

# ARIZONA'S THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE AGENCIES



## A New Leaf

Counties:  
Maricopa, Pima, Pinal



## Brighter Heights

Counties:  
Coconino, Pima, Maricopa,  
Mohave, Yavapai,



## Clarvida

Counties:  
Apache, Coconino, Gila,  
Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo,  
Pima, Pinal, Yavapai, Yuma



## Catholic Charities

Counties:  
Apache, Coconino, Gila,  
Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo,  
Yavapai



## Devereux

Counties:  
Maricopa, Pima



## HSC

Counties:  
Cochise, Gila, Graham,  
Maricopa, Navajo, Pima, Pinal,  
Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Yuma

## Intermountain Centers



Counties:  
Maricopa, Pima, Pinal,  
Santa Cruz, Yuma



## La Paloma Family Services

County:  
Pima

## Christian Family Care



County:  
Maricopa



# Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Fact Sheet

## What is Therapeutic Foster Care?

Therapeutic Foster Care -- sometimes called Treatment Foster Care -- is a distinct, powerful, and unique model of care that provides children with a combination of the best elements of traditional foster care and residential treatment centers. In Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC), the positive aspects of the nurturing and therapeutic family environment are combined with active and structured treatment. Therapeutic Foster Programs provide, in a clinically effective and cost-effective way, individualized and intensive treatment for children and adolescents who would otherwise be placed in institutional settings.

TFC families receive specialized training and support. Therapeutic Foster Care as a behavioral health intervention is primarily available in Arizona to AHCCCS and Tribal AHCCCS children and adolescents in Arizona through a variety of specific insurance providers. The individuals served may or may not be in DCS custody.

Described as a time limited therapeutic intervention for children and youth with special medical, psychological, emotional and social needs, research suggests that TFC is an effective behavioral health intervention and effective alternative to congregate care. Although TFC is recommended by the individual's CFT based on identified needs and goals, the individual must meet identified medical necessity criteria to be eligible for TFC services.

TFC can be utilized as an alternative to congregate care settings and as a step-down from inpatient residential and hospitalization, which are much more expensive and more restrictive. Within the behavioral health continuum of care, TFC is a step above outpatient/in-home services and a step below inpatient/residential (BHRF/BHIF). According to research available, youth in TFC have equal or better therapeutic outcomes when compared to similar youth in residential treatment or traditional/community foster care.

## Authorization Criteria:

- As a result of the behavioral health condition, there is evidence that the member has recently (within the past 90 days) had a disturbance of mood, thought, or behavior that renders the member incapable of independent or age-appropriate self-care or self-regulation. This moderate functional and/or psychosocial impairment per assessment by a BHP:
  - Cannot be reasonably expected to improve in response to a less intensive level of care, and
  - Does not require or meet clinical criteria for a higher level of care, or
  - Demonstrates that appropriate treatment in a less restrictive environment has not been successful or is not available, therefore warranting a higher level of care.
- At time of admission to TFC in participation of Health Care Decision Maker (HCDM) and all stakeholders, there are documented plans for discharge and transition which includes:
  - Tentative disposition/living arrangement identified, and
  - Recommendations for aftercare treatment based upon treatment goals.

See AHCCCS Policy 320-W, effective 10/1/2025 for authorization criteria details.