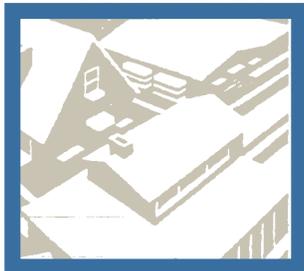
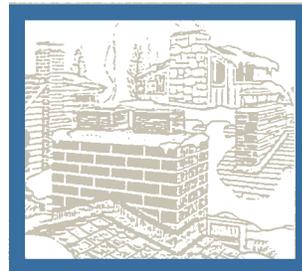

A National Survey of Licensing of Out-of-Home Placements in Child Welfare



FINAL REPORT

Prepared for the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Prepared for the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families,
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Introduction

Currently, over half a million children in the United States are living in out-of-home placements as a result of abuse, neglect, abandonment or exploitation. Ensuring the safety and well-being of these children is a significant concern for individuals who care about children at the local, state and federal levels. Licensing is one tool that states use to enhance the safety of children in out-of-home placement.

Under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 671], the primary responsibility for the licensing of these placements rests with the states. Section 471 (a)(10) of the Act requires that any state receiving federal funds under Titles IV-E or IV-B shall have plan that:

“provides for the establishment or designation of a State authority or authorities which shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for foster family homes and child care institutions which are reasonably in accord with recommended standards of national organizations concerned with standards for such institutions or homes, including standards related to admission policies, safety, sanitation, and protection of civil rights, and provides that the standards so established shall be applied by the State to any foster family home or child care institution receiving funds under this part or part B of this title.”

In early 1998, the Children’s Bureau requested that the National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement examine the status of the licensing of out-of-home placements for children in foster care in the United States. Specifically, the Bureau requested assistance in:

- developing a better understanding of how licensing of out-of-home placements is currently conducted in the states;
- identifying strengths, concerns and needs in the field; and
- defining broad directions for the Bureau’s future technical assistance activities in the area of licensing of out-of-home care placements.

As requested by the Children’s Bureau, the study focused on foster family homes (both relative and non-relative), residential child care facilities and group

homes serving children and youth in foster care. However, in examining these out-of-home placements, the study did not attempt to distinguish between placements serving foster children eligible for federal financial participation under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act and those serving children who are ineligible for federal funds and are assisted with state-only funds. In addition, the study specifically excluded child day care facilities, emergency shelters, psychiatric facilities, and facilities for children with special medical needs.

This report is divided into six substantive sections. Section II describes the methodology used to conduct the study. Sections III – V present descriptions of state practices regarding the licensing of foster family homes, group homes and residential child care facilities, respectively. Information in these section is presented in aggregate form to provide an overall picture of how licensing is conducted, rather than a detailed state-by-state comparison. Section VI provides a summary of qualitative information provided by the respondents, including their assessment of positive aspects of their states' licensing practices, areas to be strengthened and technical assistance needs. Section VII contains the Resource Center's observations and recommendations, based on analysis of information collected for this study.

In addition, the report also contains three appendices. Appendices A and B, respectively, present the survey instrument and a list of individuals interviewed for this study. Appendix C presents a series of tables with state-level information on key survey questions.

Section One

Methodology

To respond to inquiries from the field, the Children's Bureau requires comprehensive, state-specific information on child welfare licensing practices. A lack of detailed, up-to-date information of this nature triggered the Bureau's interest in initiating this study.

Prior to developing the study protocol, Resource Center personnel reviewed selected publications on licensing. These included journal articles, materials prepared by the Children's Bureau, and previous Resource Center publications on licensing. Researchers also reviewed materials available through the Web site of the National Association for Regulatory Administration (www.nara-licensing.org).

While these materials provided excellent background on issues within the licensing field, none addressed specific questions on current licensing practices with the level of detail required by the Children's Bureau. To address these questions, the Children's Bureau and Resource Center developed an extensive survey instrument, a questionnaire designed to elicit specific information of interest to the Bureau.

A separate, but parallel, questionnaire was used to collect data for each type of out-of-home placement examined: foster family homes (relative and non-relative), group homes and residential child care facilities. For each type of placement, core questions addressed the following areas:

- Organizational context: What organizational units or entities are responsible for licensing?
- Framework: Do states have statutes, rules, policies and/or standards to guide the implementation of licensing?
- Implementation: What are the timeframes, conditions and procedures that are associated with state licensing practices?
- Staffing: What is the workload of licensing staff, and what kind of training is provided?

Respondents were also asked a series of open-ended questions aimed at capturing their assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of their state's licensing system. In addition, respondents who reported on the licensing of foster family homes were asked a supplemental series of questions relating to particular subcategories of foster home licensing—relative homes, specialized homes and restricted homes. A copy of the survey instrument is included in Appendix A.

Telephone interviews were conducted with representatives from public child welfare agencies in 50 states plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Personnel from the Survey Research Unit of the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine conducted these interviews between October 1998 and March 1999.

Interviewees were administrative personnel with responsibility for the licensing of out-of-home placements. Because of each state's unique administrative structure, the number of individuals interviewed and their positions within their agencies varied from state to state. In some cases, a single individual was able to answer questions on foster family homes, group homes and residential child care facilities; in other states, separate interviews with two or three state licensing staff were required.

A total of 72 interviews were conducted as part of this study, and interviews averaged 45 minutes each. After the interviews were completed, data were compiled and states were allowed to review and correct information in the tables at the end of the report to assure accuracy of their states' response. A complete list of the interviewees appears in Appendix B.

This report presents major findings of the study regarding the licensing of foster family homes, residential child care facilities and group homes. The following three sections provide descriptions of state practices, presented in aggregate form. Appendix C contains a series of comparison tables, showing state-by-state responses to selected questions. The report also includes observations and recommendations drawn from the interviews.

It should be noted that, as in any national survey, differences among states in language, definitions, agency structure and other factors can often obscure meaning. When discussing the licensing of out-of-home care, these differences appear to be particularly pronounced. States vary widely in how they perform licensing functions and in the terminology they use to describe their activities.

This high level of state-by-state individuality makes the collection of meaningful aggregate data challenging. Throughout this report, effort has been made to utilize federal terminology, whenever possible, and to define terms in lay language to avoid confusion. To simplify the discussion, the term "state" is used broadly to include not only the 50 states but also the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

It should also be noted that states use a variety of terminology to describe the set of activities they undertake to determine whether a given home or facility meets its standards for the placement of foster children. Various states' requirements refer to "licensing," "approval," "certification," "verification" and, sometimes, to combinations of terms. In some cases, the differences among these terms appear to be largely semantic; in others, differences in meaning exist.

To the extent that this study was able to clarify the differences between specific terms, such as "licensing," and "approval," this information is presented in the following section of this report, within the subsection entitled "Approaches to Implementation." Unless stated otherwise, however, "licensing" is used throughout this report as an umbrella term that encompasses all of these activities.

State licensing practices for foster family homes

Definition

Section 472(c) of the Social Security Act defines the “foster family home” in broad terms. It states that:

“For the purposes of this part, (1) the term “foster family home” means a foster family home for children which is licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of such State having responsibility for licensing homes of this type, as meeting the standards established for such licensing.”

All 52 of the states that provided information for this study use the term “foster family home” (or a similar term) to describe homes where one or more parents care for a child or group of children who have been removed from their families’ homes due to abuse, neglect, exploitation or abandonment. This study did not collect information on individual states’ definitions of “foster family home,” nor did it attempt to compare state definitions to that found in federal law. The study did, however, look at specific types of foster family homes, including relative homes, specialized homes, and restricted homes. Definitions for each of these subcategories are presented in the corresponding subsection, below.

Framework

Federal law requires that states establish and maintain standards for foster family homes. At the same time, the statute provides states with considerable flexibility in designing licensing standards and procedures. To meet federal requirements, states develop a framework consisting of state laws, rules, and standards or policies.

The authority for the licensing of foster family homes is defined within state statutes. Fifty-one states (98.1 percent) have laws that govern the licensing of foster family homes. This study did not analyze the content of state laws nor did it compare their content with federal law (Section 472(c) (1) of the Social Security Act).

To provide further guidance on implementing the law, 50 states (96.2 percent) reported that they also have formal licensing rules. Rules are defined as state regulations, promulgated by the public child welfare agency, which have been approved by the Legislature or a by a legislative committee. Because rules have the force of law, the agency must seek legislative approval before revising or altering its rules in any way. Two states did not report an answer to this question

All 52 states also have written standards or policies to guide the licensing of foster family homes. In this study, the terms “standards” and “policies” are used synonymously. Both denote regulations which are developed by the public child welfare agency (with or without public input) to provide further guidance on implementation of licensing activities. Standards and policies are not approved by the Legislature and may be changed or revised by agency action.

Over half of the states with standards or policies (55.8 percent) indicated that their standards are based upon those published by the Child Welfare League of America¹. Another 28.8 percent of the respondents indicated that their standards or policies are based upon other published standards, including model standards and standards of other states. About one-third of the respondents (34.6 percent) indicated that their standards or policies are not based on any published standards. (Percentages add up to greater than 100 percent because some states cited more than one basis for their standards.)

The majority of respondents (82.7 percent) indicated that their standards or policies are revised “as needed,” rather than according to a specific schedule. When revisions are undertaken, however, the process almost uniformly involves input from the public. This input may be received through testimony at public hearings, through written comments, through representation of affected groups on agency committees or by a combination of such mechanisms. Two states (3.8 percent) indicated that they have no method for public input in the development of standards or policies.

Organizational responsibility

All states identified a public agency that has responsibility for the licensing of foster family homes. In 51 states (98.1 percent), responsibility for licensing is located within the public agency that has primary responsibility for the provision of child welfare services. In one state, foster family licensing is within the state department of health and environmental services. For the purposes of this report,

1 *CWLA Standards of Excellence for Family Foster Care*. Child Welfare League of America, Washington, D.C., 1995.

the term “public agency” is used to indicate any state or county agency that is responsible for the licensing of out-of-home placements for children in foster care.

While all states identified a public agency that is responsible for licensing, these agencies vary in how they implement licensing activities. In some cases, state or county public agency staff conduct all licensing activities themselves. In other cases, state or county agencies contract out some licensing activities to private agencies or organizations. No state reported contracting out *all* licensing activities.

Of the states surveyed, slightly over half (53.8 percent) reported that licensing of foster family homes is conducted solely by the public agency. The remaining states (46.2 percent) indicated that licensing responsibilities are split—the public agency conducts some activities; other activities are contracted out to private agencies or organizations. This study did not ask participants to specify which licensing responsibilities or activities are contracted out to private agencies and which are maintained by the public agency.

When states contract out licensing activities, they must monitor contractors to ensure that state standards are maintained. States that use contractors to conduct certain licensing activities utilize a variety of methods to monitor the performance of those agencies: Almost all of the respondents (91.6 percent) require on-site record reviews; 66.6 percent require regular reports from their contract agencies; and 54.1 percent require public agency staff to visit foster homes. (Percentages add up to more than 100 percent because some respondents utilize more than one mechanism.)

Approaches to implementation

States use differing terminology to describe their approaches to ensuring the implementation of their laws, rules and standards. Thirty-one respondents (59.6 percent) described their state’s approach as a *licensing* process. Eight respondents (15.4 percent) reported that their states use an *approval* process; and one respondent identified his or her state’s model as a *certification* process.

In addition, twelve respondents (23.1 percent) indicated that their states use more than one process—a combination of *licensing* with a secondary process, described either as *approval*, *certification* or *verification*. Of these, seven states described a two-tiered licensing process: the public child welfare agency is responsible for licensing private child placement agencies and the child placement agencies, in turn, approve, certify or verify individual foster family homes. In addition, two states indicated that their approval or certification processes are reserved for kinship homes only, and one indicated that an approval process is legally “on the books” but not currently used. Two respondents did not clarify the distinction between licensing and approval in their states.

From the information collected, it was not possible to determine the precise nature of the differences among the approaches described by the various terminology. In some cases, it appeared that the differences were largely semantic in nature; in others, these distinctions may carry more substantive meanings. To fully understand these distinctions would require an in-depth examination of each state’s processes, a level of analysis that was beyond the scope of this study. For the remainder of this report, therefore, the term “licensing” is used to denote all of these regulatory activities.

Safety and quality standards

Respondents were asked to discuss their states’ standards in relation to assuring the safety of foster family homes and the quality of care that children receive in those homes. Safety standards, in this study, were defined in concrete terms—that is, expectations to ensure that the physical environment is free of potential hazards—rather than in terms of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA). Quality of care standards were defined more comprehensively as expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support.

Fifty-one respondents (98.1 percent) indicated that their agencies’ standards or policies address the safety of foster family homes. In each case, these standards address both fire and environmental safety concerns; in addition, 42 respondents (80.8 percent) reported that their agencies’ standards also address structural safety of foster family homes.

Fifty respondents (96.2 percent) indicated that their agencies’ standards or policies address the quality of care that children receive. Among the aspects of quality addressed are the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Appropriate disciplinary methods | 49 | 94.2% |
| Assuring child well-being | 49 | 94.2% |
| Caregiver’s relationship with biological family | 44 | 84.6% |
| Caregiver’s understanding of child’s emotional needs | 42 | 80.8% |
| Caregiver’s understanding of child development | 41 | 78.8% |
| Cultural issues | 40 | 76.9% |
| Caregiver’s knowledge of state and federal child welfare laws and regulations | 30 | 57.7% |

In addition to standards, 43 states (82.7 percent) also reported that they have specific procedural guidelines for staff. These guidelines were generally defined as more detailed, “how-to” documents that define the implementation of procedures.

