

PREPARED BY
BILLY CORDERO & EMILY KOTAICH
IN COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT RFRRRC

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION
RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM

MONTHLY REPORT

MAY
2023

**Special
Edition**
Foster Care
Month
Coverage



Statewide

Vision:

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

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

May was National Foster Care month. While our program and partners aim to celebrate and appreciate resource families throughout the year, this month they took center stage. Champions, districts, and community partners across Oregon planned many meaningful and fun opportunities for connection and appreciation. From elegant luncheons like D4's 'Treat them Like Royalty' high tea to outdoor fun like D16's party at Plumper Farm, there was something for everyone. In addition to events, there were many tokens of appreciation delivered to express the sincere appreciation for the dedication of resource families. In D13/14, movie baskets and handmade signs were given to families. And in D3, thank you cards with gift cards were given to families.

Many of the events attracted local news coverage which provided even more opportunities to shine a light on resource families and share ways for families and individuals to get involved. [The Hermiston Herald](#) covered the appreciation banquet held at the Port of Morrow. D11 held their annual "Foster a Future" event where they honored a family who have been fostering since 1973! The event was written about in an article by [the Herald and News](#). This report features highlights from across the state including photos from the events.

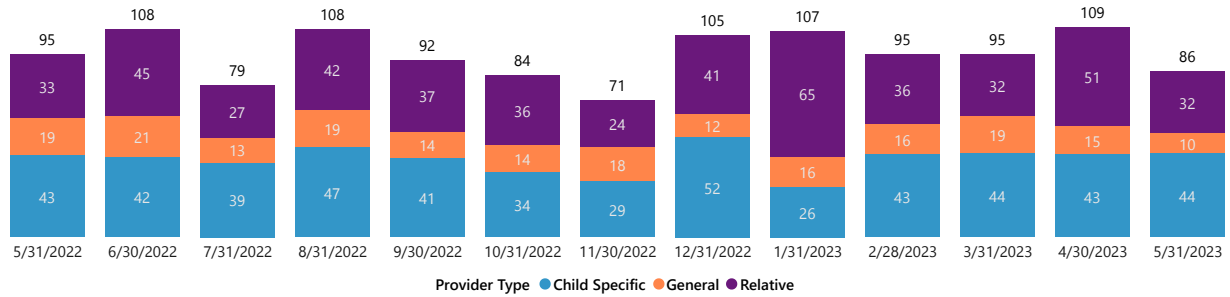
The teams continued to work diligently on their recruitment and retention action plan goals. Leaning on deep collaboration with districts and communities, progress to meet these goals remain steady. A current snapshot of the action plans and strategies is available on the [Retention and Recruitment OWL site](#).

Recruitment material and giveaway swag items made their way to offices across the state. These items reflect our updated branding and will help boost targeted recruitment needs. Internal partners can view the posters and flyers [here](#). Giveaway swag for tabling events can be seen below. All in all, this was a very busy and fulfilling month for our teams. And they are energized for a summer full of recruitment and retention events!

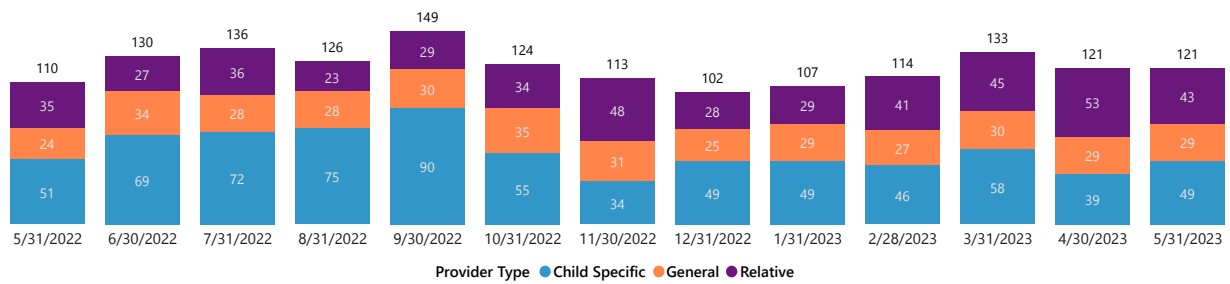


STATEWIDE

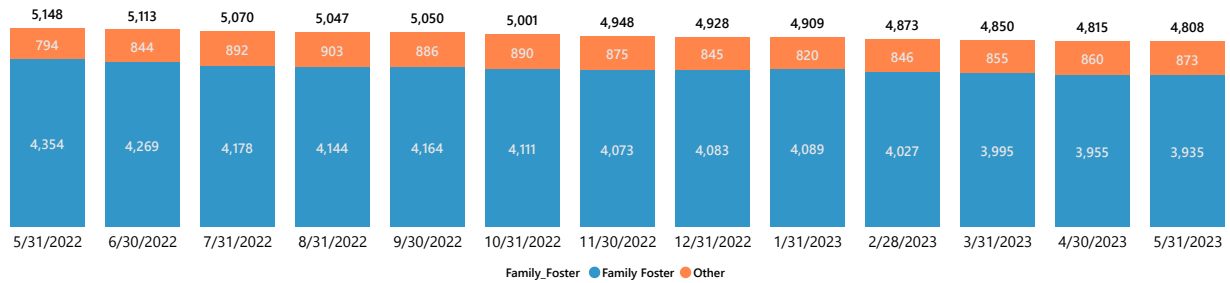
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



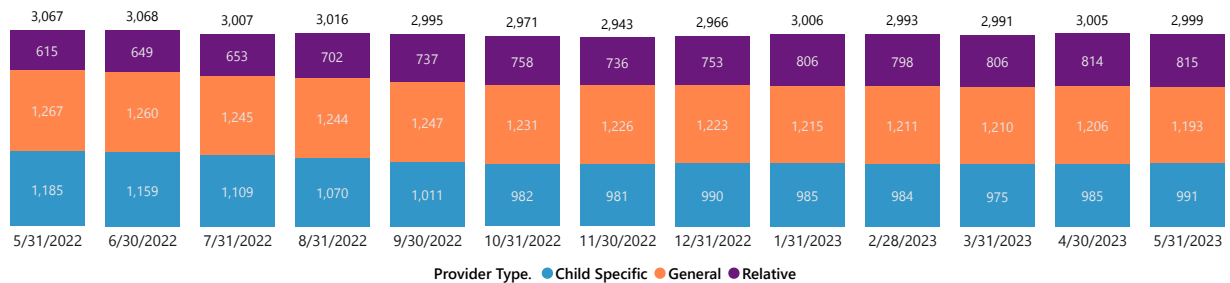
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Scott Rooen

District 1

Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook

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

DISTRICT 1 SUMMARY

This month was National Foster Care Month. D1 focused on showing appreciation to all the resource families in our community. Each county partnered with the Every Child affiliate to put together gift baskets and worked with additional community partners for other special gifts. The Columbia County certification team received donations for bowling passes, coffee gift certificates, house plants, and pool passes. They then put together a drive-thru event for resource families to come and pick up their gifts. In Clatsop County a local partner donated hand-made hot pads for all resource families that were delivered along with the thank you baskets. A local hotel in Clatsop County also donated a free night in an ocean view room which was gifted to a resource family. The district began preparing for parties that will be held in August for resource families that will include back to school supplies for every child in their home.

The district continued to set up support meetings for resource families that bring supervisors and caseworkers together to work through pain points, barriers, and frustrations the resource family may have. These meetings are solution-driven and correspond to **retention goal #3 which is introducing new resources for families.**

Work began this month on **retention goal #4**, a training and implementation strategy for staff to ensure reimbursements and payments to resource families are timely and consistent.

Teen specific recruitment flyers were delivered to the local every child affiliate so that they can assist with **recruitment goal #1, the need for families willing to care for youth ages 12 to 17.**

An ICWA training was created by D1 staff and presented to all staff in the district this month. This education continues to assist with the ability to recruit families or individuals with diverse cultural backgrounds (**recruitment goal #3**).

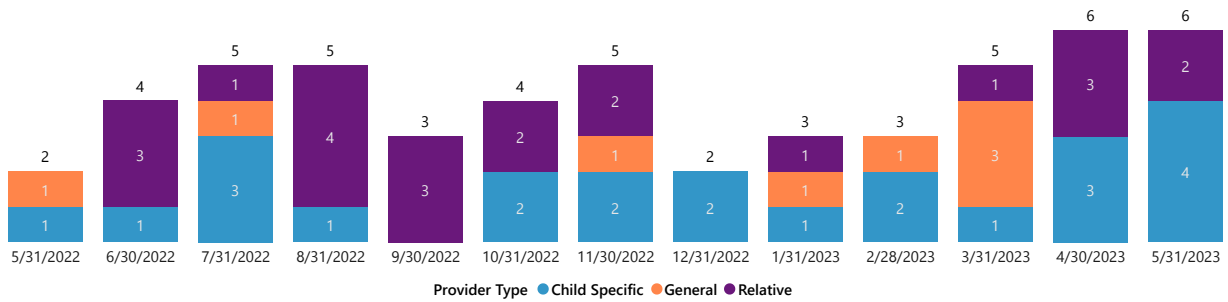
This month the district recruited one Latinx family which is part of **recruitment goal #3 families or individuals with diverse racial and cultural backgrounds.** Another family with experience caring for teens, **recruitment goal #1**, is beginning the home study process.

**RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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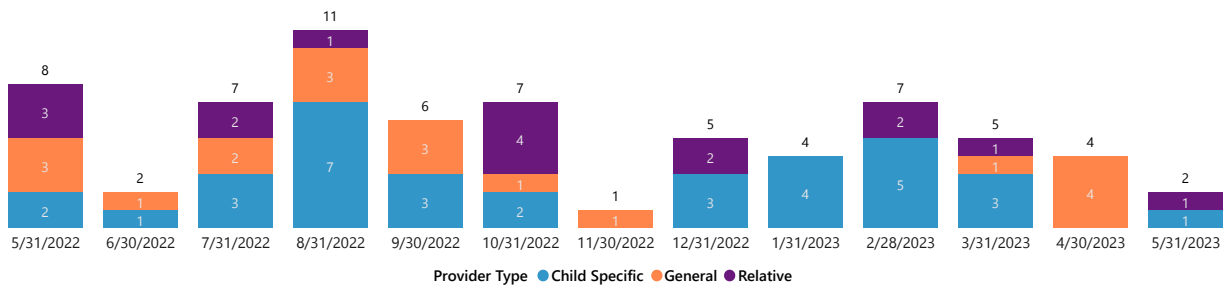


District 01

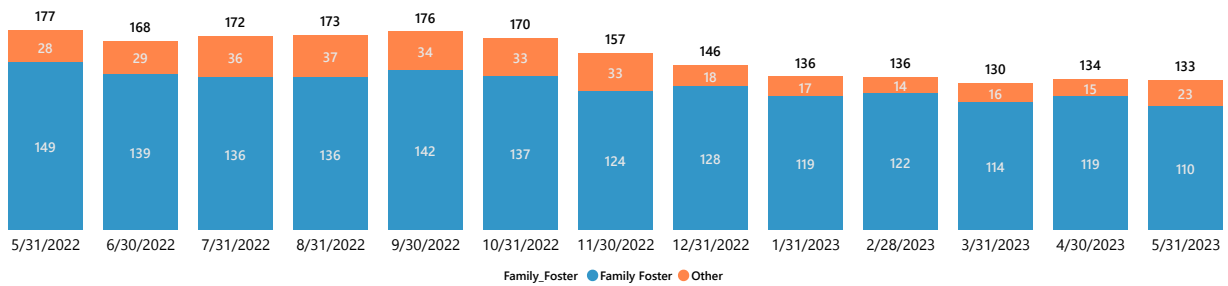
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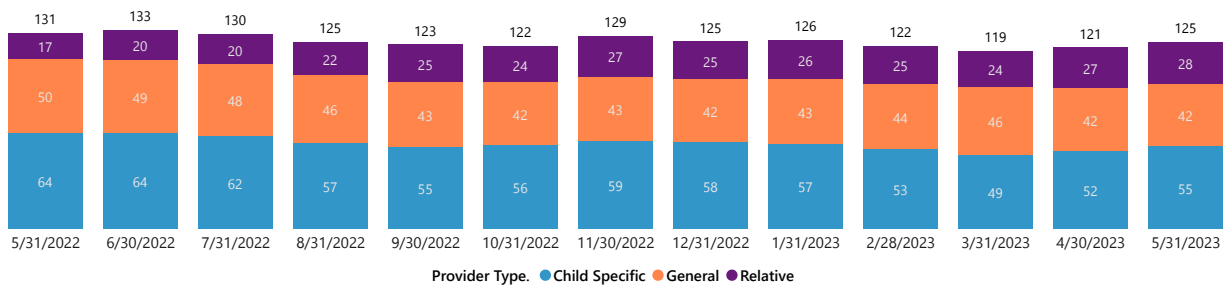
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Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Lucille Harper & Monique Woods

DISTRICT 2

MULTNOMAH

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 2 SUMMARY

The D2 Champions are using city walkability scoring data to distribute recruitment/marketing posters in the community. Neighborhoods in SE with high walkability scores were canvassed and recruitment materials were placed in strategic areas where folks walk/bike/recreate, and shop. The D2 Champions will continue to do this monthly and will ensure culturally diverse materials are being used to reflect the neighborhood and its occupants **(Ongoing activity #13)**.

