

Guide to Accessing Online State Oversight Agency Information: California-Approved Out-of-State Children’s Residential Facilities

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS), the state licensing and oversight agency for community care facilities and child welfare services, maintains online information regarding out-of-state facilities in several sections of its website. The “Out-of-State Group Homes (GHs) Certification” page contains summary information about the out-of-state facilities listed. Community Care Licensing (CCL) also maintains a transparency website with a search function that allows visitors to look up in-state and out-of-state facilities by facility type, name, number, and/or county. Additionally, CCL manages a Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Dashboard that houses information on key data indicators for youth. Children in California’s foster care and juvenile justice system may not be placed in a facility unless it has been approved or licensed by CCL. For out-of-state facilities, CCL must certify annually that the facility meets California’s licensing standards for children’s residential community care facilities.

I. Out-of-State Facility Approval Certifications and Annual Reports

The CDSS [Out-of-State Group Homes Certification and Annual Reports page](#) provides facility certification information. The page is organized first by state and then alphabetically by facility. Each facility name contains a hyperlink to the posted documents for that facility. These documents consist of annual reports and may include STRTP conversion certification. The most recent annual certification provides summary information about the facility’s capacity and physical plant.



Out-of-State Group Homes (GHs) Certification

The Out-of-State Certification Unit is responsible for the certification and oversight of out-of-state GHs coast to coast ranging in size from six to 950 beds. CDSS certified GHs currently have approximately 350 of the State’s most difficult juvenile court wards and dependents in their care whose needs cannot be met in California’s licensed GHs. Placed by a county social services or probation department from one of California’s 58 counties, probation placements (adjudicated delinquents) account for 90% plus of out-of-state placements.

Please visit the [transparency website](#) to review the Facility Evaluation Reports.

States

Florida

- [Devereux Viera - Viera, Florida](#)

Iowa

- [Clarinda Academy - Clarinda, Iowa](#)
- [Forest Ridge - Anita Cottage - \(Woodward Youth Corp \) - Wallingford Iowa](#)

[Screenshot of the Out-of-State Group Homes Certification page]

II. Transparency Website – Facility Search

CCL maintains [a transparency website](#) with a facility search function that can be used to find licensing agency actions (e.g., inspections, complaint investigations, and citations) for all community care facilities, including approved out-of-state facilities.

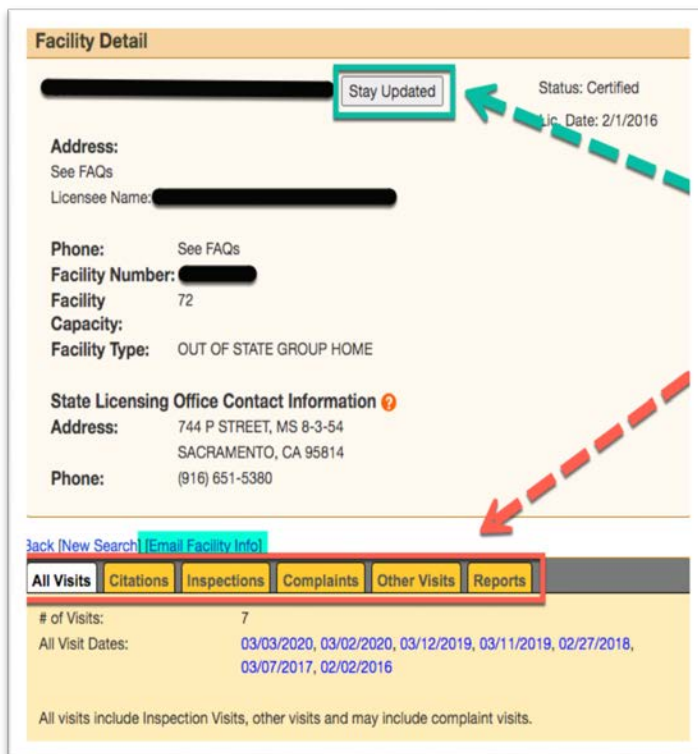
Search for Facilities

A search can be performed using the steps below:

1. Navigate to [the CCL transparency website](#).
2. Select “24 Hour Residential Care for Children.”
3. Under “Facility Type,” select “Children’s Residential Out-of-State Group Homes” or type in the facility’s name to go directly to a specific facility. Click the “Search” button to display results.
4. Click the “view” link next to the name of the facility to display the “Facility Detail” section.

Facility Detail

This section provides an overview of the facility information maintained by the licensing agency. Upon request, a summary of this information—including facility information, CCL contact information, number of CCL visits and visit dates, number of complaints and citations, and investigation results—can be sent to a specified email address. Click the “Email Facility Info” link beneath the Facility Detail box (highlighted in blue in the screenshot below). Type the recipient’s email address and click “Submit” to send the email containing the Facility Detail summary.



