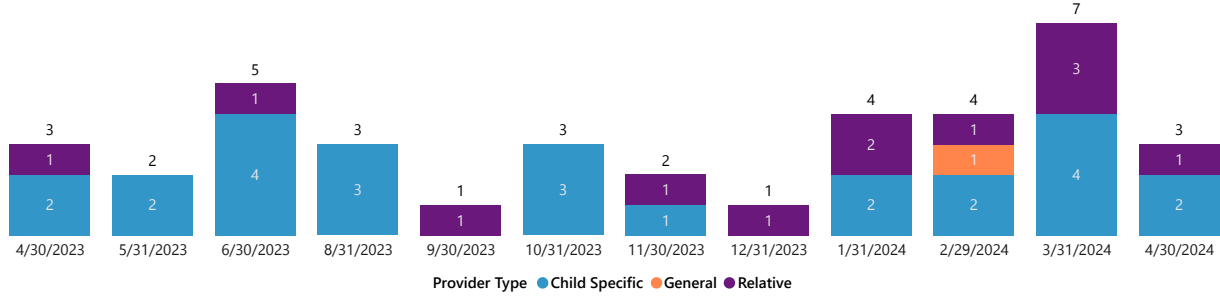
Additionally, we made changes to our plans for National Foster Care month and have chosen to solicit donations to be able to give every current resource family a small token of gratitude, whether it be a discount at a local business or a gift card, we are aiming to be able to give each family something to thank them for all that they do.

Finally, we have a huge announcement as May is National Foster Care month. Each year we choose a family to honor and this year we have selected **Jane and Sergio Rodriguez as the District 11 Resource Family of the Year!** They came to us in 2023 wanting to help children and families in our community who were going through foster care. Foster care was a lived experience for the Rodriguez family, and they brought that knowledge and empathy with them to help some children going through some very hard circumstances. They have been reliable, compassionate, and resilient people who have stretched their hearts and their home to welcome the children they care for. Their certifier Anna Lowther had the following to say about them: "Jane and Sergio are what the modern-day resource family looks like. They are busy in their careers, family and personal life, but still seem to manage all of their obligations with ease. Even though they joke they are crazy to take on so much. Jane experienced foster care growing up which is why she has such a passion for what she does. The couple's goal was to accommodate sibling groups, which they have successfully taken on over the last year in addition to other emergency and long-term placements. We appreciate them so much!"

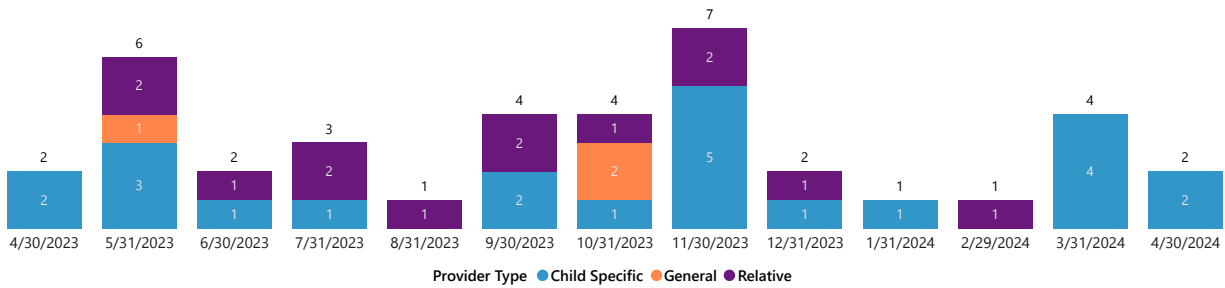
District 11 had 5 inquiries in April, 4 of which were general resource home inquiries.

District 11

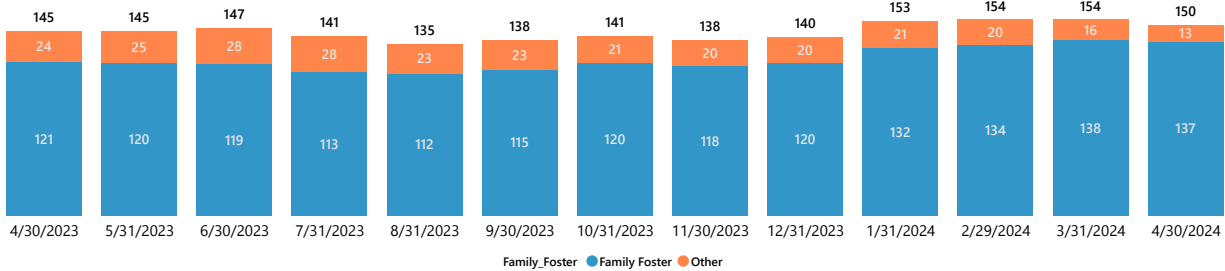
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