The D2 Champions met with Project Lemonade and Every Child to discuss our ongoing partnership and how to enhance communication about programming to ensure messaging is getting to caseworkers and resource providers. The Champions met with Jess Rivoli, who develops/publishes the D2 resource newsletter, and she kindly agreed to create space in the newsletter for our community partners to be able to provide updates on resources/offerings.

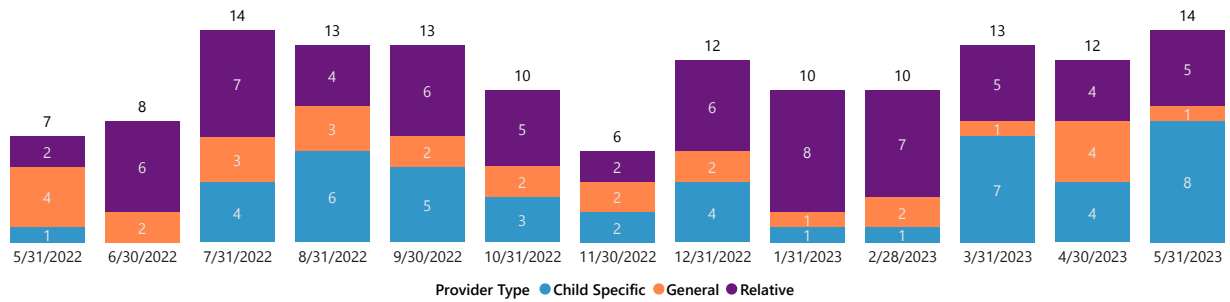
D2 continues to rollout and monitor the recruitment calendar that was developed in partnership with Every Child. This Calendar connects D2, D15, D16, Foster+, and Every Child to a collaborative recruitment calendar. The final stages of the rollout will happen next month when it will be announced to D2 leadership and ERGs. To ensure coverage, volunteers need to fill shifts using this calendar. Payment for tabling events are made when all shifts are claimed **(Completed Measurable Goal)**.

D2 received its final order of recruitment materials and will be working on recruitment totes for each branch to utilize for recruitment/retention events. The D2 RPT & Champion team cleaned out the recruitment closet and are working on redesigning the space to make it more usable. The D2 Champions have started to place recruitment displays in self-sufficiency lobbies per their ask, and this also includes a cheat sheet for reception staff to use when guests ask for more information on becoming a resource parent or respite provider **(Completed Measurable Goal #2)**.

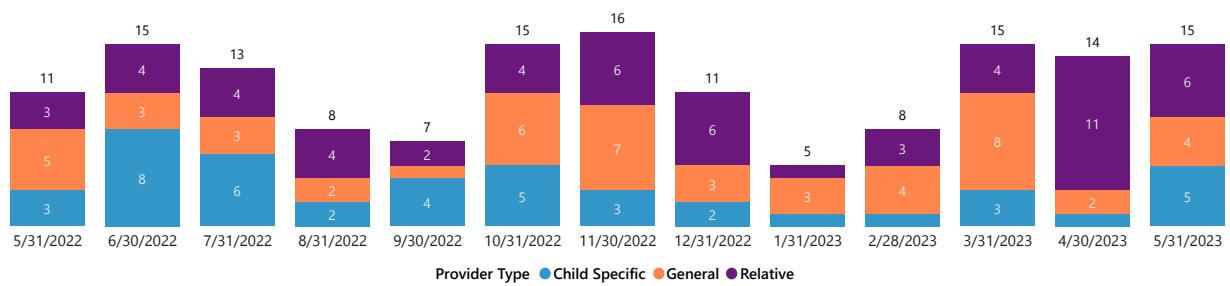
D2 teamed up with Project48 & Kingpins for a retention offering this month and were able to offer 40 resource providers and their families free bowling and pizza passes. This was the 3rd sessions that have been offered. These offerings will continue and will rotate branches to ensure service equity.

District 02

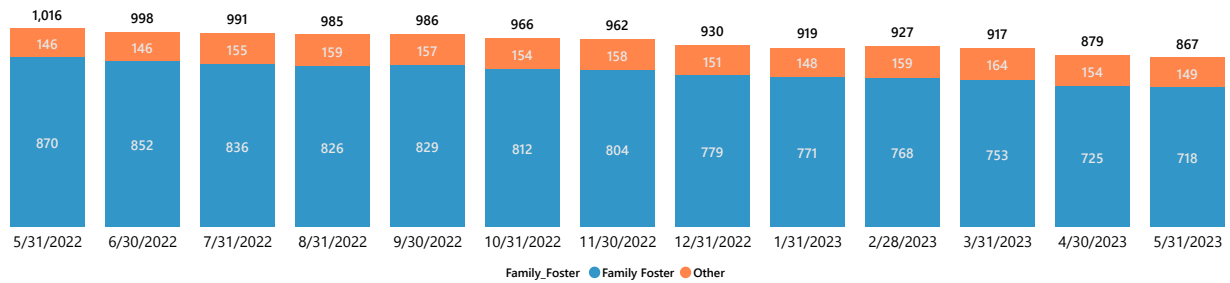
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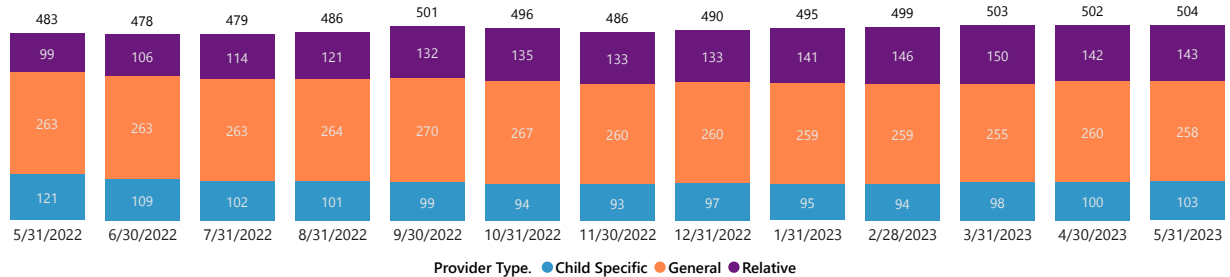
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Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Joseph Sarkez

District 3

Polk, Yamhill, Marion

Vision:

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DISTRICT 3 SUMMARY

District 3 came out and showed their appreciation for our resource parents this month! The Marion and Polk County branches were provided pizzas through Our Giving Table and Papa Murphy's Pizza and delivered pizza to resource parents throughout May. They also both provided opportunities for free bowling. Marion County had an event at The Rec Bowling Lanes for resource parents which provided food and raffle prizes in addition to free bowling for our resource parents. Our District Manager was able to attend the event and share her appreciation for resource parents in person, as well as many other staff from the Marion branch. Polk and Yamhill Counties provided a thank you card for each resource home that included a gift card. Polk also included a free swim pass to the local swim center and Yamhill also provided a Dutch Bro's card that was donated through Every Child.

(Retention goal #2- increase and enhance communication methods)

We had 5 general foster home inquiries in District 3, 1 of which is considering teenagers in their home, and another 2 homes are identifying as Hispanic or Latinx homes. 2 of those homes are from Marion, 2 from Polk, and 1 from Yamhill. We have another 2 homes in Polk and Marion currently considering becoming respite providers.

(Recruitment goals # 2 & 3- identify families willing to take siblings and teens and families that are part of the Hispanic, Latinx community)

Marion County had a recruitment event at the Daisy Open House that was focused on the recruitment of providers to care for LGBTQIA2S+ youth and young adults and a table at Forest Ridge Elementary School Family fun night. Marion has also been approved for Fiesta Mexicana and Salem Saturday Market booths as well.

(Recruitment goals # 1,2, & 3- families focused on supporting children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+, families willing to take siblings and teens and families that are part of the Hispanic, Latinx community)

In working with Every Child in Polk and Yamhill we are collaborating on our retention goals and determining how we can find opportunities to bring resource parents together and bring the community to them to support their needs. **(Retention goals #2,4 and 5 supporting the needs of resource parents in crisis, grief and loss, and communication needs)**

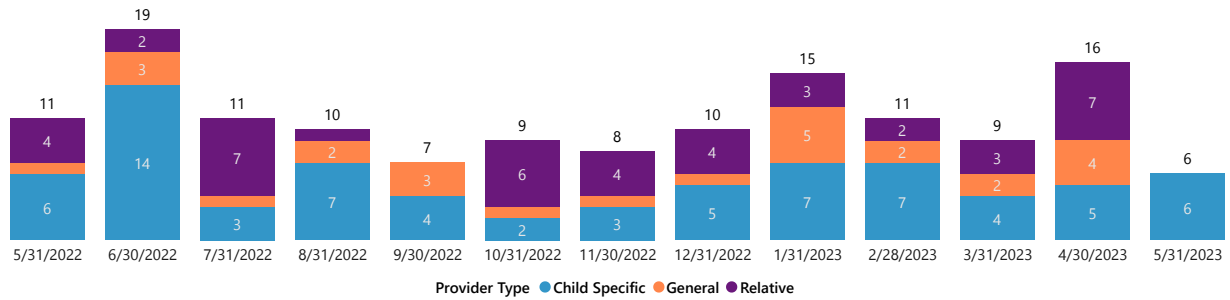
Polk County registered for a recruitment event in Dallas for July. We are continuing to work on our comfort calls and shared journals for resource parents with the goal of running a pilot in August. **(Retention goal #3- bio and resource parent connection)**

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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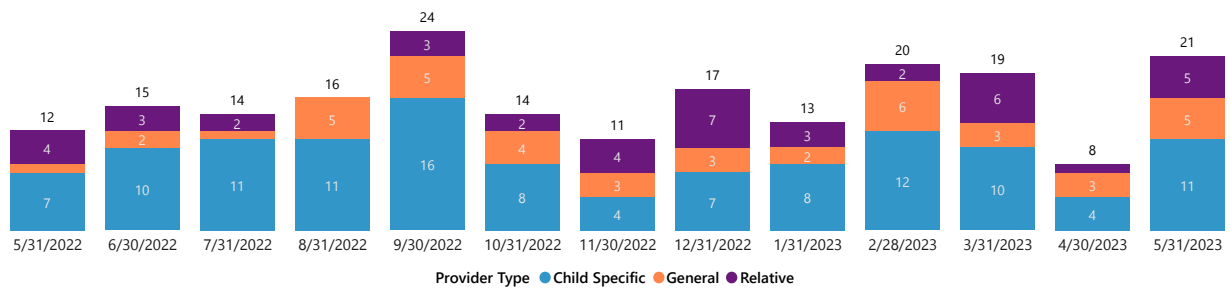


District 03

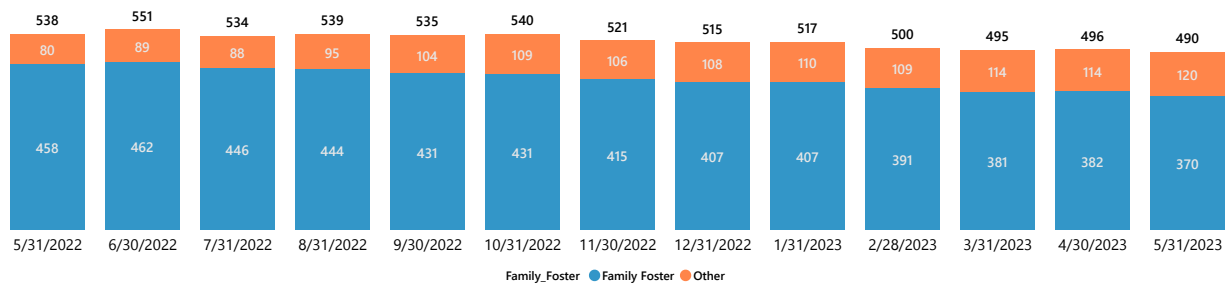
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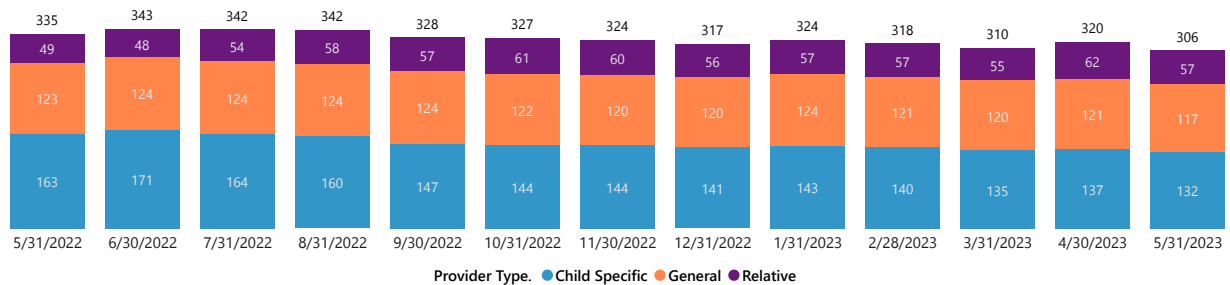
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Benjamin Potter

District 4

Linn, Benton, Lincoln

Vision:

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DISTRICT 4 SUMMARY

A majority of May was spent planning and holding several resource parent appreciation activities in honor of National Foster Care Month. A new goal (**retention goal #3 - appreciation activities**) was created to organize activities including a gift item and event for every resource parent in D4.

In Lincoln County, 10 of our resource families attended our High Tea appreciation event on May 26th. The event included an honorary speech from Representative David Gomberg. Donated items totaled \$2609 allowing for every resource family to receive a nice gift. Some training topics were presented allowing for our families in attendance to gain training hour credits.