Electronic CCL Facility Updates

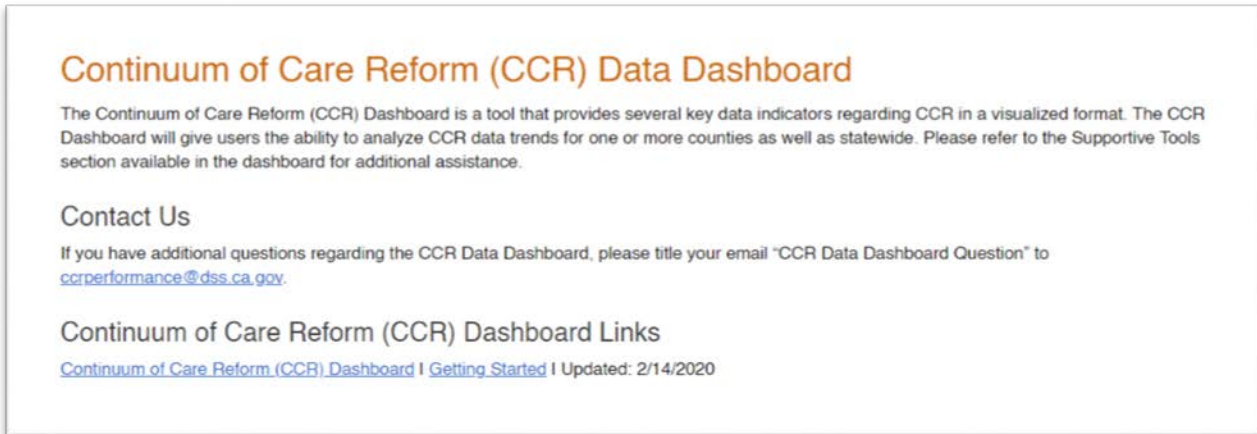
To monitor a particular facility, subscribe to CCL updates by clicking the “Stay Updated” button. Enter your email address to subscribe to weekly alerts and updates about the facility.

All Visits, Citations, Complaints, Inspections, Other Visits and Reports

Click on the tabs below the “Facility Detail” box to find reports on CCL visits and licensing enforcement actions. These reports include California data only; see section “IV. Out-of-State Specific Reports” below for information about accessing records from the state in which the facility is located.

III. Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Dashboard

The [CCR Dashboard](#) provides information on key data indicators for youth by county, statewide, out of state, and by facility. However, the provider performance and youth outcome measures by facility are still under development, and only limited data by facility is available. The CCR Dashboard can be found [here](#) or by clicking the screenshot below:



To download the Dashboard, click on the “Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) Dashboard” link as shown at the bottom of the screenshot above.

IV. Out-of-State Specific Reports¹

Florida

Online records are not available. Public records may be requested at [the Florida Department of Children and Families Public Records site](#) by following these steps:

1. Click on the map labelled “I Reside Out of State.”
2. Click on the map labelled “Looking for Florida Records.”
3. Click on the “Child Welfare Agency Child Protective Investigations Check” link at the bottom right side of the page.
4. Fill out the required information and submit the request form.

Iowa

An online records search is not available. Public records may be requested via email by contacting Carol Gerleman at cgerlem@dhs.state.ia.us.

Michigan

Online reports are available at [the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs \(LARA\) Child Welfare Licensing Search page](#); follow the steps below:

¹ Please note when searching facilities in these out-of-state directories that the facility “Licensee name” should be used. The “Licensee name” can be found on the “Facility Detail” page for the facility listed on the CCL transparency website. This name may sometimes (but not always) differ from the name listed in the top-level facility search results.

1. Enter the facility name (e.g., Starr Commonwealth) in the “Facility Name” field and click the “Search” button.
2. Search results will appear at the bottom of the page. Click the name of the facility to view the facility information.
3. On the facility information page, a list of all reports available for that specific site can be accessed, including Special Investigation Reports, Renewal Inspection Reports, and Inspection Reports.

Nevada

An online records search is not available. Public records may be requested via email by contacting systems.advocate@dcsf.nv.gov.

Pennsylvania

Online reports are available at [the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Provider Directory page](#) by following the steps below:

1. Enter the facility name (e.g., New Outlook Academy) in the “Facility / Legal Entity Name” field and click the “Submit” button to search.
2. Below the search form, a list of all matching facilities will be displayed. Along with the general facility information, links to all reports available for the specific site—including Inspection Reports, Inspection Waiver Reports, and Violation Reports—will be displayed under the “Status & License” column. Click the report type to view.

Utah

An online records search is not available. Public records requests may be sent via email to Gayle Luciano at grluciano@utah.gov.

Virginia

Online reports are available at [the Virginia Department of Social Services Children’s Residential Facility search page](#) and can be accessed by following the steps below:

1. Enter the facility name (e.g., Youth for Tomorrow) in the “Facility Name” field and click the “Search” button.
2. A list of matching facilities will display below the search form. Click the name of the facility to access the facility detail page.
3. A list of all inspection dates, including information about whether the inspection was related to a complaint and whether a violation was found, can be viewed at the bottom of the facility detail page. Click on an inspection date to access available inspection details, findings, and corrective action determined.

Wyoming

An online records search is not available. Public records requests may be submitted via email to Clint Hanes at clint.hanes1@wyo.gov. Additional contact information can be found at [the Wyoming Department of Family Services Public Record Requests information page](#).