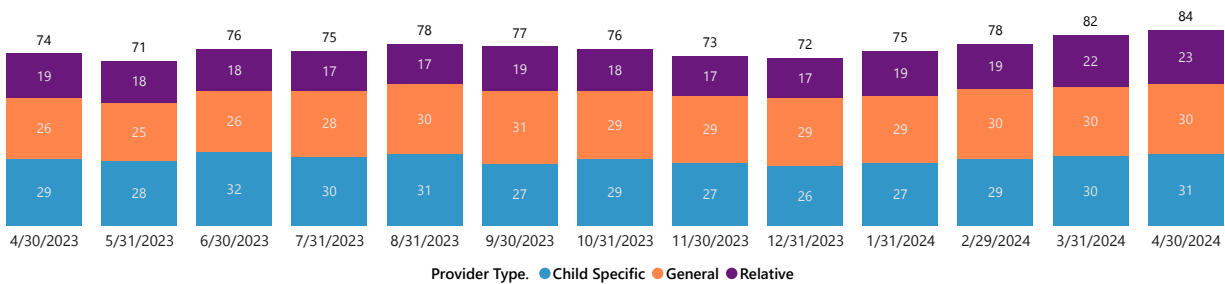
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Lidwinner Machado
District Champion: Karlee Wallace

District 12

Umatilla, Morrow

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

During the month of April, District 12 promoted Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness month with our blue shirts. The Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness shirts have been a traditional of District 12 for over 5 years. Each year we select a new design to be printed on a navy-blue shirt which staff choose if they wish to purchase. We then select a specific day of the week where we all wear a blue shirt. In addition to wearing our shirts to spread awareness, we also distribute pin wheels in our communities. Our hope is to spread awareness about child abuse prevention in our local communities.

This month we hosted one of our quarterly Dinner and Discuss event. We had our foster care coordinator, Sally Vergara-Clement, as our guest. Resource parents had the opportunity to sit down with Sally and ask her questions related to policy, procedure, and our certification standards. This was a well-received event by our resource parents which sparked our next topic for upcoming dinner and discuss events which will be the life of a case. We will have a guest from each unit at upcoming dinner and discuss events to talk through their role in a case and answer questions that resource parents may have.

District 12's recruitment efforts this month consisted of attending the Morrow County Children's Fair in Heppner. This event allowed us to do outreach in more of our rural area of the county. It was a great opportunity to interact with the families of the community. In addition, we have received permission from the Pendleton School District to have our yard signs posted in their car pick up line through the end of the school year to recruit families at our local schools.

In April, we received one inquiry for general foster care and one inquiry for certified respite. Both inquiries were received from Every Child.

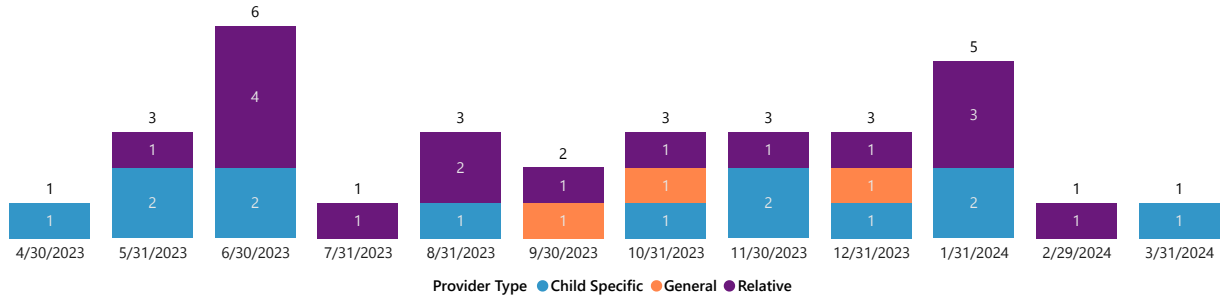
RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION & RECRUITMENT
MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2024



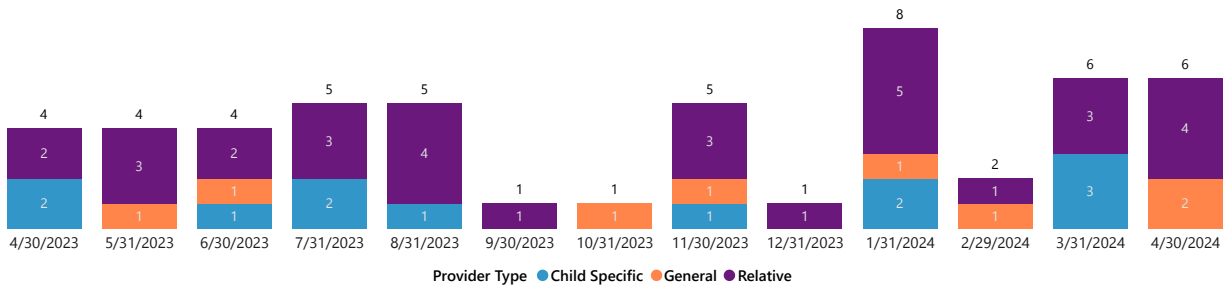
D12 staff showing off their Child Abuse Prevention t-shirts in April