In Linn/Benton Counties, 22 of our resource families attended our Historic Carousel appreciation event on May 25th. The event included a special guest star appearance by the *Party Perfection Characters* (mostly Disney characters). Lunch was provided as well as ride passes for the whole family.

The *Flowers for Fosters* drive was a huge success! The D4 champion and Every Child gathered enough sponsorships to order 224 hanging flower baskets to deliver to every resource parent in District 4. Twenty delivery routes were created, allowing ODHS, Every Child, and CASA staff to personally drop off the baskets at resource parent's homes with a thank you note and gift item from Every Child. A number of resource families gave great feedback that this effort was highly appreciated.

Over the course of the month, Papa Murphy's Pizza donated 140 pizzas to our resource families in all 3 of our counties that were distributed by ODHS staff.

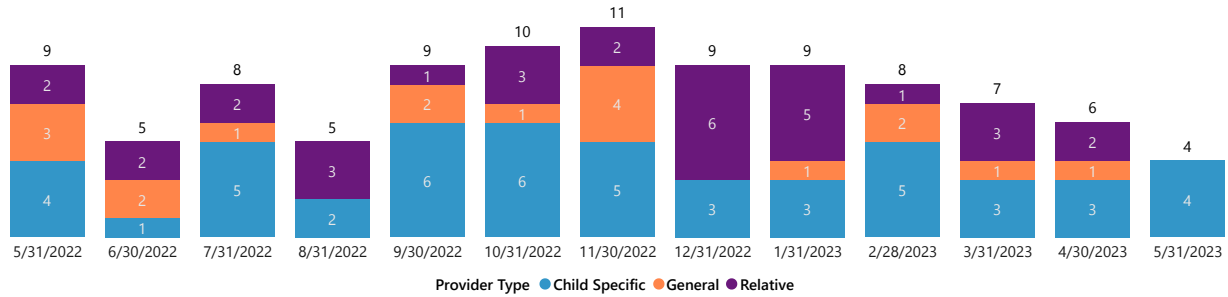
In coordinating the appreciation activities this month, some new community connections were made with businesses, organizations, and churches. A notable strategic partnership was made with CASA for all 3 counties. A meeting was held to explore ways we can work together for future events.

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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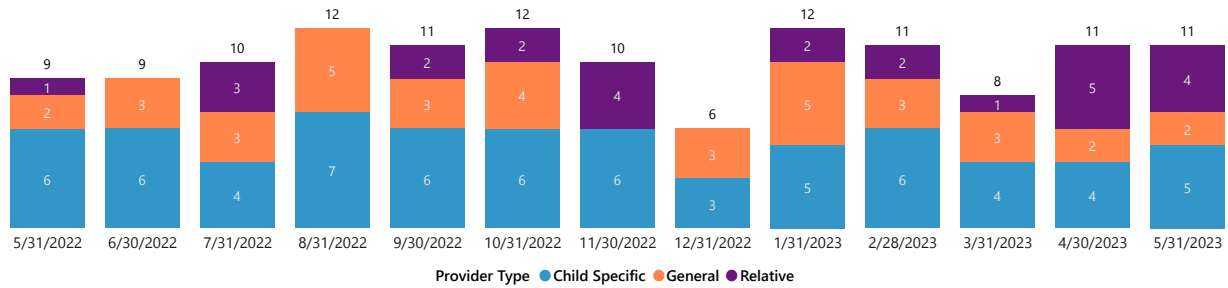


District 04

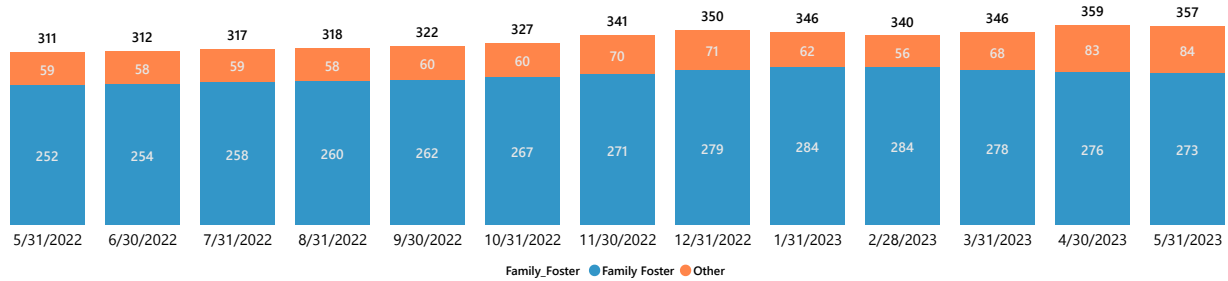
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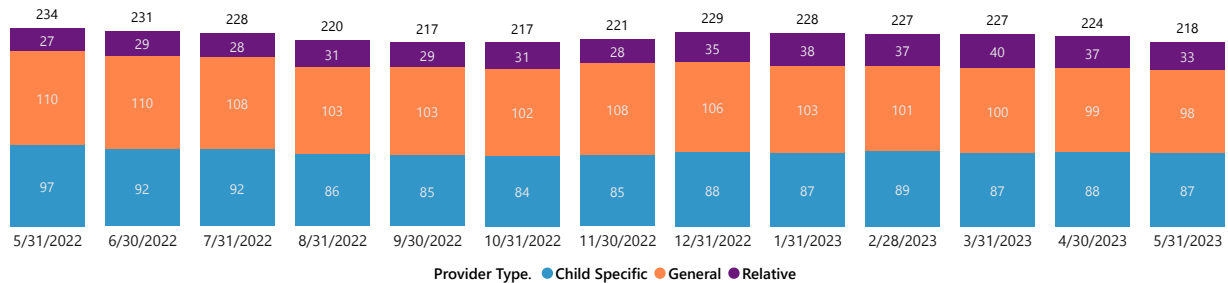
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Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Brandyn Rice

District 5

Lane

Vision:

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DISTRICT 5 SUMMARY

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

On May 12th, in partnership with Lane County Every Child, Foster Family Fun Day was held. This was an appreciation event for our local resource parents and their families. **(Retention goal #1 building direct support for resource homes, strategy #1; provide larger appreciation events)**

On May 18th we held our Building Bridges Conference. This was an all-day training event held for both local resource parents and ODHS CW staff. We had a great turnout with over 140 people attending the event. Attendees remarked how great it was to connect with each other throughout the day. Families and staff learned side-by-side, shared a meal, and gift baskets were raffled off for resource families. Highlights included the keynote speaker, Dr. Johnny Lake, and the Honorable Judge Valeri Love. Training topics included navigating privilege, affirming SOGIE, insight from youth who have experienced foster care, managing anger in children, and more. **(Retention goal #4, provide regular training opportunities for local resource parents).**

We partnered with a local news station this month to begin a recruitment commercial production. **(Recruitment goal #3; increasing advertising efforts).** This commercial will be providing some targeted recruitment efforts around the need for homes to care for teenage youth.

In May several requests were sent to get tabling spaces in upcoming local summer events. We received responses for three different tabling opportunities **(Recruitment goal #4, strategy #5; attend events in rural communities).** Tabling teams will be set up for upcoming summer events.

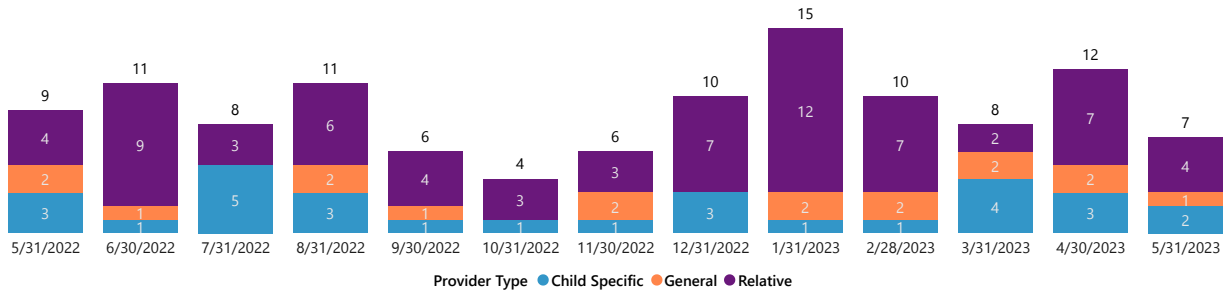
In May several recruitment flyers were sent out to local offices for staff to have access to. This is an action item from a meeting with our local teen unit requesting targeted recruitment materials for staff to be taking with them when working out in the community **(Recruitment goal #2, certifying families to care for youth ages 12-18)**

**RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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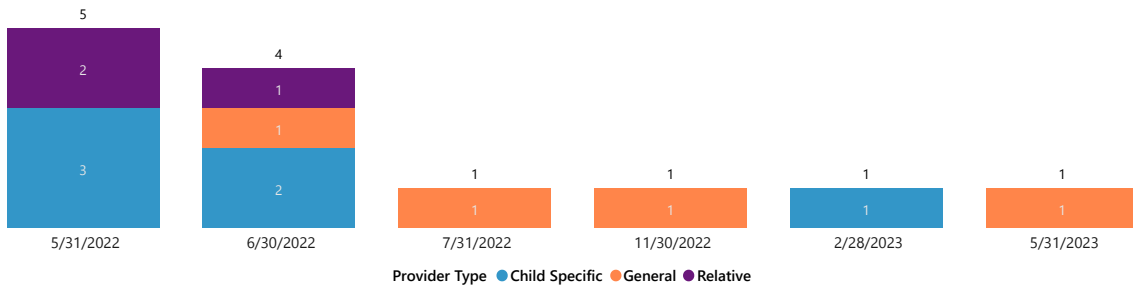


District 05

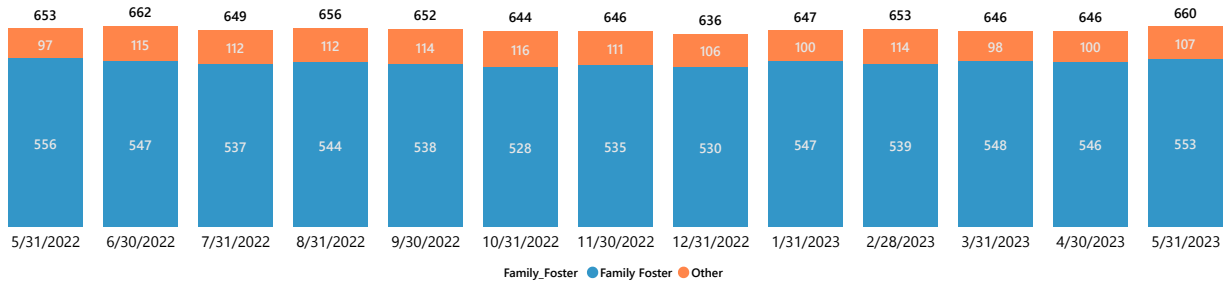
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



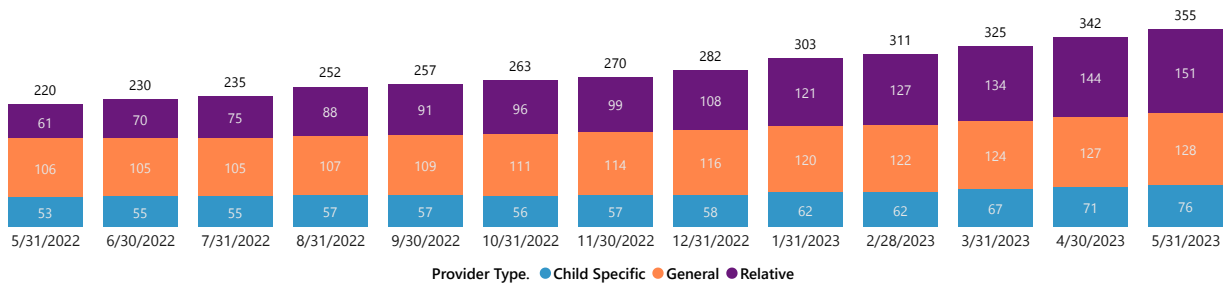
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Myressa Starnes

District 6

Douglas

Vision:

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DISTRICT 6 SUMMARY

May was a very fun and exciting month for us in D6 as we showed our appreciation and gratitude for resource families throughout Douglas County. For the first half of the month, we finalized our planning for a family fun appreciation event to be held on May 17th. We had a candy-themed event called, “How Sweet it is to be Loved by You,” hosted at the Wildlife Safari in Winston. The Wildlife Safari is gracious each year to donate their Safari Village for us to host this event. We had a variety of games, giveaways, face painting, and food for each family to enjoy. Every Child donated the food and had a fun Mario-themed booth with giveaways for kids and introduced their organization to resource families who stopped by. Life Care Services was instrumental in helping us decorate the check-in booth and had a table with cotton candy and popcorn for kids to take on the way out. We had 30 families in attendance with a total of 130 people. We received donations of beautiful baskets from the community to give away to each resource parent who came to our event. In addition, we also received cash and check donations from the community which we were able to use to help fund our event. We are very grateful to our community for donating to us and showing their appreciation for our amazing resource families.

In addition to our appreciation event, the Epic Adventure Zone in Sutherlin, also appreciated our resource parents by hosting a fun and free event for our resource families and children experiencing foster care. They had free arcades, air hockey, professional photos, virtual reality, and black light Nerf. This was a 4-hour event held on May 21st. We are very thankful to the Epic Adventure Zone for sharing this opportunity with our families.