Criminal background checks

The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 requires that states conduct criminal background checks for all prospective foster and adoptive parents in order to enhance the safety of children in out-of-home placement. Forty-five respondents (86.5 percent) reported that their states mandate criminal background checks for all adults in the home. One state (1.9 percent) requires criminal background checks for foster parents only. Three states (5.8 percent) do not require criminal background checks of any adults. The remaining states did not respond to this question.

Twenty-six states (50 percent) indicated that subsequent criminal background checks are necessary for *renewal* of licenses.

Duration of licenses

In most states, licenses are not permanent; they must be renewed at regular intervals. Twenty-nine states (55.8 percent) reported that their agencies issue foster family home licenses for a one-year period.

Another 14 states (26.9 percent) indicated that they use a two-year timeframe; and three states (5.8 percent) use a 3 – 5 year timeframe. The remainder of respondents either identified a variable timeframe (e.g., one year for the initial license, longer intervals subsequently) or, in three cases, the use of permanent licenses.

Renewal procedures

In most states, families who wish to renew a license must re-apply for their status and undergo a process of re-evaluation. States use a variety of procedures as part of this re-evaluation process. Frequently cited renewal requirements include:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Home visits | 38 | 73.1% |
| Interviews with caregivers | 36 | 69.2% |
| Submission of re-application | 33 | 63.5% |
| Review of CPS records and/or central registry | 29 | 55.8% |
| Criminal background check | 26 | 50.0% |
| Interviews with other family members | 21 | 40.4% |

Other requirements mentioned by fewer respondents include medical screening, interviews with the child's worker and/or child, and reference checks.

Revocations and suspensions of licenses

To protect the safety of children in out-of-home care, all states have formal mechanisms to terminate the status of a foster family home under specific circumstances. Conditions frequently cited as warranting revocation of a license include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| CPS substantiation of abuse or neglect | 48 | 92.3% |
| Finding of noncompliance with one or more standards | 43 | 82.7% |
| Change in caregivers' circumstances that jeopardizes children's safety | 29 | 55.8% |
| CPS referral | 12 | 23.1% |

In addition to revocation, many states also have mechanisms to deny a foster family home its status for a given period of time. Generally, these license suspensions are used while an investigation is pending or while an identified deficiency is being corrected.

Forty-seven states (90.4 percent) indicated that they can suspend the license of a foster family home that is performing unsatisfactorily. Thirty-six states (69.2 percent) indicated that they would use suspension in the case of a finding of noncompliance with at least one of the state's licensing standards; the same number of states also indicated that they would suspend a license in the case of a Child Protective Services substantiation of abuse or neglect.

In addition, half of the states (50 percent) reported that they would suspend a license due to a change in the caretaker's circumstances which jeopardizes children's safety, 24 states (46.1 percent) in response to a Child Protective Services referral, and 20 states (38.4 percent) during the investigation of noncompliance with one or more standards.

Respondents were also asked to estimate the number of revocations and suspensions of family foster home licenses that had occurred in their state within the past year. Estimates on revocations ranged from 0 to over 200; estimates on suspensions ranged from 0 to over 100. It should be noted that the survey only asked respondents for the *number* of revocations and suspensions that occurred, not for the *percentage* of family foster home licenses that are revoked or suspended each year. Therefore, these data should not be used to draw broad conclusions on the frequency with which these measures are used.

Provisional licenses

In some cases, foster family homes are allowed to operate and receive children without meeting the state’s full requirements for licensure. In these cases, states often issue a provisional license. Forty-two states (80.8 percent) reported that they license foster family homes on a provisional basis; eight states (15.4 percent) indicated that they do not utilize a provisional status. The remaining two states did not respond.

Of the 42 states that use a provisional status, 35 (83.3 percent) indicated that they do so for a period of less than one year. Two states (4.8 percent) reported that provisional status may be granted for a one-year period, and one state (2.3 percent) reported that provisional status may be issued for 3 – 5 years. Other states reported no specific duration or stated that durations may vary.

States that use provisional status do so for a variety of reasons. Frequently cited reasons include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Noncompliance with one or more safety standards | 20 | 47.6% |
| Noncompliance with one of more quality of care standards | 17 | 40.5% |
| Waiting for additional information | 17 | 40.5% |
| Emergency situations | 16 | 38.1% |

Other reasons cited include: incomplete preservice training, incomplete home modifications, incomplete physical exams and the need to accommodate a large number of children or a sibling group. One state indicated that a family’s first license is always provisional; another indicated that provisional licenses are issued until regular licenses are processed.

Workload

The study examined the workload of staff employed by public agencies to license foster family homes. It did not address workload issues of staff employed by private contract agencies nor did it examine other licensing responsibilities of public agency staff, such as the licensing of child day care facilities.

Respondents reported that public agency staff members who license foster family homes often have multiple responsibilities. Of the states surveyed, only one respondent indicated that staff are responsible solely for the licensing of foster family homes. The rest (98.1 percent) indicated that licensing staff have other responsibilities as well.

These other responsibilities include ongoing monitoring of foster family homes (82.3 percent), recruitment of homes (71.2 percent), and investigation of allegations or abuse or neglect in foster family homes, either alone or in conjunc-

tion with Child Protective Services staff (55.8 percent). In addition, 14 states (26.9 percent) reported that staff have additional child welfare caseload responsibilities, which are not related to their licensing functions. Ten states (19.2 percent) reported that their staff also assume additional licensing-related functions.

In most states, staff are expected to visit foster family homes for licensing purposes regularly. However, states assign the responsibility for making licensing visits to different staff members. Respondents from 45 states (86.5 percent) reported that licensing workers conduct these visits. Twelve states (23.1 percent) reported that the child's caseworker conducts licensing visits. (This overlap appears to indicate that in some states responsibility for visits either may be split between licensing workers and caseworkers or may be conducted jointly.) Three states (5.8 percent) reported that paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aides) conduct visits. In addition, one state reported that the responsibility for visiting homes is contracted out to private agencies.

Timeframes for licensing visits also differ. In 32 states (61.5 percent) visits are conducted annually. In six states (11.5 percent), staff members visit homes more than once a year, and in five states (9.6 percent), staff members visit biennially. One state reported that visits are conducted on an "as needed" basis; eight states identified other timeframes.

Training

While this study did not attempt to compare specific training content among states, it did ask respondents, broadly, to discuss the types of training that licensors receive. Numbers add up to more than 100 percent because many states provide more than one type of training.

Forty-three respondents (82.7 percent) indicated that their licensing staff receive training regarding licensing policies and procedures. Thirty-seven respondents (71.2 percent) reported that their staff receive training on child welfare issues, policies and procedures.

Respondents were also asked to identify *when* staff receive this training. In 37 states (71.2 percent), staff receive pre-service training. In 47 states (90.4 percent) staff receive on-the-job training. In addition, 35 respondents (67.3 percent) reported that licensing staff are trained jointly with child welfare caseworkers.

Special Types of Foster Homes

Many states have special licensing categories for foster family homes that serve a particular purpose. This study examined three special types of foster homes: relative homes, specialized homes and restricted homes. Each of these categories is defined and discussed below.

1. Relative foster homes

Relative (or kinship) foster homes are licensed foster family homes in which the foster parents are related to the child for whom they care. Fifty respondents (96.2 percent) indicated that their states license relative foster homes. Two respondents (3.8 percent) indicated their states do not license these homes.

Estimates of percentage of children who reside in relative foster homes varied widely. Of the 50 states that license relative homes, 27 (54 percent) provided information on the percentage of foster children who reside in relative homes. Their estimates were as follows:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 10% | 12 | 44.4% |
| 11-25% | 6 | 22.2% |
| 25 - 50% | 8 | 29.6% |
| 51 - 75% | 1 | 3.7% |
| 76 - 100% | 0 | 0% |

Of the 50 states that license relative homes, 33 (66 percent) reported that requirements are different for relatives than for non-relative foster care providers. Generally, these differences centered around the waiver of various licensing requirements. Respondents reported that they grant waivers for relatives in the following areas:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Training requirements | 11 | 30.5% |
| Duration of license | 7 | 19.4% |
| Safety requirements | 6 | 16.6% |
| Visiting/monitoring requirements | 6 | 16.6% |
| Physical space requirements | 3 | 8.3% |

Forty-two (84 percent) of the states that license relative homes reported that payment for relative foster homes is the same as payment for non-relative foster homes. Four respondents (8 percent) reported that payment is different: Of these, one said that payment for relatives is more than for non-relatives; one said payment is less than for non-relatives; one said relatives are generally not paid, and one did not specify.

Respondents were also asked to discuss the use of unlicensed relative homes. States were split on the use of these unlicensed homes: Twenty-eight respondents (53.8 percent) reported that their states place children in unlicensed relative homes; 22 respondents (42.3 percent) reported that their states do not use these homes. Two respondents were uncertain.

Of the states that utilize unlicensed relative homes, 14 (50 percent) provided information on the percentage of children living in these homes. Their estimates were as follows:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 10% | 8 | 57.1% |
| 11-25% | 3 | 21.4% |
| 26 - 50% | 2 | 14.3% |
| 51 - 75% | 0 | 0% |
| 76 - 100% | 1 | 7.1% |

Seventeen of the states that use unlicensed relative homes (60.7 percent) reported that they have written standards that provide guidance for their use, and seven (25 percent) reported that they provide board payments. (Since Title IV-E does not allow for foster care maintenance payments to unlicensed homes, it may be assumed that these homes are paid with state-appropriated funds; however, the study did not address this issue.) The majority of states providing board payments indicated that these payments are about the same as for licensed relative foster homes.

2. Specialized foster homes

Specialized foster homes are licensed foster family homes that provide care to foster children with special medical or emotional needs. Each state defines the population served somewhat differently, but definitions often include terms such as “physical, emotional and behavioral problems,” “medically fragile,” and “special needs.”

Forty-four states (84.6 percent) license specialized foster homes. Of these, 23 (52.2 percent) provided information on the percentage of children residing in these homes. Their estimates were as follows:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 10% | 11 | 47.8% |
| 11-25% | 9 | 39.1% |
| 26 - 50% | 2 | 8.7% |
| 51 - 75% | 1 | 4.3% |
| 76 - 100% | 0 | 0% |

Thirty-three of the states that license specialized homes (75 percent) reported that requirements for these homes are different from those for other foster family homes. Frequently cited differences include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Duration of license | 33 | 96.9% |
| Training requirements | 31 | 93.9% |
| Frequency of visits | 11 | 33.3% |
| Monitoring requirements | 8 | 24.2% |

Other differences cited include more stringent limitations on the number of children in the home, required respite care, greater level of agency support, and 24-hour-a-day parent accessibility.

Of the 44 states that license specialized foster homes, 40 (90.9 percent) reported that specialized foster parents receive a higher rate of payment than other foster parents. One respondent specified that the payment is tied to the needs of the child; three others were uncertain.

3. Restricted foster homes

Restricted foster homes are homes that are licensed to care for a particular child or sibling group. In many cases, parents in these homes accept placement of a child who is known, but not related, to the family (such as a neighbor or friend); however, they are not interested in opening their home for placement of other foster children.

Thirty-two respondents (61.5 percent) reported that their states utilize restricted foster homes. Seventeen of these states (53.1 percent) provided information on the percentage of children residing in such homes. Their estimates were as follows:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0 - 10% | 11 | 64.7% |
| 11-25% | 1 | 5.9% |
| 26 - 50% | 4 | 23.5% |
| 51 - 75% | 0 | 0% |

Twenty-eight of the states that license restricted homes (87.5 percent) indicated that the licensing requirements for restricted foster families are the same as for regular foster families. States that reported differences cited a variety of factors including the following: easing of training requirements, frequency of visits, waiver of safety requirements, and the differences in the application and/or enforcement of standards. In addition, one state reported that children are allowed to live in the home during the licensing process.

Twenty-nine states (90.6 percent) reported that payment for restricted foster family homes is the same as for regular foster family homes. In three states (9.3 percent) respondents indicated that restricted foster homes are paid more than regular foster family homes.

State licensing practices for group homes

Definition

In addition to foster family homes, Section 472(c)(2) of the Social Security Act describes a second type of out-of-home care facility—“child-care institutions.” Under federal law,

“...child-care institution” means a private child-care institution, or a public child-care institution which accommodates no more than twenty-five children, which is licensed by the State in which it is situated or has been approved by the agency of such State responsible for licensing or approval of institutions of this type, as meeting the standards established for such licensing, but the term shall not include detention facilities, forestry camps, training schools, or any other facility operated primarily for the detention of children who are determined to be delinquent.”

While the federal statute uses “child-care institution” to refer to a broad category of non-family out-of-home placements, states often make a distinction based on size and degree of program structure. Many use the term “group home” (or a similar term) to refer to smaller, less structured, non-family placements and “resident child care facility” (or a similar term) to refer to larger, more structured non-family placements. In keeping with the language used by the majority of states, this study uses the term “group home” to refer to a community-based residence that generally houses more children than are permitted to reside in foster family home, but fewer than reside in a more structured, more restrictive residential child care facility. Group homes are operated by professional staff, who work in rotating shifts.

Forty-four states (84.6 percent) recognize group homes as a category of non-family, out-of-home placement for children. Of these, 33 states (75 percent) recognize both group homes and residential child care facilities as distinct entities. Nine states (20.4 percent) consider group homes to be a subcategory of residential child care facilities, and, conversely, one state considers residential child care facilities to be a subcategory of group homes. One state uses the term “group care

facility” to refer to *all* non-family out-of-home placements and doesn’t recognize the category “residential child care facility.”

In addition, nine states (20.4 percent) use the term “group foster family home” to refer to a facility that serves more children than are allowed in a regular foster family home and is operated by parents who live in the home. Unless otherwise stated, the information that follows uses the term “group home” to refer to both types of facilities.