District 12

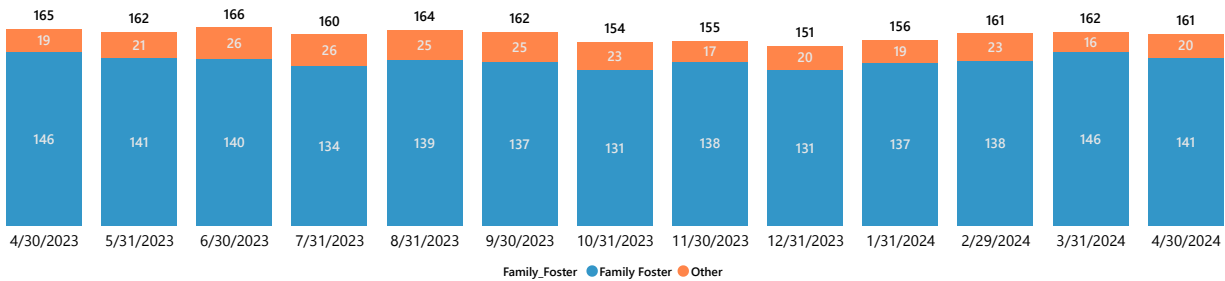
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



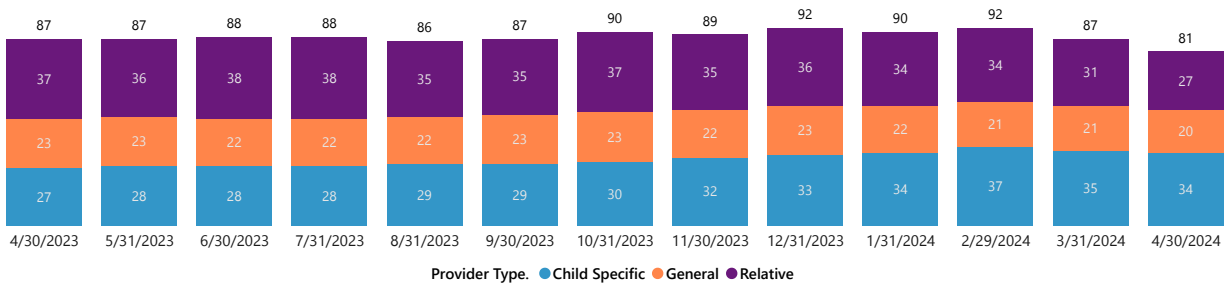
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Chris Black
District Champion: Tammie Blessing

District 13
Wallowa, Union, Baker

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

The district champion helped host the statewide Fostering Pride event co-sponsored by Unicorn Solutions, Basic Rights Oregon, and Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) on April 16. The event supports the recruitment of families to care for children and teens who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ and encourages persons with lived experience to consider becoming respite care providers and resource parents. The youth and resource parent panel featuring individuals from rural Oregon and a social worker from Oregon Health Sciences University who provided education about their Transgender Health Program. This event supports recruitment goal #1 (**certify families who have experience and training to care for children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+).**

Training on Trust-Based Relational Intervention was provided on April 18 and 19 through the Hope for the Journey Conference. The conference was planned by the Wallowa Fostering Community Action Team and promoted to resource parents, CASAs, ODHS employees, and community partners. Another offering of the conference is planned in Wallowa County in June and will be made available virtually and in-person. This training promotes recruitment goals #2 and #3 strategy #1 (**develop existing resource families to care for children and youth with mental health and trauma-based behaviors).**

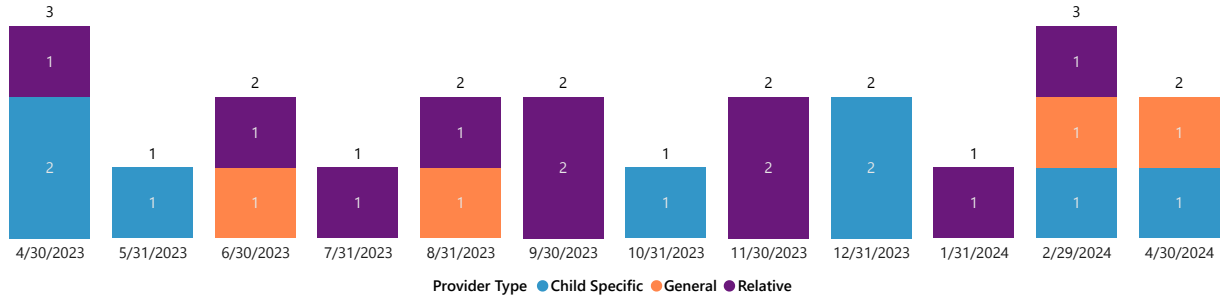
The La Grande Chapter of Soroptimist International funded radio and social media advertising through Elkhorn Media Group to promote the recruitment of resource families and certified respite care providers. Radio spots will feature the voices of active resource parents and will begin in May. The featured stations broadcast throughout all of District 13 and reach other counties in the region.