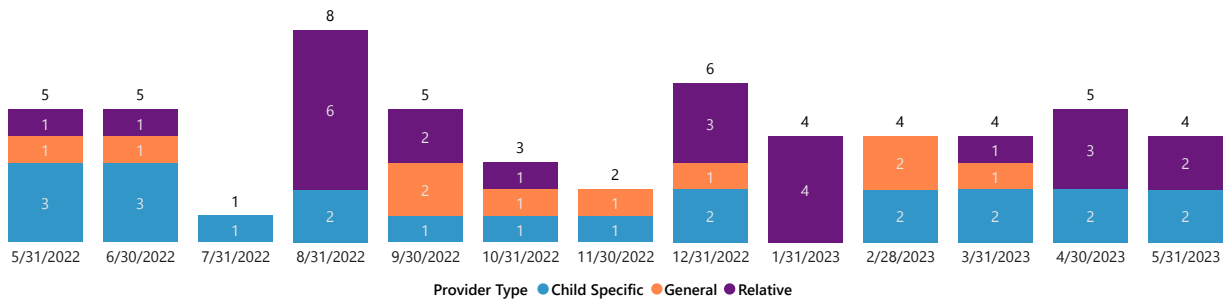
During May, the City of Sutherlin posted an article on their city [Facebook page](#) and [City Bulletin](#) sharing the need for resource parents (**recruitment goal #3, homes for pre-teens and teens**). We also met with CASA of Douglas County to discuss partnering at upcoming events to recruit resource families and CASA’s. We are very excited about what this partnership will look like in the following months during recruitment events.

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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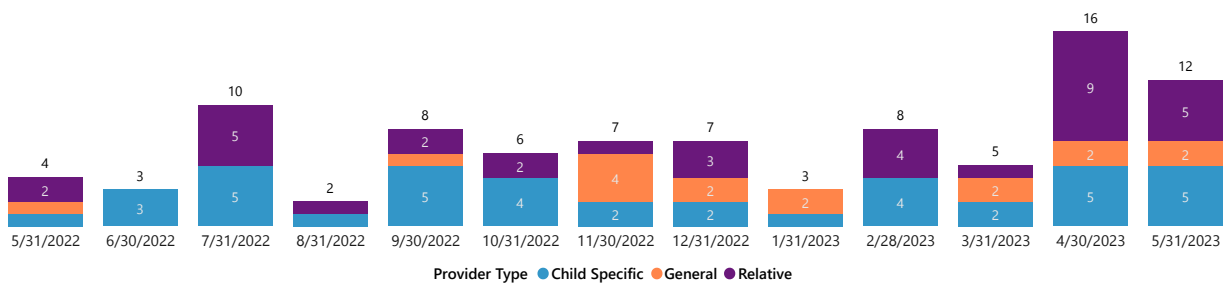


District 06

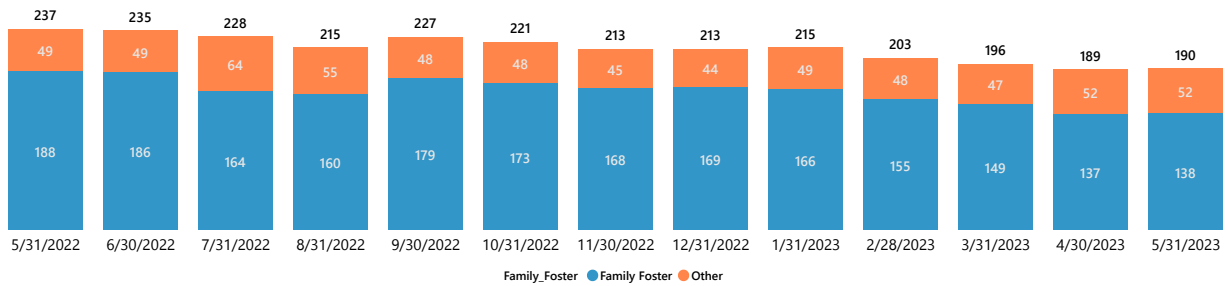
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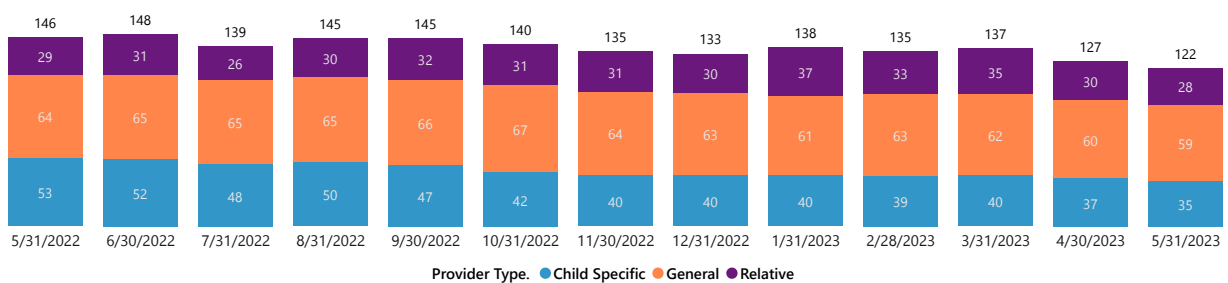
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month




Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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





Bonnie Ell
District 7
Coos, Curry

Vision:
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DISTRICT 7 SUMMARY

Foster Care month festivities and appreciation events (ice cream social/BBQ & family skate night) were a highlight in D7 this month as we were able to connect with and celebrate the awesome resource families who are doing an amazing job day in and out to care for our children. Our local south coast foster coalition recruitment video has been produced and provides a beautiful and heartwarming visual of both the needs that exist and the various ways (big and small) that community members can get involved to support kids and families in our foster care system.

In partnership with Every Child Curry and CASA, we hosted our 11th community presentation, which was for the Gold Beach school district staff (**recruitment goals #6 & #7, to recruit new homes to care for young children and adolescents**), and we tabled at the 1st annual Health & Wellness Expo at Brookings Harbor High School (**recruitment goals #4, certify new families open to teen placements**). In correlation with recruitment goal #1 (**recruit families to care for youth who identify as LGBTQIA2S+**), D7 continues to have representation on the statewide fostering pride event. We also continued to partner with Every Child Curry on their My NeighBOR, Foster Parent Night Out (FPNO), and tutoring programs (**retention goal #9, provide resource families with extra layers of support in partnership with Every Child.**)

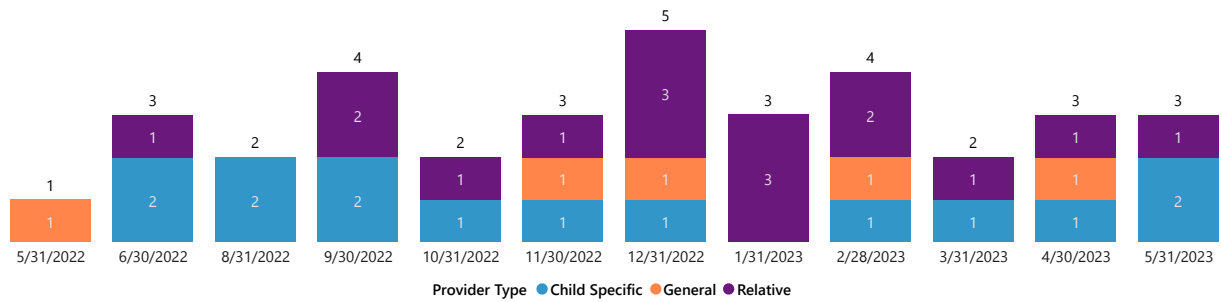
In Coos, our partnership with Every Child and other FC-3 partners continued as we hosted our 12th presentation, which was for the Coos Bay Rotary (**retention goal #3 to recruit new certified respite providers.**) In partnership with Every Child Coos, essential tangible items and Foster Parent Night In boxes continue to be provided to resource families (**retention goal #9, provide Resource families with extra layers of support in partnership with Every Child.**)

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
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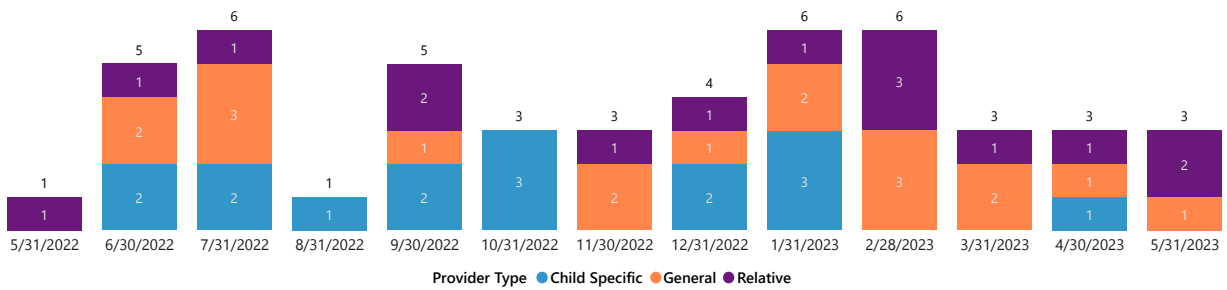


District 07

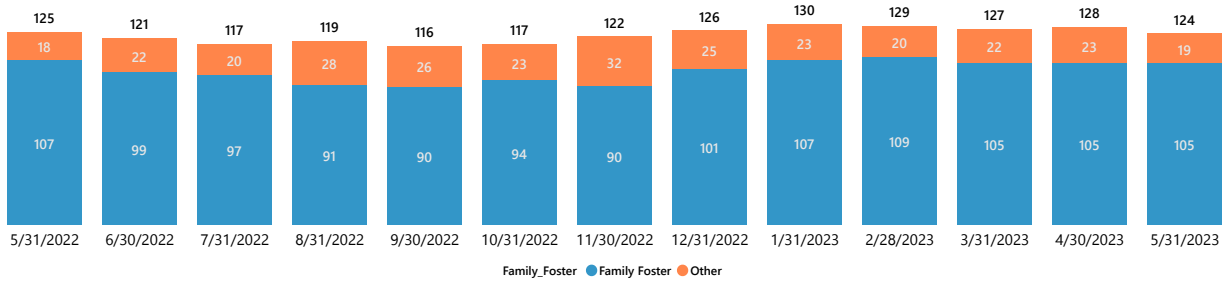
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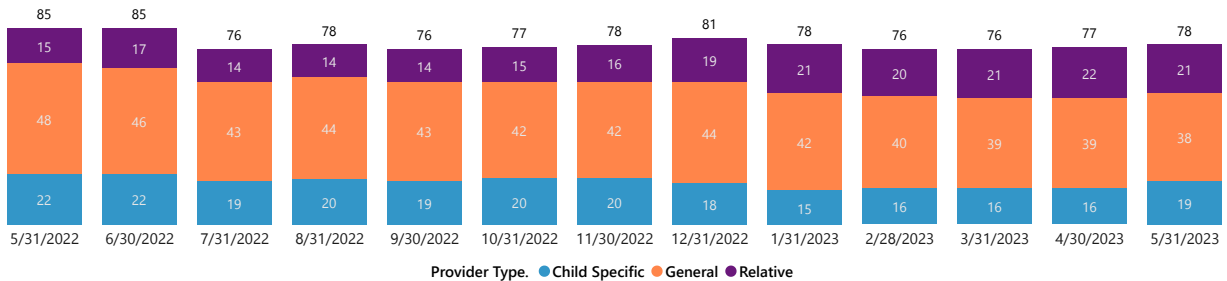
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Duncan Machen

District 8

Jackson, Josephine

Vision:

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DISTRICT 8 SUMMARY

As May was Foster Care Month, both Jackson and Josephine counties hosted resource parent appreciation events. Every Child, the Champion, and ODHS staff helped organize and run each event. Both events were met with great success and received positive feedback from resource families across D8.

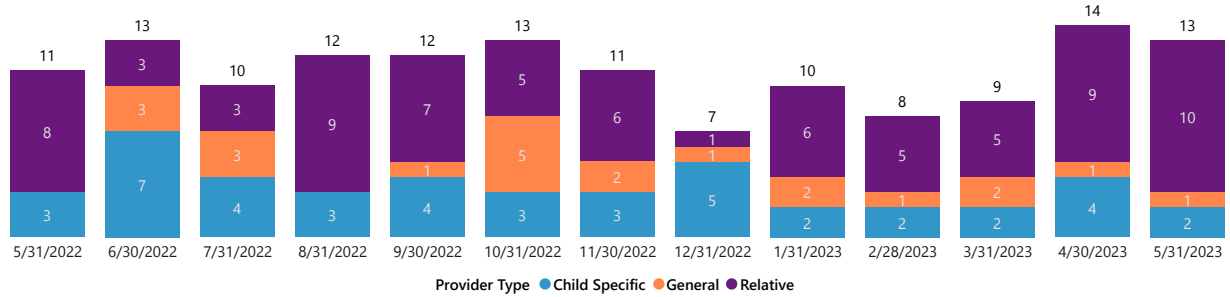
The Champion partnered with Josephine County ODHS, Every Child, CASA and Our Foster Kids to create a parade float for the annual Boatnik festival in Grants Pass. The float was well received in the community and served as a specific recruitment tool for prospective resource families.

The Champion successfully hosted Jackson Counties first resource parent retention workgroup and has been able to collaborate with resource parents and ODHS staff to set the framework for ongoing goals and ideas with the specific intention of bridging the gap between resource parents and the agency.