Framework

Section 471 (a)(10) of the Social Security Act directs states to establish and maintain standards not only for foster family homes, but also for child care institutions. Since group homes fall under the heading of “child care institutions,” states that utilize these facilities have developed a framework similar to that which provides a basis for their licensing of foster family homes—a system comprised of law, rules, and standards or policies.

Forty-four states (84.6 percent) have laws that govern the licensing of group homes. Of these, 43 (97.7 percent) reported that they have rules to guide the implementation of their laws as well as written standards or policies to guide agency practice.

Twenty-three of the agencies that use standards or policies (54.8 percent) reported that their standards are based upon those published by the Child Welfare League of America². Twelve states (27.3 percent) indicated that their standards are based upon other published standards. These include their own foster family standards, standards from other states, and those published by the National Association for Regulatory Administration (NARA). Fourteen states (31.8 percent) reported that their standards are not based upon any published standards.

Thirty-one states (70.5 percent) indicated that their standards or policies are revised “as needed,” rather than according to a specific schedule. Two respondents (4.5 percent) reported that revisions are undertaken annually; 11 (25 percent) cited a variety of other timeframes.

When revisions are undertaken, however, the process almost uniformly involves input from the general public. Forty states (90.9 percent) indicated that members of the public are invited to provide input either through public hearings, committee participation or other methods. Four respondents (9.1 percent) indicated that their state has no method for public input in the development of licensing standards or policies.

2 *CWLA Standards of Excellence for Residential Group Care Services*. Child Welfare League of America, Washington, D.C., 1991.

In addition to standards, 39 states (88.6 percent) also reported that they have specific procedural guidelines for licensors.

Organizational responsibility

Forty-three states (97.8 percent) indicated that the public agency responsible for licensing group homes is also the agency that provides child welfare services. However, public agencies are far less likely to contract out responsibility for the licensing of group homes than for foster family homes. In fact, in 41 of the states that license group homes (93.2 percent), the public agency is solely responsible for the licensing process.

In three states (6.8 percent) public agencies share these responsibilities with contracted agencies. When contracted agencies are used, public agencies report that they monitor their work through a variety of mechanisms, including on-site record reviews, required reports and site visits.

Safety and quality standards

As with foster family homes, respondents were asked to discuss the provisions of their agencies' standards or policies for assuring the physical safety of group homes and the quality of care that children receive. "Safety" in this study relates specifically to issues of physical safety; "quality of care" refers to issues of nurturance, support and guidance that affect a child's overall well-being.

Forty-three states (97.7 percent) indicated that their agencies' standards or policies address the safety of group homes. All of these states address fire safety in their standards, 42 of them (95.5 percent) address environmental safety, and 39 (90.7 percent) address structural safety. In addition, five respondents (11.6 percent) noted that their standards also address sanitation issues.

All respondents indicated that their agencies' standards or policies address the quality of care that children receive. Among the aspects of quality addressed are the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Assuring child well-being | 43 | 97.7% |
| Appropriate disciplinary methods | 42 | 95.5% |
| Caregiver's understanding of child development | 36 | 81.8% |
| Caregiver's understanding of child's emotional needs | 36 | 81.8% |
| Cultural issues | 34 | 77.3% |
| Caregiver's relationship with biological family | 32 | 72.7% |
| Caregiver's knowledge of state and federal child welfare laws and regulations | 31 | 70.5% |

Criminal background checks

Criminal background checks for group home personnel are not specifically required under the Adoption and Safe Families Act. However, most states report that they make use of these checks to increase the safety of children in these out-of-home placements.

Thirty-five states (79.5 percent) reported that they require criminal background checks for all adults working at group homes. Four states (9.1 percent) reported that criminal background checks are required for some, but not all, adults, and four states reported that criminal background checks are not required. One state did not report this information.

Twenty-two respondents (71.0 percent) reported that criminal background checks are also a requirement for renewal of a license.

Duration of license

In most states licenses for group homes are issued for a finite period of time. Seventeen states (38.6 percent) indicated that group homes are licensed for a one-year period. Eighteen states (40.9 percent) reported a two-year duration, and three (6.8 percent) reported a 3 – 5 year duration. Six states cited other licensing timeframes, including three that reported that group homes are permanently licensed.

Renewal procedures

States that issue time-limited licenses require that these facilities undergo re-evaluation prior to renewal of their status. States use a variety of procedures to re-evaluate group homes.

Frequently cited renewal requirements include:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Submission of re-application | 28 | 90.3% |
| Site visits | 27 | 87.1% |
| Interviews with staff | 26 | 83.9% |
| Review of CPS records and/or central registry | 24 | 74.2% |
| Criminal background checks | 22 | 71.0% |
| Record reviews | 4 | 12.9% |

Revocations and suspensions

Forty-three states (97.7 percent) identified conditions under which the state can revoke a group home's license. Conditions frequently cited as warranting revocation include:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Finding of noncompliance with one or more standards | 40 | 90.9% |
| CPS substantiation of abuse or neglect | 37 | 84.1% |
| Investigation of non-compliance with one or more standards | 16 | 36.3% |
| Change in administration or key staff | 15 | 34.1% |
| CPS referral or investigation | 9 | 20.4% |

Forty-two states (95.4 percent) identified conditions under which they can suspend a group home’s license. The most frequently cited reasons for suspension were a finding of noncompliance with at least one of the state’s licensing standards (77.3 percent) and a substantiation of abuse or neglect (70.4 percent).

Over one-third of the respondents (38.6 percent) reported that they would suspend a group home’s license during the investigation of noncompliance with one or more standards, and 36.3 percent in the event of a change in administration or key staff. Slightly under one-third of the states (31.8 percent) indicated that they would use suspension in response to a Child Protective Services referral.

Respondents were also asked to estimate the number of revocations and suspensions of group home licenses that had occurred in their state within the past year. Estimates on revocations ranged from 0 to 38, with the majority (61.3 percent) being 0. Estimates on suspensions ranged from 0 to 10, with the majority (54.8 percent) being 0. As discussed above, these figures are raw numbers, rather than percentages of revocations and suspensions in relation to the number of licenses issued. Therefore, the data cannot be used to draw conclusions on the frequency of use of this mechanism.

Provisional status

States use provisional status to allow facilities to operate and receive children prior to fully meeting all licensing requirements. Thirty-six states (81.8 percent) reported that they issue provisional licenses for group homes. The majority of these states (67.9 percent) indicated that they use provisional licenses for a period of less than one year.

Six states (21.4 percent) reported that provisional status is granted for a one-year period. One state reported that provisional status is issued for a 2 year period, and a one, for a 3 – 5 year period. In addition, one state reported that provisional licenses are issued in 6-month increments, for a period up to 18 months, and three states did not specify a timeframe.

States that use provisional status do so for a variety of reasons. Frequently cited reasons include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Noncompliance with one or more safety standard | 17 | 47.2% |
| Noncompliance with one of more quality of care standard | 16 | 44.4% |
| First license is always provisional | 9 | 25.0% |
| Waiting for additional information | 6 | 16.7% |
| Emergency situations | 6 | 16.7% |

Workload

Forty-two states (95.5 percent) reported that group home licensing staff have multiple responsibilities. In 28 of these states (66.7 percent) licensing staff are responsible for ongoing monitoring and support of group homes. In addition, over half of the respondents (52.3 percent) reported that licensing staff participate in the investigation of abuse or neglect in group homes, either alone or in conjunction with Child Protective Services staff. In 23 states (54.7 percent), staff has additional licensing responsibilities, most frequently responsibility for licensing of residential child care or juvenile detention facilities.

In most states licensing staff are expected to visit facilities regularly. In 23 states (52.3 percent) visits are conducted annually. In ten states (22.7 percent), staff members visit facilities more than once a year, and in six states (13.6 percent), staff members visit every two years. In addition, two states (4.5 percent) reported that they have no set schedules for visits, and three (6.8 percent) reported other timeframes.

Respondents from 42 states (95.5 percent) reported that licensing staff conduct these visits. Two states (4.5 percent) reported that fire safety personnel and/or regional staff make the visits.

Training

Forty-three states (97.7 percent) indicated that they provide formal training for licensing staff. Thirty-nine respondents (88.6 percent) indicated that licensing staff receive training regarding licensing policies and procedures, and 31 (70.5 percent) reported that staff receive training on child welfare issues, policies and procedures.

Respondents in 37 states (84.1 percent) reported that licensing staff receive on-the-job training. Twenty-seven states (61.4 percent) provide pre-service training for their staff. Nineteen respondents (43.2 percent) reported that licensing workers are trained jointly with child welfare caseworkers.

State licensing practices for residential child care facilities

Definition

States use a wide variety of terminology to refer to facilities that provide around-the-clock care for children who need a more structured, restrictive environment: residential child care facilities, residential treatment centers, child care institutions, child care agencies, and residential child treatment facilities, to name just a few. This study uses the term “residential child care facility” (RCCF) to refer broadly to this classification of out-of-home placement facilities for children in foster care.

Like group homes, RCCFs fall under the classification of “child-care institution” found in Section 472(c) of the Social Security Act and presented in Section Three of this report. States vary in their definitions of these facilities as well as in how they treat them for licensing purposes. State definitions often utilize the following factors:

- **Size:** Over half of the respondents (55.6 percent) cited size as one criterion in their definition of residential child care facility. Most categorized these facilities as institutions that care for more children than foster family homes and group homes. However, the range of states’ “bottom lines” varies significantly. Fifteen states use 10 – 15 children as the minimum size of an RCCF. In contrast, one state’s definition allows for facilities that care for 2 or more children; one reserves the term for facilities that house more than 20 children.
- **Services:** All states require that RCCFs provide 24-hour care. Eight states require the provision of mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment and/or a structured program aimed at achieving behavioral change. Two states’ definitions specifically mention the presence of an on-site school as a requirement, and two definitions mention the provision of on-site medical care.
- **Staffing:** Four state definitions mention criteria that involve staffing. One state requires that RCCFs have staff that work rotating shifts; one specifies that staff be awake on a 24-hour basis; one specifies that RCCF staff are

required to have more training than group home staff; and one notes that RCCFs have a greater number of professional staff than group homes.

- **Administration and exclusions:** Five states specify that RCCFs are administered by an agency (as opposed to a private individual), and seven states specifically exclude private homes and foster homes from classification as RCCFs. Hospitals, boarding schools, and summer camps are excluded in definitions used by states. Two states specifically exclude substance abuse and/or mental health treatment facilities.

Forty-eight states (92.3 percent) reported that they license residential child care facilities (or use a related term to describe this category of facilities). Two states reported that they categorize all non-family out-of-home placements as “group homes” and do not recognize RCCFs as a distinct category. Two states did not provide information for this portion of the study.

Framework

States maintain a strong framework of laws, rules and standards or policies to guide their licensing of residential child care facilities. All 48 of the states that reported on RCCF licensing indicated that they have laws that govern the licensing of these facilities and 47 (97.9 percent) have state rules as well as written standards for RCCFs.

Of these states, over half (54.2 percent) reported that their standards are based on those published by the Child Welfare League of America³; 29.2 percent reported that their standards are based on other published materials, including standards from other states, National Association for Regulatory Administration materials and accreditation standards. Fifteen states (32.6 percent) do not base their standards on published materials.

Thirty-six states (78.2 percent of the states that use standards) indicated that their standards are revised on an “as needed” basis, rather than according to a specific schedule. Three states (6.5 percent) reported that revisions are undertaken annually, and nine reported other timeframes. One respondent noted that the state’s standards were last revised 10 years ago.

As in other forms of licensing discussed above, when revisions are undertaken, the process almost uniformly involves public input. Forty-four states (91.6 percent) reported that they utilize public input in revising RCCF licensing standards. These mechanisms include public hearings (87.5 percent) as well as participation on committees (75 percent).

³ *Ibid.*

In addition, 44 respondents (91.7 percent) reported that their states have written procedural guidelines to assist staff in implementing their state’s licensing processes.

Organizational responsibility

Public agencies generally maintain direct responsibility for the licensing of residential child care facilities. In 46 states (95.8 percent), RCCF licensing is implemented solely by a public agency. Two states (4.2 percent) reported that some aspects of RCCF licensing are contracted out to private agencies.

Among public agencies, however, responsibility for RCCF licensing is more diffuse than for either foster family homes or group homes. In 25 states (56.8 percent), the public child welfare agency is responsible for licensing RCCFs. In 13 states (29.5 percent), licensing of RCCFs is the responsibility of another public agency. These agencies include state departments of mental health, health services, and education as well as agencies specifically charged with licensing, consumer services, and contracts and standards. Eight states (16.7 percent) utilize a combination of agencies to license RCCFs. Two states did not report this information.

Safety and quality standards

All of the states that utilize written standards for RCCFs report that their standards address safety issues. All of these states address fire and environmental safety within their standards; in addition, 45 states (93.8 percent) also address structural safety.

Similarly, all respondents indicated that their states address quality of care issues within their standards. Frequently addressed quality issues include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Appropriate disciplinary methods | 46 | 95.8% |
| Assuring child well-being | 45 | 93.8% |
| Caregiver’s understanding of child’s emotional needs | 38 | 79.2% |
| Caregiver’s understanding of child development | 37 | 77.1% |
| Cultural issues | 37 | 77.1% |
| Caregiver’s knowledge of state and federal child welfare laws and regulations | 32 | 66.7% |
| Caregiver’s relationship with biological family | 31 | 64.6% |

Criminal background checks

Criminal background checks for residential child care facility personnel are not specifically required under the Adoption and Safe Families Act. However, the

majority of states report that they make use of these checks to increase the safety of children in these out-of-home placements.

Thirty-six states (75 percent) require criminal background checks for all adults working at residential child care facilities. Another six states (12.5 percent) require criminal background checks for some, but not all, adults. Four states (8.3 percent) do not require criminal background checks. Two states did not report this information.