Planning continued for appreciation of resource parents across the district during National Foster Care Month in May. Soroptimist International La Grande Chapter provided tickets for resource families in Union County for their Breakfast in the Park, and Papa Murphy's and CASA of Northeast Oregon will also be providing pizzas. Outreach to Powder River Correctional was initiated with a request to support resource parents in Baker County, and to Building Health Families and CASA to support Wallowa County resource families again this year. This work supports retention goal #1 strategy #4 (**show appreciation for resource families through gifts, and events).**

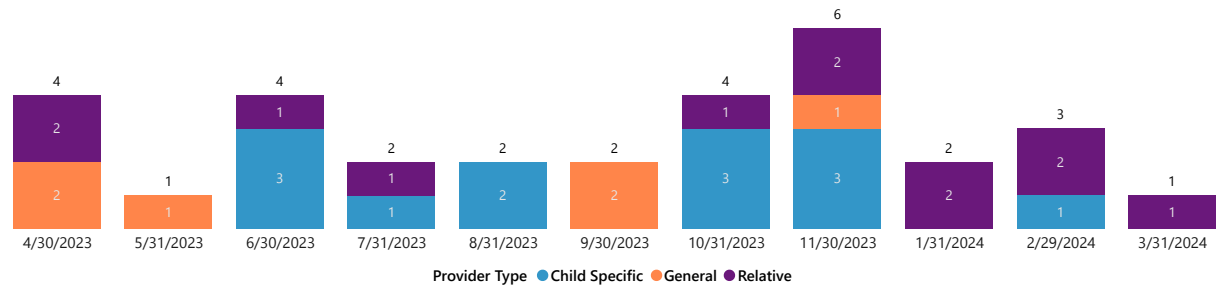
This month the district received 3 new inquiries, one for foster care, one for certified respite care, and one for adoption.

District 13

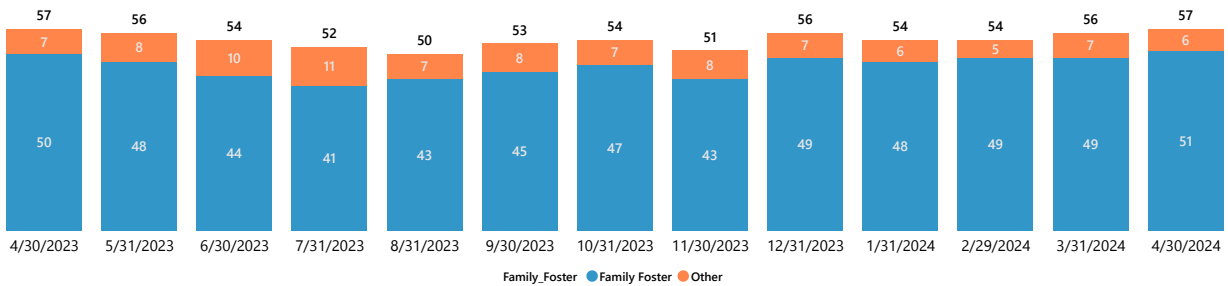
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



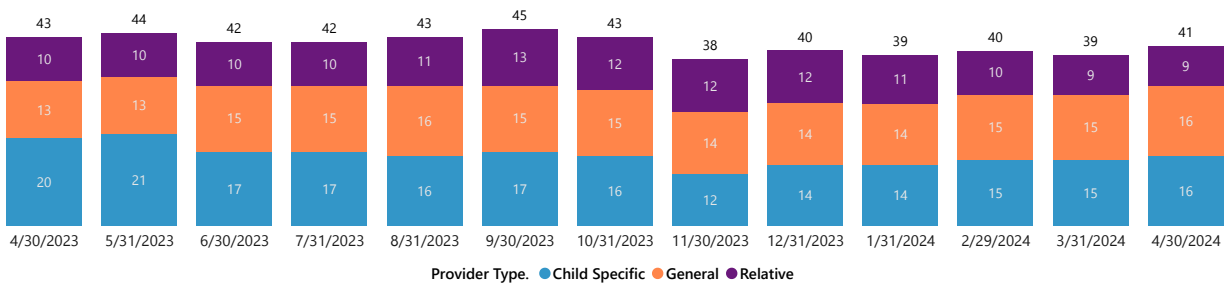
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month



District Manager: Dan Ramirez
District Champion: Tammie Blessing

District 14

Grant, Harney, Malheur

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

Planning appreciation of our resource parents during National Foster Care Month continued this month. A skating and pizza party on May 9 in Burns will support resource families and CASAs. The event is co-sponsored by Harney Partners for Kids and Families, CASA, High Desert Parks and Recreation, Symmetry Care, and the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS). The Malheur Fostering Community Action Team and ODHS certification team are planning an event for Malheur County. Gifts for resource parents in Grant County are being supported through community donations. This work supports retention goal #4 strategy #2 **(provide customer service by honoring and recognizing resource families through events and support activities)**.