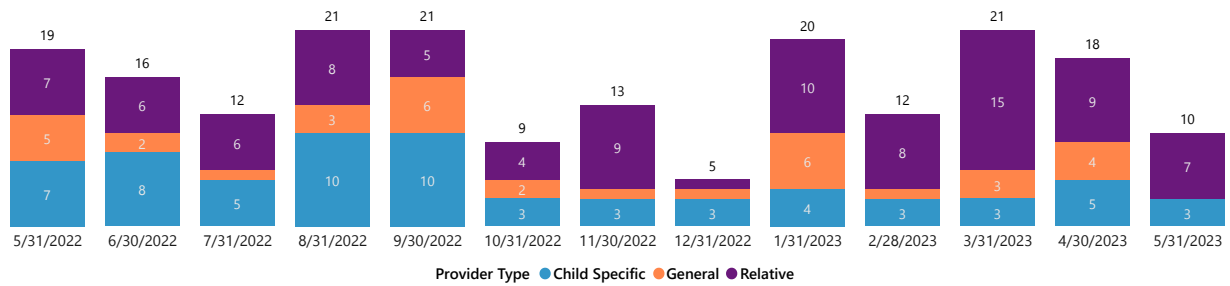
The Champion has been working closely with Every Child and ODHS ERGs for upcoming events that include Medford Pride and Juneteenth celebrations for specific recruitment and ongoing community engagement. The Champion is continuing to build community partnerships in both Jackson and Josephine Counties and will be collaborating with faith-based organizations for hosting Q&A sessions for both resource parent recruitment and respite opportunities.

District 08

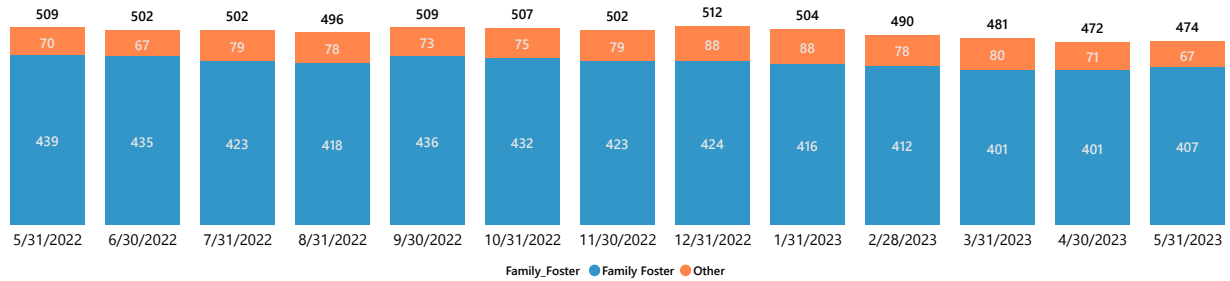
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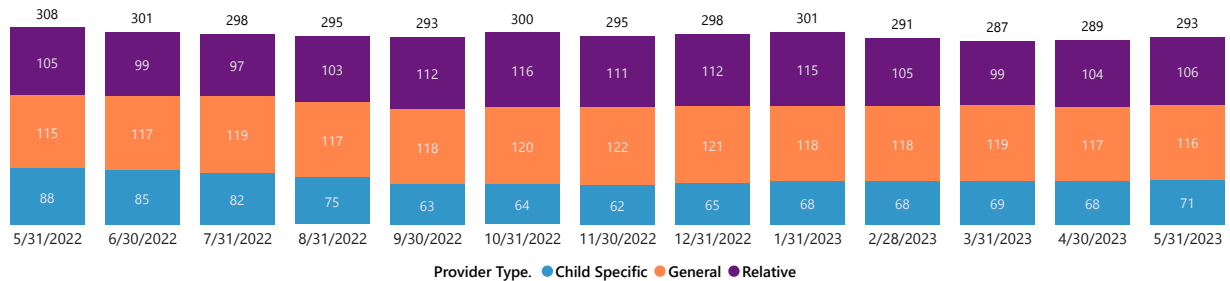
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Active ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families on the last day of the month





Karlee Wallace

District 9

Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam Wheeler

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 9 SUMMARY

In the month of May, we focused heavily on the appreciation of the local resource families. On May 20th, we hosted an appreciation BBQ at Sorosis Park in The Dalles. Columbia Gorge Toyota donated the use of their large barbeque, and we barbequed hotdogs and hamburgers, served with all the sides and fixings. We brought yard games such as bean bag toss and giant Connect 4. We also had rock painting and a small petting zoo with baby goats. OSP also came to see the kids, let them check out the police car and provide car seat checks for families. Approximately, 15 families were in attendance. Thanks to the community this event was fully funded through donations and every family walked away with a door prize. **(retention goal #1, successfully retain 15% of child specific and relative certified providers as general certificates rather than closing after first placement, and #5, increase local supports for resource parents).**

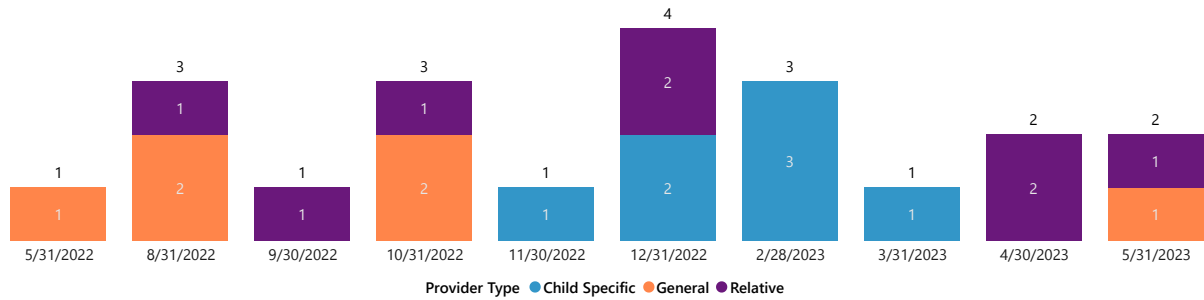
This month we also participated in a handful of recruitment events, while also getting signed up for future events. Certification staff were present at several kindergarten registration events recruiting for all the specific needs in our communities. We also submitted our registration for the Dufur Threshing Bee in August and have been working alongside Self Sufficiency to partner in upcoming events. We are also working on setting up a faith recruitment night to be held in The Dalles similar to what was done in Hood River in April. Following the event in The Dalles, we will put focus onto Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman counties as we recognize those communities will need a different approach due to size on their recruitment goals. **(recruitment goal #'s 1-5, families for LGBTQIA2S+ children/youth, Families for teens, Latinx, bilingual and black families as well as the need for families in Gilliam, Wheeler and Sherman Counties)**

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

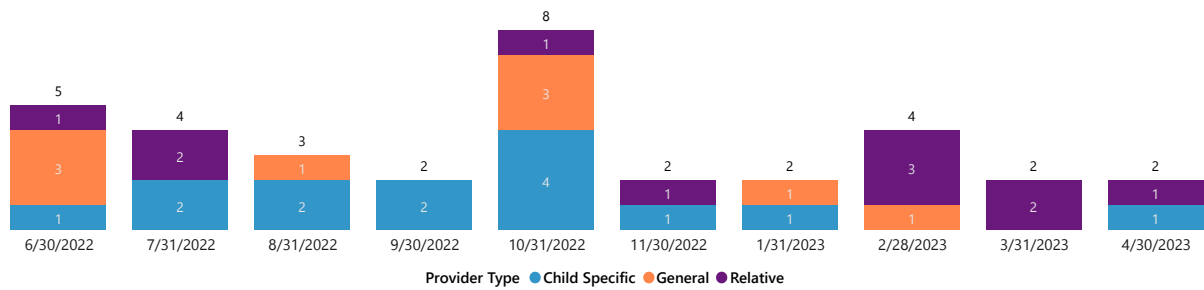


District 09

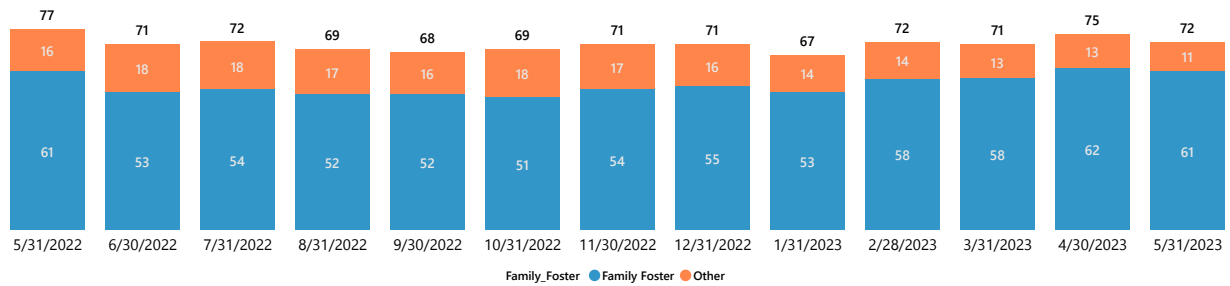
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



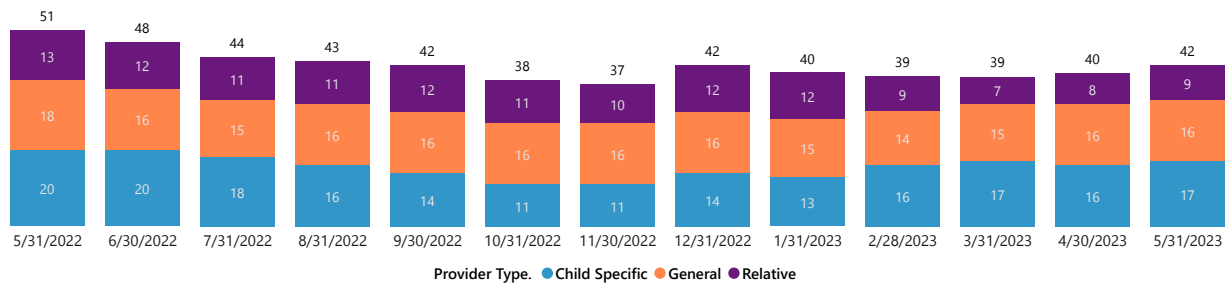
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Vacant

District 10

Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook

Vision:

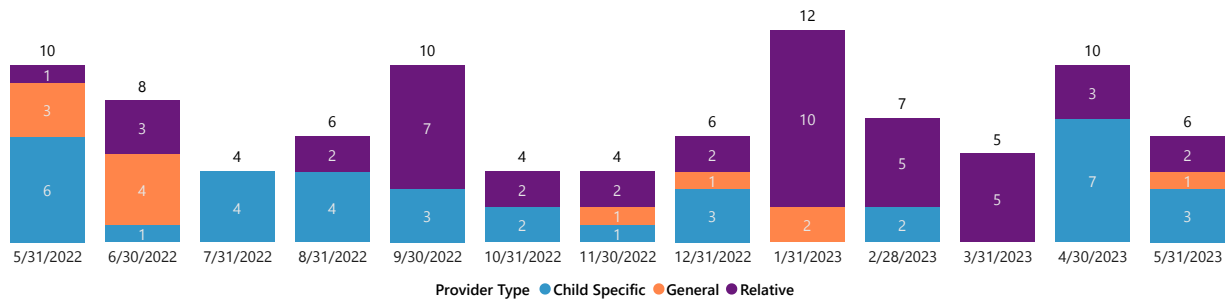
Oregon has an abundance of safe, diverse, and affirming resource families, that reflect the diversity of children, youth and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities.

DISTRICT 10 SUMMARY

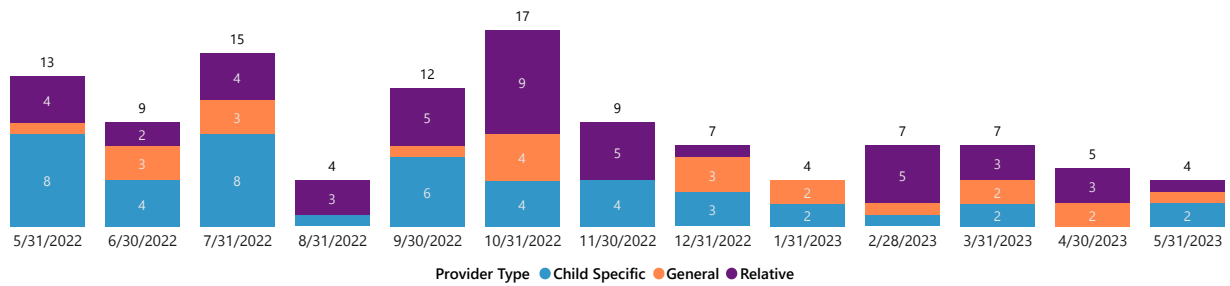
Retention and recruitment efforts continue in District 10. Collaboration with community partners, ODHS staff, and Every Child continue to impact our resource families in positive ways. If you have any questions regarding this work, please reach out to District 10 Program Manager Jennifer.Berg@dhsosha.state.or.us

District 10

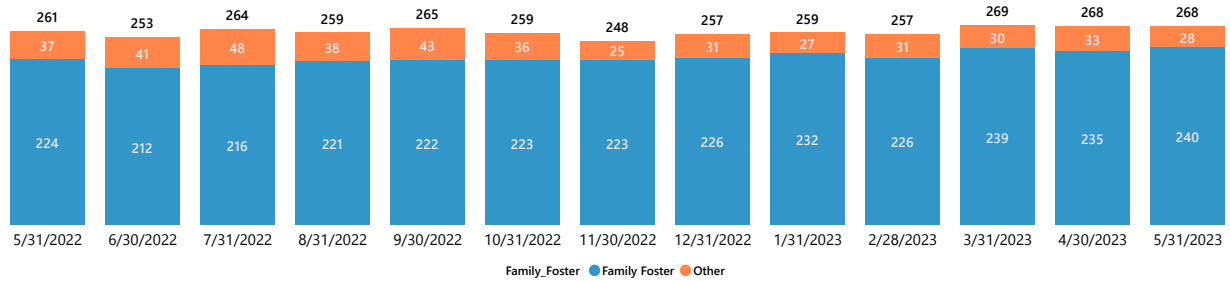
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



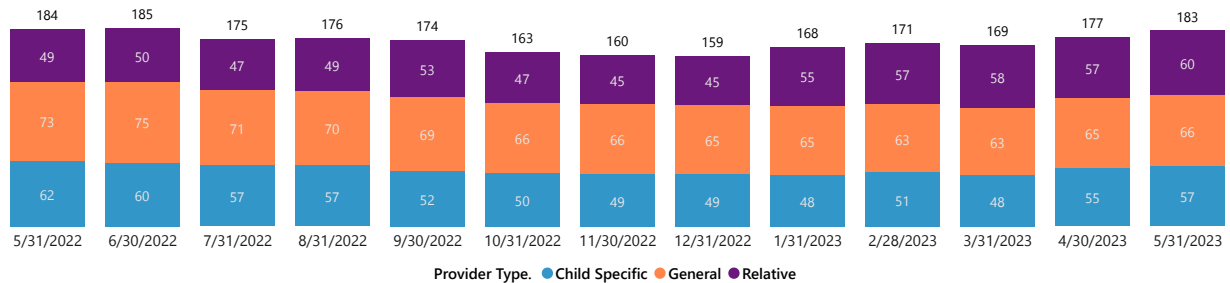
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Bridget King

District 11

Lake, Klamath

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

DISTRICT 11 SUMMARY

May was a big month of community outreach and recruitment activities. Local financial institution, Country Financial, and manager, Cora Christ, donated \$250 to recruitment and retention endeavors with their month-long event contributing \$10 for every loan referral they received. We thank Cora and her staff at Country Financial for their support and generosity.