Twenty-eight states (58.4 percent) reported that criminal background checks are also a requirement for re-licensure of facilities.

Duration of licensing

Twenty states (41.6 percent) reported that they license RCCFs for a one-year period. Seventeen (35.4 percent) license facilities for a two-year period and three (6.3 percent) for a 3 – 5 year period. In addition, eight states (16.6 percent) reported other timeframes. Of these, six specified that facilities are licensed for indefinite or flexible periods of time, one indicated a 10-year timeframe, and one did not specify a timeframe.

Renewal procedures

States use a variety of procedures to re-evaluate residential child care facilities prior to renewing their licenses. Frequently cited renewal requirements include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Site visits | 46 | 95.8% |
| Submission of re-application | 45 | 93.7% |
| Interview with staff | 44 | 91.6% |
| Review of CPS records and/or central registry | 36 | 75.0% |
| Criminal background check | 28 | 58.3% |

Other procedures cited include health and fire inspections, record reviews, examination of policies and procedures, interviews with children and families, and review of financial reports.

Revocations and suspensions

Forty-seven states (97.9 percent) identified conditions under which the state can revoke an RCCF's license. Conditions frequently cited as warranting revocation include the following:

| | <u>states</u> | <u>percentage</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Finding of noncompliance with one or more standards | 44 | 91.6% |
| CPS substantiation of abuse or neglect | 40 | 83.3% |
| Investigation of non-compliance with one or more standards | 14 | 29.1% |
| Change in administration or key staff | 13 | 27.1% |
| CPS referral or investigation | 8 | 16.7% |

Forty-four states (91.6 percent) use suspensions to temporarily halt the operation of a residential child care facility. The most frequently cited reasons for suspension of a license were substantiation of abuse or neglect by Child Protective Services and findings of non-compliance with one or more standards (62.5 percent). Eighteen states (37.5 percent) reported that they use suspension in the case of an investigation of noncompliance, and 13 (27.1 percent), in response to a Child Protective Services referral.

Respondents were also asked to estimate the number of revocations and suspensions of residential child care facility licenses that had occurred in their state within the past year. Estimates on both revocations and suspensions ranged from 0 to 10, with the majority (62.2 percent and 55.6 percent, respectively) being 0. In addition, one state reported that it had issued 20 – 25 intake suspensions within the past year, a mechanism that allows facilities to continue to serve children already placed there but prohibits them from admitting new residents.

As in the above sections, it should be noted that these figures are raw numbers of revocations and suspensions, and are not presented in relation to the total number of licenses issued. Therefore, they cannot be used to indicate the frequency with which these mechanisms are used.

Provisional status

Provisional licenses are used in 38 states (79.2 percent) to allow facilities to operate and accept children prior to meeting all licensing requirements. Of these, 22 states (57.9 percent) issue a provisional license if a facility is noncompliant with one or more safety standard, and 19 states (50 percent) do so if a facility is noncompliant with one or more quality standard. Thirteen states (34.2 percent) reported that the first license that a residential child care facility receives is always provisional. Other reasons cited included emergency situations, incomplete information, and incomplete training.

Of the states that issue provisional licenses, 30 (78.9 percent) do so for a period of less than one year. Three states (7.9 percent) reported that provisional licenses may be for a period of one year, and one reported a period of 3 – 5 years. Four states cited indefinite or flexible timeframes.

Workload

Forty-five states (93.8 percent) reported that staff who license RCCFs have multiple responsibilities. Of these, the most frequently reported responsibilities include ongoing monitoring (77.8 percent) and support (68.9 percent) of facilities. In addition, 27 of these states (60 percent) reported that licensing staff participate in the investigation of abuse or neglect in facilities, either alone or in conjunction with Child Protective Services staff.

In addition, 21 states (46.7 percent) reported that RCCF licensing staff have other licensing responsibilities, and 12 states (25 percent) reported that staff have other child welfare responsibilities.

Licensing staff are expected to visit facilities regularly. In 28 states (53.3 percent) these visits are conducted annually, and in 11 states (22.9 percent), staff members visit facilities more than once a year. Five states (10.4 percent) require licensing staff to visit every two years. Three states cited other timeframes, including one that specified that timeframes vary, based on the quality demonstrated in previous inspections.

Forty-seven states (97.9 percent) reported that licensing workers conduct these visits. Three states (6.25 percent) reported that environmental health, fire safety and/or regional office staff conduct visits. Because percentages add up to more than 100 percent, it may be assumed that in some states visits are conducted jointly.

Training

Forty-seven states (97.9 percent) indicated that they provide formal training for staff responsible for licensing of RCCFs. Forty-two states (87.5 percent) indicated that licensing staff receive training regarding licensing policies and procedures; 32 states (66.7 percent) reported that staff receive training on child welfare issues, policies and procedures.

Forty-three states (89.6 percent) reported that licensing staff receive on-the-job training. Thirty-one states (64.6 percent) reported that staff receive pre-service training. Twenty-one states (43.8 percent) reported that licensing workers are trained jointly with child welfare caseworkers.

Respondents' assessment

The preceding sections provide a great deal of information on how states conduct their licensing activities. They do not, however, capture some of the more qualitative issues that are under discussion within the field: What do licensing professionals think about their states' activities and approaches to this difficult task? What do they consider positive features of their licensing programs and where do they feel they need some technical assistance?

To address these issues, each respondent interviewed for this study was asked to comment on the strengths and weaknesses of his or her state's licensing program for foster family homes, group homes and residential child care facilities. In addition, each respondent was asked to identify areas in which his or her state would benefit from technical assistance.

These questions were open-ended, so responses varied greatly. However, several recurrent themes were intertwined throughout the comments. Following are some of the major themes that arose from these discussions.

Positive aspects

Respondents identified the following aspects or characteristics of their states' licensing systems as positive.

- ***Strong underpinnings:*** Many respondents believe that the laws, rules and/or standards that guide their states' licensing activities contribute to the effectiveness of their systems. In some states, respondents cited recent changes in licensing laws that they believe are strengthening the system. Other respondents emphasized the thoroughness and clarity of their states' licensing rules, regulations and/or standards.
- ***Support for facilities:*** Respondents in several states cited their positive relationships with providers as key aspect of their licensing program. These respondents believe the technical assistance which staff offer to facilities is highly beneficial. Some respondents used terms such as "provider-friendly," "service-oriented" and "consultative" to describe their approach. Respondents were also pleased with the level of technical support that their staff provide for facilities. "I view licensing as a constructive process," said one respondent. "I'm available as a resource."

- *Foster parent training:* Approximately half of the individuals who responded to questions regarding foster family homes indicated that they were pleased with the training their states provide for foster parents. While states use a variety of training models, several respondents cited the variety of training that their states offer, their ability to customize training to meet particular needs, and the mandatory nature of training as positive features of their training programs.
- *Emphasis on safety:* Another prevalent theme was a heightened awareness of safety issues. In some cases, respondents cited requirements for fingerprinting and FBI background checks; others stated, more broadly, that their state has increased its emphasis on assuring the health and safety of children in out-of-home care.

Several respondents emphasized the thoroughness of their monitoring of group homes and residential child care facilities. Some noted the frequency, timeliness and level of attention to detail that characterizes their review processes. Others mentioned their team approach and their “hands-on” inspection format, which includes on-site interviews with children, inspection of medication charts and other types of close involvement. One respondent highlighted the flexibility of his states’ process, which allows reviews to be tailored specifically to the individual facility.

- *New approaches to assuring quality:* Several states identified mechanisms that are in place or under development which are aimed at assuring program quality in group homes and/or residential child care facilities. One state is in the process of developing performance indicators and an on-site quality audit for RCCFs; another has implemented a three-tiered licensing system in which increasing levels of reimbursement provide an incentive to achieve quality benchmarks, and a third cited a new statute and regulations which have strengthened the education and quality standards for RCCFs.

In addition, one individual noted that his or her state’s review process focuses primarily on the extent to which the program is meeting children’s needs. Another pointed toward the state’s growing understanding that the quality of a facility’s administration is key to its success.

Areas to be strengthened

Respondents noted that the following aspects of their states’ licensing systems need to be improved in order to better assure the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placements:

- **More resources:** Without a doubt, the most prevalent theme among respondents was the need to bolster the level of resources that public agencies deploy in the area of licensing. Respondents overwhelmingly cited the need for more staff as their primary concern. One respondent specifically indicated that hiring staff of diverse backgrounds would strengthen the program.

While human resources were a primary concern, respondents also cited the need for additional “hard” resources. These include a better system for tracking the location of children within the system, laptop computers to use in the field, and better pay for staff and foster parents.

- **Staff training:** Along with more staff, respondents also called for more staff training. In particular, one respondent noted that training requirements for staff should be revised to mandate training in specific areas, not simply an hourly requirement. Other respondents called for more training on working with adolescents and other specific populations, on completing licensing paperwork requirements, and on local code requirements
- **Laws, rules and standards:** While many states indicated that their system’s legal underpinnings were particularly strong, almost as many indicated that their laws, rules and standards need to be strengthened and updated. In particular, one respondent called for better guidance around the denial of licenses; one called for better standards for kinship care.
- **Provider pool:** In addition to more staff resources, many respondents indicated the need for a concerted effort to strengthen and expand their states’ pool of provider resources. The need was particularly acute for foster family homes. Most respondents cited the need for more homes across-the-board; some specifically mentioned respite care homes, homes for teenagers and specialized foster homes as priorities.

Interestingly, while approximately half the respondents cited foster parent training as an exemplary aspect of their program, almost as many indicated that they were displeased with their state’s foster parent training program. Respondents wanted more training, and more effective training. In particular, two respondents called for training to be delivered locally, especially in rural areas; two also expressed a desire to make training mandatory, rather than voluntary.

Similarly, while many respondents were pleased with the quality of facilities in their state, some felt facilities could be strengthened. In particular, one respondent cited the need to work with facilities on the development of quality assurance programs and a system for evaluation of outcomes; another cited the need to provide more training for facility staff.

- **Communication and linkages:** Many respondents expressed concerns regarding the relationship of the licensing function in their states to other enti-

ties. Their comments reflected an interest in achieving a greater level of integration with other components of the child-and-family service system.

In particular, some respondents called for improved communication between licensing staff and direct service staff (such as child protective services and foster care workers) as well as between licensing staff and state office personnel at the policy development and program administration levels. They also cited the need for better communication between foster families and licensing staff.

Several respondents also identified a need for better working relationships with allied professionals, such as fire inspectors and social services agencies, as well as with other state departments involved in the licensing process, such as health, mental health, and /or behavioral health agencies.

- *A greater emphasis on quality of care:* A significant number of respondents indicated that they would like to see a shifting of emphasis within the licensing field—moving away from what one respondent termed “the quantitative aspects of licensing” and putting more weight on the quality of care that children receive.

This call for a greater commitment to quality-of-care issues was intertwined throughout responses in a variety of ways. Some respondents focused particularly on the need for more staff resources to allow the agency to monitor homes and facilities for quality of care, while others expressed the need to develop risk assessment or family assessment instruments to screen potential foster families. Other respondents called for a greater emphasis on quality in their states’ training programs and in their licensing rules. One respondent expressed the hope that licensors could shift their emphasis from enforcement to the provision of technical assistance to foster care providers.

Technical assistance needs

Respondents believe their states could benefit from assistance in the following areas.

- *More staff, more resources:* Not surprisingly, the need that respondents most frequently cited was for increased resources, particularly human resources. Respondents cited the need for more licensing staff to ensure health and safety requirements are met, for additional clerical staff to keep up with paperwork requirements, and for a variety of consultants to provide technical assistance to licensing staff and providers.
- *Funding for training:* Respondents also wanted assistance with training—in particular, a source of funding to provide training for their staff and resources to send staff to national or regional conferences. In addition,

respondents asked for the development of books, audiotapes and videotapes that they could use as a basis for internal staff discussions and training programs.

- ***Information sharing among states:*** Several respondents also called for increased sharing of information among states, particularly around regulations and standards. Respondents cited the need for periodic national and/or regional forums through which regulators could exchange ideas and build on each other's successful efforts. One respondent felt the need for information exchange is particularly acute among rural states.
- ***Better tools:*** Another cluster of responses addressed the need to continue to update, refine and formalize the guidance that agencies provide for licensing staff. This theme played out in several requests for assistance in revising rules and standards; other respondents asked for assistance in developing home study formats and outcome measures, particularly related to quality-of-care issues. One respondent requested assistance in developing a licensing guidebook to assist staff in conducting their day-to-day activities.
- ***A better way to address quality:*** Several respondents called for assistance in addressing the issue of program quality through the mechanism of licensing. One called for a demonstration of a commitment to quality "from the top," referring, it appeared, to both the federal and state levels. Other respondents called for assistance in finding appropriate ways to make a distinction between "bottom line" health and safety issues and program quality issues. Another respondent recommended exploration of accreditation as a mechanism for ensuring quality programs.

Linkages between licensing and child welfare functions

Finally, each interviewee was also asked to comment upon the linkages between licensing functions and direct service functions (i.e. child protection, foster care, and adoption) in his or her state. Respondents were asked to describe the type of linkages that exist in their state as well as to describe what an ideal system would look like. There were a total of 69 responses to this set of questions.

Twenty-nine of the respondents (42 percent) described the licensing functions of their agencies as well integrated into their agencies' child welfare functions. Thirty-one respondents (44.9 percent) described licensing functions as separate from, but linked to, child welfare functions. Two respondents (2.9 percent) indicated that licensing and child welfare functions are completely separate.