The Caregiver's Conference took place on April 27 featuring many workshops including one on Trust-Based Relational Intervention. Resources and services were offered through community partners with ODHS hosting a booth promoting the recruitment of resource parents and offering educational materials from the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center. This training supports recruitment goals #2 and #4 strategy #1 **(develop existing resource families to care for children and youth with mental health and trauma-based behaviors)**.

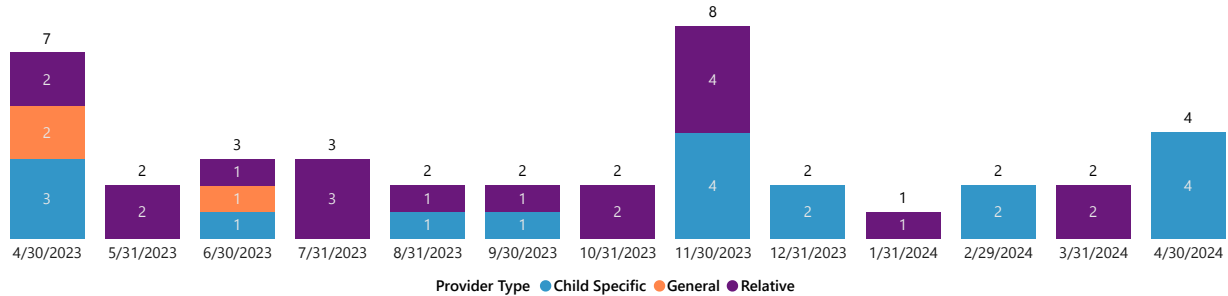
The Malheur Fostering Community Action Team continued to explore opportunities for recruiting resource families, certified respite providers, therapeutic foster families, CASAs, and Citizen Review Board members. They will create a brochure featuring information on ways to become involved in supporting foster care. Upcoming recruitment options include the Stronger Together PRIDE event on June 29, and weekly lunchtime outreach at Jack Henry's, a favorite local coffee house.

The district champion helped host the statewide Fostering Pride event co-sponsored by Unicorn Solutions, Basic Rights Oregon, and ODHS on April 16 to support the recruitment of families to care for children and teens who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. The youth and resource parent panel featured individuals from rural Oregon and a social worker from Oregon Health Sciences University who provided education about their Transgender Health Program. This event supports recruitment goal #1 **(certify families with experience and training to foster children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+)**.

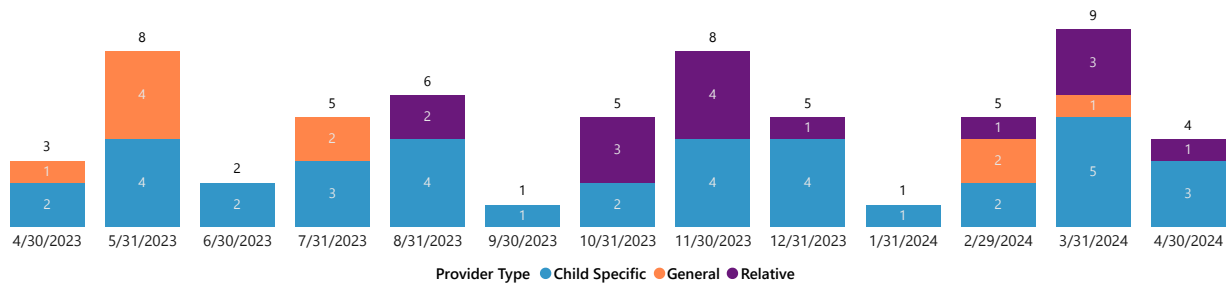
The district had 3 inquiries this month, one foster care, one adoption, and one certified respite care.