If you have a chance to drive through any Klamath Falls and Lakeview fast food restaurants, you'll notice we have recruitment posters at most locations. The champion was also on the local radio station several times in the month of May. Additionally, the champion will be on a live Facebook event called Chamber Chatter in Lakeview to continue to spread the word.

Our local National Foster Care Month event, Foster a Future, was great as we honored a local resource family, the Lunas. They have been fostering since 1973 and the certification unit was able to send them on an overnight trip to the Winston Safari. We included a gift card for them to purchase fuel, food and a hotel room for the whole family as well as 9 passes to the safari. The event was covered by The Herald and News and the article can be found [here](#). We also had live radio spots conducted by radio station KLAD and the champion used these to share the need for resource homes and community partners also shared about their programs. Another aspect of the event was our community partner participation. CASA, KEEP, 2-1-1, Klamath Tribes, Every Child, Citizens for Safe Schools and Friends of the Children were all represented at the event to show their support and share information about their programs. **(Recruitment goals #1&4, families or individuals with diverse racial and cultural backgrounds and families for children and young people experiencing a mental health condition, or expressing behaviors related to surviving trauma)**

The champion is working with the local office to increase staff knowledge around programs and services that support resource homes. The idea is to have a small presentation monthly by different community partners to help educate staff on what the service is, how it supports resource families and how staff can request/utilize the services. **(Retention goal #1, Customer Service Training)**

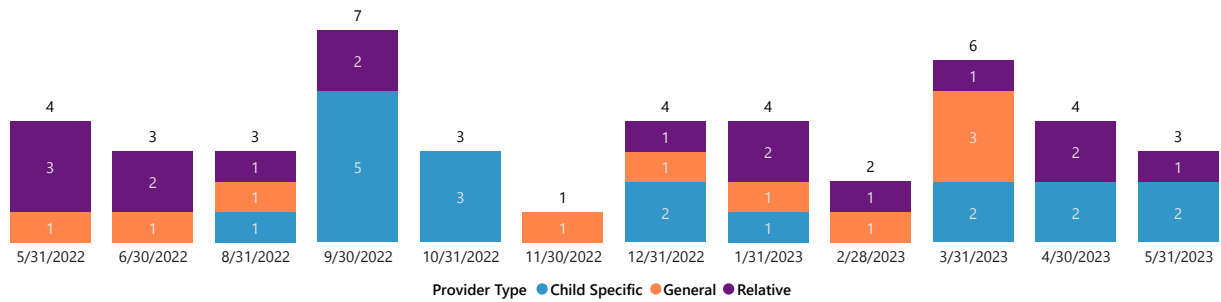
Coming up in June, we will be starting our attendance at the Klamath Falls Farmer's Market and attending LGBTQ Pride Events in Lakeview and Klamath as well.

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

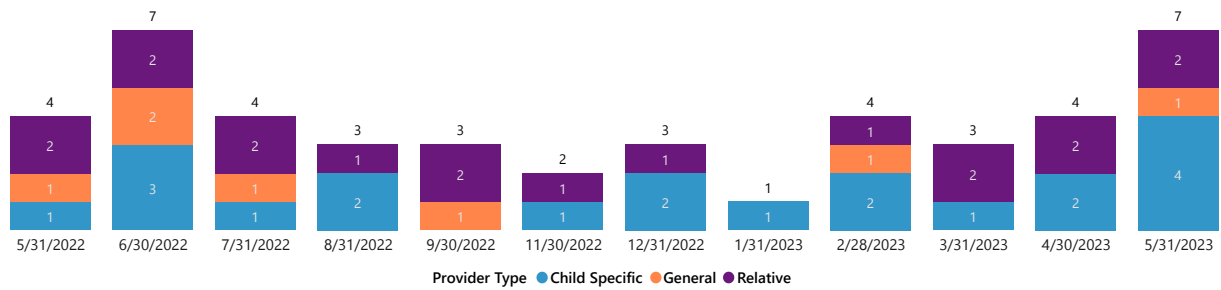


District 11

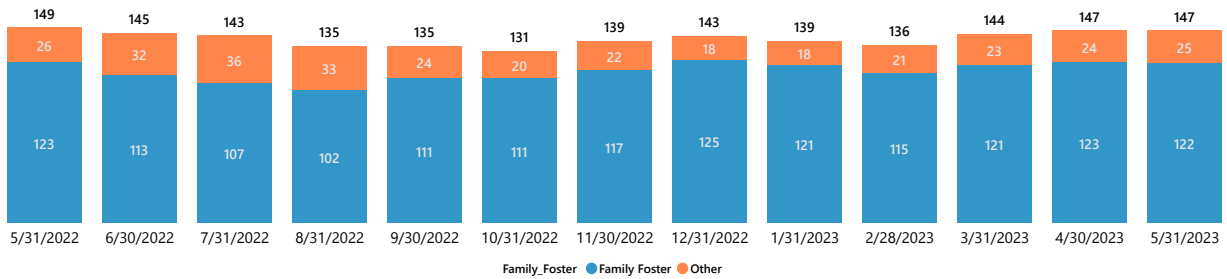
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



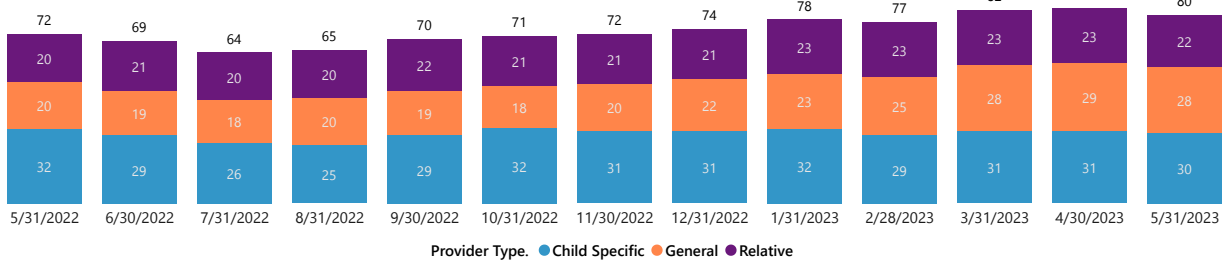
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Karlee Wallace

District 12

Umatilla, Morrow

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 12 SUMMARY

During the month of May, District 12 focused heavily on expressing our appreciation for the resource parents of the district. We hosted an awards theme dinner banquet on May 12th at the Port of Morrow. We provided childcare to the families to allow resource families to be present and enjoy the event. During the event, the kids got to spend time at two different locations. Children 7 and under were at the NEAL Learning Center in Boardman while children 8 and up were at the Boardman Recreation Center. Each center offered a wide variety of activities which included age-appropriate toys, outside play facilities, crafts, games, rock climbing, and sports. The kids were served pizza and other fun snacks.

At the Port of Morrow, the room was decorated in blacks, reds, and golds. The walls had gold stars with each family's name on them and red rose center pieces. As resource families arrived the Hermiston Majazzety Acapella and Jazz Choir sang while appetizers were served. Our dinner banquet was catered by Simply Catering out of Pendleton. We offered pork loin, chicken, mashed potatoes, pasta salad, strawberry salad, green beans, rolls and donated desserts by Anny Welch. District Manager, Lidwinner Machado and CASA Manager, Jesus Rome, spoke at the event, giving words of thanks and encouragement to the families. Through generous community donations, we were able to give away 5 door prize baskets to the families. There were approximately 40 resource families in attendance. In addition to the dinner banquet, we also partnered with the Giving Table and had Papa Murphy's pizzas donated every Wednesday. Staff delivered pizzas to the families and thanked them for their service.

(retention goal #1, Successfully retain 15% of child specific and relative certified providers as general certificates rather than closing after first placement, and #5, Increase local supports for resource parents). The event was featured in our local newspaper which also provided information for community members who are interested in learning more about becoming resource parents and respite providers: [DHS Celebrates National Foster Care Month with Local Providers](#)

This month we also started work on recruitment events by partnering with CASA. Some planning has been started on both faith-specific recruitment events where we discuss all the ways people can help within the foster system. In addition, we have started some planning around recruitment events for large employers in the area.

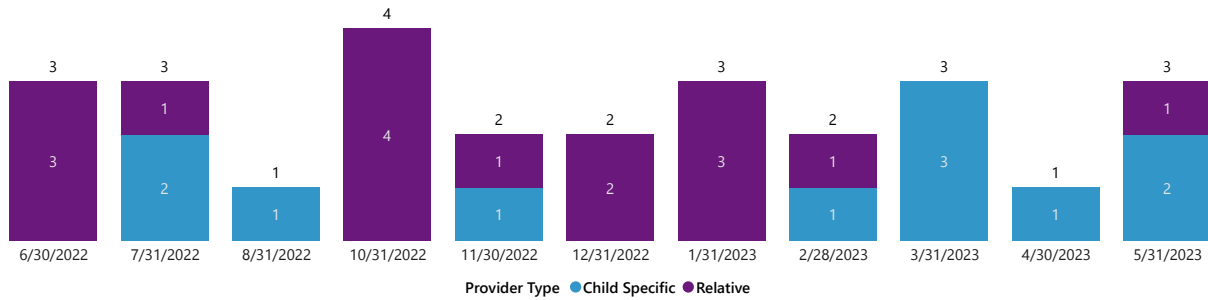
(Recruitment goals #1-4, families for LGBTQIA2S+ children/youth, families for teens, families with Hispanic culture and families to take siblings)

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

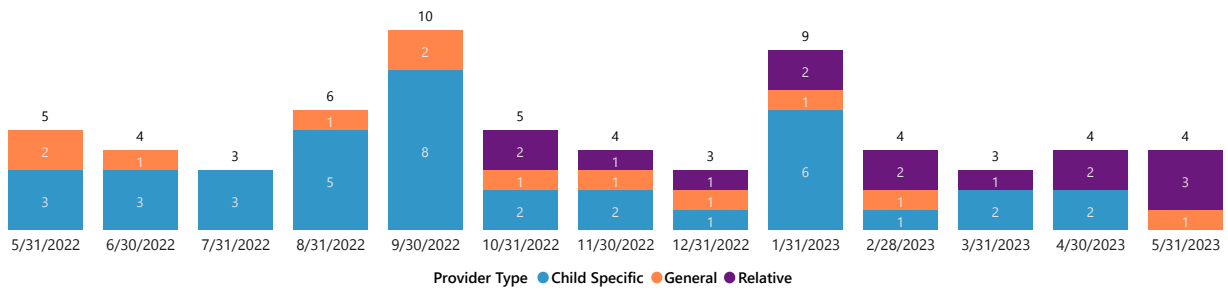


District 12

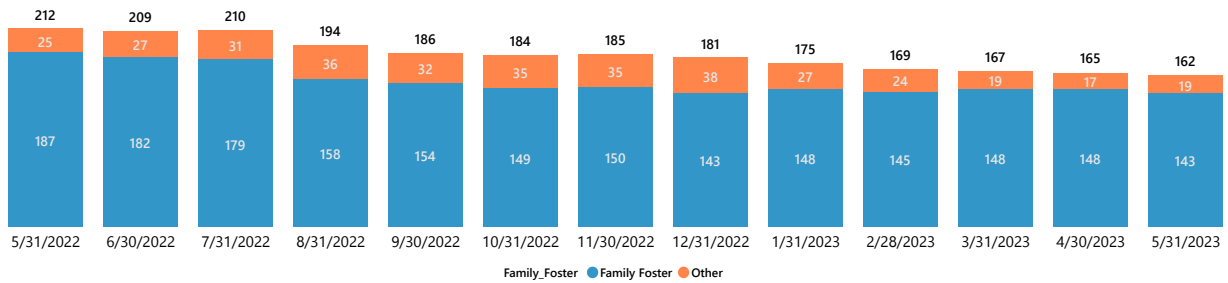
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



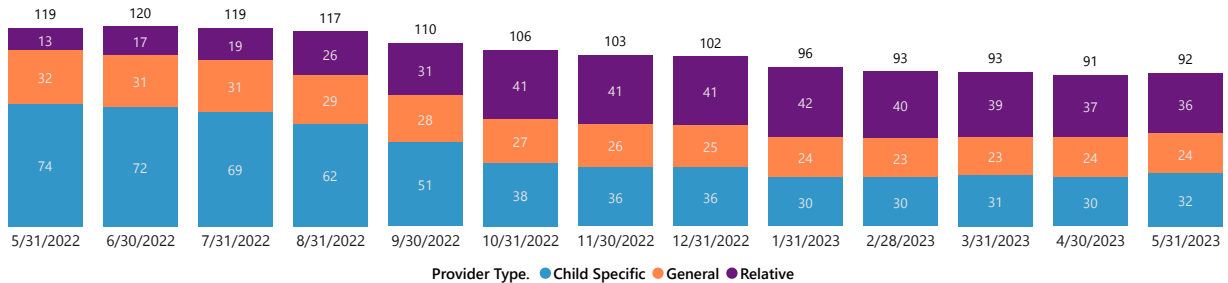
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Tammie Blessing

District 13

Wallowa, Union, Baker

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 13 SUMMARY

May was spent appreciating resource parents across the district. Partnerships with Our Giving Table, Papa Murphy's La Grande store, CASA of Eastern Oregon, and Building Healthy Families were instrumental in honoring families. Families received deliveries of pizza, movie night baskets, gift cards, special handmade signs, and personalized thank you cards. Adoptive families received gifts of books to support a new adoptive placement. This work supports retention goal #1 strategy #4 (**promote customer service through appreciation of resource families through gifts and events**).