Respondents were also asked to describe the ideal relationship between licensing and child welfare functions. There were 65 responses to this question. Of these, 32 (49.2 percent) said that ideally licensing and child welfare functions

of the agency should be well integrated; 31 (47.7 percent) indicated that the two functions should be separate, but linked. Two respondents (3.1 percent) called for a complete separation of licensing and child welfare functions.

The fact that respondents' descriptions of existing relations almost mirror respondents' descriptions of ideal relations would, on the surface, appear to indicate that all respondents are happy with their own state's model. However, closer examination of the responses reveals that approximately one-third of the respondents felt the ideal model was something other than the model their state currently uses. Because these "crossovers" appear to go equally in both directions, however, no conclusive mandate for a "right" way of framing the relationship between licensing and child welfare function arises from the survey information. It appears that the majority of respondents are happy with their current situation, and for some "the grass is greener" elsewhere.

Observations and recommendations

From the outset, this study demonstrated the challenges of attempting to characterize and analyze states' activities around the issue of the licensing of out-of-home placements for children in foster care. While each state's child welfare system is undeniably unique, one can argue that nowhere are these differences more pronounced than in the area of licensing: Simply identifying those individuals within each state system responsible for the licensing of each type of placement examined in this study proved to be a Herculean task; once those individuals were identified, each state's particular terminology, definitions, and structure made the extraction and aggregation of meaningful data a formidable job.

Every attempt has been made here to present this information accurately and in keeping with the intent of the interviewees. For any inadvertent errors or misunderstandings, we apologize.

With those caveats, we offer the following observations on the status of licensing of out-of-home placements for children in foster care:

- *From the data collected, it appears that a strong licensing infrastructure is in place.* This study surveyed states' licensing framework (e.g., laws, rules and standards) as well as their licensing processes and procedures (e.g., duration of licenses, monitoring of placements, renewal procedures, etc.). A review of the data tells a positive story: Most states indicate that they have laws and rules to guide them, that their standards address both physical safety and quality of care issues, that they visit homes and facilities regularly, and that they have mechanisms in place to revoke or suspend the licenses of individuals or facilities that do not perform satisfactorily.
- *However, from this study it is impossible to say whether the system is working as well as it could to assure the safety and well-being of children in care.* The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 emphasizes the primacy of assuring safety for children in out-of-home care. While this study addresses a number of factors that are assumed to enhance the safety of children in out-of-home placement (criminal background checks, visiting of facilities and homes, for example), it did not look specifically at outcome data.

Therefore, despite the fact that the survey information reveals an infrastructure that appears sound and well-developed, one must still ask additional questions: How safe are children in out-of-home placement? If it is determined that outcomes for these children are contrary to their safety and well-being, does the effectiveness of the licensing process need to be re-evaluated? Such questions cannot be answered from the information collected in this survey. Because they are important questions, we hope that future efforts will address and answer them more completely.

Despite the fact that these significant questions remain unanswered, there appear to be a number of steps that can be taken to strengthen licensing practice in many states. We offer the following recommendations, drawn from the information collected:

- *States need to continue the process of updating their legal and policy structures to reflect current child welfare laws and practice.* While many respondents cited the effectiveness of their states' recently updated laws, rules and standards, other respondents noted that their framework had not been revised in many years. This need for revision is heightened by the passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, which specifically focuses on the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placement. It is critical that all states examine their legal and policy structures to ensure that they are in keeping with both the letter and the spirit of ASFA.
- *All states need to conduct required criminal background checks.* While criminal background checks alone cannot assure the safety of every child in out-of-home placement, they are an important step in keeping identified criminals away from vulnerable children. To their credit, the majority of states indicated that they are using criminal background checks for foster parents as well as for adults working in group homes and residential child care facilities; many also require additional checks as a requirement for the renewal of a license. In doing so, these states are exceeding the requirements of ASFA, which specify that the checks must be conducted for prospective foster and adoptive parents.

However, not all states are meeting the requirements of ASFA, and fewer are "going the extra mile" to assure that group home and residential child care facilities also conduct these checks. Those states that are not utilizing these checks should move quickly to meet the requirements of ASFA and should consider extending these protections to children in all out-of-home placements in their state.

- *Licensing personnel can benefit from more regular interchange of information among the states, including dissemination of innovative practices.* As licensing practice changes to keep pace with changing expectations, it is important

that personnel in each state not “re-invent the wheel.” Licensors could benefit from opportunities for sharing information with colleagues from around the nation through vehicles such as conferences, training and publications.

Particularly useful would be development of a vehicle for the dissemination of innovative practices. Many states in this survey reported that they have implemented or are moving toward implementation of significant innovations in their licensing practices—for example, the development of performance indicators, the exploration of multi-tiered licensing systems in which performance is tied to pay, the development of flexible, quality-of-care centered monitoring processes. Widespread dissemination and thoughtful consideration of ideas such as these can only stand to strengthen licensing practice nationwide.

- *Licensors could also benefit from more open communication with other components of the child-and-family service system.* Licensors in many states could also benefit from stronger linkages with other entities that share the responsibility for ensuring the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placement. Opening up these lines of communication will provide opportunities for professionals in many disciplines to better understand the licensors’ perspective and for licensors to better understand the forces that impact child welfare services. The mandate to assure the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placement demands a comprehensive, well-integrated child-and-family service system, and licensing must be seen as a vital component of this system. Increased communication is an important first step of this process.
- *The dialogue around how to best address quality issues must continue.* Throughout the course of this study, personnel in numerous states raised issues regarding how to best assure that children in out-of-home placement are physically and emotionally safe and that they receive the kind of care that enhances their overall well-being. They are aware that the role of licensing is changing—or at least being challenged—in light of the many changes in the child welfare environment. These changes include not only the passage of ASFA, but also a host of other factors, including implementation of the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, the advent of child welfare managed care initiatives, and Child Protective Services reform efforts in many states.

Given these many influences, the field is asking, what is the appropriate role of licensing in assuring the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placement? Clearly, there is no easy answer. But a healthy dialogue—involving licensors, administrative and policy-level personnel, direct service staff and providers—is a critical next step in assuring the safety and well-being of children in out-of-home placement.

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Appendices

- A. Survey instruments
- B. Individuals interviewed for this study
- C. State comparison charts

Survey Instruments

Foster family homes
Relative family foster homes
Specialized family foster homes
Restricted family foster homes
Residential child care facilities
Group homes

A. Foster Family Homes

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Organizational relationships

a. Within the organizational structure of the public child welfare agency, where is the person or unit responsible for licensing (or approving) foster family homes located? (e.g., within policy unit, within quality assurance unit, etc.)

b. In your state are licensing (or approval) activities:
 implemented by the state or county agency (go to 2)
 contracted out (go to b.1, b.2)
 some of each (go to b.1, b.2)

b.1 What unit or individual at the state level is responsible for monitoring the work of the contract agency(ies)?

*b.2. How is the work of the contract agency monitored?

on-site review of records for adherence to state standards required reports
 site visits to foster care families other (explain)

2. Standards and regulations

a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval)? yes no

b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law? yes no

c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) foster family homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)

*c.1 Are your standards or policies...

based on CWLA standards?
 based on other published standards? (What?)
 not based on published standards

d. How often are your foster family home licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years
 other no set schedule, as needed

*e. To what extent is there public input into the standard or policymaking process?

citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 other methods of input (please specify)
 none

- *f. Does your state have...
- procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) foster family homes
 - other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) homes? (please specify)
- g. Do your state's standards or policies address *safety* aspects of homes—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
- yes (go to g.1)
 - no (go to h)
- *g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
- structural safety of building(s)
 - fire safety
 - environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 - other (please specify)
- h. Do your state's standards or policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
- yes (go to h.1)
 - no (go to 3)
- *h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
- caregivers' understanding of child development
 - relationships between caregivers and biological families
 - child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 - acceptable methods of discipline
 - caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 - cultural sensitivity
 - understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 - other (please specify)

3. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

- a. What is the duration of a foster family home license?
- 1 year
 - 2 years
 - 3 - 5 years
 - other (please specify)
- *b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?
- submit re-application
 - criminal background check
 - home visit
 - interviews with caregivers
 - interviews with other family members
 - review of child protective services activity
 - other (please specify)
- *c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?
- investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 - finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 - change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 - referral to or investigation by child protective services
 - finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 - other (please specify)
- *d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?
- investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 - finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 - change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 - referral to or investigation by child protective services
 - finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 - other (please specify)

e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

g. What is the duration of a foster family home approval?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)

*h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?
 submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

*i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

*j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for foster family homes?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)

*m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the home
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background check)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)

m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?

- less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration

n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults residing in the foster family home?

- yes, all adults foster parents only none

4. Workload

a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) foster family homes or does it have other responsibilities?

- solely responsible for licensing (or approving) foster family homes (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)

*a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?

- recruiting homes
 monitoring homes
 providing ongoing support for licensed (or approved) families
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on licensed (or approved) families
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)

b. How frequently are foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?

- more than once a year annually every 2 years
 other (please specify) no set schedule, as needed

*c. Who makes the visits?

- licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's case worker other (please specify)

5. Education and training

*a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) foster family homes.

- training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 training on child welfare policies and procedures
 other (please specify)

*b. Do staff who license (or approve) foster family homes receive...

- pre-service training? ongoing inservice training?
 joint training with child welfare caseworkers?

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about different categories of foster homes, which your state may or may not license (or approve). If there's someone else who's responsible for these categories, please let me know.

6. Relative Foster Homes

a. Does your state license (or approve) relative foster family homes?

- yes (go to b) no (go to f)

- b. Are you the person I should speak to about licensing (or approving) relative foster home?
 yes (go to c) no (go to b.1)

b.1 Whom should I speak to about relative foster homes?
name _____
phone _____

Go to Section 7. Follow-up on relative homes by calling the person named above and using Form B.

- c. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes different than the requirements for nonrelative homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)

*c.1. In what ways are the requirements different?
 duration of license (or approval) frequency of visits
 waiver of home safety requirements monitoring requirements
 training requirements other (please specify)

- d. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes the same as for nonrelative homes?
 yes (go to e) no (go to d.1)

d.1 Are licensed (or approved) relative foster families
 generally paid more than nonrelatives generally paid less than nonrelatives
 generally not paid other (please specify)

- e. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent
 51 - 75 percent 76 percent or above don't know/not available

- f. Does your state allow you to place children in *unlicensed (or unapproved)* relative homes?
 yes (go to f.1, f.2, f.3, f.4) no (go to Section 7)

f.1 Are there any written standards or policy guidelines regarding these placements?
 yes no

f.2 Does the state provide a foster care board payment for placement of children in unlicensed (or unapproved) relative homes?
 yes (go to f.3) no (go to f.4)

f.3 How does payment of unlicensed (or unapproved) relatives compare with licensed (or unapproved) relatives?
 generally less about the same generally more
 generally not paid other (please specify)

f.4. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in unlicensed relative homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent
 51 - 75 percent 76 percent or above don't know/not available

7. Specialized foster homes

Specialized foster homes are homes that serve foster children with special medical or emotional needs. We are interested in homes that serve children who have been placed in the custody of the state due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or delinquency and also have special medical or emotional needs. Generally these are not homes under the auspices of the state Developmental Disabilities agency, where children may reside solely because they have particular medical needs that make it impossible for them to live in their parents' home.

a. Does your state license (or approve) specialized foster family homes (or do you use another term to describe homes that serve this population of children)?
 yes (go to b) no (go to Section 8)

b. Are you the person I should talk to about licensing or approving specialized foster homes?
 yes (go to c) no (go to b.1)

b.1. Whom should I speak to about specialized foster homes?
name _____
phone _____

Go to Section 8. Follow-up on specialized homes by calling the person named above and using Form C.

c. How does your state define "specialized foster family home" (or whatever similar category you use)?

d. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes different than the requirements for "regular" foster family homes?
 yes (go to d.1) no (go to e)

*d.1 In what ways are the requirements different?

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> duration of license (or approval) | <input type="checkbox"/> frequency of visits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> waiver of home safety requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> monitoring requirements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> training requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please specify) |

e. Do you provide special training to these families?
 yes (please describe) no

f. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes the same as for other homes?
 yes (go to g) no (go to f.1)

f.1 Are licensed (or approved) specialized families
 generally paid more than others generally paid less than others
 generally not paid other (please specify)

g. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent 51 - 75 percent
 76 percent or above don't know/not available

8. Restricted foster homes

Restricted foster homes are homes that are licensed or approved to care for a particular child or sibling group.

- a. Does your state license (or approve) restricted foster family homes (or do you use another term to describe homes that are licensed or approved only to serve a specific child)?
 yes (go to b) no (go to Section 9)
- b. How does your state define "restricted foster family home" (or whatever similar category you use)?
- c. Are you the person I should speak to about licensing (or approving) restricted foster homes?
 yes (go to d) no (go to c.1)
- c.1. Whom should I speak to about restricted foster homes?
name _____
phone _____

Go to Section 9. Follow-up on restricted homes by calling the person named above and using Form D.

- d. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) restricted foster families homes different than the requirements for "regular" foster family homes?
 yes (go to d.1) no (go to e)
- *d.1 In what ways are the requirements different?
 duration of license (or approval) frequency of visits
 waiver of home safety requirements monitoring requirements
 training requirements other (please specify)
- e. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) restricted foster family homes the same as for other homes?
 yes (go to f) no (go to e.1)
- e.1 Are licensed (or approved) restricted foster families
 generally paid more than other homes generally paid less than other homes
 generally not paid other (please specify)
- f. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed or approved restricted foster family homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent 51 - 75 percent
 76 percent or above don't know/not available
- g. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing (or approving)
 residential child care facilities (go to Form E)
 group homes or group foster family homes (go to Form F)
 detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 none of the above (go to Section 9)

9. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing (or approval) program?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing/approval function of the agency as...
 - well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
 - well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

B. Relative Foster Family Homes:

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Overview:

- a. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes different than the requirements for nonrelative homes?
 yes (go to a.1) no (go to b)

*a.1 In what ways are the requirements different?