District 14

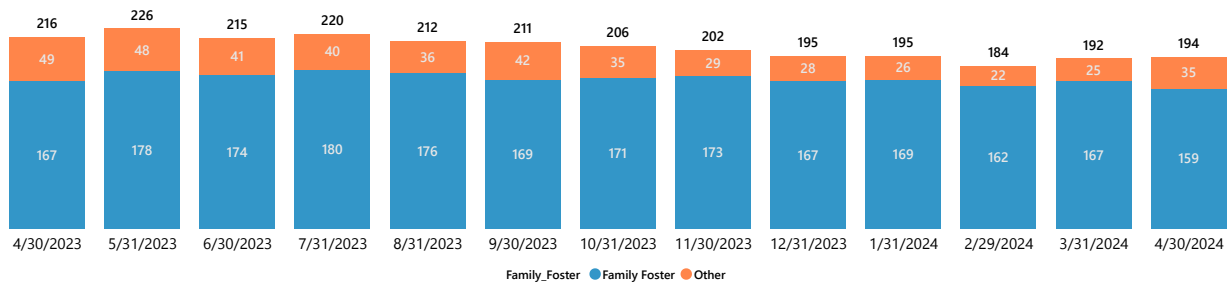
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



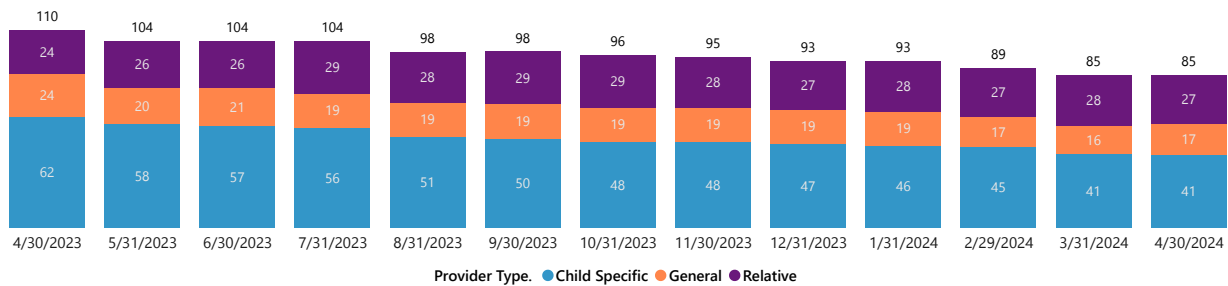
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Cara Hash
District Champion: MaryAnne Miller

District 15

Clackamas

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

April has been filled with planning for our upcoming May resource parent appreciation dinner (**Ongoing activity #1: Ensuring proper recognition for resource parents during May National Foster Care Month**). A workgroup comprised of the certification unit and the champion have been hard at work to execute this event in full red-carpet style. The event theme this year is 'Rolling Out the Red Carpet' as we aim to honor our resource families. We have been reaching out to community partners and child welfare units to provide gift baskets and swag bags which will be given away at the event as a sign of appreciation for all families do. We are all excited for May 6th and the opportunity to celebrate our resource families.

The champion participated in an academy with her fellow champions. The academy included various guest speakers who shared valuable information, a collaborative time with our regional ICWA specialist and tours of the ORCAH and Every Child headquarters. Information from these experiences was shared with the Clackamas County certification unit at our monthly in-person meeting.

As part of our district retention plan, we are providing resource parents with the opportunity to gain training credits while learning valuable information in a collaborative environment. (**Retention Goal #2 The agency will provide the resource parent with necessary support through Dinner and Discussions on a quarterly basis.**) This quarter's dinner and discussion was held on April 25th at the Oregon City office. We had about 17 families and 25 children attend. Children had designated activities to keep them busy while resource parents learned more about Out of Home Care Assessments. Presenters included the local retention and recruitment champion, our local CPS worker who typically assesses these concerns, and our Foster Care Consultant, Sally Vergara-Clement. We were able to provide them with support, policy, and a frequently asked questions website from Every Child. Every Child PDX Associate Director, Maia Anderson, was also present and shared about the programs that they offer.

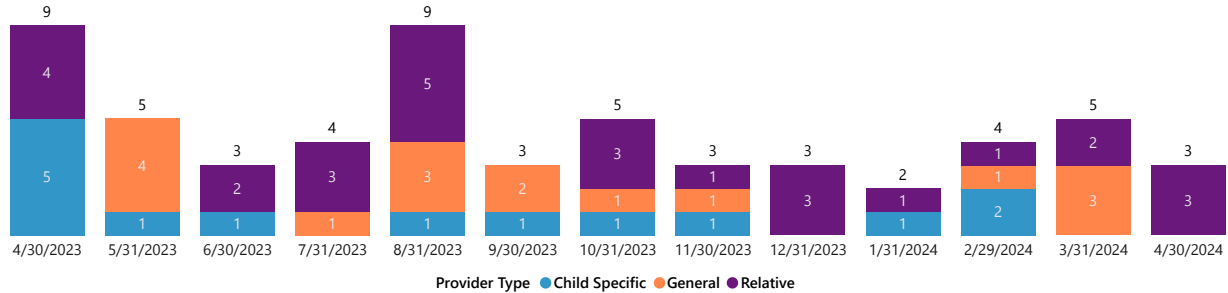
We continue to focus on respite certifications to support our resource families and families of origin. The certification team was able to help support two families with our reunification respite funds and one family case has recently closed.