Recruitment efforts included community outreach in rural Baker County through participation in the Burnt River School District Resources Event in Unity on May 15th. This event brought community partners to the town to provide lunch, education about resources for children, games, and fun for school staff, students, and community members. The event supported recruitment goal #4 (**increase the number of resource homes in rural communities**).

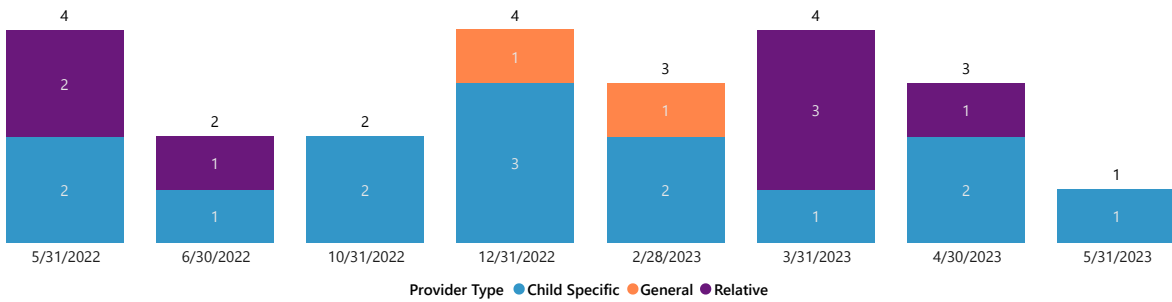
The district champion teamed with Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) to assemble and distribute snack baskets for staff breakrooms containing recruitment information for Oregon Department of Human Services resource parents and GOBHI therapeutic foster homes to six schools in the Baker School District and the YMCA in Baker City. Planning was initiated with the Foster Community Action Team in Wallowa County for a recruitment event in late summer or early fall in Wallowa County. This work will continue at the next monthly meeting on June 13th. These efforts support recruitment goals #1, 2, and 3 (**certify families who have experience and training to care for children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+ and certify families to care for children 6 to 18 with trauma-based behaviors and mental health diagnoses**).

The district champion has continued as a member of the Fostering Pride Workgroup planning a statewide recruitment event for June 20th focused on engaging communities in recruiting families to care for children and teens who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. The champion has begun outreach to community partners across the district with the request to promote the event through social and print media. This event supports recruitment goal #1 (**certify families who have experience and training to care for children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+.**)

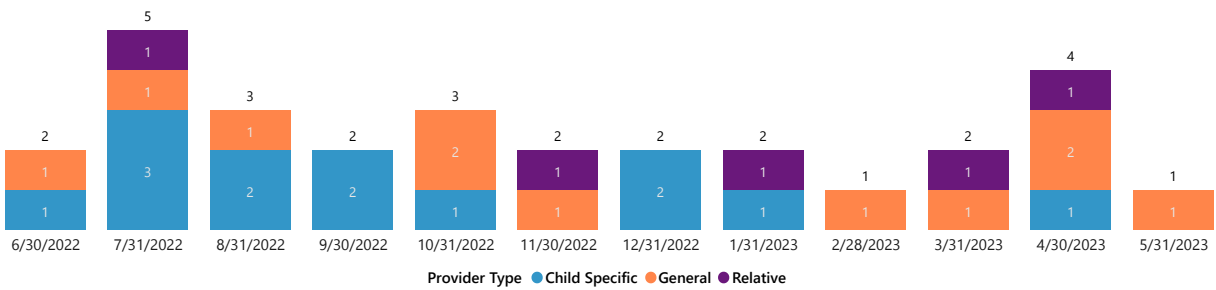


District 13

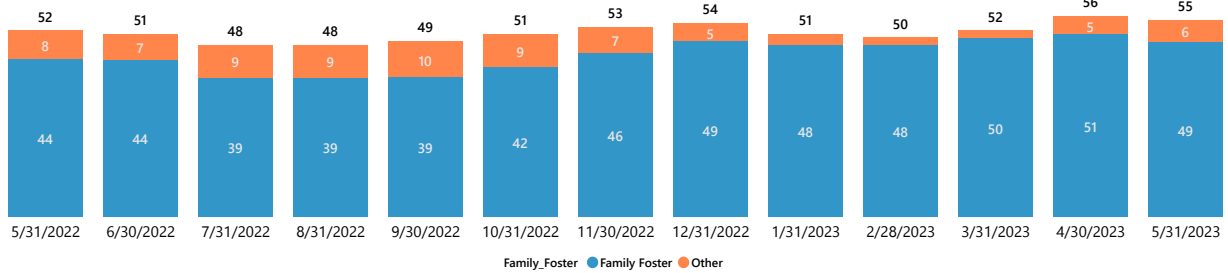
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



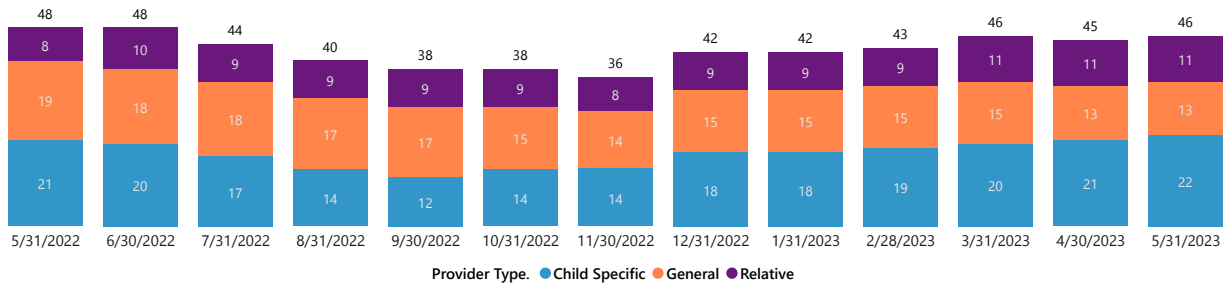
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Tammie Blessing

District 14

Grant, Harney, Malheur

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 14 SUMMARY

Appreciation of resource parents was the emphasis of the work in District 14 this month. Harney County resource parents celebrated with a skating and pizza party on May 11th. Drawings for gas cards and passes to a trampoline park and water park were highlights of the event. Partnerships with CASA, High Desert Parks and Recreation, and Harney Partners for Kids and Families made the event possible. A catered luncheon and listening session facilitated by District Manager, Dan Ramirez was held in honor of Grant County resource parents on May 23rd. Resource parents had the chance to share their experiences, and enjoy a catered lunch, and receive appreciation gifts. Planning efforts continued for a breakfast and splash pad party for resource families in Malheur County scheduled for June 6th. Preliminary plans for listening sessions for resource parents with the District Manager and leadership team in Malheur and Harney Counties have been initiated. These efforts support retention goal #3, strategy #1 (**promote customer services by honoring and recognizing resource families through events and support activities.**)

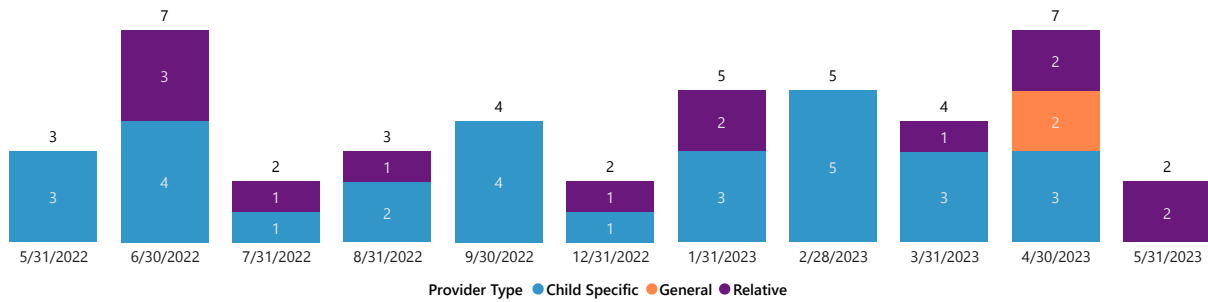
The district champion teamed with GOBHI to assemble and distribute snack baskets for school staff breakrooms containing recruitment information for resource parents and therapeutic foster homes to schools in the Ontario, Vale, and Nyssa School Districts. This work supports recruitment goals #1 (**certify families with experience and training to foster children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+**) and recruitment goals #2 and 4 (**certifying families to care for children 6 to 18 with trauma-based behaviors and mental health diagnoses**).

The district champion has continued as a member of the Fostering Pride Workgroup planning a statewide recruitment event for June 20th focused on engaging communities in recruiting families to care for children and teens who identify as LGBTQIA2S+. The champion has begun outreach to community partners across the district with the request to promote the event through social and print media. This event will support recruitment goal #1 (**certify families with experience and training to foster children who identify as LGBTQIA2S+**).

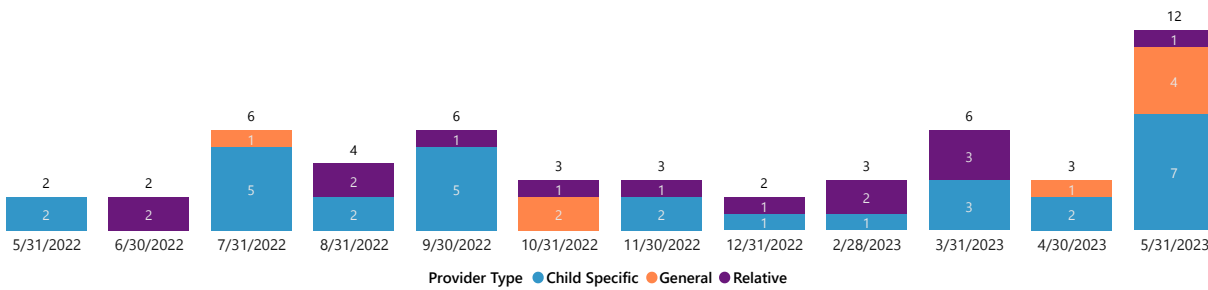


District 14

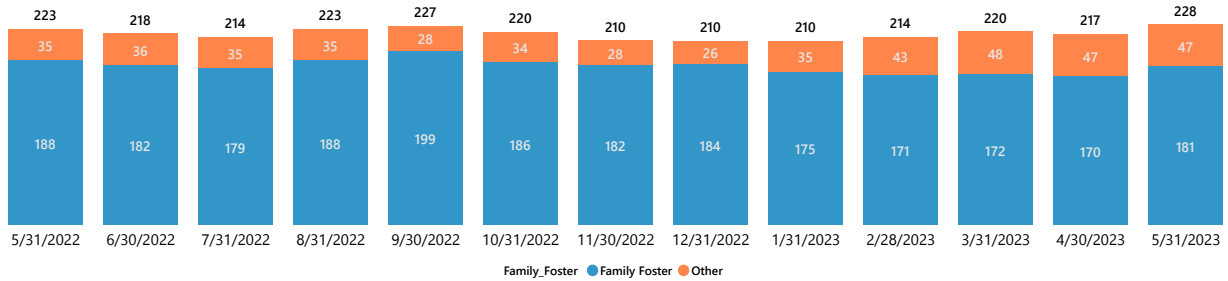
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



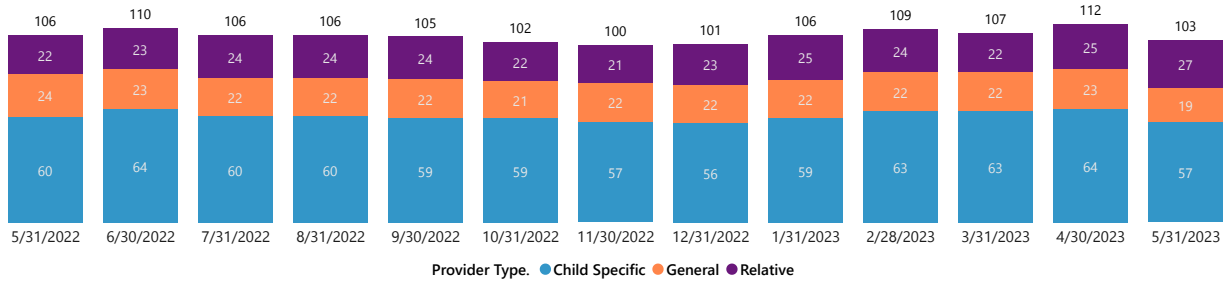
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



MaryAnne Miller

District 15

Clackamas

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 15 SUMMARY

We welcomed May's National Foster Care Month with an appreciation dinner for our resource families. Our certification unit spearheaded an amazing dinner for our resource families that included Duke our facility dog along with Healing Hounds Service Dog's Portland based company, an Under the Sea photo station, magician, DJ, dance troupe, a musical performed by the Crayon Kids, raffle prizes, and dinner served by volunteers. We had over 150 people in attendance including resource families, children experiencing foster care, and staff volunteers. We have received such a positive response from our resource families and our community volunteers. "Thank you for bringing this together for families to come together."-Resource Parent. A youth experiencing foster care was super excited to share a magic trick that he had learned from the magician at the banquet and was sharing it with the ODHS staff and could not stop smiling. Another resource parent shared, "Last night was great! Everything was wonderful -- the decorations, the food, the baskets, the entertainment. I really appreciated how well the whole evening was put together." She said, "the best part of events like that is realizing we're not the only foster parent/foster kid combo in the world."