- duration of license (or approval) frequency of visits
 waiver of home safety requirements monitoring requirements
 training requirements other (please specify)

- b. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes the same as for nonrelative homes?
 yes (go to c) no (go to b.1)

b.1 Are licensed (or approved) relative foster families

- generally paid more than nonrelatives generally paid less than nonrelatives
 generally not paid other (please specify)

- c. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed (or approved) relative foster family homes?

- 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent 51 - 75 percent
 76 percent or above don't know/not available

- d. Does your state allow you to place children in *unlicensed (or unapproved)* relative homes?
 yes (go to d.1, d.2, d.3, d.4) no (go to Section 2)

d.1 Are there any written standards or policy guidelines regarding these placements?

- yes no

d.2 Does the state provide a foster care board payment for placement of children in unlicensed (or unapproved) relative homes?

- yes (go to d.3) no (go to d.4)

d.3 How does payment of unlicensed (or unapproved) relatives compare with licensed (or unapproved) relatives?

- generally less about the same generally more
 generally not paid other (please specify)

d.4. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in unlicensed relative homes?

- 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent
 51 - 75 percent 76 percent or above don't know/not available

2. Standards and regulations

- a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval) of relative homes?
 yes no

- b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law?
 yes no
- c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) relative foster homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)
- *c.1 Are your standards or policies...
 based on CWLA standards?
 based on other published standards? (What?)
 not based on published standards
- d. How often are your relative foster family home licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other
 no set schedule, as needed
- *e. To what extent is there public input into the standards or policymaking process?
 citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 other methods of input (please specify)
 none
- *f. Does your state have...
 procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) relative homes
 other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) relative homes? (please specify)
- g. Do your state's standards and policies address *safety* aspects of homes—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
 yes (go to g.1) no (go to h)
- *g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
 structural safety of building(s) fire safety
 environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 other (please specify)
- h. Do your state's standards and policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
 yes (go to h.1) no (go to 3)
- *h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
 caregivers' understanding of child development
 relationships between caregivers and biological families
 child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 acceptable methods of discipline
 caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 cultural sensitivity
 understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 other (please specify)

3. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

- a. What is the duration of a relative foster family home license?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?
 submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)
- *c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- *d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
- f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

- g. What is the duration of a relative foster family home approval?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?
 submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)
- *i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- *j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/now available
- m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for relative foster family homes?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)
- *m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the home
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background check)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)
- m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?
 less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration
- n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults residing in the relative foster family home?
 yes, all adults relative foster parents only none

4. Workload

- a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) relative foster family homes or does it have other responsibilities?
 solely responsible for licensing (or approving) relative foster family homes (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)
- *a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?
 recruiting homes
 monitoring homes
 providing ongoing support for licensed (or approved) families
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on licensed (or approved) families
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)

- b. How frequently are relative foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other
 no set schedule, as needed
- *c. Who makes the visits?
 licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's worker other (please specify)

5. Education and training

- *a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) relative foster family homes.
 training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 training on child welfare policies and procedures
 other (please specify)
- *b. Do staff who license (or approve) relative foster family homes receive...
 pre-service training? ongoing inservice training?
 joint training with child welfare caseworkers?
- c. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing or approval of:
 specialized foster family homes (go to Form C)
 restricted foster family homes (go to Form D)
 residential child care facilities (go to Form E)
 group homes and group foster family homes (go to Form F)
 detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 none of the above (go to Section 6)

6. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing (or approval) program?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing (or approval) function of the agency as...
 well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
 well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

C. Specialized Foster Homes:

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Overview:

Specialized foster homes are homes that serve foster children with special medical or emotional needs. We are interested in homes that serve children who have been placed in the custody of the state due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or delinquency and also have special medical or emotional needs. Generally these are not homes under the auspices of the state Developmental Disabilities agency, where children may reside solely because they have particular medical needs that make it impossible for them to live in their parents' home.

- a. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes different than the requirements for "regular" foster family homes?
 yes (go to a.1) no (go to b)
- *a.1 In what ways are the requirements different?
 duration of license (or approval) frequency of visits
 waiver of home safety requirements monitoring requirements
 training requirements other (please specify)
- b. Do you provide special training to these families?
 yes (please describe) no
- c. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes the same as for other homes?
 yes (go to d) no (go to c.1)
- c.1 Are licensed (or approved) specialized families
 generally paid more than others generally paid less than others
 generally not paid other (please specify)
- d. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed (or approved) specialized foster family homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent 51 - 75 percent
 76 percent or above don't know/not available

2. Standards and regulations

- a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval) of specialized foster family homes?
 yes no
- b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law?
 yes no
- c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) specialized foster family homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)

- *c.1 Are your standards or policies...
- based on CWLA standards?
 - based on other published standards? (What?)
 - not based on published standards
- d. How often are your foster family home licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
- more than once a year annually every 2 years other
 - no set schedule, as needed
- *e. To what extent is there public input into the standard or policymaking process?
- citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 - citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 - other methods of input (please specify)
 - none
- *f. Does your state have...
- procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) specialized foster family homes
 - other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) homes? (please specify)
- g. Do your state's standards and policies address *safety* aspects of homes—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
- yes (go to g.1) no (go to h)
- *g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
- structural safety of building(s) fire safety
 - environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 - other (please specify)
- h. Do your state's standards and policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
- yes (go to h.1) no (go to 3)
- *h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
- caregivers' understanding of child development
 - relationships between caregivers and biological families
 - child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 - acceptable methods of discipline
 - caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 - cultural sensitivity
 - understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 - other (please specify)

3. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

- a. What is the duration of a specialized foster family home license?
- 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)

*b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?

- submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

*c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?

- investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

*d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?

- investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?

- 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?

- 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

g. What is the duration of a specialized foster family home approval?

- 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)

*h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?

- submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

*i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?

- investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- *j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for specialized foster family homes?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)
- *m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the home
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background check)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)
- m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?
 less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration
- n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults residing in the specialized foster family home?
 yes, all adults foster parents only none

4. Workload

- a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) specialized foster family homes or does it have other responsibilities?
 solely responsible for licensing (or approving) specialized foster family homes (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)
- *a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?
 recruiting homes
 monitoring homes
 providing ongoing support for licensed (or approved) families
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on licensed (or approved) families
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)

- b. How frequently are specialized foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other (please specify)
 no set schedule, as needed
- *c. Who makes the visits?
 licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's case worker other (please specify)

5. Education and training

- *a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) specialized foster family homes.
 training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 training on child welfare policies and procedures
 other (please specify)
- *b. Do staff who license (or approve) foster family homes receive...
 pre-service training? ongoing inservice training?
 joint training with child welfare caseworkers?
- c. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing or approval of:
 restricted foster family homes (go to Form D)
 residential child care facilities (go to Form E)
 group homes and group foster family homes (go to Form F)
 detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 none of the above (go to Section 6)

6. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing (or approval) program?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing (or approval) function of the agency as...
 well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
 well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

D. Restricted Foster Family Homes

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Overview:

Restricted foster homes are homes that are licensed or approved to care for a particular child.

- a. How does your state define "restricted foster family home" (or whatever similar category you use)?
- b. Are the requirements for licensed (or approved) restricted foster families homes different than the requirements for "regular" foster family homes?
 yes (go to b.1) no (go to c)
- *b.1 In what ways are the requirements different?
 duration of license (or approval) frequency of visits
 waiver of home safety requirements monitoring requirements
 training requirements other (please specify)
- c. Is the pay standard for licensed (or approved) restricted foster family homes the same as for other homes?
 yes (go to d) no (go to c.1)
- c.1 Are licensed (or approved) restricted foster families
 generally paid more than other homes generally paid less than other homes
 generally not paid other (please specify)
- d. About what percentage of children in foster care are placed in licensed or approved restricted foster family homes?
 0 - 10 percent 11 - 25 percent 26 - 50 percent 51 - 75 percent
 76 percent or above don't know/not available

2. Standards and regulations

- a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval) of restricted homes?
 yes no
- b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law?
 yes no
- c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) restricted foster homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)
- *c.1 Are your standards or policies...
 based on CWLA standards?
 based on other published standards? (What?)
 not based on published standards

d. How often are your restricted foster family home licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other
 no set schedule, as needed

*e. To what extent is there public input into the standard or policymaking process?
 citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 other methods of input (please specify)
 none

*f. Does your state have...
 procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) restricted foster family homes
 other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) homes? (please specify)

g. Do your state's standards and policies address *safety* aspects of homes—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
 yes (go to g.1) no (go to h)

*g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
 structural safety of building(s) fire safety
 environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 other (please specify)

h. Do your state's standards and policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
 yes (go to h.1) no (go to 3)

*h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
 caregivers' understanding of child development
 relationships between caregivers and biological families
 child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 acceptable methods of discipline
 caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 cultural sensitivity
 understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 other (please specify)

3. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

a. What is the duration of a restricted foster family home license?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)

*b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?
 submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

- *c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- *d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

- g. What is the duration of a restricted foster family home approval?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?
 submit re-application criminal background check home visit
 interviews with caregivers interviews with other family members
 review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)
- *i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- *j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in caregivers' circumstances (e.g., adults entering or leaving the living situation)
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for restricted foster family homes?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)

- *m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the home
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background check)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)

- m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?
 less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration

- n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults residing in the foster family home?
 yes, all adults foster parents only none

4. Workload

- a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) restricted foster family homes or does it have other responsibilities?
 solely responsible for licensing (or approving) restricted foster family homes (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)

- *a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?
 recruiting homes
 monitoring homes
 providing ongoing support for licensed (or approved) families
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on licensed (or approved) families
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)

- b. How frequently are restricted foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other (please specify)
 no set schedule, as needed

- *c. Who makes the visits?
 licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's case worker other (please specify)

5. Education and training

- *a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) restricted foster family homes.
- training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 - training on child welfare policies and procedures
 - other (please specify)
- *b. Do staff who license (or approve) restricted foster family homes receive...
- pre-service training?
 - ongoing inservice training?
 - joint training with child welfare caseworkers?
- c. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing (or approval) of:
- residential child care facilities (go to Form E)
 - group homes and group foster family homes (go to Form F)
 - detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 - none of the above (go to Section 6)

6. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing (or approval) program?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing (or approval) function of the agency as...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

E. Residential Child Care Facilities

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Overview:

- a. Does your state license (or approve) residential child care facilities (or use a similar term)?
 yes (go to b) no (go to Section F)
- b. How does your state define a "residential child care facility" (or similar term)?
- c. Is licensing (or approval) of residential child care facilities conducted by:
 the public child welfare agency another agency (what?)
 jointly (which agencies are involved?)

2. Organizational relationships

- a. Within the organizational structure of the agency, where is the person or unit responsible for licensing (or approving) residential child care facilities located? (e.g., within policy unit, within quality assurance unit, etc.)
- b. In your state is licensing (or approval) of residential child care facilities:
 implemented by the state or county agency (go to 3)
 contracted out (go to b.1, b.2)
 some of each (go to b.1, b.2))
- b.1 What unit or individual at the state level is responsible for monitoring the work of the contract agency(ies)?
- *b.2. How is the work of the contract agency monitored?
 onsite review of records for adherence to state standards required reports
 site visits to facilities other (explain)

3. Standards and regulations

- a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval) of residential child care facilities?
 yes no
- b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law?
 yes no
- c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) residential child care facilities?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)
- *c.1 Are your standards or policies...
 based on CWLA standards?
 based on other published standards? (What?)
 not based on published standards

- d. How often are your residential child care facility licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
 more than once a year annually every 2 years other
 no set schedule, as needed
- *e. To what extent is there public input into the standard or policymaking process?
 citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 other methods of input (please specify)
 none
- *f. Does your state have...
 procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) residential child care facilities
 other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) facilities? (please specify)
- g. Do your state's standards and policies address *safety* aspects of facilities—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
 yes (go to g.1) no (go to h)
- *g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
 structural safety of building(s) fire safety
 environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 other (please specify)
- h. Do your state's standards and policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
 yes (go to h.1) no (go to 3)
- *h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
 caregivers' understanding of child development
 relationships between caregivers and biological families
 child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 acceptable methods of discipline
 caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 cultural sensitivity
 understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 other (please specify)

4. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

- a. What is the duration of a residential child care facility license?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?
 submit re-application criminal background checks site visit
 interviews with staff review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

- *c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- *d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

- f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

- g. What is the duration of a residential child care facility approval?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)

- *h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?
 submit re-application criminal background checks site visit
 interviews with staff review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)

- *i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- *j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for residential child care facilities?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)
- *m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the facility
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background checks)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)
- m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?
 less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration
- n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults working at the facility?
 yes, all adults some but not all none

5. Workload

- a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) residential child care facilities or does it have other responsibilities?
 solely responsible for licensing (or approving) residential child care facilities (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)
- *a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?
 monitoring facilities
 providing ongoing support for facilities
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on facilities
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)
- b. How frequently are foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?
 more than once a year annually bi-annually other (please specify)
 no set schedule, as needed
- *c. Who makes the visits?
 licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's case worker other (please specify)

6. Education and training

- *a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) residential child care facilities.
- training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 - training on child welfare policies and procedures
 - other (please specify)
- *b. Do staff who license (or approve) residential child care facilities receive...
- pre-service training? ongoing inservice training?
 - joint training with child welfare caseworkers?
- c. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing (or approving)
- group homes or group foster family homes (go to Form F)
 - detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 - none of the above (go to Section 7)

7. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing/approval program for residential child care facilities?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing/approval function of the agency as...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 - separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 - completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

F. Group Homes and Group Family Foster Homes

State _____ Interview with: _____ Date: _____

1. Overview

- a. Does your state license (or approve) group homes and group family foster homes (or use similar terms)?
 yes (go to b) no (go to Form G)
- b. How does your state define a "group home" (or similar term)?
- c. How does your state define a "group foster family home"? (or similar term)
- d. Are group homes and group foster family homes treated differently in terms of licensing (or approval) processes and requirements?
 yes (how?) no

2. Organizational relationships

- a. Within the organizational structure of the agency, where is the person or unit responsible for licensing (or approving) group homes and/or group foster family homes? (e.g., within policy unit, within quality assurance unit, etc.)
- b. In your state is licensing (or approval) of group homes and/or group foster family homes:
 implemented by the state or county agency (go to Section 3)
 contracted out (go to b.1, b.2)
 some of each (go to b.1, b.2))
 - b.1 What unit or individual at the state level is responsible for monitoring the work of the contract agency(ies)?
 - *b.2. How is the work of the contract agency monitored?
 onsite review of records for adherence to state standards required reports
 site visits to facilities other (explain)

3. Standards and regulations

- a. Is there state law that governs licensing (or approval) of group homes and/or group foster family homes?
 yes no
- b. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the law?
 yes no
- c. Does your agency have written standards or policies for licensing (or approving) of group homes and/or group foster family homes?
 yes (go to c.1) no (go to d)

- *c.1 Are your standards or policies...
- based on CWLA standards?
 - based on other published standards? (What?)
 - not based on published standards

- d. How often are your group home and/or group foster family home licensing (or approval) policies or standards revised?
- more than once a year
 - annually
 - every 2 years
 - other
 - no set schedule, as needed

- *e. To what extent is there public input into the standard or policymaking process?
- citizens are invited to give input at hearings
 - citizens take part in committees to develop standards or policies
 - other methods of input (please specify)
 - none

- *f. Does your state have...
- procedural guidelines for people who license (or approve) group homes and/or group foster family homes
 - other innovative or unique quality assurance mechanisms for evaluating licensed (or approved) homes? (please specify)

- g. Do your state's standards and policies address *safety* aspects of homes—that is, expectations that ensure that the *physical environment* is free of potential hazards?
- yes (go to g.1)
 - no (go to h)

- *g.1. What *safety* aspects are addressed?
- structural safety of building(s)
 - fire safety
 - environmental safety (e.g., locking up poisons, baby gates, pool enclosures)
 - other (please specify)

- h. Do your state's standards and policies address *quality* aspects of services—that is, expectations that ensure that children receive proper nurturance, guidance and support?
- yes (go to h.1)
 - no (go to 3)

- *h.1 What *quality* aspects are addressed?
- caregivers' understanding of child development
 - relationships between caregivers and biological families
 - child well-being (e.g. nutrition, education, health)
 - acceptable methods of discipline
 - caregivers' understanding of emotional needs of foster children (e.g., grief and loss)
 - cultural sensitivity
 - understanding of federal and state laws that govern child welfare services
 - other (please specify)

4. Timeframes, procedures and conditions

For states that use licensing, answer a - f. For states that use approval, skip to g.

- a. What is the duration of a group home and/or group foster family home license?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *b. What are the procedures for renewal of a license?
 submit re-application criminal background checks site visit
 interviews with staff review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)
- *c. Under what conditions can a license be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- *d. Under what conditions can a license be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- e. During the last year how many licenses have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- f. During the last year how many licenses have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available

Skip to m.

For states that use approval, answer g - n.

- g. What is the duration of a group home/group family foster home approval?
 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years other (please specify)
- *h. What are the procedures for renewal of an approval?
 submit re-application criminal background checks site visit
 interviews with staff review of child protective services activity
 other (please specify)
- *i. Under what conditions can an approval be suspended?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)

- *j. Under what conditions can an approval be revoked?
 investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standards or policies
 change in administration or key staff
 referral to or investigation by child protective services
 finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by child protective services
 other (please specify)
- k. During the last year how many approvals have been suspended?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- l. During the last year how many approvals have been revoked?
 0 1 - 10 11 - 20 other (please specify)
 don't know/not available
- m. Does your state issue provisional licenses (or approvals) for group homes/group family foster homes?
 yes (go to m.1, m.2) no (go to n)
- *m.1 Under what circumstances may provisional licenses (or approvals) be issued?
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to safety of the home
 non-compliance with one or more licensing (or approval) standard or policy relating to quality of services
 waiting for information (e.g., criminal background checks)
 emergency situation, no time to complete process
 other (please specify)
- m.2 What is the duration of a provisional license (or approval)?
 less than 1 year 1 year 2 years 3 - 5 years
 other (please specify) no specified duration
- n. Are criminal background checks required for all adults living or working at the home?
 yes, all adults some but not all none

5. Workload

- a. Does this unit or agency solely license (or approve) group homes and/or group foster family homes or does it have other responsibilities?
 solely responsible for licensing (or approving) group homes and/or group foster family homes (go to b)
 also has other responsibilities (go to a.1)
- *a.1. What other responsibilities does this unit or agency have?
 monitoring homes
 providing ongoing support for homes
 investigating abuse or neglect complaints on homes
 conduct investigations alone
 conduct investigations jointly with child protective services
 other (please specify)

- b. How frequently are foster family homes visited *for licensing (or approval) purposes*?
- more than once a year annually every 2 years
 other (please specify) no set schedule, as needed
- *c. Who makes the visits?
- licensing (or approval) worker paraprofessional staff (e.g., case aide)
 child's case worker other (please specify)

6. Education and training

- *a. Specify the type of training provided for staff who are responsible for licensing (or approving) group homes and/or group foster family homes.
- training on state licensing (or approval) policies and procedures
 training on child welfare policies and procedures
 other (please specify)
- *b. Do staff who license (or approve) group homes and/or group foster family homes receive...
- pre-service training? ongoing inservice training?
 joint training with child welfare caseworkers?
- c. Do you have additional responsibilities for licensing (or approving)
- detention facilities for adjudicated youth (go to Form G)
 none of the above (go to Section 7)

7. Assessment

- a. What is the most exemplary aspect of your state's licensing/approval program?
- b. In what areas would you like to see the program strengthened?
- c. What kinds of assistance would help you make the program more effective?
- d. In your state, would you describe the licensing/approval function of the agency as...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency
- e. Ideally, would you like to see licensing/approval be...
- well-integrated into child welfare function of the agency
 separate from but linked to the child welfare function of the agency (what types of linkages?)
 completely separate from the child welfare function of the agency

Why?

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We thank the following individuals who provided information for this study.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
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Appendix C

State Comparison Tables

Foster Homes

Group Homes

Residential Child Care Facilities

The tables that follow present state-specific responses to key survey questions for foster homes, group homes and residential child care facilities. These tables complement the aggregate data presented in Sections II-IV.

Foster Home Tables

1. Is licensing implemented by the state or contracted out to a private agency?

S = state (or county)
 P = private agency
 B = both (state/private)

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | B |
| AK | B |
| AZ | B |
| AR | B |
| CA | B |
| CO | B |
| CT | S |
| DE | S |
| DC | S |
| FL | B |
| GA | S |
| HI | B |
| ID | B |
| IL | B |
| IN | B |
| IA | B |
| KS | S |
| KY | B |
| LA | S |
| ME | S |
| MD | B |
| MA | S |
| MI | B |
| MN | S |
| MS | S |
| MO | B |
| MT | S |
| NE | B |
| NV | S |
| NH | B |
| NJ | S |
| NM | B |
| NY | B |
| NC | S |
| ND | S |
| OH | S |
| OK | B |
| OR | B |
| PA | S |
| RI | S |
| SC | B |
| SD | S |
| TN | S |
| TX | S |
| UT | S |
| VT | S |
| VA | B |
| WA | S |
| WV | S |
| WI | S |
| WY | S |
| VI | S |

2. Is there state law that governs licensing?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | N |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

3. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the laws?

Y = yes
 N = no
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | M |
| NH | M |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Foster Home Tables (continued)

4. Does your state have standards or policies for licensing foster family homes?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
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| LA | Y |
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| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
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| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

5. How often are your standards or policies revised?

A = annually
NS = no set schedule
O = other

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | NS |
| AK | NS |
| AZ | O |
| AR | NS |
| CA | NS |
| CO | NS |
| CT | NS |
| DE | NS |
| DC | NS |
| FL | NS |
| GA | NS |
| HI | NS |
| ID | NS |
| IL | NS |
| IN | NS |
| IA | NS |
| KS | NS |
| KY | NS |
| LA | NS |
| ME | NS |
| MD | NS |
| MA | NS |
| MI | O |
| MN | NS |
| MS | NS |
| MO | NS |
| MT | NS |
| NE | NS |
| NV | O |
| NH | O |
| NJ | NS |
| NM | NS |
| NY | NS |
| NC | NS |
| ND | NS |
| OH | O |
| OK | NS |
| OR | NS |
| PA | NS |
| RI | NS |
| SC | NS |
| SD | NS |
| TN | O |
| TX | O |
| UT | O |
| VT | NS |
| VA | NS |
| WA | NS |
| WV | NS |
| WI | NS |
| WY | NS |
| VI | NS |

6. Do your state's standards address *safety* of homes?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | N |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
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| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Foster Home Tables (continued)

7. Do your state's standards address *quality* of homes ?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | N |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | N |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

8. What is the duration of a license?

A = one year
B = two years
C = three - five years
O = other
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | A |
| AK | B |
| AZ | A |
| AR | A |
| CA | O |
| CO | O |
| CT | B |
| DE | O |
| DC | A |
| FL | A |
| GA | A |
| HI | B |
| ID | A |
| IL | C |
| IN | B |
| IA | A |
| KS | A |
| KY | B |
| LA | A |
| ME | A |
| MD | A |
| MA | A |
| MI | B |
| MN | O |
| MS | B |
| MO | B |
| MT | A |
| NE | B |
| NV | A |
| NH | B |
| NJ | A |
| NM | A |
| NY | A |
| NC | A |
| ND | A |
| OH | B |
| OK | B |
| OR | A |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | A |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | O |
| UT | C |
| VT | O |
| VA | B |
| WA | C |
| WV | A |
| WI | B |
| WY | A |
| VI | A |

9. Does your state issue provisional licenses?

Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | N |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | M |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | N |
| MS | Y |
| MO | N |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | N |
| NH | M |
| NJ | N |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | N |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | N |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | N |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Foster Home Tables (continued)

10. Are criminal background checks required for all adults?

Y = yes. all
 F = foster parents only
 N = none
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | M |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | N |
| NV | Y |
| NH | M |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | F |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | N |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | N |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | M |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

11. How frequently are homes visited for licensing purposes?

R = more than once a year
 A = annually
 B = every 2 years
 O = other
 NS = no set schedule
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | A |
| AK | A |
| AZ | A |
| AR | A |
| CA | A |
| CO | A |
| CT | B |
| DE | O |
| DC | A |
| FL | A |
| GA | O |
| HI | R |
| ID | R |
| IL | A |
| IN | A |
| IA | A |
| KS | A |
| KY | A |
| LA | O |
| ME | A |
| MD | A |
| MA | A |
| MI | A |
| MN | B |
| MS | A |
| MO | B |
| MT | A |
| NE | B |
| NV | A |
| NH | A |
| NJ | A |
| NM | R |
| NY | R |
| NC | O |
| ND | A |
| OH | R |
| OK | O |
| OR | A |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | R |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | A |
| UT | A |
| VT | NS |
| VA | B |
| WA | O |
| WV | A |
| WI | O |
| WY | A |
| VI | O |

12. Does your state license relative foster family homes?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | N |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | N |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Foster Home Tables (continued)

13. Are the requirements for licensed relative homes different from requirements for nonrelative homes?

Y = yes
 N = no
 M = missing/didn't answer
 NA = not applicable

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | N |
| AR | Y |
| CA | NA |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | N |
| DC | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | N |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | N |
| MA | N |
| MI | Y |
| MN | N |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | N |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | N |
| OH | N |
| OK | N |
| OR | N |
| PA | N |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | N |
| TN | Y |
| TX | NA |
| UT | N |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | N |
| WY | N |
| VI | N |

14. Does your state license specialized foster family homes?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| DC | N |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | N |
| IA | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | N |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | N |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | N |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | N |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | N |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | N |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

15. Does your state license restricted foster family homes?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | N |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | N |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | N |
| DC | N |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| HI | N |
| ID | Y |
| IL | N |
| IN | N |
| IA | N |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | N |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | N |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | N |
| MT | Y |
| NE | N |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | N |
| NY | N |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | N |
| OR | Y |
| PA | N |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | N |
| TN | N |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | N |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | N |
| VI | Y |

Foster Home Tables (continued)

16. Under what conditions can a foster family home license be suspended in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
2. Finding of noncompliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
6. Other

Y = yes N = no M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CA | Y | N | N | N | N | Y |
| CO | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| CT | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| DE | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| DC | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| FL | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| GA | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| HI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| ID | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IL | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| IN | N | Y | N | N | N | Y |
| IA | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| KY | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| LA | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| ME | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MD | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| MA | N | N | N | Y | N | Y |
| MI | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| MN | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | Y | N | N | Y | Y | Y |
| MT | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NJ | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| NM | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| NY | M | M | M | M | M | M |
| NC | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| ND | N | Y | M | N | Y | Y |
| OH | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| OK | Y | N | Y | Y | N | Y |
| OR | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| PA | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| RI | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| SC | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| SD | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | M | M | M | M | M | M |
| UT | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| VT | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| VA | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WI | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| WY | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| VI | N | Y | N | Y | N | N |