The champion and Foster Care Coordinator, Sally Vergara-Clement, are planning to meet to start reviewing the district's open resource parent certifications to identify families that may have not taken any placements recently. This is going to be done to develop a list to further analyze with the certification supervisors the families that have maintained a certificate with no placement. Findings will be used to inform retention work and to identify any possible needs for the family.

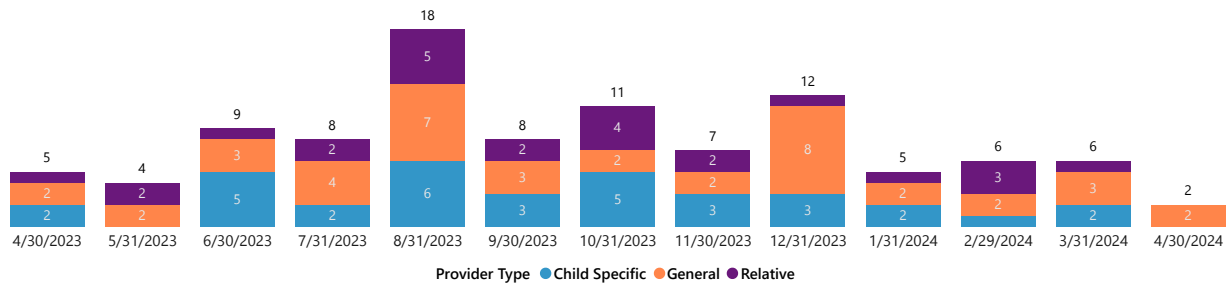
District 15 received 3 general applicant inquiries and 1 adoption inquiry during the month of April. We also opened 3 new general applicant homes.

District 15

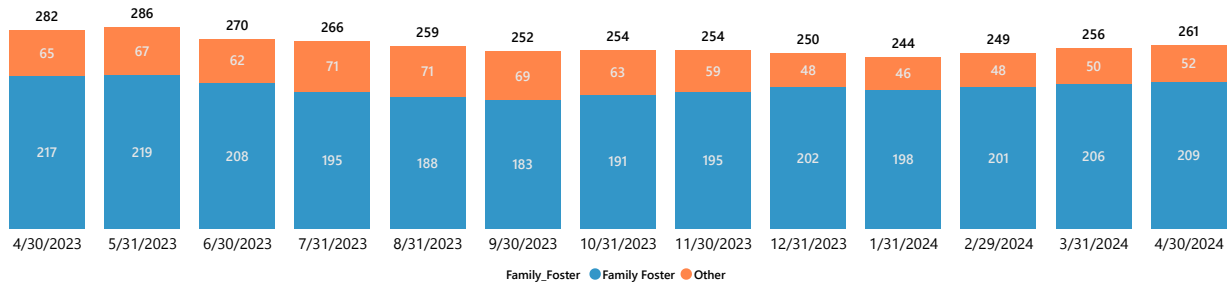
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



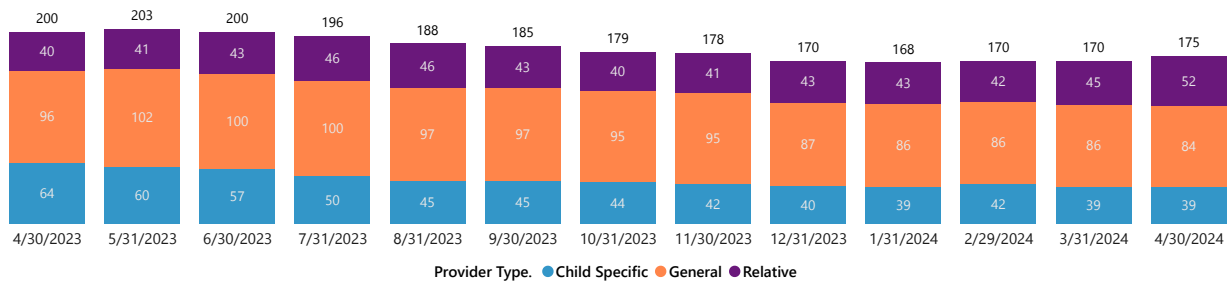
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





District Manager: Rolanda Garcia
District Champion: Nicole Hall

District 16

Washington

Vision:

Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

In April, D16 received a total of 17 inquiries. Among these, 9 pertained to general foster care, 5 expressed interest in respite care, 2 sought information on child-specific foster care, and 1 inquiry was about adoption. We certified 1 new general applicant resource parent.

The Fostering Pride planning team organized a virtual recruitment event for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals across the state on April 16, 2024. Seventeen households participated, with attendees hailing from various regions including Portland, Albany, Salem, Roseburg, West Linn, and Eugene. Outreach has been made to the 3 registrants from Washington County who did not attend the event (**recruitment strategy #3-recruit and certify caregivers from the LGBTQIA2S+ community**).

