



1 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Fostering the  
2 Future for Oklahoman Children and Families Act".

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-11-102 of Title 10A, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The Department of Human Services shall, within one hundred  
7 eighty (180) days of the effective date of this act:

8 1. Update applicable regulations, policies, and practices to  
9 improve the collection, publication, utility, and transparency of  
10 child-welfare data, including by improving collection of data and  
11 information indicative of child well-being and safety, eliminating  
12 duplicative or unnecessary high-cost and low-value reporting  
13 requirements, and expanding and expediting child-welfare data  
14 publication;

15 2. Promote modernization of child-welfare information systems  
16 and use of the most effective foster care management and outcome-  
17 tracking platforms;

18 3. Expand use of technological solutions, including predictive  
19 analytics and tools powered by artificial intelligence, to increase  
20 caregiver recruitment and retention rates, improve caregiver and  
21 child matching, and deploy child-welfare funding to maximally  
22 effective purposes and recipients. Predictive analytics and  
23 artificial intelligence tools may be used through pilot or  
24

1 demonstration programs with appropriate privacy and bias safeguards;  
2 and

3 4. Publish annually a scorecard that measures and is used to  
4 evaluate achievement of key outcomes and metrics that reduce  
5 unnecessary entries into foster care, decrease the time between  
6 reports of child maltreatment and investigations, reduce child  
7 injuries and fatalities caused by caregiver neglect and abuse,  
8 increase caregiver recruitment and retention, improve caregiver and  
9 child matching, reduce placement disruptions, decrease the average  
10 time that children spend in foster care, accelerate permanent  
11 placement for children, and increase partnerships and collaboration  
12 with appropriate nongovernmental entities, including faith-based  
13 organizations.

14 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-11-103 of Title 10A, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 The Department of Human Services, in coordination with heads of  
18 other relevant executive departments and agencies shall, within one  
19 hundred eighty (180) days of the effective date of this act:

20 1. Establish a "Fostering the Future" initiative to develop  
21 partnerships with agencies and leading private sector organizations,  
22 academic institutions, and nonprofit entities to create new  
23 educational and employment opportunities for individuals who are in  
24 or are transitioning out of the foster care system;

1           2. Develop a plan to launch a "Fostering the Future" online  
2 platform to help individuals who have been in foster care by  
3 assessing their current needs, providing guidance regarding  
4 accessing federal, state, and local programs and services for which  
5 they are eligible, including housing, education, employment, health  
6 care, and mentoring services offering a searchable database of those  
7 and other available resources, and generating customized plans that  
8 support their self-sufficiency and success;

9           3. Develop a strategy to reallocate excess funds designed to  
10 assist individuals transitioning out of foster care so that such  
11 funds are used to promote educational success, occupational  
12 advancement, and financial literacy and self-sufficiency for  
13 individuals transitioning out of foster care. Provided, however,  
14 that the reallocation of funds applies only to unexpended or  
15 returned funds and remains subject to legislative appropriation  
16 authority;

17           4. Facilitate, in coordination with the Oklahoma State  
18 Treasurer, the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and the  
19 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, use of educational  
20 scholarships created through tax-credited donations to scholarship-  
21 granting organizations for children in foster care; and

22           5. Increase flexibility in state-administered education and  
23 training assistance for individuals transitioning out of foster  
24 care, including short-term, career-focused, credential-awarding, and

1 workforce aligned programs, consistent with federal law and subject  
2 to available funds.

3 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-11-104 of Title 10A, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 The Department of Human Services shall:

7 1. Take appropriate action to address state and local policies  
8 and practices that inappropriately prohibit participation in  
9 federally-funded child-welfare programs by qualified individuals or  
10 organizations based upon their sincerely-held religious beliefs or  
11 moral convictions; and

12 2. Take appropriate action to increase partnerships between  
13 agencies and faith-based organizations and houses of worship to  
14 serve families whose children have been placed in foster care or are  
15 at risk of being placed in foster care.

16 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
17 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-11-105 of Title 10A, unless  
18 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

19 A. Nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or  
20 otherwise affect:

21 1. The authority granted by law to an executive department or  
22 agency, or the head thereof; or

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1           2. The functions of the Director of the Office of Management  
2 and Enterprise Services relating to budgetary, administrative, or  
3 legislative proposals.

4           B. This act shall be implemented consistent with applicable law  
5 and subject to the availability of appropriations.

6           C. This act is not intended to, and does not, create any right  
7 or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in  
8 equity by any party against the State of Oklahoma, its departments,  
9 agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, agents, or any other  
10 person.

11           D. Participation, pursuant to this act, shall not confer  
12 preferential treatment and shall not exempt any provider from  
13 licensing or safety requirements.

14           SECTION 6.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-11-106 of Title 10A, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17           The Department of Human Services shall submit an annual  
18 implementation report to the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma  
19 Senate and the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representative.

20           SECTION 7. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.

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22           COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
23           OVERSIGHT, dated 03/05/2026 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.