17. Under what conditions can a family foster home license be revoked in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
2. Finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
6. Other

Y = yes N = no M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| AR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CA | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |
| CO | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CT | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| DE | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| DC | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |
| FL | N | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| GA | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |
| HI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| ID | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| IL | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| IN | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N |
| IA | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| KY | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| LA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| ME | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| MD | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| MA | N | N | N | N | Y | N |
| MI | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MN | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MT | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | Y | N | N | Y | Y | N |
| NJ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NM | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| NY | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NC | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| ND | N | Y | M | N | Y | Y |
| OH | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| OK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| OR | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| PA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| RI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| SC | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| SD | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| UT | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| VT | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| VA | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| WI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| WY | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| VI | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |

Group Home Tables

1. Is licensing implemented by the state or contracted out to a private agency?

S = state (or county)
 P = private agency
 B = both (state/private)

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | S |
| AK | S |
| AZ | S |
| AR | B |
| CA | B |
| CO | S |
| CT | S |
| FL | S |
| HI | S |
| ID | S |
| IL | S |
| IN | S |
| KS | S |
| ME | S |
| MD | S |
| MI | S |
| MN | S |
| MS | S |
| MO | S |
| MT | S |
| NE | S |
| NV | S |
| NH | S |
| NJ | S |
| NM | S |
| NY | S |
| NC | S |
| ND | S |
| OH | S |
| OK | B |
| OR | S |
| PA | S |
| RI | S |
| SC | S |
| SD | S |
| TN | S |
| TX | S |
| UT | S |
| VA | S |
| WA | S |
| WV | S |
| WI | S |
| WY | S |
| VI | S |

2. Is there state law that governs licensing?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

3. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the laws?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Group Home Tables (continued)

4. Does your state have standards or policies for licensing group homes?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

5. How often are your standards or policies revised?

A = annually
NS = no set schedule
O = other

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | NS |
| AK | NS |
| AZ | O |
| AR | NS |
| CA | NS |
| CO | NS |
| CT | O |
| FL | NS |
| HI | NS |
| ID | NS |
| IL | NS |
| IN | O |
| KS | NS |
| ME | NS |
| MD | NS |
| MI | O |
| MN | O |
| MS | NS |
| MO | NS |
| MT | NS |
| NE | NS |
| NV | O |
| NH | O |
| NJ | NS |
| NM | NS |
| NY | NS |
| NC | A |
| ND | NS |
| OH | NS |
| OK | NS |
| OR | NS |
| PA | NS |
| RI | NS |
| SC | NS |
| SD | NS |
| TN | O |
| TX | O |
| UT | A |
| VA | NS |
| WA | NS |
| WV | O |
| WI | NS |
| WY | NS |
| VI | O |

6. Do your state's standards address safety of facilities?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Group Home Tables (continued)

7. Do your state's standards address *quality* of facilities ?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

8. What is the duration of a license?

A = one year
B = two years
C = three - five years
O = other
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | B |
| AK | B |
| AZ | A |
| AR | O |
| CA | O |
| CO | O |
| CT | B |
| FL | A |
| HI | B |
| ID | A |
| IL | C |
| IN | B |
| KS | A |
| ME | B |
| MD | B |
| MI | B |
| MN | B |
| MS | A |
| MO | B |
| MT | A |
| NE | B |
| NV | A |
| NH | C |
| NJ | B |
| NM | A |
| NY | O |
| NC | A |
| ND | A |
| OH | B |
| OK | B |
| OR | B |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | A |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | O |
| UT | A |
| VA | O |
| WA | C |
| WV | B |
| WI | B |
| WY | A |
| VI | B |

9. Does your state issue provisional licenses?

Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | N |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | N |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | N |
| NV | N |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | N |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | N |
| OK | Y |
| OR | N |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Group Home Tables (continued)

10. Are criminal background checks required for all adults?

Y = yes
 S = some, but not all
 N = no
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | S |
| AR | Y |
| CA | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| FL | Y |
| HI | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| ME | S |
| MD | Y |
| MI | S |
| MN | S |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | N |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | N |
| NM | Y |
| NY | N |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | M |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | N |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

11. How frequently are facilities visited for licensing purposes?

R = more than once a year
 A = annually
 B = every 2 years
 O = other
 NS = no set schedule
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | B |
| AK | A |
| AZ | A |
| AR | A |
| CA | NS |
| CO | O |
| CT | B |
| FL | A |
| HI | R |
| ID | R |
| IL | R |
| IN | A |
| KS | A |
| ME | A |
| MD | R |
| MI | A |
| MN | B |
| MS | NS |
| MO | R |
| MT | A |
| NE | A |
| NV | A |
| NH | O |
| NJ | A |
| NM | A |
| NY | R |
| NC | O |
| ND | A |
| OH | R |
| OK | R |
| OR | B |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | A |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | A |
| UT | A |
| VA | B |
| WA | R |
| WV | A |
| WI | R |
| WY | A |
| VI | B |

Group Home Tables (continued)

12. Under what conditions can a group home license be suspended in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 2. Finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
 4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
 5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
 6. Other
- Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CA | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| CO | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| CT | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| FL | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| HI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| ID | N | N | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IL | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| IN | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| ME | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MD | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MI | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| MN | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| MT | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NJ | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NM | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N |
| NY | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| NC | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| ND | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| OH | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| OK | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| OR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| PA | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| RI | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| SC | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| SD | Y | Y | N | Y | N | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| UT | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| VA | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WI | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| WY | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| VI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |

13. Under what conditions can a group home license be revoked in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 2. Finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
 4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
 5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
 6. Other
- Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| AR | N | Y | Y | Y | N | N |
| CA | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| CO | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| CT | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| FL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| HI | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| ID | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| IN | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| ME | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MD | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MN | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MT | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| NJ | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NM | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NY | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| NC | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| ND | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| OH | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| OK | Y | N | N | N | Y | N |
| OR | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| PA | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| RI | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| SC | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| SD | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| UT | Y | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| VA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WI | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| WY | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| VI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |

Residential Child Care Facility Tables

1. Is licensing implemented by the state or contracted out to a private agency?

S = state (or county)
 P = private agency
 B = both (state/private)
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | S |
| AK | S |
| AZ | S |
| AR | S |
| CO | S |
| CT | S |
| DE | S |
| FL | S |
| GA | S |
| ID | S |
| IL | S |
| IN | S |
| KS | S |
| KY | S |
| LA | S |
| ME | S |
| MD | S |
| MA | S |
| MI | S |
| MN | S |
| MS | S |
| MO | S |
| MT | S |
| NE | B |
| NV | S |
| NH | S |
| NJ | S |
| NM | S |
| NY | S |
| NC | S |
| ND | S |
| OH | S |
| OK | B |
| OR | S |
| PA | S |
| RI | S |
| SC | S |
| SD | S |
| TN | S |
| TX | S |
| UT | S |
| VT | S |
| VA | S |
| WA | S |
| WV | S |
| WI | S |
| WY | S |
| VI | S |

2. Is there state law that governs licensing?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

3. Are there state regulations or rules for implementing the laws?

Y = yes
 N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Residential Child Care Facilities Tables (continued)

4. Does your state have standards or policies for licensing RCCFs?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

5. How often are your standards or policies revised?

A = annually
NS = no set schedule
O = other

| | |
|----|----|
| AL | NS |
| AK | NS |
| AZ | NS |
| AR | O |
| CO | NS |
| CT | O |
| DE | NS |
| FL | NS |
| GA | NS |
| ID | NS |
| IL | NS |
| IN | O |
| KS | NS |
| KY | NS |
| LA | NS |
| ME | NS |
| MD | NS |
| MA | NS |
| MI | NS |
| MN | NS |
| MS | NS |
| MO | NS |
| MT | NS |
| NE | NS |
| NV | A |
| NH | O |
| NJ | O |
| NM | NS |
| NY | NS |
| NC | A |
| ND | NS |
| OH | NS |
| OK | NS |
| OR | NS |
| PA | NS |
| RI | NS |
| SC | NS |
| SD | NS |
| TN | O |
| TX | O |
| UT | A |
| VT | NS |
| VA | NS |
| WA | NS |
| WV | O |
| WI | NS |
| WY | NS |
| VI | O |

6. Do your state's standards address safety of facilities?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | N |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Residential Child Care Facilities Tables (continued)

7. Do your state's standards address *quality* of facilities?

Y = yes
N = no

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | Y |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | Y |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | Y |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | Y |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

8. What is the duration of a license?

A = one year
B = two years
C = three – five years
O = other
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | B |
| AK | B |
| AZ | O |
| AR | O |
| CO | O |
| CT | B |
| DE | A |
| FL | A |
| GA | A |
| ID | A |
| IL | C |
| IN | B |
| KS | O |
| KY | A |
| LA | A |
| ME | B |
| MD | B |
| MA | B |
| MI | B |
| MN | O |
| MS | A |
| MO | B |
| MT | A |
| NE | B |
| NV | A |
| NH | C |
| NJ | B |
| NM | A |
| NY | O |
| NC | A |
| ND | A |
| OH | B |
| OK | B |
| OR | B |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | A |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | O |
| UT | A |
| VT | A |
| VA | O |
| WA | C |
| WV | B |
| WI | B |
| WY | A |
| VI | B |

9. Does your state issue provisional licenses?

Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | N |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | Y |
| AR | Y |
| CO | N |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | M |
| KS | Y |
| KY | N |
| LA | Y |
| ME | Y |
| MD | N |
| MA | Y |
| MI | Y |
| MN | Y |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | Y |
| NV | N |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | Y |
| NM | Y |
| NY | N |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | N |
| OK | Y |
| OR | N |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | Y |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | N |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

Residential Child Care Facilities Tables (continued)

10. Are criminal background checks required for all adults?

Y = yes
 S = some, but not all
 N = no
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | Y |
| AK | Y |
| AZ | S |
| AR | Y |
| CO | Y |
| CT | Y |
| DE | Y |
| FL | Y |
| GA | Y |
| ID | Y |
| IL | Y |
| IN | M |
| KS | Y |
| KY | Y |
| LA | S |
| ME | S |
| MD | Y |
| MA | S |
| MI | S |
| MN | S |
| MS | Y |
| MO | Y |
| MT | Y |
| NE | N |
| NV | Y |
| NH | Y |
| NJ | N |
| NM | Y |
| NY | N |
| NC | Y |
| ND | Y |
| OH | Y |
| OK | Y |
| OR | M |
| PA | Y |
| RI | Y |
| SC | Y |
| SD | Y |
| TN | N |
| TX | Y |
| UT | Y |
| VT | Y |
| VA | Y |
| WA | Y |
| WV | Y |
| WI | Y |
| WY | Y |
| VI | Y |

11. How frequently are facilities visited for licensing purposes?

R = more than once a year
 A = annually
 B = every 2 years
 O = other
 NS = no set schedule
 M = missing/didn't answer

| | |
|----|---|
| AL | B |
| AK | A |
| AZ | A |
| AR | R |
| CO | O |
| CT | B |
| DE | A |
| FL | A |
| GA | A |
| ID | R |
| IL | A |
| IN | A |
| KS | A |
| KY | A |
| LA | A |
| ME | A |
| MD | R |
| MA | R |
| MI | A |
| MN | M |
| MS | A |
| MO | R |
| MT | A |
| NE | A |
| NV | R |
| NH | O |
| NJ | A |
| NM | A |
| NY | O |
| NC | A |
| ND | A |
| OH | R |
| OK | R |
| OR | B |
| PA | A |
| RI | A |
| SC | A |
| SD | A |
| TN | A |
| TX | R |
| UT | A |
| VT | A |
| VA | B |
| WA | R |
| WV | A |
| WI | R |
| WY | A |
| VI | B |

Residential Child Care Facilities Tables (continued)

12. Under what conditions can an RCCF license be suspended in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 2. Finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
 4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
 5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
- Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| AR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CO | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| CT | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| DE | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| FL | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| GA | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |
| ID | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IL | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| IN | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| KY | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| LA | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| ME | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MD | Y | N | N | N | Y | N |
| MA | Y | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MI | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| MN | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y |
| MT | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NJ | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NM | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| NY | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| NC | Y | N | Y | N | N | N |
| ND | N | Y | M | N | Y | Y |
| OH | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| OK | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| OR | N | N | N | Y | N | N |
| PA | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| RI | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| SC | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| SD | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| UT | N | N | N | N | Y | Y |
| VT | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| VA | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WI | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| WY | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| VI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |

13. Under what conditions can an RCCF license be revoked in your state?

1. Investigation of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 2. Finding of non-compliance with one or more licensing standard or policy
 3. Change in caregivers' circumstances
 4. Referral to or investigation by CPS
 5. Finding of abuse or neglect substantiated by CPS
- Y = yes
N = no
M = missing/didn't answer

| State | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| AK | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| AZ | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| AR | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| CO | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| CT | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| DE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| FL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| GA | N | Y | N | N | N | Y |
| ID | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| IL | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| IN | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| KS | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| KY | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| LA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| ME | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MD | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| MN | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MS | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| MO | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| MT | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NE | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| NV | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| NH | N | N | N | N | N | N |
| NJ | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| NM | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| NY | N | Y | N | N | N | N |
| NC | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| ND | Y | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| OH | Y | Y | N | N | N | N |
| OK | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| OR | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N |
| PA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| RI | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| SC | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| SD | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TN | N | Y | Y | N | Y | N |
| TX | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| UT | N | Y | N | N | Y | Y |
| VT | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| VA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WA | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| WV | N | N | N | N | N | Y |
| WI | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | N |
| WY | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |
| VI | N | Y | N | N | Y | N |