We also have been busy working on sharing and receiving feedback from the district Child Welfare units about our recruitment efforts and ideas for other recruitment events. It was also discussed with each of the units about retention needs for our resource homes. They were able to provide great feedback and ideas for upcoming ways which will be discussed with the management team at the next monthly meeting in June for recruitment and retention.

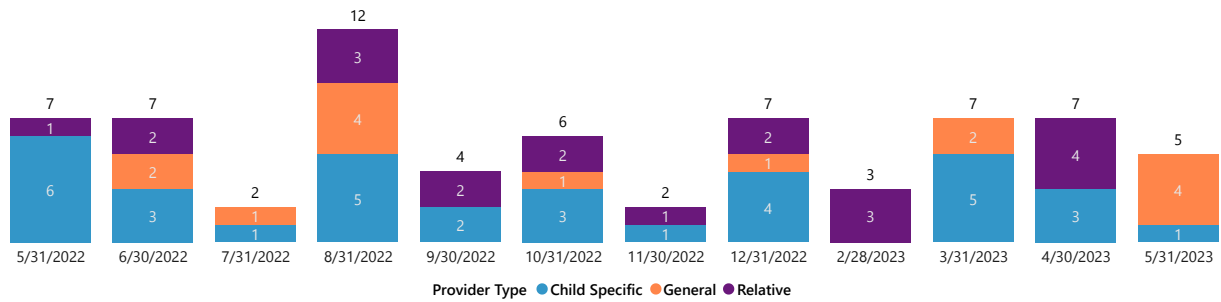
The districts Mi Gente ERG meeting was held to which the Champion presented and answered questions specifically about recruitment efforts for homes specific to the Spanish and Latinx culture (**recruitment goal #3: resource families that identify and certify Hispanic/Latino or provide Spanish as a language in the home**). We were able to provide APD with a supply of our new recruitment flyers and shared with SSP where they can locate the flyers within their offices. It was encouraged for them to hang them out in the community to share. Also, present at the Mi Gente meeting was an advocate with the Family Empowerment Center with the Wilsonville-West Linn School district to which we provided recruitment materials for her events she hosts. We were able to complete a certification of a home that is a teen specific placement. (**Recruitment Goal #2: Identify and certify families with experience and/or educational background parenting youth ages 13-18+ and may have mental health/behavioral challenges**)

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

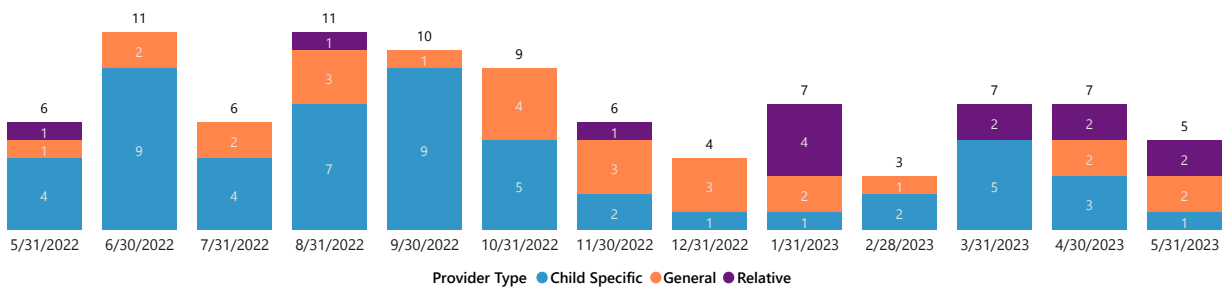


District 15

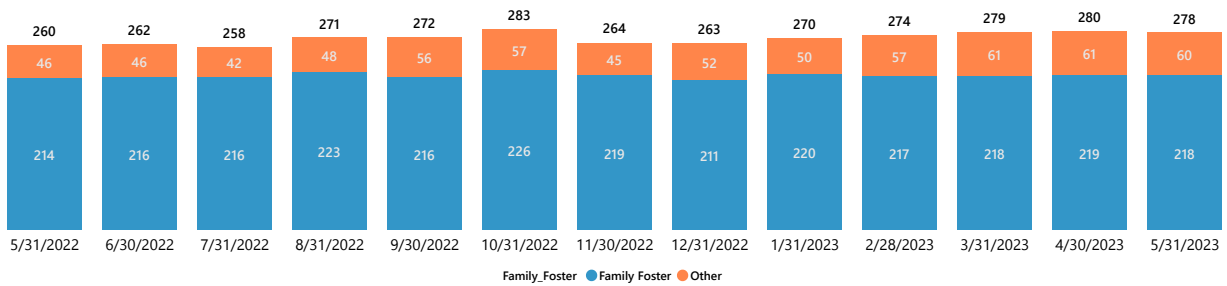
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



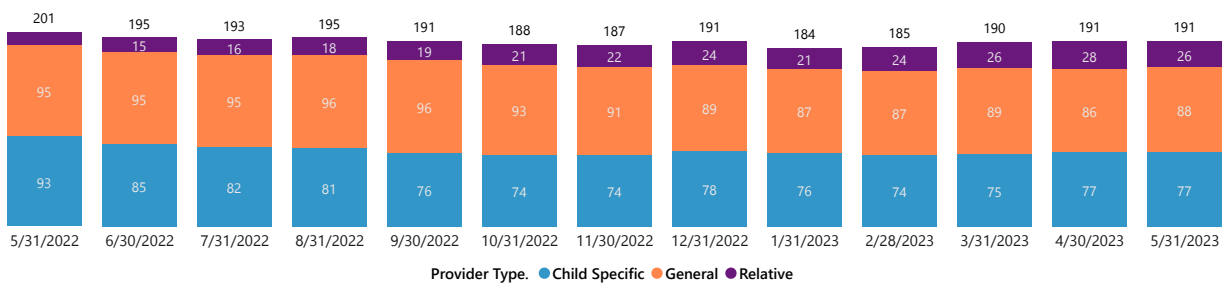
Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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



Nicole Hall

District 16

Washington

Vision:

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

DISTRICT 16 SUMMARY

On Saturday, May 6, Plumper Farm opened its space for a family event for Washington County resource parents. The weather held out, so we were able to experience all the fun the farm had to offer. Families could feed and pet the farm animals, take a hayride around the farm, explore the playground with giant slides, take aim at targets with potato cannons, and strike a pose at the photo booth. Families were treated to sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookies, soda, and kettle corn. Children received an extra treat of apple cider slushies. Everyone was given the opportunity to take home a new board game and a to-go box of food. Plumper Farm offered fun for adults and children of all ages!

The Fostering Pride planning team continues to meet twice monthly to launch our second virtual state-wide recruitment event for our LGBTQIA2S+ community on June 20, 2023. This month the team finalized the invitation email and a follow-up email for participants. Our team also spent time promoting the event within the community. Our partners at BRO and Unicorn Solutions have solidified an interview with OPB to share information about the event. Space was reserved for recruitment booths at Beaverton and Hillsboro Pride in June and the tri-county Champion team is registered to host a recruitment and ODHS resource booth at Portland Pride in July (**recruitment strategy #3-recruiting caregivers from the LGBTQIA2S+ community**).

District 16 is collaborating with Maple Star to host a resource parent meet-up and recruitment event at a Washington County venue. Resource parents from ODHS and Foster Plus programs in the tri-county area who are caring for children and young adults with challenging behaviors will be invited to connect with one another. Resource parents will be encouraged to bring individuals and families who are interested in foster care to join us and learn more about the foster care programs through ODHS and Foster Plus (**recruitment strategy #2 – recruitment for providers to care for children with complex behavioral and/or mental health needs**).

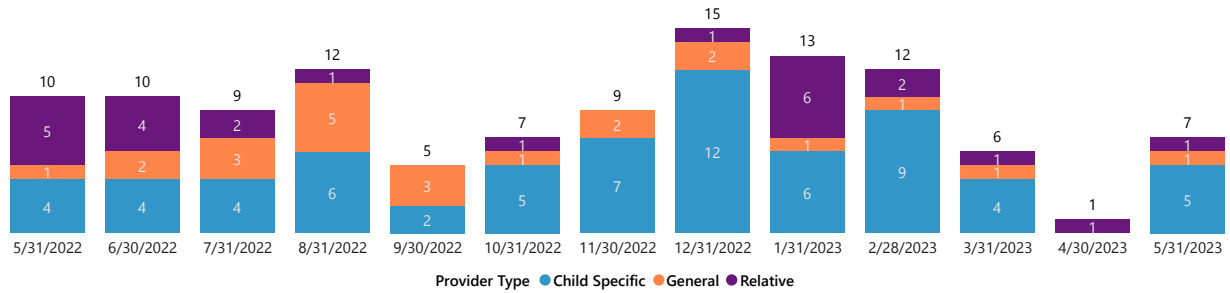
Our certification team continues to work on projects to bring resource parents together to increase their connections and natural supports. Planning has begun to host summer meetups for resource parents at parks or venues (**retention goal #4 – host four summer meetups for resource parents**). Self-Sufficiency, Child Welfare, and Aging and People with Disabilities are collaborating to set up tabling events in the community to raise awareness about foster care and other ODHS programs. Reservations are being made to host recruitment booths at spring/summer/fall community events (**Ongoing recruitment strategy #2 – host 12 recruitment booths at community events by September 2023**).

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT CHAMPION TEAM
MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

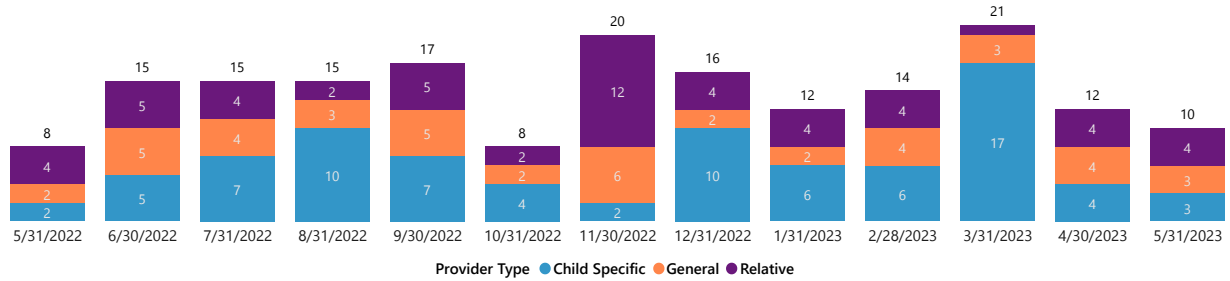


District 16

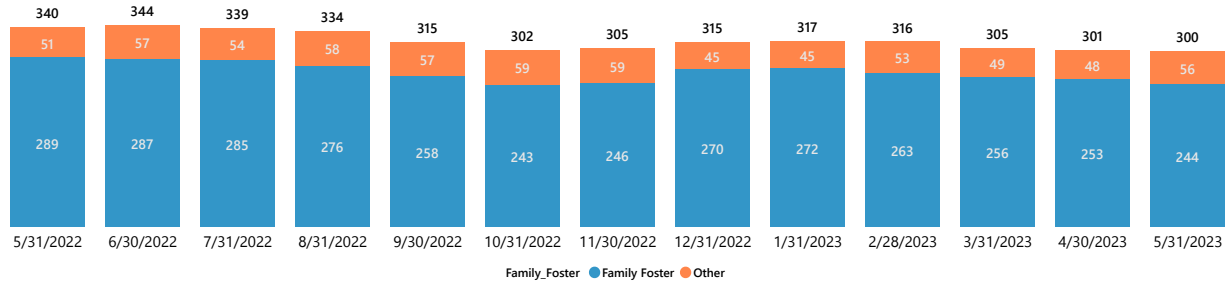
New ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Closed ODHS Child Welfare Certified Resource Families by month



Children and Young Adults Served in Foster Care



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