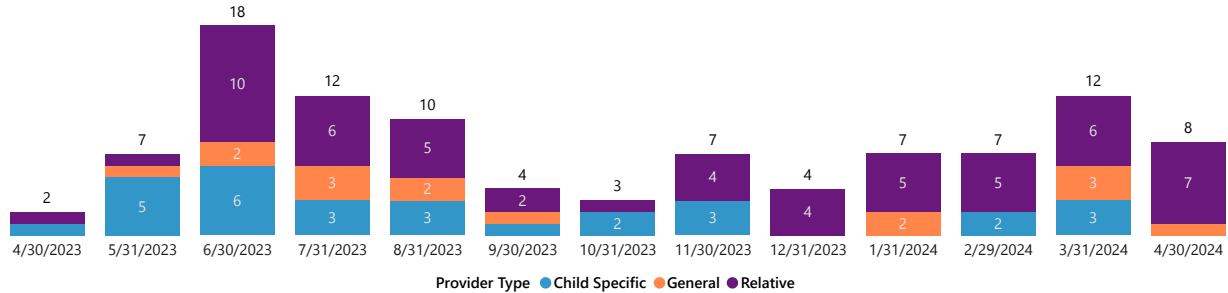
Working alongside our D16 Partnership, Resource, and Outreach (PRO) Team, which includes personnel from Self-Sufficiency, Aging and People with Disabilities, and Child Welfare, we were able to attend Healthy Kids Day in Sherwood and Tigard on April 20th. This collaboration enabled us to be in two communities simultaneously, providing information about resources available through ODHS programs, including foster care and respite (**ongoing recruitment activity #3 – build partnerships with schools, medical facilities, and mental health providers to share information about foster care and the respite program and recruitment goal #1 – recruit and certify individuals or families with diverse racial or cultural backgrounds**).

We are strengthening our summer community outreach initiatives in collaboration with the PRO Team. Our team will be sharing details about ODHS programs and foster care at various events including the Native Youth Wellness Warriors Pow Wow in Hillsboro, Pride in Beaverton, Portland Pride (in collaboration with the Pride ERG), Latino Cultural Festival (in partnership with Every Child), and additional events (**recruitment goal #1 – Recruit and certify individuals or families with diverse racial or cultural backgrounds**).

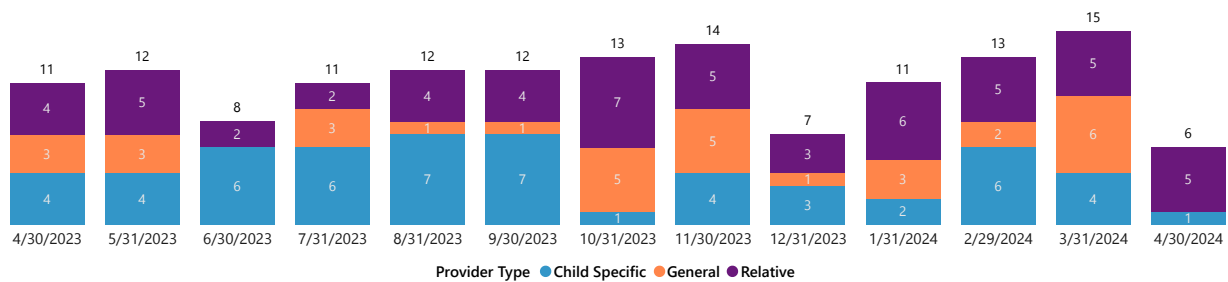
The certification team is diligently organizing our second annual appreciation event for resource parents at Plumper Farms. We're currently sorting out prizes, and thanks to support from various community sponsors, the menu has been finalized.

District 16

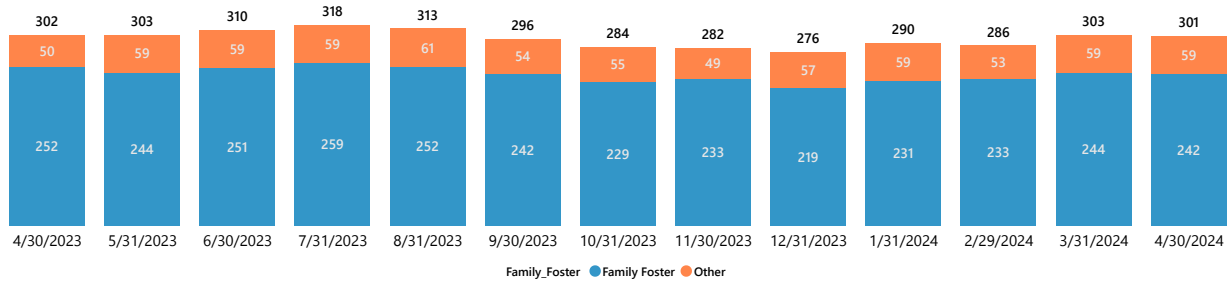
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month

