



Children and Family Services has been facilitating a work group to discuss the need to offer efficiencies and better streamline the foster and adoption home study efforts. Adults Adopting Special Kids (AASK), the Department's contracted service provider, along with CFS adoption administration and CFS Licensing Unit have been reviewing forms and eliminating duplicative practices wherever possible.

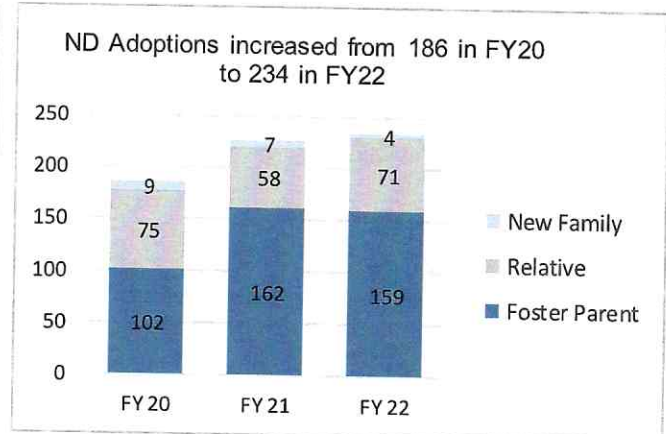
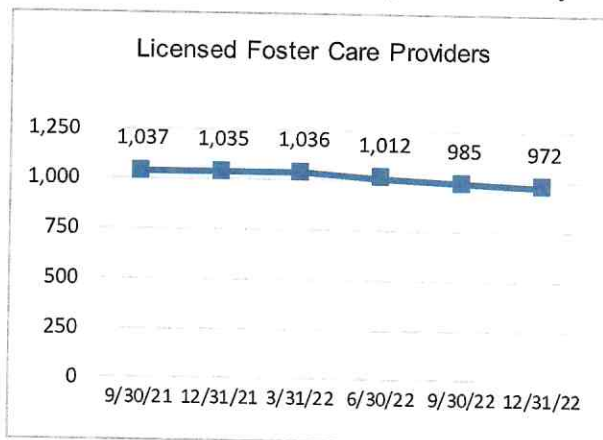
This group's work has made clear that there are two parallel processes that work in tandem to each other, both of which assess situations through a different lens. Foster care oriented assessments are focused on a situation that is meant to be temporary and Adoption assessments are meant to be for a lifetime. These **dual assessment** situations **impact approximately 13%** of licensed foster care providers.



Licensed Providers Adopting ND Children in Foster Care

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) licenses approximately 1,000 family foster care providers; approximately 13% are later identified as an adoption option. The charts below show foster care licensure and adoption data over time.

In FY 2020, 186 adoptions were finalized; 55% (102) of the adoptive families were licensed foster care providers. In 2021, 71% (162) of the 227 finalized adoptions were licensed foster care providers. In FY 2022 68% (159) of the 234 finalized adoptions were by a licensed foster parent.



The work group will continue to balance its goals of streamlining processes and practices to optimize efficiency for the relatively small percentage of providers who engage in both the foster care and adoption processes and assuring appropriate consideration of the needs of children and families who are served by these processes.