

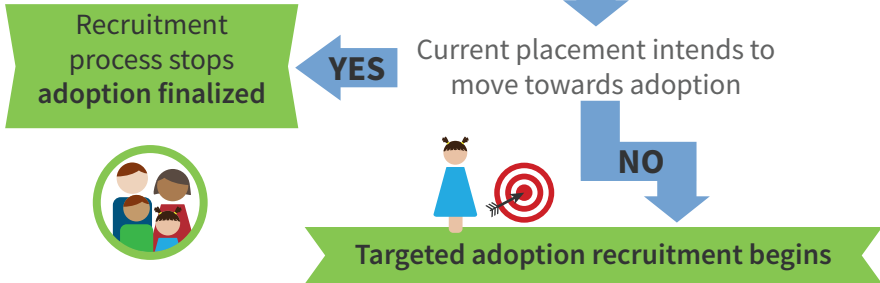
APPENDIX A: TEXAS ADOPTIVE FAMILY RECRUITMENT

Children in the foster care system become legally free for adoption when a court orders termination of parental rights



Parental rights are terminated and child is assigned an adoption caseworker

Each child's caseworker must make a concentrated effort to find a prospective adoptive family for the child during the first 60 days following termination of parental rights.



OTHER ADOPTION RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES

Texas Adoption Portal

AdoptUSkids

Child-focused recruitment models
(KidSave's Weekend Miracles and DTFA's Wendy's Wonderful Kids)

1 TEXAS ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE

DFPS Staff register child on the Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) website

Caseworker coordinates child photograph and writes narrative for TARE submission

Caseworker registers child on TARE



Inquiries from potential adoptive families are received

TARE state office staff publish registration on TARE

What is TARE?

The Texas Adoption Resource Exchange (TARE) is an adoption recruitment website that matches children awaiting adoption with adoptive families. It includes photos and profile information on children available for adoption, resources and education materials around adoption and allows families to register and provide information about their adoption preferences.

Once a child is registered on TARE they are eligible to be enrolled in additional adoption recruitment opportunities in Texas and nationally

2 TEXAS HEART GALLERIES

What are Heart Galleries (HG)?
Heart Gallery programs* are portrait exhibits and community education/outreach initiatives that feature children in the foster care system who are waiting for adoption. Portraits are taken by volunteer professional photographers in the community.

**Some are run by DFPS, some are run in collaboration with DFPS by community partners*

Child is referred to a Heart Gallery program by caseworker

Caseworker and HG Coordinator work to get needed information and coordinate logistics

Child receives professional photograph as well as an opportunity for recruitment through a local news station if available in the region

Delay in registering a child on TARE can be a barrier to the child participating in other recruitment opportunities.


Logistical planning can be a barrier due to functionality of HG programs in some areas

Referral to a HG program is not standardized and the process is left to caseworker discretion

HG programs have regional variances and not all areas of the state are covered

Photos exhibits are displayed throughout the community

Child HG profile is linked to TARE. Inquiries can be received through both the HG and TARE websites

 DFPS staff involved in adoption recruitment

Child's caseworker; Foster and Adoptive Home Development (FAD) staff; regional TARE coordinator; TARE state office staff; HG regional liaison; HG state office liaison; and Faith Based & Community Engagement Specialists